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## Amir congratulates Crown Prince on first anniversary in office

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HH the Amir receives HH the Crown Prince.

Amiri Diwan photo

### Amir hosts Crown Prince, Premier, First Deputy PM

KUWAIT CITY, June 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah who recently returned to the country after an official visit to Japan.

His Highness the Crown Prince also visited Malaysia where he headed Kuwait's delegation to the Second ASEAN-GCC and first ASEAN-GCC-China summits held in Kuala Lumpur.

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

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.



Amiri Diwan photo

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives President of Syria Ahmad Al-Sharaa.

### HH Amir, President of Syria convene for high-level talks

KUWAIT CITY, June 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and President of Syria Ahmad Al-Sharaa, on Sunday, presided over the official round of talks between the two countries.

Present at the talks were His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and senior officials of both countries.

Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a statement that the session focused on bolstering bilateral relations in all possible domains to achieve the mutual interests of Kuwait and Syria.

The talks also focused on coordinating efforts between the two countries regionally and internationally especially those concerning maintaining the stability and unity of Syria, he revealed.

Issues of common concerns as well as regional and global developments were discussed, the minister added.

Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa and the accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait earlier Sunday, on a visit where he would be holding official round of talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The Syrian President and his delegation were received by head of the honorary delegation Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya.

The Syrian delegation includes Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani and senior state officials.

Following the talks, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah hosted a luncheon in honor of visiting Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa and the accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace.

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## Riggae building inferno claims 6 lives, injures 9



Kuwait Fire Force photo

The aftermath of the Riggae residential building fire, showing extensive damage as firefighters and emergency teams continue their response to the tragedy that resulted in six fatalities and multiple injuries.

### Farwaniya governor visits victims, orders full probe

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, June 1: Riggae woke up at dawn Sunday to a tragic fire that broke out in a building, resulting in the deaths of six people: three at the scene and three in the hospital, while nine others were injured – all of them are Asians and Africans.**

Firefighting teams worked hard to rescue people trapped in the flames by lowering them from the top of the building through fire ladders and extinguishing the blaze. Emergency medical teams rushed to transport the injured to hospitals, in the presence of Public Security, Rescue and Traffic personnel.

Meanwhile, Director of Public Relations and Media Department at Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Brigadier General Mohammad Al-Gharib confirmed that the death toll in the Riggae building fire rose to six; indicating that three died at the scene and three died in the hospital.

Al-Gharib told the newspaper that the first firefighting team arrived at the scene within four minutes, affirming that firefighting teams were able to rescue a number of those residing in the building and quickly brought them down through fire ladders. He said the firefighting teams extinguishing the flames in record time and launched an investigation to determine the circumstances leading to the fire.

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Farwaniya Governorate photo

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah checks on the condition of one of the injured in the fire that broke out early Sunday morning in a residential building in Riggae.

### Newswatch

**CAIRO:** Arab diplomats held a coordinative meeting in Cairo on Sunday to look into ongoing preparations for the 10th meeting with European Union (EU) policy and security committee ambassadors and strategic group events due in Brussels on June 18.

During the meeting, chaired by Jordan, Arab permanent representatives at the Arab League were apprised of arrangements for such gatherings, and considered relevant final communiques. Chief of the League's international political affairs sector Ambassador Khaled Manzalawi said in a statement.

The events are chiefly meant to deepen relations between Arab and European countries and augment co-operative mechanisms, he said, adding that Arab-EU cooperation is one of the most significant frameworks of cooperation established by the Arab League with international blocs. (KUNA)



**8** Boursa Kuwait hosts ESG workshop with Clenergize

**9** LuLu Hypermarket joins Kuwait Finance House Rewards Program

Cuts adjusted to match market reality: Al-Roumi

### Kuwait backs July oil hike under OPEC+ deal

KUWAIT CITY, June 1, (KUNA): The eight countries participating in the voluntary production reduction within OPEC+ are committed to market stability, considering the fundamentals pertaining to the oil market's current status and stable global economic forecasts, in addition to the flexibility in adjusting production, Minister of Oil, Tareq Al-Roumi said on Sunday.



Al-Roumi

This came in a press statement issued by the Ministry on Al-Roumi's participation in the in the eight OPEC+ countries' meeting, which was held via video conference on Saturday, on May 31.

According to the statement, the minister praised the results of the meeting, saying that it discussed the current levels of commitment to oil production, along with evaluating the voluntary adjustments agreed upon by eight member countries earlier in April and November 2023.

In accordance to the decision agreed upon on December fifth, 2024, to start a gradual and flexible return of adjustments of 2.2 million barrels per day starting from April first, 2025, it has been agreed to increase production for the eight countries participating in the voluntary reduction for July 2025 by an additional total of 411,000 barrels per day.

Minister Al-Roumi reaffirmed Kuwait's steadfast support for all efforts aimed at enhancing the stability of the oil market, considering the stable global economic forecasts and the recovery of the fundamentals of the oil market based on indicators such as the decrease in oil inventories.

He added that the member countries have clearly shown a desire to adopt flexible and well-considered measures that consider economic changes and market developments, contributing to achieving long-term stability that enhances the global economy's ability to face challenges.

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### Gulf unity crucial amid global shifts: Al-Fassam

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Noura Al-Fassam has stressed the

need to enhance economic integration among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, as it is a fundamental pillar for supporting competitiveness and achieving sustainable growth.

Al-Fassam expects the combined gross domestic product (GDP) of the GCC economies to reach high levels in the coming years, especially since it reached \$2.2 trillion last year.

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Photos by Mohammad Morsi  
Kuwait's Minister of Finance Noura Al-Fassam formalizes key deals with Saudi, Qatari counterparts.





Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	03:16	Asr .....	15:20
Sunrise ..	04:49	Maghrib ..	18:43
Zohr .....	11:46	Isha .....	20:13

# Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-50 km/h causing rising dust.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	44	31	
Kuwait Airport	45	31	

By Night: Hot to rather hot with moderate to fresh northwesterly wind, with speeds of 20-55 km/h causing rising dust.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	44	31	
Kuwait Airport	45	31	

Bubyan	40	23
Jahra	46	29
Failaka Island	39	30
Salmiyah	39	30
Ahmadi	39	28
Nuwaisib	42	27
Wafra	44	27
Salmiya	43	26



His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Hamad Al-Sabah taking the oath.

Amiri Diwan photo

## Kuwait Amir congratulates Crown Prince on 1st anniversary in office

Royal family top tier forward congratulatory letters

**KUWAIT CITY, June 1, (KUNA):** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has addressed a message of congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the first anniversary in office.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal, addressing His Highness the Crown Prince, stated, “I seize this opportunity, dear for myself and the people of the gracious homeland, to laud your giving march for serving our dear homeland, with faithfulness and devotion, where Your Highness earned our appreciation, pride and praise and love of the people of Kuwait.”

He wished His Highness the Crown Prince lasting good health and wellbeing, praying to His Almighty (Allah) to guide “Our steps for what is good for our homeland and its promotion, crown efforts of the citizens with success and distinctiveness to promote the civil process through attaining more of the aspired development achievements and safeguard the bounties of security, safety and prosperity.”

His Highness the Crown Prince replied to His Highness the Amir’s message, expressing deep gratitude and appreciation for his true sentiments, sincere prayers, deep amity and kindness, of which I am proud of and praise highly.”

He expressed identical rhetoric of kindness to His Highness the Amir, re-affirming the pledge to pursue the service for the dear homeland, generously, backed by the faithful citizens.

He hoped that all aspirations might be attained for the dear homeland’s prosperity and promotion, inspired by “Your sagacious leadership with respect of resolve and determination, enlightened with your well purposed vision, may (His Almighty) Allah protect you so Kuwait Flag remains aloft, an icon of pride and glory.”

### Letters of congratulations

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday letters of congratulations from several officials on the advent of the first anniversary of his post assumption.

His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and First

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah sent their respective letters to His Highness the Crown Prince.

His Highness the Crown Prince sent reply letters, which thanked the officials on their sincere congratulations, wishing them, the Kuwaiti people and the leadership led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah more progress and welfare.

### 1st ’versary of Crown Prince in office

Kuwait celebrates Monday, the first anniversary of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah’s appointment as Crown Prince, a significant milestone in the nation’s ongoing journey of development and diplomacy.

This occasion marks one year since the Amiri Decree of June 1, 2024, in which His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, nominated Sheikh Sabah for the role.

The formal appointment followed on June 2 with support from the Kuwaiti public, as he delivered a heartfelt speech at the time of his appointment, pledging loyalty to the Amir and the country.

He vowed to serve Kuwait with dedication, to protect its stability, promote unity, and work tirelessly for its advancement, while remaining committed to Islamic values and national principles.

On the same day, the Cabinet, headed by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, convened in a special session to formally endorse Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled as Crown Prince, where he took the constitutional oath before them.

Throughout the past year, His Highness demonstrated active leadership and deep commitment to national development and diplomacy.

He closely followed the implementation of Kuwait’s development plans, inaugurated major infrastructure projects, attended national ceremonies, welcomed key international and regional figures, and honored citizens with exceptional achievements.

His efforts also extended to high-level diplomatic visits that solidified Kuwait’s presence internationally, including his visit to Saudi Arabia on June 11, 2024, where he met with Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman.

During this visit, both parties discussed ways to enhance bilateral relation, as well as shared regional and international concerns.

On September 19, 2024, His Highness led Kuwait’s delegation to the 79th session of the UN’s General Assembly in New York, where he also represented the Amir at the

Bid to meet user expectations

## MoHE launches 2 new digital services via Sahel app

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

**KUWAIT CITY, June 1:** The acting Assistant Undersecretary for Scholarships, Equivalencies, and Cultural Relations at the Ministry of Higher Education Ghaida Madhkour announced the launch of two new electronic services on Sahel - the unified government application.

In a press statement, Madhkour affirmed that the ministry is committed to continuously developing its digital services to meet user expectations, improve efficiency, and expedite the completion of

transactions.

She explained that two new services have been launched, based on the directives of the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal, to serve a wide segment of citizens and residents.

The first service allows Kuwaitis and Gulf citizens to submit new applications for academic certificate equivalency online without the need to visit the ministry in person.

The second service enables users to check the status of previously submitted equivalency applications through the system.

Summit of the Future.

Furthering Kuwait’s role in regional diplomacy, His Highness visited Qatar in October, to lead Kuwait’s delegation at the third Asian Cooperation Dialogue Summit, where he highlighted the importance of sports diplomacy, calling for united regional efforts to address key topics, such as the Palestinian cause.

Representing the Amir, His Highness welcomed several international and regional leaders, organizations representatives and seniors.

In November, he continued his diplomatic momentum by leading Kuwait’s delegation to the extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit in Riyadh, and the following day, to Azerbaijan, where he participated in the COP29 Global Climate Summit.

In March, he also headed the Kuwaiti delegation to the Arab League’s emergency summit in Cairo, reaffirming Kuwait’s commitment to Arab unity and shared strategies in addressing regional challenges.

On May 25, His Highness represented Kuwait at two summits in Malaysia, involving ASEAN, GCC and China.

Shortly after, from May 28 to 31, he visited Japan where he met with senior Japanese officials to discuss areas of mutual interest, noting that this visit culminated in an agreement to elevate bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

His Highness’s leadership, over the past year, has reinforced Kuwait’s diplomatic identity, shaped over decades of dedicated service, and his long-standing contributions have helped define the country’s foreign policy and its approach to major global and regional issues.

### Arab solidarity

He has also emphasized the importance of Arab solidarity, calling for greater integration and effective collective action, particularly in support of Palestine and the implementation of international resolutions.

Internationally, he has upheld Kuwait’s foreign policy principles rooted in respect for sovereignty, non-intervention in internal affairs, and commitment to international law.

Born in 1953, His Highness earned a degree in Political Science in 1977 and began his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1978, later he served as Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and representative to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

His career includes roles as Minister of Social Affairs, Minister of Information, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, before being appointed Prime Minister in 2019, a position in which he formed four successive governments.

His appointment as Crown Prince marks a new chapter in his ongoing service to Kuwait and its people.

The ministry now offers the option to obtain an electronic equivalency form via the Sahel app for a fee of 500 fils.

This form is now considered official and is approved by the Ministry of Higher Education and all relevant government agencies.

It is recognized for use in all official transactions related to academic degrees.

Madhkour added that the ministry is working on launching an additional service, which will allow individuals who have previously obtained equivalency to request a new, approved electronic copy of the form.



Sheikh Humoud Jaber



Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef



Sheikh Faisal Nawaf

## Al-Ahmadi Gov, senior officials congratulate HH Crown Prince

**KUWAIT CITY, June 1, (KUNA):** The Governor of Al-Ahmadi, Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah extended his congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, on the occasion of the first anniversary of his appointment as Crown Prince of Kuwait.

Sheikh Humoud praised His Highness’s contributions to serving Kuwait across various sectors, highlighting his dedication to development, reform, and the well-being of the country under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He also expressed appreciation for His Highness the Crown Prince’s vision and efforts to meet the aspirations of the Kuwaiti people and wished Kuwait continued stability, security, and prosperity.

### First Deputy PM

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah extended his congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, on the occasion of the first anniversary of his appointment as Crown Prince of Kuwait.

In a statement by the Ministry, Sheikh Fahad sent on Sunday a congratulatory cable to His Highness the Crown Prince expressing pride in His Highness’s distinguished journey of service and dedication to the advancement and prosperity of the country.

He also expressed appreciation to His Highness the Crown Prince’s vision of the nation’s development and prosperity, and wished Kuwait continued peace, security, and stability.

### KNG Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief of Kuwait National



Dr. Saleh Al-Kharusi

Guard (KNG), Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah extended his congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, on the occasion of the first anniversary of his appointment as Crown Prince of Kuwait.

In a statement issued by the KNG, Sheikh Faisal praised the Crown Prince’s leadership, and recognized his significant achievements across various sectors.

He commended His Highness’s efforts in advancing Kuwait’s progress in line with the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Faisal also wished His Highness the Crown Prince continued health and success, and wished Kuwait continued security, stability, and prosperity.

### Omani Ambassador

Ambassador of Oman to Kuwait Dr. Saleh Al-Kharusi congratulated, on Sunday, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the occasion of the first anniversary of his assumption of the position.

In a statement, Dr. Al-Kharusi said that this the occasion as a symbol of stability in Kuwait, highlighting His Highness the Crown Prince’s distinguished record of service and achievements, which make him a strong pillar of support to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in leading Kuwait’s comprehensive development.

He also hailed the Omani-Kuwaiti ties as having produced major economic projects as they are swiftly advancing to enhance cooperation across all fields.

### Message from Mexican ambassador

## ‘We value strong ties with Kuwait’

**O**n the auspicious occasion of the 1st Anniversary of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah’s assumption of the role of Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, I extend, on behalf of the Government and people of the United Mexican States, my warmest congratulations and best wishes to His Highness, His Highness Amir of the State of Kuwait, Government and the people of Kuwait.

This milestone reflects the steadfast commitment of His Highness to the continued stability, prosperity, and development of the State of Kuwait. We commend his visionary leadership and dedication to the wellbeing of the Kuwaiti people.

Mexico values its strong and growing ties with Kuwait, and we look forward to further deepening our friendship and cooperation in the years to come under the wise leadership of His Highness Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness Crown Prince.

May this anniversary be marked with pride and optimism for the future.

Eduardo Patricio Peña Haller  
Ambassador



Eduardo Patricio Peña Haller

Keeping pace with travel season

## Clinics to stay open longer: MoH

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, June 1:** In an effort to keep pace with the summer travel season, the Ministry of Health announced the extension of working hours and days at seven clinics serving travelers.

In a press statement Sunday, the ministry confirmed this step is in line with its proactive policy to ensure the provision of specialized preventive care and facilitate access to it to meet the citizens’ needs; thereby, contributing to their ability to travel safely and fully prepared.

The ministry explained that the traveler clinics, which operate under the umbrella of the Public Health Sector, are specialized medical centers that provide pre-travel advisory and health services. These services include awareness of diseases prevalent in various travel destinations, recommendations for required vaccinations, and the provision of preventive tests and necessary guidance, the ministry added.

It indicated that these clinics are in seven main locations in all governorates, with flexible working hours, including

morning and evening shifts, in some centers. This allows in-person attendance or online booking, depending on the type of clinic.

Clinic Locations and Hours:  
1. The Public Health Department operates from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm

2. Capital Governorate: Abdulrahman Al-Abdulmoghni Health Center Clinic in the morning, in addition to the evening shift on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00 to 8:00 pm

3. Farwaniya Governorate: Raqqa Health Center Clinic on Sundays and Thursdays during the morning shift

4. Jahra Governorate: Al-Oyoun Health Center Clinic operates on Sundays and Wednesdays in the morning

5. Hawally Governorate: Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital Clinic operates on Mondays and Wednesdays in the morning

6. Ahmadi Governorate: Fahaaheel Health Center Clinic operates on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the morning

7. Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate: Zahra Health Center Clinic operates on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the morning



diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## ‘Respect rule of law, consider State’s humanitarian image’

“THE Kuwaiti Nationality Law No. 15/1959, issued on December 5, 1959 and drafted by Professor Dr. Abdul Razzaq Al-Sanhouri, regulates in Article 13 the circumstances under which citizenship may be revoked from a Kuwaiti who acquired it under the provisions of Articles 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8. At the time of enactment, two cases were specified,” Legal Advisor **Dr. Kazem Bou Abbas** wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“The first case involved citizenship obtained fraudulently, and the second applies if the individual is convicted of a crime involving dishonesty. A third paragraph was later added concerning dismissal from public office.



Dr. Kazem Bou Abbas

“The most recent amendment introduced two additional clauses: revocation may occur if it is deemed necessary for the supreme interest of the state or its external security, or if the competent authorities have evidence that the individual promotes principles that could undermine the country’s economic or social system.

“There are now five cases in which citizenship may be revoked from those who acquired it through naturalization.

First: If a naturalized person obtained citizenship through fraud or false statements, citizenship may be revoked from those who acquired it through them (Article 13, Clause 1).

Second: Citizenship may also be revoked if the supreme interest of the state or its external security so requires, or if the competent authorities have evidence that the individual promotes principles that undermine the country’s economic or social system (Clauses 4 and 5 of the same article).

Third: The second and third clauses, which concern convictions for crimes involving dishonor or dishonesty, and disciplinary dismissal from a government position for reasons related to honor or dishonesty, do not address the revocation of citizenship for those who acquired it through the naturalized individual. It appears that the legislator took a humanitarian approach, limiting citizenship revocation to the individual offender alone, excluding those who gained citizenship through them. This reflects a considerate and generous stance by the legislator at the time.

“It is worth noting that Article 33 of the Constitution affirms the principle of personal responsibility in punishment, a principle widely recognized in comparative constitutions and legal systems. This concept is also emphasized in the Holy Qur’an, which states: “And no bearer of burdens shall bear the burden of another” (Fatir 35:18) and “Every soul is a pledge for what it has earned” (At-Tur 52:21). In other words, each person is accountable for their own actions and does not bear the sins of others. Therefore, we believe that the provision allowing for the revocation of citizenship from those who acquired it by association raises serious constitutional concerns.

“In the following article - Article 14 of the law - the legislator, when addressing the revocation of citizenship from individuals who hold it, whether by birth or naturalization, clearly stated that revocation applies only to the person who committed the act, and to no one else. The explanatory memorandum, in its interpretation of Article 14, clarifies this by stating: “...in this case, Kuwaiti citizenship shall be revoked only from the naturalized person. The revocation shall not extend to the spouse and children, in accordance with the principle of personal punishment.”

“It is noteworthy that in Article 13, where the legislator allows for the withdrawal of citizenship from those who acquired it by association, the matter is left to the discretion of the state. This reflects a purely humanitarian perspective, in which the legislator considered the importance of preserving family unity, especially after families have adapted to life in the country in terms of circumstances, livelihood, and national affiliation. The acquisition of citizenship in such cases is regarded as an acquired right, a right obtained under a previous law or regulation that continues to stand, even in the face of new, conflicting legal provisions.

“Equality before the law is a fundamental condition for the existence of a state governed by law, the safety of its citizens, and the security of the state. (This statement was written and published by Tahar Ben Trika, President of the Court of Appeal of Tunisia.)

“The cases in which citizenship has been withdrawn were not solely based on forgery or fraud, nor do they number in the thousands or tens of thousands, as some writers have falsely claimed. Rather, they are limited in number. Some may be related to security concerns, others to social factors or various other reasons. These actions are intended to cleanse the national identity record of bribery and corruption, and to hold those responsible accountable.

“What we hope for is respect for the rule of law, consideration for the humane and civilized image of the state, and fairness in the application of justice. As the saying goes, “It is better for a judge to err in pardon than in punishment,” and “Harm cannot be removed by causing further harm.” “Punishment is personal, and this is an established principle deeply rooted in the conscience of the legislator.”

Also:

“In a recent report published by the global credit rating agency Moody’s, it was noted that Kuwait’s huge and exceptional financial reserves play a major role in strengthening the country’s credit

standing and in covering potential budget deficits,” columnist **Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“According to the report, government financial assets, managed through the Future Generations Fund, exceed 600 percent of GDP as of the end of 2024.

“Kuwait’s financial strength rating stands at “AAA”, which is the highest possible, reflecting the nation’s exceptional solvency. The country also benefits from vast oil wealth and some of the lowest production costs in the world, making it one of the most competitive oil exporters globally. Proven oil reserves are estimated to last around 90 years, the longest among Gulf states.

“In addition, Kuwait’s high per capita income supports strong consumer spending and contributes to overall economic stability. The Central Bank’s firm and prudent policies further enhance financial stability and reinforce the strength of the banking sector. The recent approval of the Public Debt Law for Financing and Liquidity, which took effect in April, paves the way for the issuance of bonds worth KD 30 billion over a 50-year period.

“These indicators suggest that Kuwait has the potential to compete effectively in industry, services, and trade, and that it is well-positioned to transform into a global financial and commercial hub.

“While this picture is rosy, the reality tells a different story. Since the 1980s, Kuwait has experienced recurring power outages every summer.

“From 1962 to the present, Kuwait has failed to establish a foundation for food self-sufficiency. In fact, in recent years, the country has become dependent on imports for more than 95 percent of its food needs.

“Since 1976, the education sector has suffered from persistent shortcomings. No comprehensive studies have been conducted to assess the needs of the Kuwaiti labor market, nor has an educational infrastructure been established that can support future growth. The rise in violence within schools and on the streets is not a positive sign, as it reflects a failure in the education system and a lack of training.

“Since 1992, the level of public services and infrastructure in Kuwait has declined. Roads and streets are riddled with potholes, which is a clear sign of neglect that gives visitors an impression of stagnation.

“Since the liberation of Kuwait, wealth has not been equitably distributed among development projects, nor has a genuine partnership between the public and private sectors been established, as it could ensure reliance on the national workforce rather than perpetuate a system of disguised unemployment.

“According to credible reports, the average productivity of a public sector employee does not exceed 23 minutes per day. Moreover, Kuwait still lacks a reliable industrial base, even in light manufacturing or transformation industries, which highlights a worrying level of underdevelopment.

“How is this possible in a country with vast wealth and one of the highest per capita incomes in the world? What, then, is the root cause of the issue? Is it mismanagement, poor planning, or a lack of coordination? The situation is perplexing, and the true cause remains unclear.”

□ □ □

“Politics is like a recipe, much like cooking. When a new government is formed, officials come together to study the situation and present their visions, taking into account the compromises needed to align with parliament. These preparations can be delayed depending on the sensitivity of the parliamentary makeup,” Kuwaiti writer **Dr. Hamoud Al-Hattab** wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“Curriculum development follows a similar process. It requires careful preparation that aligns with the state’s philosophy, policies, and long-term goals. In this context, curriculum development experts are the equivalent of culinary chefs. They form specialized committees responsible for revising and updating curricula. These experts typically come from the Ministry of Education, along with representatives from other relevant government agencies.

“I will discuss here about a committee formed by the Ministry of Education to develop the Islamic Education curriculum, which I led and helped author the textbooks for. For six years, the committee met outside of school hours, typically from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm, and sometimes until midnight, three times a week. During these sessions, we developed a comprehensive study plan and curriculum for Islamic Education, covering all educational stages from first through twelfth grade.

“The committee was chaired by the late Professor Dr. Muhammad Muhammad Salah al-Din Mujawar Ali, an expert in Arabic language education at the College of Education in Kuwait University.

“Dr. Mujawar Ali, who graduated from American universities, had been publishing works on curriculum development since the 1950s. The committee’s vice-chair was the late Muhammad Muhammad Abdul-Halim Al-Sheikh, a renowned technical advisor for Islamic education. Other members included faculty from the College of Education and the College of Sharia at Kuwait University, as well as professors from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.”

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

Sheikh Abdullah meets top officials

## Kuwait, Singapore to enhance security cooperation



Kuwait’s Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah meets heads of state, and senior officials.

KUALA LUMPUR, June 1, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah met Singapore’s Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister of Home Affairs K. Shanmugam on Saturday to discuss the prospects of enhancing the security cooperation.

Besides the bilateral ties, both sides reviewed regional and international issues of mutual concern, according to a press release from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 22nd edition of the IISS Asia Security Summit: The Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD), which opened

in Singapore yesterday.

Sheikh Abdullah leads Kuwait delegation to the three-day event which gathered military top brass of 47 countries from across Asia-Pacific, North America, Europe and the Middle East.

Singaporean President Tharman Shanmugaratnam hosted a dinner banquet in honor of the participants in the annual event.

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.

KUNA photos



KFF photo

KFF fire brigade at the site.

### Fire engulfs wood

## One hurt in Abu Halifa gas cylinder explosion

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: Fire spread throughout an apartment in Abu Halifa, following an explosion caused by a cooking gas leak.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), firefighters from the Mangaf and Fahaheel stations rushed to the location and extinguished the fire before it spread further. The incident resulted in one injury, and the person was handed over to paramedics for necessary treatment.

Meanwhile, fire engulfed the basement of an industrial plot where wood was stored in Shuwaikh Industrial Area on Thursday evening.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), firefighters from the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Shaheed, Al-Ardiya, and Support fire stations rushed to the location and controlled the fire. No injuries were reported.

### KD61,000, docus taken

## Suspect named as Bedoun robbed by armed attackers

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: Jahra detectives have launched an investigation to identify two unknown individuals who allegedly robbed a Bedoun resident of KD61,000, reports Al-Anba daily.

While the victim could not identify the assailants, he has named a third party -- currently being summoned for questioning -- as a possible instigator in the crime.

A security source stated that the Operations Unit at the Ministry of Interior received a call around 4:00 pm last Tuesday, reporting a case of armed robbery. A police patrol was immediately dispatched to the scene in Taima.

At the local police station, the victim provided a detailed account of the incident. He reported that a vehicle suddenly swerved in front of his car, forcing him to stop. Two individuals exited the vehicle and robbed him of KD61,000; as well as official documents, promissory notes and receipts. He confirmed that he had never seen the assailants before and could not identify them.

However, the victim pointed to a person who he believes was aware of the substantial sum of money he was carrying. He suspects that this individual may have played a role in orchestrating the robbery, though he did not accuse him of direct involvement in the physical assault.

### Occupation

The security source added that no further details were provided regarding the victim’s reason for carrying such a large amount of money, nor was the nature of his occupation disclosed.

The investigation remains ongoing, and authorities are working hard to identify the suspects and determine the full circumstances surrounding the incident.

Meanwhile, Hawally investigation officers closed an assault and robbery case after arresting three suspects, reports Al-Anba daily.

Investigators used surveillance camera footage to identify the vehicle used by the suspects. By coordinating with the General Traffic Department in the Interior Ministry; they traced the owner, leading to the arrest of the suspects.

According to a security source, a citizen born in 1984 filed a report at Al-Shaab Police Station; stating that he was assaulted by three individuals while he was at a mosque in the area. The assailants allegedly stole his iPhone and wallet containing KD400.

Acting on the complaint, the police station investigator assigned detectives to locate and apprehend the suspects. All three were arrested shortly thereafter. During interrogation, the suspects confessed to the assault and theft, and provided details about the stolen items.

The source added that the suspects were detained at the police station on the investigator’s orders, pending their referral to the Public Prosecution.

# MoH pays KD45,000 comp in med error

## Wanted Nepalese arrested

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: The Court of Appeals upheld the ruling of the Court of First Instance, ordering the Ministry of Health to pay KD45,000 final compensation to a citizen who sustained disability and bodily harm due to a medical error during childbirth at a government hospital, reports Al-Anba daily.

The plaintiff filed a lawsuit seeking compensation for material and moral damages resulting from the incident. The medical error, which occurred during her delivery, resulted in an about 20 percent permanent disability.

According to her legal representative Attorney Mishari Al-Marzouq, the Medical Liability Authority concluded in its report that three doctors affiliated with the ministry were responsible for medical and professional negligence. Disciplinary measures were taken against them.

Al-Marzouq explained that his client endured enormous material damages, including an extended hospital stay and the ongoing cost of medications and pain relief following her discharge. He added that she suffered not only physical disability but also emotional and psychological harm, particularly due to the severely reduced likelihood of pregnancy in the future.

Medical reports submitted in court con-

firmed that the error caused lasting damage to the plaintiff’s uterus, resulting in partial loss of function and making pregnancy highly risky. These findings formed the basis for the court’s decision to award financial compensation for the harm she endured.

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**Nepalese arrested:** The Anti-Money Laundering Crimes Department has arrested a Nepalese expatriate against whom arrest warrants were issued in cases No. 2253/2024 and No. 2234/2024 for his involvement in bank fraud, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, investigations revealed that the suspect had been purchasing bank cards and SIM cards from several members of his community. A precautionary search found eight bank cards and four SIM cards in his possession. A subsequent search of his residence uncovered 12 additional bank cards, 16 SIM cards, bank documents, and blank SIM cards.

The suspect admitted to handing over the cards and SIMs to another individual for shipment outside Kuwait, where they were used in fraudulent operations to seize victims’ funds.

The ministry affirmed that legal action has been taken against the suspect, who was referred to the Public Prosecution.

Investigations are ongoing, and coordination is underway with international agencies to pursue and apprehend others involved in the case.

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# Interior Minister tours Int’l Airport ahead of Hajj and summer season



Kuwaiti pilgrims offered gifts as they leave for Hajj pilgrimage (right). Inset: Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef

Photos by Rizk Tawfiq

KUWAIT CITY, June 1, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah conducted an inspection tour of Kuwait International Airport to observe preparations and procedures for the Hajj and summer seasons.

In a press release, the Ministry of Interior said that this tour comes within the framework of Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef’s keenness to monitor the progress of work on the ground and ensure the readiness of the security and service sectors.

During the tour, he reviewed the progress of work in the passenger terminals and inspected the work mechanisms in the passport control area for arrivals and departures and the visa issuance hall.

Sheikh Fahad also listened to a detailed explanation of the visa issuance process through the dedicated website (VISA Kuwait), as well as a detailed explanation of the frameworks for cooperation and coordination between the relevant sectors of the Ministry of Interior, the General Administration of Customs, and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

The Minister was accompanied by Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, Major General Ali Al-Adwani, and a number of security officials.

# ‘Closure of fictitious PADA files saves big money’

‘Data not updated despite consistent warnings’

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: Acting Director of the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) Wafaa Al-Mahanna revealed that the decision of the authority to suspend the files of persons with disabilities whose data have not been updated led to savings of KD166,445 per month or KD1.998 million per year, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Mahanna told the daily that the total number of these cases reached 826 -- 183 of which reported to the authority. He gave a breakdown of these cases as follows: three died in 2017, 2022 and 2025 respectively; 18 renewed their registration; 40 had appointments; 46 appeared before the committees but their renewal requests were denied; 25 renewed their registration with reduction in the severity of their disability -- from severe to moderate or from moderate to mild; 51 renewed their registration with

the same degree of disability; and 643 neither reported to the authority nor responded to repeated calls to update their data and documents and re-submit them to the relevant medical committees.

She confirmed that these individuals were given a 60-day grace period to respond and update their information, but they did not do so. She said the authority ensured that they were notified on the need to review their cases through various means like SMS messages, Sahel application or WhatsApp.

“After exhausting all available means, the authority was forced to suspend their files pending review and update,” she added.

She revealed the financial impact of the suspension was as follows: 201 learning disability cases received a total of KD37,185,000 monthly or KD446,220,000 annually;



Al-Mahanna

96 minor disability cases received KD17,760,000 monthly or KD213,120,000 annually; and 11 moderate disability cases received KD2,475,000 monthly or KD29,700,000 annually.

On moderate disability cases receiving household worker and driver allowances; 277 cases got a total of KD27,700 monthly or KD332,400 annually; 114 moderate disability cases receiving personal, household worker and driver allowances got KD37,050 or KD444,600 annually; three severe disability cases receiving personal allowance got KD825 monthly or KD9,900 annually; 57 other severe disability cases receiving a household worker allowance got KD8,550 monthly or KD102,600 annually; 41 severe disability cases receiving personal, driver and household allowances got KD17,424 monthly or KD209,100 annually; five severe disability cases receiving household and disabled care allowances got KD2,250 monthly or KD27,000 annually; and 21 cases receiving personal, household, driver and disabled care allowances got KD15,225 monthly or KD182,700 annually.

## 49 kids caught driving

# Drastic cut in violations as new law disciplines drivers

By Munif Naif  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: The General Traffic Department in the Interior Ministry continued its traffic campaigns in all governorates.

The recent campaigns resulted in the issuance of 18,488 traffic tickets, referral of 49 juveniles to the Juvenile Prosecution, and referral of 48 individuals to traffic police stations.

According to the weekly statistics of the department; 32 vehicles and four motorcycles were impounded, 88 individuals were arrested including those who violated the Residency Law and failed to present a valid proof of residence, and confiscation of 133 wanted vehicles.

The statistics indicated that the department dealt with 1,327 traffic accidents;



Buhassan

including 195 collisions and injuries.

Meanwhile, Acting Director of the Traffic Awareness Department at the General Traffic Department Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah Buhassan announced that field monitoring and official statistics reveal a significant weekly decrease in traffic violations, particularly following the implementation of the new traffic law, reports Al-Jarida daily.

He indicated that field traffic sectors recorded 18,000 violations last week, down from approximately 60,000 per week before the new traffic law was implemented.

Lieutenant Colonel Buhassan attributed this decline to increased discipline among road users and their adherence to the new laws.

He highlighted the Ministry of Interior’s vision and the political leadership’s support for the amendments to the new traffic law.

Lieutenant Colonel Buhassan said he expects a significant decline in traffic violations and accidents in the coming period, due to the clear commitment of citizens and residents to the new traffic law.

## News in Brief

# Student critical in revenge stabbing

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: Abu Halifa police have registered a felony assault case against two Grade 10 students who stabbed a classmate six times, critically injuring him, reports Al-Anba daily.

The incident took place last Thursday, shortly after the conclusion of exams at a school in Mangaf.

A security source disclosed that the two suspects intercepted their classmate outside the school gate as he was heading to a nearby grocery store. They reportedly confronted him over a previous dispute, then attacked him using two knives -- each assailant armed with one knife. The victim sustained stab wounds to the upper chest, left hand and back.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the attack was motivated by the victim’s earlier intervention in defense of another classmate who was subjected to mockery and bullying due to a speech impediment. The victim reportedly reprimanded the assailants and urged them to stop harassing the other student.

The injured student was rushed to Adan Hospital, where he was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) due to the severity of one of the wounds. He has since been transferred to the general ward for continued recovery.

Detectives identified and apprehended the suspects who were referred to the Juvenile Prosecution Office.

In a statement to the daily, the victim’s lawyer, Attorney Abdulrahman Al-Huwaishel, expressed deep concern over the violent nature of the incident and the troubling rise in student-on-student aggression. He urged the authorities to take stronger preventive measures to address such behavior in educational institutions.

He also confirmed his intention to seek the maximum legal penalties applicable, in line with the seriousness of the attack against his client.

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**House worker commits suicide:** A male domestic worker (Article 20) committed suicide by hanging inside a stable in Mina Abdullah, reports Al-Anba daily. A security source revealed that the sponsor of the worker informed the Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry that he repeatedly tried to contact the worker, but his efforts were in vain. He then decided to go to the stable where he discovered that the worker committed suicide by hanging himself in his room.

Forensic and security personnel, along with the representative of the Public Prosecution, rushed to the scene.

A case was filed and the detectives were instructed to conduct investigations.

Furthermore, a female domestic worker attempted to end her life by cutting her wrists inside the house of her sponsor in Fahaeel.

According to a security source, the wife of the sponsor reported that the worker slit her wrists. The worker was rushed to Adan Hospital.

A case was registered and investigations are ongoing to determine the circumstances that prompted the worker to try to commit suicide.

The security source stated that the worker will most likely be deported.

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MoFA photo  
Kuwait's Deputy FM receives UK Ambassador to Kuwait.

## Kuwait Deputy Foreign Minister and UK Ambassador discuss bilateral ties

KUWAIT CITY, June 1, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and UK Am-

bassador to the country Belinda Lewis discussed on Sunday enhancing bilateral ties between the two countries.



MoFA photo  
Kuwait's Deputy FM receives Ambassador of Senegal.

## Deputy FM receives Senegalese envoy

Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister, Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, received on Sunday the Am-

bassador of Senegal to the country, Ibrahim Seck, on the occasion of the end of his tenure. (KUNA)

## Inclusive labor approach mirrors global best practices: Ambassador Al-Hayen

# Kuwait champions workers' rights at ILO Summit

GENEVA, June 1, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait Permanent Representative at the United Nations and International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen, said on Sunday Kuwait's participation in the annual International Labour Conference affirms its unwavering commitment to labor and social development issues.

The convention is a platform to exchange expertise and study the best "practices of upgrading (States') labor policies," said Ambassador Al-Hayen, in a statement to KUNA, ahead of the 113th session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), scheduled in Geneva from June 2 to 13.

Ambassador Al-Hayen, who chairs the Kuwaiti delegation at the event



KUNA photo  
The State of Kuwait Permanent Representative at the United Nations and International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen.

grouping representatives of 187 states (of governments, employers and labor unions), affirmed that the national mission includes representatives of these

three parties, as well as the Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

Such a representation mirrors Kuwait's keenness on bolstering a balanced social partnership, activating the trilateral dialogue and boosting cooperation with the relevant international organizations.

The Kuwaiti participation, he has added, is a continuation of the close cooperation with the International Labor Organization (ILO) since joining it more than six decades ago and is helpful for improving the work environment and updating relevant legislations in harmony with international criteria, Ambassador Al-Hayen said further.

The conference agenda tackles possibility to enact new criteria for protecting workers from biological haz-

ards at work, enhancing proper work in the digital economy and work platforms, facilitating transformation from the non-official economy to the regulated economy. Conferees will also examines ILO's projected budget for 2026-2027, a report by ILO's director general on workers' conditions in the occupied Arab territories, a topic supported by Kuwait.

Ambassador Al-Hayen acclaimed the solid cooperation between Kuwait and ILO, particularly on supporting labor programs in the Middle East.

Kuwait, the first state that joined ILO (in 1961), is a prime contributor to the regional offices of the organizations. In 1972, it signed an agreement with the organization for establishing a permanent bureau in Kuwait.

# Executive regulations enforce GCC Volunteer Law in Kuwait

New law promotes transparency, recognition

KUWAIT CITY, June 1, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila announced Sunday executive regulations for Decree-Law No. (49) of 2024 concerning the Unified Law on Voluntary Work for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states under a ministerial decision.

Al-Huwaila said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the decision implements Cabinet Resolution No. (1093), which designated the Ministry of Social Affairs as the responsible authority for applying the decree.

She added that the ministerial decision was issued on May 21, 2025, and published in the official gazette "Kuwait Al-Yaum" on June 1, 2025.

She noted that the law represents a qualitative leap in organizing voluntary work at both the Kuwaiti and GCC levels, and is the result of pioneering efforts by Kuwait's Ministry of Social Affairs, which was the first in the region to develop regulations governing

volunteer work, serving as a guiding reference for the GCC unified law.

Al-Huwaila indicated that the main features of the executive regulations include establishing a unified legal framework for voluntary work within the GCC, clearly defining terminology related to voluntary activities, roles of responsible authorities, and precise mechanisms for establishing and registering volunteer teams.

It also covers determining funding sources, and regulating financial and administrative aspects to ensure transparency and governance, she said, adding that the law aims to disseminate, develop, and encourage a culture of voluntary work through a system of incentives and recognition, emphasizing the importance of training volunteers, developing their abilities and skills according to their assigned volunteer tasks, and awarding them certificates documenting their efforts and achievements.

Al-Huwaila pointed out that the executive regulations require forming administrative bodies within volunteer teams, clearly defining their competencies and operational procedures with transparency, while adhering to the highest national and international standards for financial and operational management.

She explained that the regulations include clear mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, applying a graduated system of penalties in case of violations, to ensure the protection of the voluntary sector from any misconduct or irregularities, guiding volunteers efforts towards achieving development and serving the public interest.

She affirmed that this law aligns with the GCC's collective approach to unifying and regulating voluntary efforts, and enhancing cooperation among member states, highlighting that this reflects Kuwait's commitment to leading in this field and enhancing its position regionally and internationally.

She stressed that the Ministry of Social Affairs remains committed to supporting the voluntary sector by providing a suitable legislative and regulatory environment, enabling volunteers, and enhancing their societal role, noting that this law will strongly support volunteer efforts in Kuwait and other GCC states. The minister reiterated that the ministry is committed to fully and effectively implementing the law, in coordination with all relevant authorities, to achieve the desired objectives and serve the nation and community optimally.

## Stricter licensing, up to KD 3,000 fine for violators to enforce healthy food in schools

# Kuwait publishes new school cafeteria regulations to ensure health, safety

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari and Marwa Al-Bahrabi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: The new school cafeteria regulations were published in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Yaum - Issue No. 1741) on Sunday.

These regulations are part of efforts to develop cafeteria operations in public and private schools and ensure the provision of healthy and safe meals for students, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN).

Article One of the regulations prohibits the sale of unhealthy foods containing high levels of saturated fats, sugars or preservatives; as well as any food of unknown origin or

lacks the technical specifications approved by PAFN.

The regulations include a detailed list of permitted foods like fruits, fresh produce and meals prepared in a healthy manner.

They also emphasize the need to obtain approval from the relevant authorities before displaying or selling any food item in the cafeteria.

Cafeterias must be equipped with appropriate equipment for food preservation and storage, such as refrigerators and heating devices, dedicated sinks for staff, and a minimum of 100 square meters of preparation space for every 24 students.

Floors and walls must be easy to clean, free of cracks, and made of materials resistant to moisture and rust.

Cafeteria workers must have certified health certificates

proving they are free of contagious diseases and they must undergo periodic checkups.

Cafeterias must be managed by a licensed entity registered with regulatory authorities, with the possibility of submitting an application electronically to obtain an operating license.

School administration and cafeteria operators must coordinate to provide balanced meals.

Menus that illustrate the benefits of healthy nutrition must be displayed to raise student awareness and promote healthy eating behavior in schools.

The role of the Nutrition Institute as an accredited technical body is to evaluate food and ensure its compliance with specifications before approval.

Inspection teams play a role in monitoring the implemen-

tation of requirements and performance of cafeterias, and intervene immediately in the event of violation.

School administrations are expected to begin implementing the instructions and regulations in the next academic year, in cooperation with the relevant authorities, to ensure full compliance with the requirements and achieve the desired health and educational goals.

Meanwhile, Deputy Director and Official Spokesperson of PAFN Dr. Shaima Al-Asfour announced that the new regulations will be implemented at the beginning of the 2025/2026 academic year.

She affirmed that these regulations include comprehensive, substantive updates that align with the best Gulf and international practices in the field of school nutrition and food safety.

## Continued from Page 1

## Riggae building

In the same context, KFF announced that firefighting teams from Shuwaikh Industrial Area and Ardiya fire stations, as well as the search and rescue centers, controlled the fire that broke out in two apartments in a building in Riggae.

KFF revealed that some of the injured were treated at the scene, while others were taken to the hospital. It added that 15 ambulances were quickly dispatched to the fire site; along with intensified preparations to receive the injured at Al-Sabah, Farwaniya, Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Jahra hospitals. The injuries included first- and second-degree burns and suffocation.

The videos posted on social media clearly showed the tremendous efforts exerted by the firefighters who rushed to the scene to rescue trapped people. Others rescued those trapped and escaping the flames. Dozens of the building's residents were rescued, as firefighters arrived at the scene quickly and dealt with the incident in a professional manner.

Furthermore, Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah visited Farwaniya Hospital on Sunday to check on the condition of those injured in the fire.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser was accompanied by Director of Farwaniya Security Command Brigadier General Mohammed Mutlaq Al-Mutairi, Assistant Director of Farwaniya Security Command Brigadier General Nayef Al-Hajraf, and Director of Farwaniya Hospital Dr. Ali Al-Mutairi.

During the visit, Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser received a detailed explanation from medical staff regarding the condition of the injured and the medical care being provided.

He directed the concerned authorities to thoroughly investigate the cause of the fire and ensure all necessary support and services are extended to the injured.

The governor also offered his condolences to the families of the victims. He praised the efforts of the security forces and firefighters in containing the blaze.

He stressed the importance of adhering to safety and security standards in

residential buildings to prevent such tragedies in the future.

## Gulf unity

In her speech at the 123rd meeting of the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee hosted by Kuwait on Sunday, Al-Fassam predicted continued growth this year; driven by non-oil sectors, economic diversification efforts, infrastructure investments, tourism expansion and renewable energy. She believes this will put the GCC economy among the world's top 10 economies in terms of GDP.

She chaired the meeting; with Secretary General of the GCC Jassim Al-Budaiwi, along with the finance and economy ministers of the member states in attendance.

She confirmed that holding this meeting is a strategic milestone in strengthening financial and economic cooperation between GCC countries. She stressed the importance of coordination, solidarity and cohesion to effectively address accelerating regional and international developments, confront challenges, and seize economic and investment opportunities.

She stated that "we are facing new opportunities to build on the significant achievements of the past decades and chart a more prosperous future based on a shared legacy, a history of cooperation, and an ambitious vision that reflects the aspirations of our leaders and peoples toward economic unity."

She said the next phase, with its expected changes at the regional and global levels, calls for serious work to advance joint Gulf economic action and confidently move toward full economic unity, which will enhance and ensure sustainability, growth and prosperity.

She also cited the speech of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the 45th session of the Supreme Council of the GCC in Kuwait last December; saying "the extremely complex global circumstances are now casting a shadow over the global economy, threatening the development and prosperity of our peoples. This requires us to accelerate our efforts to achieve Gulf economic integration by unifying policies, di-

versifying non-traditional sources of income, facilitating trade and investment, supporting local industries, and expanding the bases of innovation and entrepreneurship; especially in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, to enhance the competitiveness of our countries' economies in the regional and international arenas."

Moreover, the ministers underscored the importance of unifying positions and coordinating economic policies; affirming that the 44th anniversary of the founding of the GCC calls for building on what has been achieved and continuing to advance the process of economic integration, which will contribute to enhancing the resilience of the Gulf economy in the face of rapid international changes.

They disclosed that one of the biggest challenges now is the US administration's decision to raise tariffs on countries around the world, which requires in-depth study and joint coordination by the GCC countries to protect their economic interests.

The ministers also noted that the GCC's ability to enhance regional stability through diplomatic coordination remains a pivotal factor in supporting its economic strength; as investor confidence, joint ventures, and long-term economic planning depend on a stable and secure environment in the region.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Al-Fassam emphasized the role of the Gulf states in shaping the next phase of regional development. She asserted that "economic integration is no longer limited to borders and trade, as it is closely linked to how member states address shared challenges and opportunities; such as energy, emerging technologies and geopolitical stability."

She said this meeting reflects a clear Gulf consensus: "We are not just managing integration, but reshaping it."

She added that "after 44 years, the GCC today stands as a living example of effective regional cooperation based on economic resilience, sustainable growth and an influential global presence."

## HH Amir,

Visiting Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa also held a meeting with First

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Sunday.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and head of the honorary delegation Abdullah Al-Yahya attended the meeting.

The visit by Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa to the State of Kuwait holds significance to people in both countries as they hope that it would add to the historic ties ever developing towards constructive cooperation.

The Syrian President was expected to meet with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, holding official talks reflecting the strength of ties and the Kuwaiti people's keenness on supporting the unity and sovereignty of Syria.

Kuwaiti-Syrian diplomatic ties dated back to October 24, 1963 when Syria opened its first embassy in Kuwait, a step followed shortly by Kuwait opening its embassy in Damascus.

The relations witnessed a period of suspension between 2012 and 2024 due to the security happenings in Syria with Kuwait announcing closure of its embassy in Damascus on March 15, 2012 due to the deteriorating security situation in the fellow Arab country, urging citizens to return to Kuwait.

On December 30, 2024, ties saw a new development when Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya visited the Syrian capital as chair of the GCC ministerial council in a gesture reflecting support to the security and stability of the region and Syria.

Minister Al-Yahya met with the new Syrian administration led by President Ahmad Al-Sharaa to express support to Syria and calling for other countries to not interfere in internal Syrian matters. In the same day Minister Al-Yahya visited, the first Kuwaiti air bridge to deliver relief aid to the Syrian people was launched upon the directives of the Kuwaiti leadership.

The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), which was tasked with overseeing the mission, said that the aim was to cover the needs of the Syrian people during this critical transitional period. In the past decades, senior Kuwaiti and Syrian officials exchanged visits with the aim to boost ties on all possible domains.

The two countries have signed numerous accords, agreements, and MoUs, while the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) had

been providing loans and grants to Syria since 1969.

Syria had contributed to the liberation of Kuwait in 1991, becoming part of the international coalition to rid Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion of August 2, 1990.

In regards to the Syrian crisis, the State of Kuwait had a clear stance since the conflict began in 2011, calling on the UNSC to end war crimes committed in Syria and also allowing the entry of humanitarian aid to help civilians and the innocent.

Kuwait had condemned what have occurred against the Syrian people from violations and aggression, saying that aid should be delivered to those affect by the violence and the international community must take a stance to end the destruction of lives and infrastructure in Syria.

The State of Kuwait had organized three humanitarian donors conference for Syria in 2013, 2014, 2015 to help the Syrian people to overcome their plight with the events able to cover 90 percent of the needed humanitarian pledges.

In February 2016, Kuwait co-chaired with the UK the fourth humanitarian conference for Syria held in Britain, which focused on the situation within the war-torn country and ways to deliver much needed aid to those most affected.

Kuwait also took part in the consequence conference held in Brussels by the EU in March of 2025 in the presence of Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani and a wide-range regional and international participation.

Kuwait -- through the KFAED, KRCS, and charities -- had provided assistance to Syrians displaced in Syria and seeking refuge abroad especially in Lebanon, Jordan, and Türkiye.

In the last five months, Kuwait issued several statements through its Foreign Ministry called for the unity and stability in Syria, calling on the world to take part in aiding Syria through this critical juncture.

In once instance of solidarity, Kuwait expressed uttered condemnation to the Israeli occupation aggression in December 2024 on areas in the Syrian borders, saying it was a violation to international laws and UNSC resolutions.

A similar condemnation also was reflected back in May in regards to Israeli occupation airstrikes against Syr-

ian forces and the Presidential Palace in Damascus.

Kuwait welcomed on May 13 the US President Donald Trump's announcement on lifting sanctions on Syria and also welcomed a similar decision by the EU in May 21, which lifted economic sanctions, paving the way for a prosperous and bright future for Syria.

## Individuals under

The department emphasized the importance of bringing the passport delivery receipt when arriving at the appointed time.

In other news, the official gazette "Kuwait alyoum" published in its issue on Sunday the Cabinet's Decision No. 634/2025 to revoke Kuwaiti citizenship from two individuals, as well as from those who acquired it through them. This decision is based on Article 21-bis (a) of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959 concerning the Kuwaiti Nationality Law and its amendments.

This article stipulates that Kuwaiti citizenship may be revoked if it is proven to have been obtained through fraud, false statements, or inaccurate certificates.

Revocation is carried out by Cabinet decision based on the recommendation of the Minister of Interior. Citizenship may also be withdrawn from anyone who acquired it through a person whose citizenship was revoked.

## Kuwait backs

Minister Al-Roumi also confirmed that these measures, which involve accelerating the adjustment of production, would provide participating countries with the opportunity to expedite their compensation for previous overproductions starting from January 2024.

Minister Al-Roumi, headed the delegation of the State of Kuwait, which included Kuwait's Governor to OPEC, Mohammad Khudr Al-Shatti, and Kuwait's National Representative to OPEC, Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Salem Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah.





Minnesota Gov Tim Walz speaks at the California Democratic Party's 2025 State Convention at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California, May 31. (AP)

## Minnesota Gov Walz calls on Dems ‘to be little meaner’ in S.Carolina remarks

COLUMBIA, SC, June 1, (AP): Minnesota Gov Tim Walz sought to energize activists at a Democratic state convention in South Carolina, as the party's 2024 vice presidential nominee works to keep up the high national profile he gained when Kamala Harris selected him as her running mate.

Walz, a former schoolteacher who went on to serve in Congress and then became his state's governor, keyed the South Carolina gathering in Columbia, traditionally a showcase for national-level Democrats and White House hopefuls. Speaking to convention delegates for more than half an hour, Walz used colorful language and spoke plainly as he lobbed criticism at President Donald Trump and called on his fellow Democrats to have the courage to stand up to the "bully" in the White House.

"Maybe it's time for us to be a little meaner," Walz said, to applause from the crowd. "When it's a bully like Donald Trump, you bully the ... out of him. ... This is a ... cruel man."

It was Walz's third set of large-scale remarks in less than 24 hours for Walz, who, along with Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, spoke Friday night at the party's fundraising dinner, as well as an after-party fish fry hosted by Rep. Jim Clyburn.

The events offered an opportunity for both Walz and Moore to test out their messages in front of hundreds of Democrats in the state that has long held the first-in-the-South Democratic presidential primary and, last year, led

off the party's nominating calendar entirely. State party chair Christale Spain has said that she will renew the argument to keep the state's No. 1 position in the next cycle, but national party organizations haven't settled their 2028 calendars yet, and party officials in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada are also vying to go first.

"Donald Trump is the existential threat that we knew was coming," Walz told the crowd Saturday morning, acknowledging that, for Democrats, "it is going to be a challenging few years here."

As he did on Friday night, Walz praised his fellow Democrats for having the "courage" to keep fighting in a largely Republican state, where Democrats haven't won a statewide election in about two decades and only hold one congressional seat — Clyburn's.

"Damn it, we should be able to have some fun and be joyful," Walz said. "We've got the guts and we need to have it to push back on the bullies and the greed."

Walz, on a long list of potential 2028 candidates who have been traveling to early-voting states, was expected to sound similar themes as a featured speaker as California Democrats gather in Anaheim on Saturday.

"We're fired up to welcome Minnesota Governor Tim Walz to the Convention stage in Anaheim," state chair Rusty Hicks said in a statement. "He's a former teacher, a veteran, and a trailblazer who's spent his career fighting for working families and standing up for the values we all share — fairness, dignity, and opportunity for all."

### Critics say data centers employ relatively few people

## US states rolling out red carpets for data centers but some lawmakers pushing back

HARRISBURG, Pa., June 1, (AP): The explosive growth of the data centers needed to power America's fast-rising demand for artificial intelligence and cloud computing platforms has spurred states to dangle incentives in hopes of landing an economic bonanza, but it's also eliciting pushback from lawmakers and communities.

Activity in state legislatures - and competition for data centers - has been brisk in recent months, amid an intensifying buildout of the energy-hungry data centers and a search for new sites that was ignited by the late 2022 debut of OpenAI's ChatGPT.

Many states are offering financial incentives worth tens of millions of dollars. In some cases, those incentives are winning approval, but only after a fight or efforts to require data centers to pay for their own electricity or meet energy efficiency standards.

Some state lawmakers have contested the incentives in places where a heavy influx of massive data centers has caused friction with neighboring communities. In large part, the fights revolve around the things that tech companies and data center developers seem to most want: large tracts of land, tax breaks and huge volumes of electricity and water.

And their needs are exploding in size: from dozens of megawatts to hundreds of megawatts and from dozens of acres up to hundreds of acres for large-scale data centers sometimes called a hyperscaler.

While critics say data centers employ relatively few people and pack little long-term job-creation punch, their advocates say they require a huge number of construction jobs to build, spend enormous sums on goods and local vendors and generate strong tax revenues for local governments.

In Pennsylvania, lawmakers are writing legislation to fast-track permitting for data centers. The state is viewed as an up-and-coming data center destination, but there is also a sense that Pennsylvania is missing out on billions of dollars in investment that's landing in other states.

"Pennsylvania has companies that are interested, we have a labor force that is capable and we have a lot of water and natural gas," said state Rep. Eric Nelson. "That's the winning combination. We just have a bureaucratic process that won't open its doors."

Kansas approved a new sales tax exemption on goods to build and equip data centers, while Kentucky and Arkansas expanded pre-existing exemptions so that more projects will qualify.

Michigan approved one that carries some protections, including requirements to use municipal utility water and clean energy, meet energy-efficiency measures and ensure that it pays for its own electricity.



A data center owned by Amazon Web Services, front right, is under construction next to the Susquehanna nuclear power plant in Berwick, Pa., on Jan 14, 2024. (AP)

Such tax exemptions are now so widespread - about three dozen states have some version of it - that it is viewed as a must-have for a state to compete.

"It's often a nonstarter if you don't have them, for at least the hyperscalers," said Andy Cvengros, who helps lead the data center practice at commercial real estate giant JLL. "It's just such a massive impact on the overall spend of the data center."

In West Virginia, lawmakers approved a bill to create "microgrid" districts free from local zoning and electric rate regulations where data centers can procure power from standalone power plants.

Gov. Patrick Morrisey, a Republican, called the bill his "landmark policy proposal" for 2025 to put West Virginia "in a class of its own to attract new data centers and information technology companies."

Utah and Oklahoma passed laws to make it easier for data center developers to procure their own power supply without going through the grid while Mississippi rolled out tens of millions of dollars in incentives last year to land a pair of

Amazon data centers.

In South Carolina, Gov Henry McMaster signed legislation earlier this month that eased regulations to speed up power plant construction to meet demand from data centers, including a massive Facebook facility.

The final bill was fought by some lawmakers who say they worried about data centers using disproportionate amounts of water, taking up large tracts of land and forcing regular ratepayers to finance the cost of new power plants.

"I do not like that we're making customers pay for two power plants when they only need one," Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey told colleagues during floor debate.

Still, state Sen. Russell Ott suggested that data centers should be viewed like any other electricity customer because they reflect a society that is "addicted" to electricity and are "filling that need and that desire of what we all want. And we're all guilty of it. We're all responsible for it."

In data center hotspots, some lawmakers are pushing back.

Lawmakers in Oregon are advancing legislation to order utility regulators to ensure data centers pay the cost of power plants and power lines necessary to serve them.

Georgia lawmakers are debating a similar bill.

In Virginia, the most heavily developed data center zone in the US, Gov Glenn Youngkin vetoed a bill that would have forced more disclosures from data center developers about their site's noise pollution and water use.

In Texas, which endured a deadly winter blackout in 2021, lawmakers are wrestling with how to protect the state's electric grid from fast-growing data center demand.

Lawmakers still want to attract data centers, but a bill that would speed up direct hookups between data centers and power plants has provisions that are drawing protests from business groups.

Those provisions would give utility regulators new authority to approve those agreements and order big electric users such as data centers to switch to backup generators in a power emergency.

Walt Baum, the CEO of Powering Texans, which represents competitive power plant owners, warned lawmakers that those provisions might be making data center developers hesitant to do business in Texas.

"You've seen a lot of new announcements in other states and over the last several months and not as much here in Texas," Baum told House members during a May 7 committee hearing. "I think everybody right now is in a waiting pattern and I worry that we could be losing to other states while that waiting pattern is happening."



This photo released by Acting Governor of the Kursk Region Alexander Khinshtein's telegram channel on June 1, shows a view of a damaged bridge after the crash of a freight train in Russia's Kursk region, which borders Ukraine. (AP)

### 12 soldiers dead; bridges collapse kills 7

## Ukraine destroys more than 40 Russian aircraft

KYIV, Ukraine, June 1, (AP): A Ukrainian drone attack has destroyed more than 40 Russian planes deep in Russia's territory, a Ukrainian security official told The Associated Press on Sunday, while Russia pounded Ukraine with missiles and drones a day before the two sides meet for a new round of direct talks in Istanbul.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose operational details, said the attack took over 1 1/2-year to execute and was personally supervised by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The operation saw drones transported in containers carried by trucks deep into Russian territory, he said. The drones reportedly hit 41 bombers stationed at several airfields on Sunday afternoon, including the Belaya air base in Russia's Irkutsk region, more than 4,000 kilometers (2,500 miles) from Ukraine.

It is the first time that a Ukrainian drone has been seen in the region, local Gov. Igor Kobzev said. The attack came the same day as Zelenskyy said Ukraine will send a delegation to Istanbul for a new round of direct peace talks with Russia on Monday.

In a statement on Telegram, Zelenskyy said that Defense Minister Rustem Umerov will lead the Ukrainian delegation. Russia on Sunday launched the biggest number of drones - 472 - on Ukraine since the full-scale invasion in February 2022, Ukraine's air force said. Earlier Sunday, Ukraine's army said at least 12 Ukrainian service



Emergency medics wait for arrival of wounded passengers at the railway station in Moscow, Russia on June 1, after a road bridge collapsed on top of a passenger train in the Bryansk region, located on Russia's border with Ukraine. (AP)

members were killed and more than 60 were injured in a Russian missile strike on an army training unit.

The strike occurred at 12:50 p.m., the statement said, emphasizing that no formations or mass gatherings of personnel were being held at the time.

**Also:**

**MOSCOW:** Explosions caused two bridges to collapse and derailed two trains in western Russia overnight, officials said Sunday, without saying what had caused the blasts. In one of the incidents, seven people were killed and dozens were injured.

The first bridge, in the Bryansk region on the border with Ukraine, collapsed on top of a passenger train on Saturday, causing the casualties. The train's driver was among those killed, state-run Russian Railways said.

Hours later, officials said a second train derailed when the bridge beneath it collapsed in the nearby Kursk region, which also borders Ukraine.

In that collapse, a freight train was thrown off its rails onto the road below as the explosion collapsed the bridge, local acting Gov. Alexander Khinshtein said Sunday. The crash sparked a fire, but there were no casualties, he said.

### German chancellor to meet US prez

BERLIN, June 1, (AP): German Chancellor **Friedrich Merz** will travel to Washington next week to meet US President Donald Trump, with the war in Ukraine and trade tensions among the items on the agenda, the German government said Saturday.

Merz's office said the new German leader, who took the helm of Europe's biggest economy on May 6, will meet Trump at the White House on Thursday - the first in-person meeting between the two. It said that the meeting will address bilateral relations and international issues such as Russia's war in Ukraine, the situation in the Middle East and trade policy.



Merz



Firefighters with breathing apparatus and a ladder truck work at the Marienkrankenhaus hospital in Hamburg's Hohenfelde district, Germany on June 1. (AP)

### Germany hospital fire kills 3

Three older patients were killed and many people were injured in a fire that broke out overnight at a hospital in the German city of Hamburg, authorities said Sunday.

Firefighters were alerted to the blaze at the hospital, the Marienkrankenhaus, shortly after midnight. It broke out in a room in the geriatric ward, on the ground floor of the building, and spread to the facade of the floor above. Smoke spread across the building's four floors, German news agency dpa reported. It wasn't immediately clear what caused the fire and police said results of the investigation weren't expected on Sunday.

The three people who died were men aged 84, 85 and 87, police said in a statement. Another 34 people were injured, one of whom was in a life-threatening condition. (AP)

### ‘I hope there will be less division’

## Poles vote in decisive presidential runoff

WARSAW, Poland, June 1, (AP): Poles were voting Sunday in a decisive presidential runoff that could set the course for the nation's political future and its relations with the European Union.

The contest pits Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski, a liberal pro-EU figure, against Karol Nawrocki, a conservative historian backed by the right-wing Law and Justice party.

The outcome will determine whether Poland takes a more nationalist path or pivots more decisively toward liberal democratic norms. With conservative President Andrzej Duda completing his second and final term, the new president will have significant influence over whether Prime Minister Donald Tusk's centrist government can fulfill its agenda, given the presidential power to veto laws.

Voting began at 7 am and will end at 9 pm (1900 GMT), when an Ipsos exit poll is expected. Final results are likely to be announced Monday. The runoff follows a tightly contested first round on May 18, in which Trzaskowski won just over 31% and Nawrocki nearly 30%, eliminating 11 other candidates.

Katarzyna Malek, a 29-year-old voter in Warsaw, cast her ballot in the first



People prepare to vote during the presidential election runoff in Warsaw, Poland on June 1. (AP)

round for a left-wing candidate but went for Trzaskowski on Sunday, viewing him as more competent and more likely to pursue stronger ties with foreign partners and lower social tensions.

"I hope there will be less division, that maybe there will be more dialogue," she said.

The campaign has highlighted stark

ideological divides. Trzaskowski, 53, has promised to restore judicial independence, ease abortion restrictions and promote constructive ties with European partners. Nawrocki, 42, has positioned himself as a defender of traditional Polish values, skeptical of the EU and aligned with U.S. conservatives, including President Donald Trump.



‘Extension of temporary ceasefire until June 30’

## Many survivors of Myanmar’s devastating quake in March still live in leaky tents

BANGKOK, June 1, (Agencies): Two months after a deadly earthquake ravaged much of central and northeastern Myanmar, recovery is just inching along, with huge numbers of people living in temporary shelters while facing the heavy rain-fall and strong winds of monsoon season.

The 7.7 magnitude March 28 quake caused significant damage to six regions and states, including the capital Naypyitaw and Mandalay, the country’s second-largest city. The confirmed death toll from the disaster has reached 3,740, with 5,104 injured, the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar reported on Friday.

As the task of rebuilding grinds along, the grim work of recovering the dead is continuing.

The Myanmar Fire Services Department said on its Facebook page this week that its teams had recovered four bodies from the rubble of the collapsed buildings of the Sky Villa Condominium in Mandalay on Tuesday and Wednesday.

More than 100 bodies have been recovered from the condominium site and search operations will continue as more bodies are believed to be buried under debris, an official

of the Myanmar Rescue Federation (Mandalay), which works with the firefighters, told The Associated Press on Friday. He asked not to be named because he fears arrest for speaking without authorization.

Humanitarian needs in Myanmar have reached record levels, with 19.9 million people identified as needing assistance, and an additional 2 million in urgent need following the quake, said a report issued on May 23 by OCHA, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Myanmar already plunged into turmoil in 2021, when the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, which triggered nationwide non-violent pro-democracy protests that escalated into armed resistance and what now amounts to a civil war.

“Myanmar continues to face significant humanitarian challenges, driven by recurrent disasters, persistent conflict, and grave protection risks, with an estimated 3.5 million people displaced across the country,” OCHA said.

Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing, the head of Myanmar’s military government, said at a Thursday fund-raising ceremony for disaster relief that



An empty field is seen after clear earthquake in Naypyitaw, Myanmar on May 23. (AP)

more than half a million people from 2,081 villages were affected by the quake, the Global New Light of Myanmar reported

Hundreds of roads and bridges were damaged or destroyed and more than 700 hospitals and clinics also suffered varying levels of damage, according to his figures.

Shelter is a major problem, even as people leave temporary camps to

return home.

The official from Myanmar Rescue Federation (Mandalay) said about half of the disaster victims who were sheltering in camps have returned to temporary accommodations built on land where their homes once stood.

Aung Kyaw, who supervises recovery activities in Hmike Su ward in Mandalay’s Amarapura township,

told The Associated Press on Friday that more than 150 people from his ward were still living in roadside shelters in tarpaulin tents. He said they were suffering due to strong winds and constant rain for days, and urgently need metal roofing.

“I need iron sheets for a roof to build a shelter on my land. I would be satisfied just to be able to safely sleep at my house,” said Aung Kyaw, whose home was destroyed. “I don’t want to badger for anything else. Now we are just sitting in the rain.”

He said the people living in temporary shelters will also likely face floods due to heavy monsoon rains in the coming months.

In Naypyitaw, the capital, government personnel have moved to modular low-cost prefabricated buildings built around the compound of the central railway station while debris is still being cleared from their damaged state housing.

In other damaged residential areas, people have completed clearing the debris on their own, but most of them are still living in tents.

**Also:**

**YANGON:** The Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defense Ser-

vices of Myanmar on Saturday announced the extension of the temporary ceasefire until June 30, state-owned daily The Mirror reported on Sunday.

The extension, starting June 1, is aimed at supporting rehabilitation and resettlement efforts in quake-affected areas, serving the interests of the country and its people, and promoting peace and stability, the report said.

The Myanmar Armed Forces had earlier declared a temporary ceasefire from May 6 to 31 to help with rescue and relief work after the 7.9-magnitude quake, it added.

During the ceasefire, ethnic armed organizations and other armed groups are urged not to disrupt or attack communication routes used by the public, not to cause harm to or destroy the lives and property of civilians, not to attack security personnel and their camps, not to target military commands, not to recruit or mobilize forces that could undermine peace, and not to expand territories. If such actions occur, the Myanmar Armed Forces will take necessary response measures to protect the public, the report said.

## China strongly deplores Hegseth’s negative remarks related to China

BEIJING, June 1, (Xinhua): China strongly deplores and firmly opposes the negative remarks related to China made by US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, at the 22nd edition of the Shangri-La Dialogue, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Saturday.

The spokesperson said Hegseth deliberately ignored the call for peace and development by countries in the region, and instead touted the Cold War mentality for bloc confrontation, vilified China with defamatory allegations, and falsely called China a “threat.”

“The remarks were filled with provocations and intended to sow division. China deplores and firmly opposes them and has protested strongly to the United States,” said the spokesperson.

The spokesperson said that no country in the world deserves to be called a hegemonic power other than the United States itself, who is also the primary factor undermining the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific. To perpetuate its hegemony and advance the so-called “Indo-Pacific strategy,” the United States has deployed offen-



US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth delivers his speech during 22nd Shangri-La Dialogue summit in Singapore on May 31. (AP)

sive weaponry in the South China Sea and kept stoking flames and creating tensions in the Asia-Pacific, which are turning the region into a powder keg and making countries in the region deeply concerned.

Noting that the Taiwan question is entirely China’s internal affair, the spokesperson said no country is in a position to interfere. “The United States should never imagine it could use the Taiwan question as leverage against China. The United States must never play with fire on this question. China urges the United States to fully abide by the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiques, and stop supporting and emboldening the ‘Taiwan independence’ separatist forces,” the spokesperson said.

“On the South China Sea, there has never been any problem with regard to freedom of navigation and overflight there,” the spokesperson said, adding China has always been committed to working with countries concerned to properly handle differences through dialogue and consultation, while safeguarding China’s territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in accordance with laws and regulations. “It is the United States who is the primary factor that is hurting the peace and stability in the South China Sea,” said the spokesperson.



Tourists visit the Slender West Lake scenic spot in Yangzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province on May 19. As one of the famous ancient cities of China, Yangzhou has a history of over 2,500 years. It is making full use of the cultural tourism resources of the Grand Canal, exploring new scenes and formats, and creating cultural tourism projects for night tours of the canal to inject new vitality into the ancient city. The Grand Canal connects Beijing and Hangzhou in east China’s Zhejiang Province, serving as a significant transportation artery in ancient China. An over 1,000-km-stretch of the canal was declared a World Heritage site in 2014. (Xinhua)

### Uganda air-drops relief food aid to S.Sudan

## Sudan’s new PM takes constitutional oath

KHARTOUM, June 1, (Xinhua): Kamil Idris was sworn in as Sudan’s new prime minister on Saturday before Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, head of the country’s ruling Transitional Sovereign Council, the council said in a statement. Following the swearing-in ceremony, Burhan and other council members met with Idris to discuss government priorities, including stabilizing the economy, protecting civilian livelihoods, and restoring order across the country’s states, the statement said. Idris’s appointment was formalized on May 19 through a constitutional decree issued by Burhan, who also serves as commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces.

The decision was welcomed by the United Nations, the African Union Commission, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The prime minister’s post had remained vacant since the resignation of Abdalla Hamdok in January 2022, following a military coup led by Burhan in October 2021. Hamdok and other civilian leaders were briefly detained before being reinstated under a short-lived power-sharing deal. He stepped down weeks later, warning that Sudan was at a “dangerous turning point” as mass protests erupted against military rule. Idris, who holds a doctoral degree in international law, previously served as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Or-



Kamil Idris attends the swearing-in ceremony in Port Sudan, eastern Sudan on May 31. (Xinhua)

ganization and Secretary-General of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants. Sudan remains gripped by a conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which erupted in April 2023. The fighting has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced millions, both internally and across borders, deepening the country’s humanitarian crisis.

**Also:**

**KAMPALA:** The Ugandan military said on Saturday that it has conducted

air-drops of 600 metric tons of essential food supplies targeting several locations in South Sudan’s violence-hit state of Upper Nile.

Chris Magezi, acting military spokesperson, told Xinhua by telephone that Uganda Peoples’ Defense Airforce has airlifted humanitarian aid deliveries provided by international partners from South Sudan’s Juba International Airport to the hard-hit areas in Ulang and Nasir counties.

In March, intense fighting broke out in Nasir between the South Sudan People’s Defense Forces (SSPDF) and the White Army, a militia group that the government claims is linked to the opposition Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-in-Op- position, led by First Vice President Riek Machar. Machar is currently under house arrest in the national capital of Juba.

“In the past few days, our air force has airdropped emergency food aid to hard-hit areas where thousands of displaced people are currently living in famine conditions following the outbreak of armed violence early this year,” said Magezi. Uganda’s military, at the request of South Sudanese authorities, deployed an expeditionary force in the country in March to help support SSPDF in rear security operations to secure Juba, as well as provide other military-technical assistance following the deadly clashes.

## Mexico’s first ever judicial elections stir controversy and confusion among voters

MEXICO CITY, June 1, (AP): Mexico is holding its first ever judicial elections on Sunday, stirring controversy and sowing confusion among voters still struggling to understand a process set to transform the country’s court system.

Mexico’s ruling party, Morena, overhauled the court system late last year, fueling protests and criticism that the reform is an attempt by those in power to seize on their political popularity to gain control of the branch of government until now out of their reach.

“It’s an effort to control the court system, which has been a sort of thorn in the side” of those in power, said Laurence Patin, director of the legal organization Juicio Justo in Mexico. “But it’s a counter-balance, which exists in every healthy democracy.”

Now, instead of judges being appointed on a system of merit and experience, Mexican voters will choose between some 7,700 candidates vying for more than 2,600 judicial positions.

Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum and party allies have said the elections are a way to purge the court system of corruption in a country that has long faced high levels of impunity. Critics say the



A supporter of Lenia Batres, who is running for election for the Mexican Supreme Court, holds an instruction sheet on how to vote, during her closing campaign rally in Mexico City on May 28. (AP)

vote could damage democracy and open the judicial system up further to organized crime and other corrupt actors hoping to get a grip on power.

That process has only grown more chaotic in the run-up to the vote.

Civil society organizations like Defensorxs have raised red flags about a range of candidates running for election, including lawyers who represented some of Mexico’s

most feared cartel leaders and local officials who were forced to resign from their positions due to corruption scandals.

Also among those putting themselves forward are ex-convicts imprisoned for years for drug-trafficking to the United States and a slate of candidates with ties to a religious group whose spiritual leader is behind bars in California after pleading guilty to sexually abusing minors.

## Brunei’s sultan released from Malaysian hospital

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, June 1, (AP): Brunei’s Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, one of the world’s wealthiest men and its longest-reigning sitting monarch, was discharged from a Malaysian hospital five days after he was admitted for fatigue.

Brunei’s government said on social media late Saturday that the 78-year-old monarch has moved to a Kuala Lumpur hotel, where he will spend a few days resting before returning home. Brunei’s information department posted pictures on Facebook of the sultan walking into the hotel lobby with his wife, and in a room with family members including his wife and two of his sons.



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



Brunei’s Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, (center), attends the plenary session at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on May 26. (AP)

## Bangladesh opens trial of deposed ex-prime minister Sheikh Hasina

DHAKA, Bangladesh, June 1, (AP): A special tribunal set up to try Bangladesh’s ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina began proceedings Sunday by accepting the charges against humanity filed against her in connection with a mass uprising in which hundreds of students were killed last year.

Accepting the charges, the Dhaka-based International Crimes Tribunal directed investigators to produce Hasina, a former home minister and a former police chief before the court on June 16.

## Afghanistan welcomes Pakistan decision to upgrade level of diplomatic mission

KABUL, June 1, (Xinhua): The Afghan interim government has welcomed the decision of Pakistan to elevate the diplomatic mission to the level of ambassador, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement late Saturday evening. “The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan welcomes the decision of the government of Pakistan to upgrade the level of its diplomatic mission in Kabul to that of an ambassador,” said the statement by the ministry’s deputy spokesman Hafiz Zia Ahmad posted on the X.

“In reciprocity, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan will elevate the status of its mission in Islamabad from chargé d’affaires to ambassador,” the statement further said.

**Also:**

**KABUL:** A total of 500,000 Afghan refugees have returned to their homeland Afghanistan from neighboring Pakistan and Iran in April and May, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UN-



Afghan refugees discuss the situation following Pakistan government plan to expel them at Kababayan Refugee Camp in Peshawar, Pakistan on April 8. (AP)

HCR). “Support is needed more than ever as returnees face an uncertain future and struggle to rebuild their lives,” said the UNHCR in a statement

on Sunday. Over 2 million Afghans have reportedly returned home from neighboring Pakistan and Iran in the past year.



## Boursa Kuwait general index rises 0.42%

KUWAIT CITY, June 1, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Sunday's session with the general index gaining 34.34 points (0.42%) to reach 8,146.83. A total of 303.19 million shares were traded in 15,597 deals worth KD 63.9 million (approx. USD 196.17 million).

The Main Market Index rose 47.17 points (0.68%) to 7,014.18 with 183.7 million shares traded in 8,361 transactions worth KD 19.7 mil-

lion (approx. USD 60.4 million).

The Premier Market Index advanced 32.84 points (0.37%) to 8,831.93, with 119.4 million shares traded in 7,236 deals valued at KD 44.17 million (approx. USD 135.6 million).

Meanwhile, the Major 50 Index jumped 64.26 points (0.89%) to 7,271.60, as 163.7 million shares changed hands in 6,582 trades worth KD 17.3 million (approx. USD 53.11 million).

# Business

## Boursa Kuwait hosts ESG workshop with Clenergize

Workshop highlights ESG as strategic growth driver

**KUWAIT CITY, June 1: As part of its continued commitment to enhance Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices in the Kuwaiti capital market raise awareness among its participants, Boursa Kuwait organized a workshop entitled “ESG Reporting Readiness: From Compliance to Strategic Value” on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, in collaboration with Clenergize Consultants, an Environmental and Sustainability consulting firm with a global presence spanning the Middle East, Asia, Europe, Africa and the United States of America.**

The workshop, led by Clenergize's Managing Director, Mr. Shyam Yadev, and Regional Business Development Manager, Ms. Haya Kalou, highlighted how sustainability reports can be leveraged as a strategic tool to drive growth and serve as a key factor in evaluating regulatory and financial risks. It emphasized the role of sustainability reporting in enhancing access to capital, achieving long-term sustainable growth, strengthening market reputation and improving long-term institutional performance to enable listed companies to keep pace with the evolving ESG and sustainability landscapes.

The workshop also highlighted clear evidence linking ESG performance to enhanced shareholder



Noura Al-Abdulkareem

value, improved credit ratings and increased corporate resilience, which was supported by case studies from several global companies. It also covered ESG-related financial instruments, such as sustainability-linked loans as well as bonds and sukuk and explored the incentives for adopting ESG practices. Additionally, the workshop highlighted the latest trends and best practices adopted in Kuwait and across the GCC and demonstrated the added value of ESG practices across various sectors.

Boursa Kuwait's Head of Markets, Ms. **Noura Al-Abdulkareem** hailed the workshop, saying, “Boursa Kuwait reaffirms its commitment to supporting market participants in enhancing their ESG capabilities by keeping them informed of the latest global standards and evolving disclosure practices, aligned with regulatory frameworks. To that end, the exchange recently updated its rules and disclosure requirements to further enhance transparency and reporting practices.”

“Boursa Kuwait continues to promote the adoption of ESG principles in the Kuwaiti capital market, enabling listed companies to align



ESG workshop

their operations with global best practices and standards. In the past few years, the company has published a comprehensive ESG Disclosure Guide and has continued to organize specialized workshops in this field since 2020, recognizing the strategic importance of ESG and its positive impact on enhancing business models and creating long-term value, which in turn reinforces confidence in the market and contributes to expanding its investment opportunities,” she added.

Disclosure of sustainability reports will become mandatory for companies listed on Boursa Kuwait's “Premier” Market starting in 2026, in line with the Capital Markets Authority circular number 4 issued earlier this year. As such, companies are required to prepare their 2025 sustainability reports and publish them on the Boursa Kuwait website no later than the second quarter of 2026. Additionally, the exchange has updated its rules and amended disclosure requirements to ensure compliance by listed companies, continuing its efforts to enhance transparency and disclo-

sure standards across the market.

“ESG is rapidly evolving from a regulatory obligation to a core business strategy as companies that proactively integrate ESG considerations into their operations are mitigating risks and strengthening stakeholder trust, unlocking access to new sources of capital through their enhanced transparency. This session aimed to demonstrate how ESG can be a driver of long-term value and competitive advantage across various sectors,” said Mr. Shyam Nadev, the Managing Director of Clenergize.

Headed by Boursa Kuwait's commitment to integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles into their operations sets a powerful precedent for the region, as they have shown exemplary leadership in advancing sustainability within the financial sector. Their efforts help pave the way for a more resilient and transparent capital market that is ready for the future. I would like to thank the bourse for hosting this informative session and look forward to more collaborations going forward.”

The initiative forms part of

Boursa Kuwait's efforts to create a lasting meaningful impact on the community where it operates as part of its Corporate Sustainability strategy and ongoing efforts to equip all market participants with an in-depth understanding of the functioning of capital markets and various tools and techniques required to make informed investment decisions and effectively meet investors' needs. It is also in line with Goal 4 – Quality Education – and Goal 17 – Partnership for the Goals – of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability strategy stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards and investor expectations, creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allow Boursa Kuwait to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other companies or organizations that have experience in different fields, and integrating sustainability efforts with the company culture, in order to achieve longevity and an ongoing impact that is carried on and instilled in the day-to-day operations of the stock exchange.

As part of the strategy, Boursa Kuwait has launched many initiatives in partnership with local and international organizations, focusing on support for nongovernmental organizations and charity programs, financial literacy and capital market awareness, the empowerment of women, and environmental protection.

### About Boursa Kuwait

The establishment of Boursa Kuwait in 2014 marked the first step in the privatization project of the Kuwait Stock Exchange, which was founded in 1977 as the first exchange in the Gulf Cooperation Council region and was reorganized in 1983 as an independent financial institution. The transi-

tional phase began in 2016, with Boursa Kuwait officially assuming the responsibilities and operations of the Kuwait Stock Exchange, replacing it with an official license in the same year after the successful completion of the transitional phase. This ensured that Boursa Kuwait developed the infrastructure and operated according to best practices and international standards. It commenced the creation of an advanced, reliable trading platform built on efficiency, credibility, and transparency to serve all asset classes with a focus on the interests of traders and the national economy.

Boursa Kuwait has undertaken various market reforms as part of its comprehensive plans to enhance it in several stages. It succeeded in introducing innovative investment tools, enhancing transparency, and restructuring the market to increase its liquidity and competitiveness, based on its mission-focused strategy, which emphasizes developing the market to meet international standards. The company's developmental and improvement efforts have also contributed to the reclassification of the Kuwait market as an «emerging market» among key global index providers, enhancing Kuwait's position as a leading regional financial center.

In a pioneering step in Kuwait's privatization field, the privatization of Boursa Kuwait was successful, conducted in two stages. The first stage was in February 2019 when a consortium of Kuwaiti investment companies and a global exchange operator won the privatization bid, acquiring a 44% stake in the company.

In December 2019, the privatization process was completed through the public offering of a 50% stake owned by the Capital Markets Authority to Kuwaiti citizens, with the offering oversubscribed by more than 850%. Boursa Kuwait is listed on the «Premier Market» under the name «Boursa».

ITMs enable easy access to fresh Eid currency

## Gulf Bank launches ‘Ayadi’ Eid service across Kuwait branches

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: In celebration of Eid Al-Adha and to enhance customer experience, Gulf Bank is proud to offer the traditional “Ayadi” service at all its branches across Kuwait (excluding the Airport branch), as well as through its Interactive Teller Machines (ITMs).

The Bank has made the “Ayadi” service available at most of its branches across key locations in Kuwait, including its Head Office on Mubarak Al-Kabeer Street, Crystal Tower, Al-Adan, Salmiya, Jabriya, Fahahel Xcite, Kuwait International Airport (Terminal 1), Mishref, Al-Shaab, Al-Fanar Mall, Abdullah Al-Salem Residential Area, and Sabah Al-Ahmad Branch.

This service enables customers to withdraw new banknotes in denominations of KD 20, KD 10, KD 5, and KD 1, as well as KD 0.250 and KD 0.500, from various branches. Additionally, the first four denominations are available through Interactive Teller Machines (ITMs) to meet the high demand for new currency during Eid celebrations.

Additionally, Gulf Bank provides its customers with the “WAMD” and “Pay Link” services via its mobile app, accessible both from the app's home screen and within its menu, offering a simple and convenient user experience. The Bank has also introduced the “Eidiya” feature, allowing users to send Eid money to as many as five people in a single transaction, starting from the first day of Eid.

Gulf Bank aims to be Kuwait's leading bank, fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace to deliver exceptional customer service while contributing sustainably to the community. Through its extensive branch network and innovative digital services, the Bank empowers customers to conduct banking transactions conveniently and efficiently, ensuring a seamless experience.

In alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035, “New Kuwait,” and its commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships,



Gulf Bank offering ‘Ayadi’ service.

Gulf Bank is dedicated to driving robust sustainability initiatives across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions. The Bank is committed to implementing strategically selected and diverse sustainability programs both internally and externally.

Airport branch offers 24/7 banking from June 5–9

## Warba Bank committed to providing banking services during Eid Al-Adha

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: On the occasion of Arafat Day and Eid Al-Adha for the Hijri year 1446, Warba Bank announced that it will continue to provide banking services to its valued customers throughout the official holiday period, from Thursday, June 5 to Monday, June 9, 2025. Services will be available through the bank's branch at Kuwait International Airport (T4), which operates 24/7 to facilitate banking transactions for customers in Kuwait, as well as to support the needs of travelers heading for vacations or performing Hajj.

The bank will also continue to offer digital banking services via the Warba Bank mobile application and electronic platforms. Customers can reach the contact center by dialing 1825555 within Kuwait, or +965 2228 8888 from abroad. In addition, they can use the WhatsApp service at +965 5162 5555 and stay updated via the bank's social media platforms.

Commenting on the occasion, Senior Director of Branches and Private Banking Services at Warba Bank, **Abdullah Nasser Al-Shuail**, said: “We extend our heartfelt congratulations to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince, the people of Ku-



Abdullah Al-Shuail

wait, residents and Muslims around the world on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha. We pray that Allah accepts the pilgrimage of all Hajj pilgrims and returns the occasion with goodness and blessings. Warba Bank remains fully committed to serving our valued customers during this blessed time, whether they are in Kuwait, on pilgrimage or traveling for vacation. We ensure that our banking services are available to them anytime and anywhere.”

Al-Shuail added that Warba Bank offers an integrated digital banking experience, enabling customers to complete their transactions conveni-

ently through the mobile app. The app allows users to manage accounts, transfer funds, pay bills, and perform a wide range of financial operations securely, reflecting the bank's commitment to providing innovative, Sharia-compliant banking solutions that cater to diverse needs.

He also noted that all Warba Bank branches will resume operations and welcome customers starting Tuesday, June 10, 2025.

### A Customer-Centric Vision

Warba Bank invests in initiatives that preserve cultural heritage, promote pride in tradition, and protect national identity. This social approach aligns with the bank's commitment to delivering innovative, Sharia-compliant banking services tailored to meet evolving customer expectations.

Warba Bank has achieved significant success in a short period, positioning itself as a leader in Islamic digital banking in Kuwait. It is also one of the local banks with the largest shareholder base, bringing it closer to all segments of society. This success further cements Warba's reputation as a reliable financial partner that combines innovation with social responsibility to deliver top-tier services and financial products.

## Kuwaiti real estate transactions rise 13.8% in third week of May

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: Real estate trading activity witnessed a huge difference in the number and value of transactions in the third week of May, compared to the second week of the same month. The number of transactions in various property types increased by 13.8 percent, compared to a 10.6 percent decrease in the value of transactions.

The total number of real estate transactions during the third week reached around 123, valued at KD76.956 million; compared to 106 transactions, valued at KD86.059 million in the second week of May.

The weekly statistical report on real estate trading activity at the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Departments from May

18-22 revealed an increase of around 26 percent in the number and 6.8 percent in the value of private residential real estate transactions.

The total number of transactions during the week reached 100, valued at KD41.270 million; compared to 74 transactions, valued at KD38.450 million in the previous week.

Private residential real estate transactions accounted for the lion's share of the number and value of transactions during the week, accounting for 81.3 percent of the total number and 53.6 percent of the value of transactions.

Investment real estate transactions followed, accounting for 17.9 percent of the total number and 39.7 percent of the total value.

Weekly investment real estate transactions witnessed a significant decline in the number and value of transactions. The report revealed approximately 22 real estate transac-

tions worth KD30.572 million -- 26.7 percent decrease in number and 9.9 percent decrease in value compared to the previous week's 30 transactions worth KD33.849 million.

Although only one commercial real estate transaction was recorded in the second and third weeks of May, the decline in the value of commercial transactions in the third week compared to the second week may reflect an anticipated stagnation in real estate transactions during summer.

The value of commercial transaction in the third week decreased by 39.8 percent (KD3.386 million) compared to the second week; reaching 8,500 transactions; compared to KD5.114 million in the third week.

There was no movement in real estate transactions for crafts, warehouses, showrooms, shops or the coastal strip this week.

## ABK participates in ‘Eidity’ initiative

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced its participation in the ‘Eidity’ initiative which aims to provide Eidia in various Kuwaiti Dinar denominations on the blessed occasion of Eid Al Adha.

ABK clarified that Eidia will be provided to customers who visit any of the Bank's branches across Kuwait. Furthermore, ABK will be providing Eidia delivery service for its Elite customers.

ABK's participation highlights the Bank's eagerness to provide convenient banking services to all segments of society.

On this occasion, **Johair Marafi**, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, extended her greetings and said, “Our branches are ready to provide Eidia across the country and we aspire to ensure the best banking service and utmost satisfaction at all times. In order for customers to get their Eidia, they may visit ABK branches during official working hours.”



Johair Marafi, General Manager



Eidity logo



Aiming to enhance national youth skills in AI, data science, and cybersecurity

# KFAS concludes ‘TechEdge’ program in collaboration with NBK and Zain

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) has concluded the “TechEdge” program conducted in collaboration with the National University of Singapore, the National Bank of Kuwait, and Zain, which aims to enhance the skills of national youth who are kickstarting their careers in the fields of advanced technology such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, and Cybersecurity.

The program, held in Singapore for two weeks, has successfully achieved its objectives, which focused on raising awareness about the importance of Cybersecurity and data protection in the backdrop of rising digital challenges. The participants were able to better understand the technology and tools used in these fields, enabling them to face cyber threats and protect the digital infrastructure.

Moreover, this program is part of the fruitful collaboration between KFAS, NBK, and Zain aimed at supporting Kuwait Vision 2035 that strives to diversify the economy and enhance reliance on modern technology and digitalization. The program joined a distinctive group of ambitious Kuwaiti youth who showed great commitment and enthusiasm throughout.

KFAS affirmed it will continue to develop society and establish an atmosphere of creativity and innovation by tapping into various initiatives and programs that aim to prepare competent and competitive youth in the technologically advanced job market, especially with the national youth’s remarkable digital capabilities that need support to enable them become pioneers in advanced technology and ultimately accelerate digital transformation and sustainable development in Kuwait.

On this occasion, Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, Group Chief Human Resources Officer said: “At NBK, we strongly believe in the importance of promoting creativity and innovation by launching various programs and initiatives that aim to develop qualified national professionals and cooperating with government institutions and strategic partners to make a positive impact in society and create a motivating environment for the youth, which further put NBK at the forefront of



Tech Edge program

institutions in social responsibility initiatives.

Al-Ablani added: “The collaboration with KFAS and Zain reflects our commitment to supporting knowledge and inno-

vation. The “TechEdge” program, for instance, stands as a great opportunity for trainees who are just kickstarting their careers to develop their skills, as it gives these young train-

**Al-Ablani:** We have remarkable national capabilities in the digital field that need support to become pioneers in the fields of advanced technology.

**Bourisli:** Zain empowers Kuwaiti youth with future-ready tech skills through our Innovation Nation initiative

■ We are committed to collaborating with government institutions and strategic partners to leave a positive impact on society.

ees the chance to receive high quality training and education in collaboration with the National University in Singapore, which is known as one of the pioneering institutions in the field of technology.”

Nawal Bourisli, Chief Purpose & HR Officer at Zain Kuwait said: “At Zain, we believe in the power of young minds to shape the future of our digital economy. Supporting the TechEdge program is part of our broader Innovation Nation initiative, through which we invest in national talents and provide them with cutting-edge knowledge in vital fields like artificial intelligence, data science, and cybersecurity. These are the pillars of tomorrow’s job market, and we are committed to ensuring that Kuwaiti youth are ready to lead in this space.”

Bourisli continued: “We are proud of the participants for their dedication and passion, and we’re pleased that this global experience—delivered in collaboration with KFAS, NBK, and the National University of Singapore—was a fruitful one. It reflects our long-term vision of driving digital transformation by developing talent, sharing private sector expertise, and cultivating a culture of innovation.”

Zain’s support to TechEdge comes under the pillar of its ‘Innovation Nation’ initiative, through which the company collaborates with leading institutions to advance its strategic vision for enabling digital transformation upskilling and talent development.

## Soft US inflation boosts expectations of Fed rate cuts

# Tarrif tensions and mixed economic data continue to pressure global central banks

By National Bank of Kuwait

In the last week of May 2025, markets experienced heightened volatility amid mixed economic data, influencing global asset classes. WTI crude oil futures dropped over 1%, dropping towards \$60.3 per barrel, driven by renewed trade fears ahead of an anticipated OPEC+ meeting. US equities faced downward pressure, falling approximately 0.3%, after President Trump’s accusations against China intensified trade uncertainty. Concurrently, softening US inflation data reinforced expectations of potential Federal Reserve rate cuts. In currency markets, the Japanese yen advanced toward 142 per dollar, benefiting from heightened safe haven demand due to increasing US fiscal concerns and unpredictable trade policies. Meanwhile, the Australian dollar retreated to roughly \$0.643, reflecting risk-off sentiment amid global economic uncertainties and expectations of further easing by the Reserve Bank of Australia, highlighted by persistently soft economic indicators and mixed regional economic data.

### United States & Canada

FOMC Minutes: Fed Highlights Dual Mandate Challenges Amid Tariff Tensions

Minutes from the Federal Reserve’s May 6th meeting highlighted elevated risks to the US central bank’s dual mandate, with officials warning of the possibility that inflation and unemployment could rise simultaneously. The unemployment rate stood at 4.2% in April, and rising inflation remains a concern. The Fed maintained its policy rate at 4.25% to 4.50%. Meanwhile, the US Court of International Trade ruled that President Donald Trump lacked legal authority to impose sweeping tariffs, including levies on Chinese goods. The administration intends to appeal.

US PCE Moderates, Supporting Rate Cut Outlook

The US Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index increased by 0.1% month-over-month in April 2025, matching market expectations. Core PCE, excluding food and energy, also rose 0.1%, aligned with forecasts. On an annual basis, headline PCE inflation eased to 2.1%, the lowest level in seven months, down from 2.3% in March and below the forecast of 2.2%. Core inflation similarly moderated to 2.5%, marking its lowest since March 2021, highlighting continued easing inflationary pressures.

The US Dollar index closed the week at 99.129.

Canadian Economy Outpaces Expectations

Canada’s GDP expanded by 0.5% in the first quarter of 2025, maintaining growth from the previous quarter and surpassing market expectations. Growth was primarily driven by robust exports of goods and services, which rose 1.6%, alongside significant inventory accumulation driven by firms preemptively addressing US tariffs. However, underlying economic strength appeared mixed, with household consumption slowing to 0.3% from 1.2% previously and government expenditure contracting by 0.8%,

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week’s Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.1361	1.1209	1.1418	1.1347	1.1250	1.1420	1.1417
GBP	1.3499	1.3409	1.3593	1.3459	1.3350	1.3550	1.3466
JPY	142.36	142.10	146.28	144.04	143.05	145.00	142.57
CHF	0.8208	0.8183	0.8348	0.8225	0.8115	0.8305	0.8136

marking its first decline in a year. On an annualized basis, Canadian GDP grew at 2.2%, exceeding forecasts of 1.7%.

The USD/CAD currency pair closed the week at 1.3740.

### Europe

Eurozone Inflation Softens, Economic Growth Mixed

Recent economic data from Europe highlights mixed trends. Germany’s retail sales unexpectedly fell by 1.1% in April, marking the first decline in four months and missing expectations, driven by reductions in both food and non-food sectors. Meanwhile, Italy’s inflation eased to 1.7% in May, marking its lowest rate since February and remaining below the European Central Bank’s 2% target for the 20th consecutive month. Similarly, Spain saw inflation decelerate to a seven-month low of 1.9% in May, driven by reduced leisure and transport prices, and a slower increase in electricity costs. Against this backdrop, European equity markets ended May broadly stable but achieved their strongest monthly performance since January, despite persistent uncertainty around US-China trade tensions and renewed tariff pressures.

The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.1347.

### Asia-Pacific

Australia’s Inflation Holds Steady, Economic Pressures Persist

Australia’s Consumer Price Index (CPI) remained unchanged at 2.4% in April 2025, slightly exceeding the 2.3% forecast. The figure remains within the RBA’s 2–3% target range, with mixed inflationary trends across sectors. Food and alcohol inflation moderated, while housing at 2.2%, recreation at 3.6%, and health at 4.4% saw accelerated price gains. Transport inflation fell sharply amid a steep 12% drop in fuel prices. The trimmed mean CPI rose to 2.8% from 2.7%, and the core CPI excluding volatile items picked up to 2.8%, up from 2.6% in March, signalling persistent underlying inflation pressures.

Australia’s Retail Sector Contracts in April

Australian retail sales unexpectedly declined by 0.1% month-over-month in April 2025, falling short of market forecasts of a 0.3% increase. This marked the first drop in retail turnover since December, driven largely by decreases in clothing, footwear, and personal accessories, as well as department store sales, each down 2.5%.

Food retailing also dipped by 0.3%, reversing the previous month’s gain. However, increases were seen in household goods (0.6%), other retailing (0.7%), and cafes and restaurants (1.1%). On a yearly basis, retail sales growth slowed to 3.8%, easing from March’s recent peak of 4.3%.

The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6431.

RBNZ Cuts Rates as Global Uncertainties Mount

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand cut its official cash rate by 25 bps to 3.25% in May 2025, following similar cuts in April and earlier reductions in October, November, and February. The move, aligned with expectations, brings borrowing costs to their lowest since August 2022. While inflation remains within the 1–3% target, the RBNZ flagged risks from US tariffs, global policy uncertainty, and weaker Asian demand as downside threats to growth. The bank now forecasts the rate will decline to 2.92% in Q4 2025 and to 2.85% in Q1 2026, reflecting a more dovish outlook amid growing concerns over export-driven vulnerabilities.

The NZD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.5958.

Japanese Yen Strengthens Amid Higher Tokyo Core Inflation Figures

The Japanese yen strengthened past 144 per dollar following the release of stronger-than-anticipated Tokyo core inflation figures. The Tokyo Core CPI rose 3.6% year-on-year in May 2025, surpassing market expectations of 3.5% and marking the highest inflation rate in over two years. This robust inflation data reinforced expectations that the Bank of Japan (BOJ) might pursue further monetary tightening. BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda reiterated the central bank’s commitment to meeting its inflation target, while highlighting global growth risks, trade uncertainties with the US, easing cost-push inflation, and falling crude oil prices as factors behind the recent downgrade in inflation forecasts. Despite these challenges, the BOJ affirmed its near-term policy decisions remain anchored to achieving its 2% inflation goal. The yen additionally gained support from renewed safe-haven demand amid renewed US tariff uncertainties.

The USD/JPY currency pair closed the week at 144.04.

### Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30700.

## Transforming retail marketing landscape

# Kuwait’s AI market projected to reach \$1.2 billion by 2031

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: Kuwait’s artificial intelligence (AI) market is forecasted to reach USD 1.2 billion by 2031, driven by growing adoption across government, retail, and service sectors.

The nation is embracing this technology as a core part of its digital transformation strategy, particularly in marketing and communications.

In this context, the retail sector stands at the forefront of this evolution, with businesses turning to AI-powered solutions for smarter, faster, and more personalized marketing.

This momentum was visible at the A&M Awards held in Dubai, an initiative powered by FancyTech – an international leader in AI-powered commercial content creation.

While the awards celebrated creativity and innovation across the MENA retail industry, the underlying message was clear: the future of marketing lies in the ability to generate data-driven, scalable, and personalized content.

FancyTech’s presence underscored this transition.

The company has enabled brands to shift from limited campaigns to dynamic content – ecosystems capable of delivering dozens of creative versions with the same budget traditionally allocated to one.

This has proven especially attractive to regional markets like Kuwait, where efficiency and innovation are critical to capturing digitally-savvy consumers.

“We aim to position Kuwait as a regional leader in digital transformation by embedding AI in every sector.

This is central to achieving the goals of New Kuwait 2035,” – Communication & Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), Kuwait.

“AI allows us to take content creation from a labor-intensive process to one of strategic precision.

In the Gulf markets, this is more than a trend – it’s the future,” said William Li, CEO of FancyTech.

At the A&M Awards, brands leveraging AI tools demonstrated significantly higher engagement, agility, and relevance.

While FancyTech is yet to establish an operational base in Kuwait, its growing influence in GCC marketing strategies is clear.

With Kuwait’s focus on digital upskilling and its AI-driven vision, more local brands are expected to partner with platforms that empower them to work faster and smarter.

The awards also revealed how creative storytelling is evolving. No longer bound by time-intensive production cycles, companies are embracing AI to test, optimize, and deploy multiple campaign formats in real time.

This is enabling a more responsive approach to consumer engagement, one that is crucial in a fast-moving retail environment.

Kuwait’s digital and innovation ecosystem continues to mature, aligning perfectly with FancyTech’s philosophy – where creativity, data, and automation intersect.

The A&M Awards served as both a celebration of what’s possible and a preview of what’s next in the region’s marketing evolution.



The recipients of the AI marketing ecosystem partner category honors at the FancyTech A&M Awards 2025

## Agreement covers all branches of the renowned retailer

# LuLu Hypermarket joins Kuwait Finance House Rewards Program

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced a cooperation and partnership agreement with the well-known LuLu Hypermarket chain, which operates multiple branches across the local market in Kuwait.

KFH Deputy General Manager Cards, Talal AlArbeed said: “As part of this collaboration, LuLu Hypermarket officially joined the list of merchants featured in the e-Marketplace section of the KFH Rewards Program during the past Ramadan. This enables members of the KFH Rewards Program to redeem their points for KD 5 LuLu Hypermarket vouchers, which can be used as a payment method at all LuLu branches across the country. The initiative reflects KFH’s commitment to providing its customers with top-tier benefits, enhancing the rewards program, and expanding its usage channels.”

AlArbeed added “In addition to point redemption for LuLu vouchers via the KFH Rewards e-Marketplace, KFH and LuLu Hypermarket will collaborate on special campaigns throughout the year, offering exclusive promotions and added-value benefits for KFH customers. These campaigns are designed to ensure a convenient and rewarding shopping experience.”

The agreement builds on an already successful relationship between the two entities. During the holy month of Ramadan, LuLu Hypermarket extended exclusive services to KFH Rewards members, including priority checkout through a Fast



Talal AlArbeed



Mohamed Haris

Track Lane, to ensure a seamless and efficient shopping experience during one of the busiest times of the year.

LuLu Kuwait Director, Mohamed Haris, expressed his enthusiasm about the partnership, stating, “We are delighted to join hands with Kuwait Finance House to bring greater value and convenience to our customers. This collaboration, which was launched during the past Ramadan with exclusive services and benefits for KFH Rewards members, not only reinforces our commitment to delivering exceptional shopping experiences but also allows us to reward loyal shoppers in a meaningful way. We look forward to launching more exclusive campaigns and benefits for KFH Rewards members in the future.”

The KFH Rewards Program offers eligible cardholders unique shopping experience with the opportunity to earn up to 200 points for every KD 1 spent using qualified cards at participating merchants. Holders of Green, Silver, and Black tier cards earn points for every transaction, both locally and internationally, with full access to all available redemption options. Members can redeem their points for shopping vouchers at partner stores, benefit from exclusive deals in the e-Marketplace, and use their points for booking flights, hotels, car rentals, or even transfer them to global loyalty and rewards programs affiliated with KFH Rewards.



# AEO chief Al-Loughani calls for harnessing all energy resources

Electricity consumption will significantly grow by 2050

**KUWAIT CITY, June 1, (KUNA): Secretary General of the Arab Energy Organization (AEO) Jamal Al-Loughani said on Sunday that all energy resources must be put at the disposal of meeting the growing demand however, he has reaffirmed that the new sources will not substitute the conventional resources.**

Electric power consumption will significantly grow by 2050, thus new investments must be launched in all energy resources, Al-Loughani said in a statement to KUNA, marking issuance of AEO's first edition release of the quarterly follow-up report on the new and renewable energy, climatic and energy changes for Q1, 2025.

There was noticeable global interest in the renewable energy in the Q1, 2025, however the size of investments varied from region to another, he said.

China continued to expand the renewable energy sector as part of plans to enhance the energy security and diversify production sources, while solar energy output in Egypt made record growth, Al-Louihani continued in the interview with Kuwait News Agency.

In the United States of America, planned huge investments in the renewable energy were shelved due to uncertainties regarding taxation in the sector.

As to the Arab Energy Organization's member states, they pursued efforts to expand the sector with new policies, amid technological progress and international co-operation to harness the abundant resources of solar and wind energies.

Total renewable energy capacity worldwide reached some 4,448 megawatts in the end of 2024, he said, expressing his opinion that these capacities should grow by 16.6 percent per year to reach the triple ceiling by 2030, as it had been agreed upon at the climatic conference COP 28, he added.

Elaborating, Al-Loughani said transportation is basic for a clean hydrogen system, noting that it can be useful for the densely populated regions. Vehicles with cell batteries will not be competitive unless lower costs for the clean hydrogen has been attained, Al-Loughani pointed out.

Presenting further scenarios, Al-Loughani said the artificial intelligence AI would be helpful to attain a qualitative leap in improving efficiency, cutting the energy consumption and emissions from the conventional energy resources. Additionally, he cautioned that the energy future hinges not only on sustainability, but also on the energy security and reasonable costs and prices.

The concept of energy varies from one country to another with respect of the priorities and economic conditions, he said, advising that transfer to clean energy must

be sought while considering the economic conditions and social justice in each concerned country.

Addressing the issue from another perspective, Al-Loughani pointed out that concentration of rare raw materials in certain nations worldwide increases fears of disruption in the supply chains, geopolitical hazards, noting that China controls 80 percent of the rare minerals supply chains and 90 percent of the treatment potentials.

Asserting the cautious bullish outlook with respect of electric cars' sales and the impact on the global oil demand, Al-Loughani said the demand would remain stable and might increase in developing countries that have been witnessing noticeable and rapid economic growth, along with population growth.

Regarding the nuclear energy, he has stated that it is a strategic option that envisages major chances and complex challenges namely safety and security, such as sound and harmless waste treatment.

Currently, there are 440 operating nuclear reactors in 32 states with an output capacity of 400 gigawatts and secure nine percent of the global power output.

He called on the Arab states to study the foreign experience that affirms necessity of clear policies, effective investments and structures that match the technological development in nuclear energy.

He has also noted in this regard that many states throughout the globe have been reviving or expanding



KUNA photo  
Secretary General of the Arab Energy Organization, Jamal Al-Loughani

their nuclear programs, motivated by the need for reliable and sustainable energy.

Al-Loughani has called for decisive and collective measures to cope with the climatic challenges, considering that the earth heating is forecast to increase to record levels in the coming few years.

Reaffirming its role as a proactive contributor to digital transformation advancement in Kuwait

## Burgan Bank participates in IDC Kuwait CIO Summit 2025

**KUWAIT CITY, June 1:** Burgan Bank recently participated in the IDC Kuwait CIO Summit 2025, held under the theme "Architecting an AI-Fueled Business" at Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait City, where it joined more than 150 industry leaders from public and private sectors to engage invital industry conversations on the latest market-shaping technologies. Barrak Al-Mattar, General Manager – Information Technology, contributing to the summit's agenda and priorities. The Bank's participation aligns with its forward-looking digital transformation strategy, comprehensive social responsibility program, and committed adherence to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) best practices.

"It's an honor to represent Burgan Bank at an event as influential



Barrak Al-Mattar, General Manager – Information Technology at Burgan Bank

as the IDC Kuwait CIO Summit, which serves as a key enabler for

driving forward momentum in our technologically fast-moving industry, while discussing the best localized courses of action that serve Kuwait's digital transformation, in line with the nationwide strategy and New Kuwait Vision 2035," said Al-Mattar.

He added that Burgan Bank's commitment to digitally transforming the banking experience it offers customers centers not only on convenience and speed but also on inclusivity and accessibility, noting that digital banking continues to be a primary pillar supporting the growth of entrepreneurship and SME growth in Kuwait. Other facets of the digital revolution in banking extend to vital considerations such as sustainability, which digitalization supports through re-

ducing the carbon footprint, responsibly and consciously disposing of electronic waste, among other positive influences.

In addition, Burgan Bank continues to utilize the latest technologies to fortify its cybersecurity systems, with the support of advanced AI capabilities, while operating within the responsible parameters of governance. This commitment is further reinforced through adherence to ISO standards and full compliance with the Central Bank of Kuwait's (CBK) regulations, underscoring the Bank's dedication to security, integrity and regulatory alignment.

The 2025 edition of the summit centered on the key themes including the widespread adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), digital business strategies, digital economy



Barrak Al-Mattar receiving a plaque at the IDC Kuwait CIO Summit 2025.

trends, data platforms for the intelligent enterprise, data-driven custom-

er experience (CX) transformation, the future of work, digital trust and security, Industry 4.0, sustainability, software innovation and modern app development, and the future of digital infrastructure.

It is worth noting that Al-Mattar was awarded the "Legend CIO" award in the "20+ years' experience in the field" category, as part of the World CIO 200 Summit's recognition of the most influential IT leaders in their respective industries worldwide in 2024. The Bank's unwavering commitment to leading with innovation and deploying digital transformation as one of its strategic pillars of success continues to cement its philosophy to be "Driven by You" and vision to be the most modern and progressive bank in Kuwait.

A strategic step toward greater professionalism in investment operations

## UIC launches specialized training program on Fund Administration Functions

**KUWAIT CITY, June 1:** In today's evolving investment landscape, fund administration is no longer limited to accounting or compliance tasks — it has become a critical pillar of financial institutions' strategic infrastructure. It requires an integrated skill set combining accounting precision, regulatory compliance, and adaptability in serving investors. In alignment with this vision, the Investment Studies Center, the training arm of the Union of Investment Companies (UIC), organized a specialized training program titled "Fund Administration Functions", held on Thursday, 29th May 2025, at the UIC premises.

This program serves as a practical and intensive reference that covers the core pillars of fund administration operations — from accounting and financial reporting, through investor servicing, to audit readiness and managing complex legal structures such as Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) and Carried Interest Vehicles.

**What Sets This Program Apart?**

Rather than relying on theoretical lectures, the program emphasizes practical exercises and interactive discussions, allowing participants to explore real-world scenarios and apply relevant tools and solutions in their work environments. Through its four



Participants pose for a group photo.

main modules, the program equips participants with a comprehensive understanding of fund administration from operational, regulatory, and accounting perspectives — making it an

ideal choice for fund administration professionals.

Participants explored the accounting foundations of investment funds, including account preparation, fee and

cost treatment, distribution of returns, management fees, preferred returns, and carried interest across models such as the cumulative model and the deal-by-deal model.

The second session focused on investor relations support services, covering record management, share transfers, periodic financial reporting, capital distributions, and outstanding commitment calculations. A hands-on exercise titled "The Service Scenario" allowed participants to solve common challenges faced by investor service teams.

The third session delved into audit preparation for annual and quarterly reviews, outlining required auditor data, year-end package preparation, and pre- and post-audit financial statement analysis. A group discussion titled "The Audit Experience" encouraged sharing of best practices and real challenges.

The final session addressed specialized accounting services, such as managing general partner ledgers, SPVs, and carried interest vehicles. The program concluded with an engaging group activity titled "Build Your Fund," where teams designed an investment fund, selected its legal and international structure, and justified their choices.

**The Trainer:** A Cross-Border Expert

The program was led by Aslam Sharif, Executive Director of Fairway in Kuwait, an international expert with over 15 years of experience in the fund

administration industry. His unique background spans regulatory work and hands-on leadership of fund service companies across private equity, real estate, and digital assets.

**Leadership Perspective**

Ms. Fadwa Darwish, Secretary General of the Union of Investment Companies, stated:

"This program is a foundational step in strengthening the human and technical infrastructure of the fund administration sector, which is one of the key pillars of the investment industry. At UIC, we place special emphasis on developing specialized skills that enable institutions to achieve optimal efficiency and compliance, thereby enhancing investor confidence and boosting Kuwait's attractiveness for both local and international investments."

She added:

"What makes this program unique is its combination of deep professional insight and hands-on application. This aligns with the UIC's commitment to providing high-quality training that keeps pace with global developments while addressing local market needs. We are confident that this program will have a positive impact on both participant performance and the quality of fund administration services in Kuwait and the wider region."

GCC markets YTD gains wiped off after a tumultuous May

## Kuwait stocks continue upward trend, leading GCC with 10.2% YTD rise

By KAMCO Invest

Equity markets in the GCC region remained volatile during May-2025 replicating the trend in the broader global financial markets. Almost all markets in the region witnessed gains during the month, but a 5.8% decline in the TASI dragged the MSCI GCC index into the red with a decline of 2.6% during the month. Oman was the best performing market in the region with a monthly gain of 5.7% that came after four consecutive months of declines since the start of the year. Dubai and Kuwait benchmarks were next with gains of 3.3% and 1.9%, respectively, followed Abu Dhabi with a gain of 1.6%. Gains in Kuwait were mainly led by gains in the BK Premier Market index that more than offset a decline in the Main Market index. In terms of YTD-2025 performance, Kuwait continues to lead in the region with the only market with a double-digit gain of 10.2% followed by Dubai and Abu Dhabi with gains of 6.2% and 2.8%, respectively. The rest of the GCC markets show a YTD decline with Saudi Arabia leading with a fall of 8.7% as was the MSCI GCC Index with a fall of 1.6%.

In terms of sector performance, most large-cap sectors registered declines during the month. The Utilities index witnessed the biggest decline of 9.6% followed by Healthcare and F&B with declines of 5.2% and 5.0%,

respectively. Sectors like Materials, Real Estate and Banks also registered declines. Gainers were few and was topped by Capital Goods index with an increase of 2.6% followed by Diversified Financials and Transportation indices with gains of 2.2% and 1.1%, respectively.

Global equity markets continued to witness volatility especially given the tariff threats followed by postponements. The MSCI World index witnessed a gain of 5.5% during May2025 led by gains across key global equity markets. Nasdaq Comp index was the best performing market with a gain of 9.6% following gains in Technology stocks.

The BK All Share index closed May-2025 with a monthly gain of 1.9% at 8,112.5 points. The Premier Market Index and Main 50 Index reported gains of 2.9% and 1.6%, respectively, mainly led by large-cap and mid cap stocks. On the other hand, the Main Market Index witnessed a fall of 2.6%. In terms of YTD-2025 performance, all the segments continue to remain in the green with the Premier Market Index up by 12.3% followed by a 5.9% gain for the Main 50 Index. The All-Share Index and the Main Market Index advanced by 10.2% and 0.9%, respectively. In terms of monthly performance, Arkan Al-Kuwait RE topped with a gain of 38.1% followed by Jazeera Airways and UniCap with gains of 36.7% and 24.8%, respectively.



ly. On the decliners side, KBT topped with a fall of 29.2% followed by CBK and Oula Fuel with the declines of 21.9% and 19.8%, respectively.

The monthly sector performance chart favored gainers and was topped by the Consumer Staples index during May-2025 with a double-digit gain of 16.2% followed by Energy and Industrials indices with returns of 6.9% and 3.8%, respectively. On the other hand, the Utilities sector witnessed the steepest decline of 3.4% followed by the Technology and Health Care sectors with declines of 3.2% and 1.4%, respectively. During the month, both the constituents in Consumer Staples sector, Mezzan Holding and Livestock Transport & Trading Co., reported healthy gains of 17.1% and

3.0%, respectively. The performance of the Energy sector index was supported by gains of 21.2% in shares of NAPESCO and 8.0% gain in shares of The Energy House. The decline in the Utilities index reflected the fall in the shares of its sole constituent Shamal Az-Zour. The decline in the Health Care sector was led by the fall in the shares of Al Midan Clinic. Large-cap sectors like Banks reported a gain of 1.6% after six out of nine banks reported gains in May-2025. Shares of Burgan Bank, Warba Bank, and KIB led gains in the sector at 12.4%, 11.3% and 5.8%, respectively. Within the Telecom sector, most of the constituent stocks posted gains supported by solid earnings.

Trading activity declined during the

month as compared to the previous month. Total volume of shares traded during May-2025 decreased by 13.8% to 7.4 Bn shares as compared to 8.6 Bn shares during April-2025. Value traded also declined by 9.2% to reach KWD 1.8 Bn during April 2025 as compared to KWD 2.0 Bn during the previous month. The monthly volume traded chart was topped by Al Safat Investment with 462.7 Mn traded shares followed by KBT and Warba Bank with volumes of 320.6 Mn and 320.4 Mn, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, Kuwait Finance House topped with KWD 197.5 Mn traded shares followed by NBK and Int'l Financial Advisors Co. at KWD 110.4 Mn and KWD 75.6 Mn worth of traded shares, respectively.

The Saudi Stock Exchange reported the steepest monthly decline in the GCC during May-2025 and closed at the lowest point since November 2023. The decline reflected a fall in all sectors during the month, reflecting a significant decline in investor sentiments towards the Kingdom's economy given the steep decline in oil prices that traded below the USD 65/b mark for most part of the month as well as regional geopolitical issues. The market was also affected by the uncertainty related to U.S. tariffs policy. The decline in May-2025 pushed the benchmark in the red in terms of YTD-2025 performance at 8.7%, the biggest decline in the GCC. The sector performance chart also highlighted the broad-based decline in the market during the month with merely one sectors witnessing gains. The month witnessed one listing in the Main market namely United Carton Industries Co. in the Materials sector.

The Utilities index witnessed the steepest decline of 16.2% after most of the constituents of the index reported declines. The Media, Real Estate Mgmt & Dev't indices were next with declines of 15.0% and 10.7%, respectively. On the gainer's side, only Capital Goods sector was in the green during May-2025 with a gain of 2.3%. In the Energy sector, shares of Aramco declined by 1.4% during the month. Large-cap sectors like Banks declined by 6.2%.



## Pardoned reality TV star vows to prove innocence with new special

## Prison opened my eyes to injustices in the system: Chrisley

NASHVILLE, Tenn., June 1, (AP): Pardoned reality TV star Todd Chrisley said that the experience of being in prison has changed him, vowing to not forget the men he met and befriended there and to work to make their lives better.

"You can't go through what we've been through and walk away from it," he said at a news conference in a Nashville, Tennessee, hotel two days after his release. "As bad as this experience has been, there's also been a lot of blessings to come from it. I have met some wonderful men. I have listened to some horrific stories about things that have gone on in our system."

Convicted on fraud and tax charges, the "Chrisley Knows Best" star maintained his innocence, saying he and his wife Julie were victims of a corrupt prosecution. He said they will detail the proof of the wrongful conviction in an upcoming television show.

"We're blessed to have our family back, and we're blessed to be com-

ing back to television because we have a much bigger story to tell now than we ever have," he said.

Addressing whether his family's fame and connections helped him and his wife get a pardon from President Donald Trump, Chrisley said, "It's not something you can look at and say that had nothing to do with it. I don't know if it did or it didn't."

His daughter Savannah Chrisley, also speaking at the news conference, was adamant that it was her hard work that won the day. She has been a staunch Trump supporter and endorsed his candidacy while also speaking about her parents in a speech at the Republican National Convention last summer.

Todd Chrisley described the experience of watching his daughter's work from a distance as being "consumed with pride while at the same time knowing that this is a longshot, because so many people are told, 'No.'"

He said he recognized that the



Reality television star Todd Chrisley speaks as his daughter Savannah Chrisley looks on during a news conference on Friday, May 30, 2025 in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

conditions at the minimum-security prison camp in Pensacola, Florida, where he was held were relatively good, and that even there the privi-

leges were not evenly distributed.

"It's important to understand that I was at a camp," he said. He was able to work out every day, walk a

track, email his wife and talk to his children.

"Being in the prison system, anyone that says that it's a fair shake - it's not. Because I dealt with young African American males in the prison that I was in that were not treated the same. They were denied programming. They were denied access to certain things. I was not denied that. But we know why I was not denied that," he said.

Chrisley said his time in prison deepened his "walk with Christ" in addition to opening his eyes to many problems in the prison system.

"God has said when you know better you do better," he said. "And it's our job at this point to expose all of that and to try to make those men and women's lives better if we can."

"Chrisley Knows Best" ran from 2014 to 2023, chronicling the extravagant exploits of the boisterous, tightly knit family of the couple and their five children, from high-end cars to luxury vacations and stunning

mansions. It was recorded in the Atlanta area at first and then in Nashville. In 2019, the show spawned the spinoff "Growing Up Chrisley," which featured the couple's children Chase and Savannah living in Los Angeles.

The Chrisleys were indicted in 2019 under a Trump-appointed U.S. attorney and found guilty by an Atlanta jury in 2022. A panel of the 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld their convictions last year. Until this Wednesday, they still had years left on their sentences: Julie Chrisley was expected to be released in 2028, and Todd Chrisley in 2032.

In addition to their prison sentences, the couple had been ordered to pay \$14 million in restitution that they will no longer owe, attorney Alex Little told reporters Friday. He said the government had seized some money from the Chrisleys but he believes it was less than \$100,000 and that it was unclear whether any of that would be returned.

## Obits

## Versatile actor

## Mahaffey dies of cancer at 71

LOS ANGELES, June 1, (AP): Celebrated actor Valerie Mahaffey, whose stage, film and television work ranged from Shakespeare to the hit 1990s series "Northern Exposure," died at age 71 after a battle with cancer,



Mahaffey

Jillian Roscoe.

"I have lost the love of my life, and America has lost one of its most endearing actresses. She will be missed," her husband, actor Joseph Kell, said in a statement. Survivors also include their daughter, Alice Richards.

Mahaffey's stage, film and television work included the soap opera "The Doctors" more than 45 years ago and encompassed roles in the TV series "Young Sheldon" and "Desperate Housewives." She appeared in the movie "Sully" with Tom Hanks, directed by Clint Eastwood, and played Madame Reynard in "French Exit" with Michelle Pfeiffer.

She won an outstanding supporting actress in a drama series Emmy award for her portrayal of hypochondriac Eve on "Northern Exposure." Mahaffey also appeared on television in "The Powers That Be," "Big Sky," "Seinfeld," "Wings" and "ER." Her film credits include "Jungle 2 Jungle," "Senior Trip" and "Seabiscuit."

As a child, Mahaffey lived in Indonesia, Nigeria, England and Texas.

## Season finale

## Shocking twist in 'Doctor Who'

LONDON, June 1, (AP): A familiar face to "Doctor Who" fans is rejoining the long-running British sci-fi series as Neuti Gatwa exits the lead role after two seasons.

In Saturday's season finale, Gatwa's Time Lord regenerated and fans got a glimpse of Billie Piper, who played the character Rose Tyler for 35 episodes between 2005 and 2013. Tyler was a companion to versions of the doctor played by Christopher Eccleston and David Tennant.

Producers are keeping Piper's new role secret - for now.

"Just how and why she is back remains to be seen," the BBC said in a statement after the finale aired.

"It's an honour and a hoot to welcome her back to the TARDIS, but quite how and why and who is a story yet to be told," showrunner Russell T Davies said in a statement.

Piper said "Doctor Who" has provided some of her best memories and she couldn't pass up the opportunity to come back.

"It's no secret how much I love this show, and I have always said I would love to return ... but who, how, why and when, you'll just have to wait and see," she said.

If Piper does indeed become the Doctor, she would be the third woman to fill the famous shoes.

The Rwanda-born, Scotland-raised Gatwa, 29, was the first Black actor to helm the show, but he wasn't the first Black Doctor - Jo Martin played "Fugitive Doctor" in several episodes. Gatwa took over the role from Jodie Whittaker in 2023.

## Film



This image released by Max shows, (from left), Ramy Youssef, Cory Michael Smith, Steve Carell and Jason Schwartzman in a scene from 'Mountainhead.' (AP)

## Armstrong returns with new satire on wealth and power

## A tech bro-pocalypse in 'Mountainhead'

LOS ANGELES, June 1, (AP): "Succession" fans rejoice. Jesse Armstrong has again gathered together a conclave of uber-wealthy megalomaniacs in a delicious satire.

"Mountainhead," which the "Succession" creator wrote and directed, is a new made-for-HBO movie that leaves behind the backstabbing machinations of media moguls for the not-any-better power plays of tech billionaires.

Or, at least, three billionaires. Their host for a poker weekend in the mountains at a sprawling estate named after Ayn Rand's "The Fountainhead" is Hugo (Jason Schwartzman), the solo member of the group not to reach, as they say, "B-nut" status. His net worth is a paltry \$521 million.

The others are three of the wealthiest men in the world. Randall (Steve Carell) is their senior, a kind of Steve Jobs-like mentor they all call "Papa Bear." Jeff (Ramy Youssef), who runs the world's leading AI company, calls Randall the "Dark Money Gandalf." Lastly, but maybe most notably, is Venis (Cory Michael Smith), whose social media platform boasts 4 billion users globally.

But the latest update to Venis' platform, named Traam, is causing havoc. As the four gather at Hugo's isolated perch in the Utah mountains, news reports describe violence sweeping across Asia due to an outbreak of deepfakes on Traam that have wrecked any sense of reality.

Yet what's real for this quartet of digital oligarchs - none of whom has a seemingly direct real-life corollary, all of whom are immediately recognizable - is more to the point of "Mountainhead," a frightfully credible comedy about the delusions of tech utopianism. Each of the four, with the exception of some hesitancy on the part of Jeff, are zealous futurists. On the way to Mountainhead, a doctor gives Randall a fatal diagnosis that he outright refuses. "All the things we can do and we can't fix one tiny little piece of gristle in me?"

## Dialogue

But together, in Armstrong's dense, highly quotable dialogue, their arrogance reaches hysterical proportions. While the cast is altogether excellent, this is most true with Smith's Venis, a tech bro to end all tech bros. As the news around the world gets worse and worse, his certainty doesn't waver. Earth, itself, no longer hold much interest for him. "I just want to get us transhuman!" he shouts.

Progress (along with net worth) is their cause, and much of the farce of "Mountainhead" derives from just how much any semblance of compassion for humanity has left the building. It's in the way Venis blanches at the mention of his baby son. It's in the way, as death counts escalate in the news on their phones, they toy with world politics like kids at a Risk board. In

one perfectly concise moment, Venis asks, sincerely, "Do you believe in other people?"

If "Succession" filtered its media satire through family relationships, "Mountainhead" runs on the dynamics of bro-styled male friendship. There are beefs, hug-it-out moments, passive-aggressive put downs and eruptions of anger. Part of the fun of Armstrong's film isn't just how their behavior spills into a geopolitical events but how it manifests, for example, in which room everyone gets.

All of "Mountainhead" unfolds in the one location, with white mountaintops stretching in the distance outside the floor-to-ceiling windows. It could be a play. Instead, though, it's something that either hardly exists anymore or, maybe, exists everywhere: the made-for-TV movie.

There's no lack of films made for streaming services, but many of them fall into some in-between aesthetic that couldn't fill a big screen and feel a touch disposable on the small screen. But "Mountainhead" adheres to the tradition of the HBO movie; it's lean, topical and a fine platform for its actors. And for Armstrong, it's a way to keep pursuing some of the timely themes of "Succession" while dispensing lines like: "Coup-out the US? That's a pretty big enchilada."

"Mountainhead," an HBO Films release, is unrated by the Motion Picture Association. Running time: 109 minutes. Three stars out of four.

vampire flick that blends elements of drama, action and music.



Coogler

The film is set in 1930s Clarksdale, Mississippi, but current day Clarksdale doesn't have a movie

## Variety

**CLARKSDALE, Miss.:** Hundreds of people packed inside a local auditorium Thursday to see the hit film "Sinners," set in their community and steeped in Mississippi Delta culture.

The special screening of the blockbuster horror film included an appearance by Director **Ryan Coogler** and was made possible by a community petition.

"I have family from Mississippi - my uncle, my grandfather - and I had never been until working on this script," Coogler said, addressing the crowd. "It really changed me, just to come here."

The movie, starring Michael B. Jordan as twins, is about two brothers coming home to Mississippi to launch a juke joint. It's also a supernatural

theater, making it difficult for people to see the film about their hometown. Community organizers decided to change that, starting a petition to invite the cast and crew to Clarksdale and to collaborate on hosting a public screening.

"The love you have for Southern folk, Mississippians and Clarksdale came to life through your commitment to writing us right," community organizer Tyler Yarbrough said. "We are ready. We are waiting. And we would be proud to welcome you back to where it all began."

During the screening, the crowd was expressive - in response to various scenes, they gasped, laughed and cheered. Afterward, Coogler and others stayed for a Q&A.

One attendee, Cindy Hurst, praised the film, calling it a "really good visual representation of the beauty of the Black culture." (AP)

## Honors past

## Fogerty 'marks' 80th with show

NEW YORK, June 1, (AP): As he turned 80 this week, John Fogerty was in a mood to honor his past and to revise it.

We should all be so alive and so remembered at his age. Fogerty, in the midst of an international tour, played a rowdy 100-minute set Thursday night to an adoring, near-capacity audience at Manhattan's Beacon Theatre. Crowd members spanned from those likely to remember "Proud Mary," "Fortunate Son" and other Creedence Clearwater Revival hits when first released a half-century ago to those looking young enough to have heard about them through their grandparents.

At least from a distance, Fogerty didn't look or sound much different from his prime with Creedence, which was rarely off the charts between 1969 and 1971. He wore his trademark flannel shirt; had the same shaggy haircut, although with his bangs brushed back; sang with a vintage roar that has mellowed only slightly; and even played the same guitar, a Rickenbacker, that he had acquired back in the late '60s.

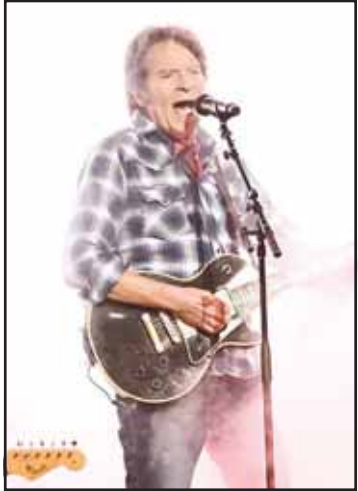
Fogerty presented himself as a proud rock 'n' roller, and a very proud family man. His band includes two of his sons on guitar, Shane and Tyler, with daughter Kelsy briefly joining them on a third guitar. Off to the side was his wife, Julie, whom he praised as the love and the hero of his life, if only because she gave one of the greatest gifts an old rock star could ask for: She helped win back rights to his song catalogue. Fogerty had battled over his copyrights for decades, and at one point found himself being sued for plagiarizing one of his Creedence hits, which at the time he didn't own.

## Album

He has marked his victory with an upcoming album, "Legacy," for which he recorded new versions of 20 songs. If you were in the house Thursday night, you couldn't help hearing about it. A promotional film about "Legacy" opened the show and Fogerty mentioned it again before his encore set. Both the album, subtitled "The Creedence Clearwater Revival Years," and his concert tell a story of how he wants to look back.

As Fogerty noted at one point Thursday night, Creedence Clearwater Revival soared to the highest heights before imploding bitterly in the early '70s and never again recording or touring together. Only Creedence diehards would have known the identity of the other band members - drummer Doug Clifford, bassist Stu Cook, and guitarist Tom Fogerty, John's brother, who died in 1990. Their names were never mentioned, their faces near-invisible among the rush of images that appeared Thursday on a screen behind Fogerty and his band. The new tracks on "Legacy," each labeled "John's Version," leave only John Fogerty from the original group.

The Beacon show was very much about where he is now, and how much he likes it. He dashed about the stage, rocked out on his Rickenbacker with the joy of a teenager on air guitar and even poured himself champagne. Fans clapped and danced, while being showered with confetti and dazzled with lasers and fog.



Musician John Fogerty performs during his 80th birthday celebration concert at the Beacon Theatre on Thursday, May 29, 2025, in New York. (AP)



A 400-year-old papal document finds new home

Sharjah ruler gifts Catholic University rare manuscript

MILAN, June 1, (AP): His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, presented a rare original historical manuscript to the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, Italy, in the presence of Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, Wife of His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah, Chairperson of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs (SCFA).

The manuscript dates back to August 14, 1624, and includes a papal decree written by Pope Urban VIII and sealed in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome. Additionally, His Highness gifted his book “Papal Bull” in both Arabic and English at the university’s premises.

In his speech, His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Rector and members of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan for their warm welcome.

His Highness spoke about the manuscript he gifted to the university, which dates back to August 14, 1624,

highlighting that it is a papal decree written by Pope Urban VIII and sealed in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore. The purpose of the decree was to raise financial assistance for the Portuguese fleet.

His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah discussed the conflict between the Portuguese and the English in Hormuz, stating, “In 1622, the Portuguese were expelled from Hormuz at the entrance to the Arabian Gulf from the Persian coast, where they had occupied it for one hundred and fifteen years, by English and Persian forces. The mission of the Portuguese leaders, along with the priests, was evangelization, whether in Hormuz, Persia, or India.”

His Highness added, “After the English expelled the Portuguese from Hormuz in Persia, King Philip of Portugal sought to retake Hormuz. However, the Portuguese government lacked the financial resources to send a military campaign for its recovery. King Philip requested financial support from the clergy, which led Pope Urban VIII to issue a papal decree to collect the

necessary funds from the churches.”

His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah explained that he translated and studied this decree, tracking the funds collected through the churches, which amounted to two hundred thousand cruzados, a Portuguese gold currency at the time. The goal was to build a fleet and send it to India to retake Hormuz. His Highness noted that the fleet required a special type of large ship capable of crossing oceans, which would take considerable time, along with a sailing journey from Portugal to India that would last several months.

His Highness indicated that King Philip ordered the funds to be sent to India to build a local fleet there, due to the short distance between India and Hormuz. He explained that the details of this fleet and its armament are mentioned in the book “Papal Bull” that he authored, as well as the account of its journey to the battle site in Hormuz against the English and Dutch forces, culminating in the defeat of the Portuguese fleet.



Sharjah ruler gifts University of Sacred Heart historical manuscript. (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen and actor Hailee Steinfeld tied the knot on Saturday, according to multiple media reports. Pictures emerged from the power couple's wedding that took place in Southern California, where both Allen and Steinfeld live. Photos obtained by "People" magazine show Steinfeld, in a white strapless gown, walking down the aisle as well as the couple sharing a kiss. The timing and location of the wedding were closely guarded secrets, though Bills left tackle Dion Dawkins let the cat out of the bag in March by revealing the date as May 31. He later backtracked, saying he didn't know anything. Despite the pending wedding, Allen was present for the start of the Bills voluntary series of spring practices, which opened on Tuesday. The Bills return to practice on Monday, though Allen isn't scheduled to address the media until the Bills open their mandatory sessions on June 10. (AP)

VIENNA: Strauss' "Blue Danube" waltz has finally made it into space, nearly a half-century after missing a ride on NASA's twin Voyager spacecraft. The European Space Agency's big radio antenna in Spain beamed the waltz into the cosmos Saturday. Operators aimed the dish at Voyager 1, the world's most distant spacecraft more than 15 billion miles (24 billion kilometers) away. Traveling at the speed of light, the music was expected to overtake Voyager 1 within 23 hours. The Vienna Symphony Orchestra performed the "Blue Danube" during the space transmission, which actually sent up a version from rehearsal. It's part of the yearlong celebration marking the 200th birthday of Johann Strauss II, who was born in Vienna in 1825. The Strauss space send-off also honors the 50th anniversary of ESA's founding. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: A judge declared Thursday that a man is mentally incompetent to stand trial on charges of stalking Jennifer Aniston and crashing his car through her front gate. The move in a Los Angeles County mental health court came after a second psychiatrist examined the defendant, Jimmy Wayne Carwyle, and reached the same conclusion as the first: that his mental health would not allow him to answer to felony charges of vandalism and stalking of the "Friends" star. "The court finds the defendant is not currently competent to stand trial," Judge Maria Cavalluzzi said. "Criminal proceedings will remain suspended." (AP)

SAO PAULO: Videos featuring emotional moments with hyper-realistic baby dolls have sparked both online fascination and political debate in Brazil, with lawmakers even bringing the lifelike dolls into legislatures. Influencers have staged situations such as birth simulations and strolls in shopping malls with the hand-crafted baby figures, known as "reborn" dolls, creating videos that have gone viral. In Rio de Janeiro, the city council has passed a bill honoring those who make the lifelike dolls, pending Mayor Eduardo Paes' signature. (AP)

Miss World

A full-length photograph of Opal Suchata Chuangsri, Miss World 2025, wearing a white feathered gown and a crown, waving to the crowd. A sash across her chest reads "MISS WORLD 2025 THAILAND".

Opal Suchata Chuangsri of Thailand waves after she was crowned Miss World in Hyderabad, India, Saturday, May 31, 2025. (AP)

Thailand's Opal Chuangsri crowned Miss World 2025

Opal Suchata Chuangsri of Thailand was crowned Miss World on Saturday in India, where the international pageant was held this year. Chuangsri topped a field of 108 contestants in the contest held in India's southern Hyderabad city. Hasset Dereje Admassu of Ethiopia was the first runner-up in the competition. Chuangsri received her crown from last year's winner Krystyna Pyszková. The 72nd Miss World beauty pageant was hosted by Miss World 2016 Stephanie del Valle and Indian presenter Sachiin Kumbhar. India hosted the beauty competition last year as well. India's Nandini Gupta exited after making it to the final 20. Six Indian women have won the title, including Reita Faria (1966), Aishwarya Rai (1994), Diana Hayden (1997), Yukta Mookhey (1999), Priyanka Chopra (2000) and Manushi Chhillar (2017). (AP)

Heritage

'Museum of memory'

India's 'history hunter' saves the past for future

NEW DELHI, June 1, (AP): Cameras from a bygone era. Rusty typewriters. Vintage radios. Matchboxes once used to light contraband cigarettes. In an age of new technology and artificial intelligence, a visit to the New Delhi home of Aditya Vij is like stepping into a time machine. Every corner of his museum feels like a carefully constructed history chapter. The anthropologist is an avid collector of artifacts and has dedicated his life to antiquities. Over decades, he has doggedly collected thousands of items that span several centuries and documented their relevance and the impact they have had on society. Each collectable he has salvaged feels like a victory against time, Vij says, underscoring his belief that maybe one individual's attempts can quietly resist their erasure from people's memory. "The deepest emotion I feel while collecting these items is the sense of satisfaction that I managed to save a piece of history," said Vij, during an interview surrounded by his priceless collection of vintage cameras and gramophones. Fossils of fish, snails, tadpoles and fern leaves that date back millions of years are Vij's most ancient items. But he has a passion for another trove of objects that date back to around 1915: thousands upon thousands of matchboxes. His obsession began at the age of 8 when he discovered his first matchbox while wandering on the roads with his father. Today, the 51-year-old possesses more than 22,000 matchboxes. A few of them are over a century old and their cover labels showcase different forms of religious representations and political scenarios of the times they were produced. "It is not just the possession of these trinkets, but the process of hunting for them is what adds a layer of excitement for me," Vij said, adding that matchboxes symbolize different cultures at different times.

Possessions

He says the preservation of memory through these collectables pushes people to think about the craftsmanship of a time where life was slower and decisions were more deliberate. Some of his possessions were acquired by a chance. Many years ago, Vij says, he spotted a scrap dealer about to break an old radio with a hammer. He shouted from across the street and stopped the man. The scrap dealer, taken by surprise, explained how he would get good money out of the parts. Vij offered to buy it. Today, that radio sits amongst his existing collection of vintage. "Thirty more seconds and I would have lost it, and sometimes that's what it takes - vigilance and quick action," he said. Vij describes his journey that of a man "who links the past to the future" and aspires to create a museum out of his house that will act as a physical space where younger generations get to learn about innovations from the past. Otherwise, Vij says, these unassuming objects would be forever lost in the vast expanse of new technology. "What was once familiar has become rare, often forgotten, and has left behind only traces of nostalgia and memories," he said. Vij also gets requests from parents who want him to show their children how his collectables were put in use during the past. Some want their children to see how a typewriter works, or how pictures were clicked using a film camera. Others come to see how some household devices used to operate, like the rotary telephones, tube radios, pressing irons, ice cream makers, and lanterns. "When they (kids) tell me how they had no idea about the existence of these objects, that is when I feel a stronger urgency to preserve history," he said. Over the past few years, Vij says, technology has evolved rapidly and the gadgets from his childhood were made obsolete overnight. He believes archiving them is necessary. "I hope the younger generations realize the importance of history and carry it forward by preserving it," he said

A photograph of Aditya Vij standing in his cluttered home museum. He is surrounded by shelves filled with various vintage items, including cameras, radios, and matchboxes. A gramophone is visible in the foreground.

Aditya Vij, an Indian anthropologist and an avid collector of artifacts, poses for a photograph at his house in New Delhi, India, April 18, 2025. (AP)



Italian fashion designer Maria Grazia Chiuri is photographed at the Dior Fall/Winter 2025-2026 Womenswear collection presented, March 4, 2025. in Paris. (AP)

Delphine Arnault hails Chiuri's bold feminist era at Dior

Chiuri leaves Dior, joining a growing list of fashion exits

PARIS, June 1, (AP): Maria Grazia Chiuri, the first woman to lead Dior's women's collections, announced Thursday she is stepping down as creative director after nine years at the storied French fashion house - the latest sign of mounting pressure and ongoing creative turnover at the top of the fashion industry.

The Italian designer confirmed her long-rumored departure in an Instagram post, capping a transformative era defined by bold feminist messaging, record sales and industry-defining collections.

"I am particularly grateful for the work accomplished by my teams and the ateliers. Their talent and expertise allowed me to realize my vision of committed women's fashion, in close dialogue with several generations of female artists," Chiuri wrote. "Together, we have written a remarkable and impactful chapter, of which I am immensely proud."

Chiuri, 60, leaves behind a legacy that reshaped Dior's creative direction and broadened its global appeal. Since her arrival in 2016, she steered Dior through a golden era of commercial and cultural success. Revenue reportedly rose by nearly \$8 billion from 2017 to 2023 as Chiuri's vision of empowered femininity resonated with a new generation of clients.

The house itself credited Chiuri with nothing less than redefining "the identity and femininity of the Dior woman, celebrated and reimagined the iconic heritage and savoir-faire."

Delphine Arnault, the LVMH executive who oversees Dior, paid tribute to Chiuri's "tremendous work with an inspiring feminist perspective and exceptional creativity, all imbued with the spirit of Monsieur Dior." Chiuri, Arnault added, not only designed "highly desirable collections" but "has written a key chapter in the history of Christian Dior" - a chapter that will forever be marked by the milestone of her being the first woman to lead the women's collections.

Chiuri's debut for Spring 2017 made headlines with "We Should All Be Feminists" T-shirts, declaring a new era for Dior. She brought activism to the runway, collaborating with artists like Judy Chicago and Faith Ringgold. She revived icons such as the Saddle Bag and made space for women's voices, drawing on Dior's past while rewriting its aesthetic.

Chiuri departs as the first woman to lead Dior since its founding in 1947, having redefined the house's codes and opened the door to a new chapter at one of fashion's most influential brands. Her exit comes amid a broader wave of creative upheaval across the industry. Pierpaolo Piccioli, her former co-creative director at Valentino, was recently named artistic director of Balenciaga - after Alessandro Michele, known for his maximalist, gender-fluid reinvention of Gucci, was appointed to succeed Piccioli at Valentino in 2024.

Meanwhile, Matthieu Blazy, who stepped down from Bottega Veneta last year, will debut at Chanel this fall, succeeding Virginie Viard - whose unceremonious departure shocked the industry.

The recent round of high-profile exits and appointments has amounted to fashion's most dramatic game of musical chairs in years - and it's giving the industry whiplash. The moves reflect a period of transition for major fashion houses as they adapt to shifting consumer expectations, slower luxury growth, and the demands of a digital-first market. At least half a dozen top houses have changed creative leadership in the past year alone - a sign of the mounting pressure on designers to deliver both artistic vision and commercial results in an increasingly unstable landscape.

Chiuri's shows spanned continents, from Mumbai to Kyoto, each celebrating craft and community. But for her final collection, Resort 2026, Chiuri returned home to Rome - staging the show at Villa Torlonia, enveloping her guests in ritual white, and invoking the spirit of Italian cinema with a film by Matteo Garrone.



Global experts gather in Kuwait to share innovations in burns, plastic surgery

Kuwait to establish first skin bank, microsurgery lab: minister

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: Minister of Health **Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi** has announced that work is underway to establish the first skin bank in the State of Kuwait, in addition to a microscopic surgery laboratory; in line with the vision of the ministry to improve performance and provide the best comprehensive healthcare services, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Awadhi made the statement at the recent opening of the two-day Second Multidisciplinary Kuwait Conference on Plastic Medicine and Surgery, organized by Al-Babtain Burns and Plastic Surgery Center in cooperation with the Surgeons Association and in the presence of Assistant Undersecretary for Medical Support Services at the Health Ministry Dr. Abdullah Al-Faras.

He stated that organizing this advanced scientific conference under the umbrella of the center reflects the status of this prestigious institution -- the only entity specialized in the field of plastic and burns surgery in the country, and one of the first and most prominent centers in the region.

He affirmed that since its establishment, the center has been able to leave an indelible mark in terms of providing advanced healthcare. "Last year, the center served more than 20,000 patients and performed nearly 1,200 advanced surgeries," he added.



Dr. Al-Awadhi

Meanwhile, Head of the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Department at the center and Conference Chairman Dr. Mohammad Khalaf stated that the organizing committee for the conference was keen to unify the efforts of all specialists involved in reconstructive and plastic surgery to lead a joint effort that enriches the exchange of expertise and improves the quality of medical services provided to patients.

Khalaf pointed out that the conference is considered an important scientific platform for reviewing the latest developments and innovations in plastic and reconstructive surgery, with the participation of an elite group of experts from Kuwait, the region and the world. Burns and plastic surgery expert at the center

Dr. Ahmed Al-Ali asserted that "we are working hard to establish the first skin bank in Kuwait and the region. This is in response to the urgent need to treat major and complex burn cases by storing donated skin from recent deaths for use in saving lives and restoring hope." He affirmed that this will be the pillar of regional excellence in burns treatment.

Al-Ali cited the launching of a joint research program between the center and the Department of Plastic Surgery at Harvard University. He stressed that this collaboration culminated in the visit of Chair of Craniofacial Reconstructive Surgery at Harvard University Professor Kavita Raghunathan to Kuwait to perform complex reconstructive surgeries.

France curbs smoking culture to protect kids' health

The nation that made smoking trendy is saying goodbye to it

PARIS, June 1, (AP): Brigitte Bardot lounged barefoot on a Saint-Tropez beach, drawing languorous puffs from her cigarette. Another actor, Jean-Paul Belmondo, swaggered down the Champs-Élysées with smoke curling from his defiant lips, capturing a generation's restless rebellion.

In France, cigarettes were never just cigarettes - they were cinematic statements, flirtations and rebellions wrapped in rolling paper.

Yet beginning July 1, if Bardot and Belmondo's iconic film scenes were repeated in real life, they would be subject to up to €135 (\$153) in fines.

After glamorizing tobacco for decades, France is preparing for its most sweeping smoking ban yet. The new restrictions, announced by Health Minister Catherine Vautrin, will outlaw smoking in virtually all outdoor public areas where children may gather, including beaches, parks, gardens, playgrounds, sports venues, school entrances and bus stops.

"Tobacco must disappear where there are children," Vautrin told French media. The freedom to smoke "stops where children's right to breathe clean air starts."

If Vautrin's law reflects public health priorities, it also signals a deeper cultural shift. Smoking has defined identity, fashion and cinema here for so long that the new measure feels like a quiet French revolution in a country whose relationship with tobacco is famously complex.

According to France's League Against Cancer, over 90 percent of French films from 2015 to 2019 featured smoking scenes - more than double the rate in Hollywood productions. Each French movie averaged nearly three minutes of on-screen smoking, effectively the same exposure as six 30-second television ads.

Cinema has been particularly influential. Belmondo's rebellious smoker in Jean-Luc Godard's "Breathless" became shorthand for youthful defiance worldwide. Bardot's cigarette smoke wafted through "And God Created Woman," symbolizing unbridled sensuality.

Yet this glamorization has consequences. According to France's public health authorities, around 75,000 people die from tobacco-related illnesses each year. Although smoking rates have dipped recently - fewer than 25% of French adults now smoke daily, a historic low - the habit remains stubbornly embedded, especially among young people and the urban chic.

France's relationship with tobacco has long been fraught with contradiction. Air France did not ban smoking on all its flights until 2000, years after major U.S. carriers began phasing it out in the late 1980s and early '90s. The delay reflected a country slower to sever its cultural romance with cigarettes, even at 35,000 feet.

Strolling through the stylish streets of Le Marais, the trendiest neighborhood in Paris, reactions to the smoking ban ranged from pragmatic acceptance to nostalgic defiance.

"It's about time. I don't want my kids growing up thinking smoke is romantic," said Clémence Laurent, a 34-year-old fashion buyer, sipping espresso at a crowded café terrace. "Sure, Bardot made cigarettes seem glamorous. But Bardot didn't worry about today's warnings on lung cancer."

At a nearby boutique, vintage dealer Luc Baudry, 53, saw the ban as an attack on something essentially French. "Smoking has always been part of our culture. Take away cigarettes and what do we have left? Kale smoothies?" he scoffed.

Across from him, 72-year-old Jeanne Lévy chuckled throatily, her voice deeply etched - she said - by decades of Gauloises. "I smoked my first cigarette watching Jeanne Moreau," she confessed, eyes twinkling behind vintage sunglasses. "It was her voice - smoky, sexy, lived-in. Who didn't want that voice?"



A woman holds a cigarette during a break in Paris, Wednesday, May 28, 2025. (AP)

Exercise benefits rival some drugs

Exercise boosts survival rates in colon cancer patients: study

NEW YORK, June 1, (AP): A three-year exercise program improved survival in colon cancer patients and kept disease at bay, a first-of-its-kind international experiment showed.

With the benefits rivaling some drugs, experts said cancer centers and insurance plans should consider making exercise coaching a new standard of care for colon cancer survivors. Until then, patients can increase their physical activity after treatment, knowing they are doing their part to prevent cancer from coming back.

"It's an extremely exciting study," said Dr. Jeffrey Meyerhardt of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, who wasn't involved in the research. It's the first randomized controlled trial to show how exercise can help cancer survivors, Meyerhardt said.

Prior evidence was based on comparing active people with sedentary people, a type of study that can't prove cause and effect. The new study - conducted in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Israel and the United States - compared people who were randomly selected for an exercise program with those who instead received an educational booklet.

"This is about as high a quality of evidence as you can get," said Dr. Julie Gralow, chief medical officer of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. "I love this study because it's something I've been promoting but with less strong evidence for a long time."

The findings were featured Sunday at ASCO's annual meeting in Chicago and published by the New England Journal of Medicine. Academic research groups in Canada, Australia and the UK funded the work.

Researchers followed 889 patients



Terri Swain-Collins uses a treadmill in the care of physiotherapist Alison MacDonald on May 20, 2025, at Kingston Injury Management, a clinic in Kingston, Ontario, in Canada. (AP)

with treatable colon cancer who had completed chemotherapy. Half were given information promoting fitness and nutrition. The others worked with a coach, meeting every two weeks for a year, then monthly for the next two years.

Coaches helped participants find ways to increase their physical activity. Many people, including Terri Swain-Collins, chose to walk for about 45 minutes several times a week.

"This is something I could do for myself to make me feel better," said Swain-Collins, 62, of Kingston, Ontario. Regular contact with a friendly coach kept her motivated and accountable, she said. "I wouldn't want to go there and say, 'I didn't do anything,' so I was always doing stuff and making

sure I got it done."

After eight years, the people in the structured exercise program not only became more active than those in the control group but also had 28% fewer cancers and 37% fewer deaths from any cause. There were more muscle strains and other similar problems in the exercise group.

"When we saw the results, we were just astounded," said study co-author Dr. Christopher Booth, a cancer doctor at Kingston Health Sciences Centre in Kingston, Ontario.

Exercise programs can be offered for several thousand dollars per patient, Booth said, "a remarkably affordable intervention that will make people feel better, have fewer cancer recurrences and help them live longer."

Push for responsible nicotine use

Calls to enforce tobacco rules, focus on choice

WASHINGTON, June 1, (AP): As the global health community marked World No Tobacco Day on May 31, Nicokick.com and Northerner.com, two of the leading online retailers for nicotine pouches in the US, are urging public health leaders and policymakers to shift the narrative from prohibition to responsible choice. In response to this year's campaign theme by the World Health Organization (WHO) -- "Dark Intentions: Unmasking the Appeal of Nicotine Products" -- Markus Lindblad, Head of External Affairs at Nicokick.com and Northerner.com, offers a bold call to action: Elevate individual responsibility, transparency, and education about the role of alternative nicotine products in reducing smoking-related deaths.

Lindblad points to false narratives and inconsistent public health messaging as major roadblocks to reducing smoking-related deaths. More than 480,000 Americans die annually from smoking-related illness. The truth is that flavored alternatives have proven to be a strong contributor to helping

millions of smokers ditch deadly combustible tobacco.

"Switching to nicotine pouches is not a fringe choice, it's a potentially lifesaving one," said Lindblad. "Consumers deserve access to the truth, not more fear-based messaging." While flavored nicotine products are routinely criticized for appealing to youth, flavored alcoholic beverages are widely promoted and culturally glamorized, even as alcohol-related cancer deaths in the US are on the rise and the U.S. Surgeon General issued a warning on alcohol and cancer earlier this year.

"If flavors deserve scrutiny, that logic should apply to all industries, not just nicotine," Lindblad said. "To claim that all flavored products are marketing trickery that entices youth ignores key facts about adult consumer psychology. As responsible retailers, we know that compliant brands follow the very strict guidelines given by regulators, and that the real threats to the industry are illicit vendors and products flooding the market."

Next-gen coronavirus vaccine

US okays Moderna's new COVID-19 vaccine

NEW YORK, June 1, (AP): The US approved a new COVID-19 vaccine made by Moderna late Friday but with limits on who can use it - not a replacement for the company's existing shot, but a second option.

The new vaccine, mNexSpike, is a step toward next-generation coronavirus vaccines. It's made in a way that allows for a lower dose - a fifth of the dose of its current COVID-19 vaccine, Spikevax - by refining its immune target.

The approval "adds an important new tool to help protect people at high risk of severe disease from COVID-19," Stephane Bancel, Moderna's CEO, said in a statement Saturday.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the new vaccine for use in all adults 65 and older, and for people age 12 to 64 who have a least one health condition that puts them at increased risk from the coronavirus.

That's the same limit that the FDA set in licensing another

COVID-19 vaccine option from competitor Novavax.

Those restrictions are a departure from how the U.S. has handled COVID-19 vaccines until now, reflecting skepticism about vaccines from Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and other Trump officials.

Moderna's existing vaccine doesn't face those limits and has long been used for anyone ages 6 months and older. The company said it expected to offer both options this fall.

The FDA's approval was based on a study of 11,400 people age 12 and older that compared the new low-dose vaccine with Moderna's existing vaccine. It found the new vaccine was safe and was at least as effective - and more by some measures - than the original shot, the company said.

The news came just days after the Trump administration canceled funding for Moderna to develop a vaccine against potential pandemic flu viruses, including the H5N1 bird flu, despite promising early study results.

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Galaxy snap longest winless streak to start season in MLS history

Messi’s brilliance continues in Inter Miami’s 5-1 win over Crew

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., June 1, (AP): Inter Miami was in a midseason slump just a week ago. Lionel Messi made sure it didn’t last long.

Messi scored for the fifth time in three Major League Soccer matches to help Inter Miami rout the Columbus Crew 5-1 on Saturday night for its second straight win.

Messi played a role each of Miami’s goals. He scored twice - in the 15th and 24th minutes - giving him 10 goals this season, which leads his team and is tied for third in MLS. He set up Tadeo Alende’s goal in the 13th, Fafa Picault’s in the 89th and was also involved in Luis Suarez’s score in the 64th.

That makes it two straight matches that the eight-time Ballon d’Or winner has recorded at least two goals and an assist. His 16 goal contributions are the most in the league.

Miami was the more aggressive team early. The Herons had seven shots - four on goal - in the first 25 minutes against a Columbus team that does not give up many. The Crew entered Saturday ranked eighth in MLS with just 19 goals allowed.

Allende opened the scoring with a cross-body finish set up by Messi’s long ball over the top. A few minutes later, Messi took advantage of a

poor decision by goalkeeper Nicholas Hagen and lofted the ball over despite the keeper getting a hand on it.

On Messi’s second goal, Sergio Busquets set up his former Barcelona teammate for the second straight game, sending a long pass to a streaking Messi for an easy finish over Hagen.

It was an important win for Miami, which entered Saturday with just two wins in its past eight matches and was sixth in the Eastern Conference. Miami beat Montreal 4-2 on Wednesday, and Saturday’s win over Columbus put last year’s Supporters’ Shield winner in a tie for third place with 29 points in their final match before the start of next month’s Club World Cup.

Miami will face Al Ahly of Egypt on June 14 at Hard Rock Stadium, the home stadium of the NFL’s Miami Dolphins. Before that, Messi will join the Argentina national team for World Cup qualifiers against Chile on June 5 and Colombia on June 10.

red a lower-body injury against Montreal on Wednesday.

Lucas Sanabria scored his first goal in MLS, Joseph Paintsil added his first goal of the season and the LA Galaxy beat Real Salt Lake 2-0 to snap the longest winless streak to start a season in MLS history.

The Galaxy (1-12-4) - the defending MLS Cup champions - were winless in 16 straight and had a minus-23 goal differential during that span.

Novak Micovic finished with four saves and the 23-year-old had his - as well as the Galaxy’s - first shutout of the season.

RSL (4-10-3) is winless in seven consecutive games dating to a 3-1 win at San Diego on April 26.

Cameron Haper had a goal and an assist, Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting also scored a goal, and Carlos Miguel Coronel had his seventh shutout of the season to help the New York Red Bulls beat Atlanta United 2-0 on Saturday night and extend their season-best win streak to three games.

Coronel finished with three saves.

Harper, on the right side of the area, cut back left and then held off defender Luis Abram with his right hip before he lofted a shot into the net to open the scoring in the third minute.

Ilay Feingold scored two of New England’s three second-half goals and the Revolution beat 10-man CF Montreal 3-0.

New England (6-4-5) ran its unbeaten streak to nine games (5-0-4) dating to April 12. It also marked the seventh straight road result for New England,

tying a franchise record set in 2019.

Montreal (1-11-5) is winless in its last four MLS matches and has failed to win at home in seven tries.

Phillip Zinckernagel opened the scoring in the fifth minute and added and assist, Hugo Cuypers scored two goals moments apart and the Chicago Fire beat Orlando City 3-1.

Chris Brady had five saves for Chicago (6-5-4), which has won three of its last four games.

Dejan Joveljic scored two goals, 22-year-old rookie Santiago Muñóz added his first goal in MLS and Sporting Kansas City beat Houston 3-1 to snap the Dynamo’s four-game unbeaten streak.

John Puskamp had eight saves for Kansas City, which is unbeaten in the last four matches under interim head coach Kerry Zavagnin.

Joveljic calmly rolled a left-footer from the center of the area into the net in the third minute of first half stoppage time to make it 1-1 and scored on volley - off a shot by Jansen Miller that ricocheted off the crossbar - to give Kansas City (4-8-4) a 2-1 lead in the 52nd minute.

Luca de la Torre and Milan Iloski scored in the second half and CJ dos Santos finished off his seventh clean



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi, left, comes under pressure from Columbus Crew defender Yevhen Cheberko during the second half of an MLS soccer match in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (AP)

sheet of the season as expansion side San Diego FC beat Austin FC 2-0.

Neither team scored until the 60th minute when de la Torre found the net for the fourth time for San Diego (9-5-3) in his first season in the league. Hirving “Chucky” Lozano

notched his seventh assist in his first season and defender Paddy McNair collected his first in his 16th career appearance.

Iloski scored his third goal of the season two minutes into stoppage time to set the final margin.

Swimming star preps to call it a career

King announces farewell season, final US competition

WASHINGTON, June 1, (AP): American three-time Olympic swimming star Lilly King has announced the upcoming Toyota National Championships in Indianapolis will be her final meet on U.S. soil as she prepares to call it a career at the conclusion of the 2025 season.

The meet will run Tuesday through Saturday. A longtime breaststroke stalwart, King announced her plans Saturday on Instagram and said swimming her final race in the U.S. in her home state and a pool she’s known since her youth “has always been important to me.”

“Well, folks, my time has come. This will be my final season competing,” she wrote. “I’m fortunate heading into retirement being able to say I have accomplished everything I have ever wanted in this sport. I feel fulfilled.”

The 28-year-old King won a gold medal in the 100-meter breaststroke at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games and also captured Olympic titles on relays in Rio and at her final Olympics last year in Paris.

The U.S. women’s 4x100 medley relay set a world record in 3:49.63. Regan Smith, Gretchen Walsh and Torri Huske were her teammates in the Americans’ victory over defending Olympic champion Australia.

“Just an awesome way to cap off the meet,” King said afterward.

At the delayed 2020 Tokyo Olympics, King earned silver medals in the 200 breaststroke and 4x100 medley relay and a bronze in the 100 breast.

She narrowly missed the medal stand in the 100 breast in Paris, with one-hundredth of a second separating bronze medalist Mona McSharry of Ireland and the fourth-place tie between King and Italy’s Benedetta Pilato in 1:05.60.

For King, being home in Indiana next week will mean so much.

It was also in Indianapolis last June during the U.S. Olympic swimming trials that boyfriend and former Indiana University swimmer James Wells proposed to her just off the pool deck - and she said yes.

“I have been racing in the IU Natatorium since I was 10 years old,” she wrote. “From state meets, to NCAAs, Nationals, and anything in between, this pool has been my home. I didn’t quite make it 20 years (only 18) of racing in Indy, but this is as close as I’m gonna get! I look forward to racing in front of a home crowd one last time.”



Los Angeles FC midfielder Igor Jesus, center, and Club América forward Rodrigo Aguirre, right, vie for the ball during the first half of a FIFA Club World Cup play-in soccer match in Los Angeles. (AP)

LAFC claims final spot in CWC with victory over Club América

Bouanga scores late in extra time to hand victory to side

LOS ANGELES, June 1, (AP): Denis Bouanga has scored countless big goals during his four prolific seasons with Los Angeles FC, celebrating nearly all of them with his signature front flip.

None of those goals was bigger - or more lucrative - than the blast that beat a Liga MX powerhouse and sent LAFC into the FIFA Club World Cup (CWC).

Bouanga scored late in extra time and LAFC dramatically secured the final spot in the 32-team tournament with a 2-1 victory over Club América in a play-in match Saturday night.

“It’s simply one of the best moments of my career,” Bouanga said. “I love this team, and I love this game.”

LAFC trailed in the waning moments of regulation before Igor Jesus tied it in the 89th minute, slipping through traffic and converting a header for his first goal with his new club.

And after 24 tense minutes of extra time, Bouanga found his moment, just as the Frenchman has done so many times in black and gold.

Bouanga jumped into the play alongside Olivier Giroud and fired home a deflected shot from the top of the penalty area in the 115th minute, setting off a wild party at BMO Stadium and sending LAFC to its first Club World Cup.

Even LAFC coach Steve Cherundolo ran all the way to the corner to celebrate with his players.

“It’s kind of a culmination of 3 1/2 years of hard work and dedication that just explodes in that moment,” said Cherundolo, who has announced he will leave LAFC after the current season.

LAFC will join English club Chelsea, Bra-

zil’s Flamengo and Tunisia’s ES Tunis when group play begins in two weeks across the U.S. South.

LAFC’s victory is extraordinarily lucrative for the Major League Soccer power, guaranteeing at least \$9.55 million in prize money for making the tournament field. The club also has a chance at nearly \$100 million more in prize money from FIFA’s nearly \$1 billion pool.

“It’s a great achievement and the opportunity of a lifetime,” Bouanga said. “It really opens up some doors for our club.”

Brian Rodríguez put América ahead midway through the second half by converting a penalty kick against his former team, but Las Águilas fell short in front of thousands of supporters. The loss added to a week of heartache for América, which missed the chance to win four straight league titles by losing the Clausura final to Toluca last weekend.

“I can imagine the frustration everyone feels,” coach André Jardine said through a translator. “The team feels the same. ... The group is clearly fatigued from the long stretch, but we’ll find a way to come back stronger.”

One spot in the Club World Cup field was open because FIFA disqualified León under its rules against participation by multiple clubs owned by the same entity. León and Pachuca are owned by the same group, and León lost its appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport four weeks ago after attempting to change its ownership structure.

With a stadium full of raucous fans supporting both teams, LAFC and América were cautious in the first half, putting just one shot on target apiece.

Rodríguez beat Hugo Lloris from the spot in the 64th minute, capitalizing on a penalty award-

ed following a video review of Mark Delgado’s risky, spikes-up challenge on Erick Sánchez. Rodríguez, who came on as a halftime substitute after recently recovering from injury, spent parts of four seasons with LAFC from 2019-22 before the Uruguayan winger moved to América for a hefty transfer fee.

LAFC got moving offensively when Giroud came on as a second-half substitute. The French star nearly tipped home a pass in the box in the 81st minute, but Luis Malagón thwarted him. Bouanga also applied pressure before Jesus, the 22-year-old Brazilian midfielder, finally beat Malagón with a header in the box.

“It feels great to make a contribution,” Jesus said through a translator. “We never lost faith that we could score.”

Lloris stopped a point-blank chance for Javairô Dilrosun in the second half of extra time shortly before Bouanga’s winner.

“This was probably the most gratifying moment for me personally since joining LAFC,” said Cherundolo, who won an MLS Cup title in 2022. “I couldn’t be prouder.”

Tickets for the match were distributed equally between the clubs’ supporters - and América has a large fan base in Los Angeles, where Mexican teams and players are greeted with massive support whenever they visit. América fans mobbed the south stands at BMO Stadium 90 minutes before kickoff, while LAFC’s famed North End crowd was packed.

The largest Club World Cup to date will be held across the U.S. as a precursor to the FIFA World Cup’s return to North America in 2026. Inter Miami and the Seattle Sounders already qualified from MLS, while Pachuca and Monterrey are in from Liga MX.



In this file photo, Lilly King, of the United States, competes in the women’s 100-meter breaststroke semifinal at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Nanterre, France. (AP)

Atkins scores 26 pts as Sky beats short-handed Wings

ARLINGTON, Texas, June 1, (AP): Ariel Atkins scored 26 points, Angel Reese had 14 points and nine rebounds, and the Chicago Sky beat the short-handed Dallas Wings 94-83 on Saturday night for the second time in three days.

Dallas rookie Paige Bueckers did not play after being placed in the WNBA’s concussion protocol. The Wings said Friday that Bueckers, the No. 1 overall pick in this year’s draft out of UConn, was in concussion protocol after their 97-92 loss at Chicago on Thursday night.

Courtney Vandersloot had 15 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for Chicago (2-4). Kia Nurse added 11 points.

NaLyssa Smith led Dallas (1-6) with 20 points. DiJonai Carrington scored 16 and Arike Ogunbowale added 15 points on 5-of-16 shooting.

Atkins scored 14 points in the first half to help Chicago build a 46-43 lead. The Sky shot just 39% from the field, including 4 of 14 from 3-point range, but hit 10 of 11 free throws. Smith led the Wings with 13 points.

The teams combined to go 51 of 65 at the free-throw line, with Chicago making 26. The Sky also made eight 3-pointers compared to just four for Dallas.

Dallas lost for the 25th straight time in games scoring 84 points or fewer.

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Mystik Dan snaps 5-race losing skid with win in Blame at Churchill Downs

LOUISVILLE, Ky., June 1, (AP): Mystik Dan snapped a five-race losing streak with a 1 1/4-length victory in the \$270,000 Blame Stakes on Saturday at Churchill Downs, where he won the 2024 Kentucky Derby.

Mystik Dan won the 150th Derby by a nose in the closest three-horse photo finish since 1947.

After that, his skid included a second in the Preakness, an eighth in the Belmont at

Saratoga and a ninth in the Pegasus World Cup Invitational.

“In hindsight, I wish I could take away a couple of those races after the Triple Crown,” trainer Ken McPeck said. “We got him back to his old self.”

Reminiscent of that race, Mystik Dan relaxed off the pace along the inside rail, cut the corner at the top of the stretch and powered home Saturday under Brian Hernandez Jr.

“When Mystik Dan is right, he’s such a fun horse to ride because he makes my job so easy,” Hernandez said.

Mystik Dan 1 1/8 miles in a stakes record time of 1:48.45. He paid \$8.12 to win as the 3-1 third choice.

Antiquarian was second and 2-1 favorite Post Time was third.

The victory, worth \$166,710, increased Mystik Dan’s career earnings to \$4,417,570.

Change Name

1, BURHANUDDIN have changed my name to BURHANUDDIN AMJHERAWALA S/O SHABBIH HUSAIN and now I would be known as BURHANUDDIN AMJHERAWALA S/O SHABBIH HUSAIN ADD: FLAT NO 605, ROW HOUSE, MOHAMMADI MASAKIN-E-SAFIYAH, BIJALPUR, INDORE (M.P.)



Regional officials say he has shown integrity, innovation, and courage in driving positive change on world stage

# MENA clubs back Ben Sulayem for second term as FIA president

DUBAI, UAE, June 1: National motor sport and mobility authorities from across the MENA region have delivered another huge vote of confidence in Mohammed Ben Sulayem’s leadership of the Fédération Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA), and urged him to seek re-election as President.

The 29 FIA member clubs have written to Ben Sulayem saying that his tenure “has brought vital reforms across mobility and motorsport, marked by enhanced transparency, governance, sustainability, and inclusivity.”

Backing him for a second term in office, they expressed confidence that this will “further strengthen and modernize the organization for the benefit of all its members and stakeholders.”

In a letter of support to Ben Sulayem, the clubs say: “Your vision has helped bridge gaps, inspire unity, and empower regions like ours to contribute more meaningfully to the global FIA mission.

“We now feel equal as members of the FIA regardless of our size or location. We are proud to stand behind a leader from our region who has shown integrity, innovation, and courage in driving positive change on the world stage.”

Among the senior regional officials to sign the letter were MENA FIA Vice President Mobility, Essa Hamza Al Failakawifrom Kuwait, and FIA Vice President for Sport – MENA, Abdulla bin Issa Al Khalifa from Bahrain.



FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem tells MENA members club: Together, we will continue to shape a stronger, more dynamic FIA.

The clubs told Ben Sulayem: “The modernization of our institution and the strong emphasis you have placed on member engagement and regional development have greatly benefited our clubs and the communities we serve.”

FIA President Ben Sulayem has responded by saying: “I am deeply grateful for the trust and encouragement shown by the 29 Sport and Mobility Member Clubs from across the MENA region.

“This support holds special meaning for me, given my close connection to the region. I’ve seen firsthand the exceptional talent, commitment, and ambition that define the MENA community, and it is a true honour to have this backing.

“The work being done by clubs in both sport and mobility across the region reflects the core values of the FIA - from grassroots initiatives like the MENA Karting Cup to ongoing efforts in road safety and sustainable mobility.

“Together, we will continue to shape a stronger, more dynamic FIA - one that truly represents the strength, diversity, and potential of every region we serve.”

The overwhelming support for Ben Sulayem from his home region quickly follows another powerful endorsement of his achievements as President delivered in a letter of support from 36 FIA member clubs across the Americas.

# Pacers reach NBA Finals for 2nd time in franchise history



The Indiana Pacers celebrate after winning Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals of the NBA basketball playoffs against the New York Knicks in Indianapolis. (AP)

## Siakam wins Larry Bird Trophy as East finals MVP

INDIANAPOLIS, June 1, (AP): Pascal Siakam and Tyrese Haliburton made sure the Indiana Pacers gave their fans a celebration they waited 25 years to see again.

Siakam had 31 points, and Haliburton scored 11 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter, carrying the Pacers to a 125-108 victory over the New York Knicks on Saturday night for a 4-2 series win and their first trip to the NBA Finals since 2000.

It’s just the second time in franchise history that they’ll play for the championship. The series begins on Thursday in Oklahoma City.

“Pascal and Tyrese put us on their backs and made sure we would not lose,” coach Rick Carlisle told the gold-clad crowd that was on its feet for the waning minutes and the postgame party. “But our work has just begun.”

Siakam won the Larry Bird Trophy as the Eastern Conference finals MVP. Bird is the only other coach to take the Pacers to the Finals. Haliburton finished with 13 assists, and Obi Toppin added 18 points and six rebounds against his former team.

OG Anunoby led the Knicks with



Indiana Pacers forward Pascal Siakam (43) shoots against New York Knicks center Mitchell Robinson (23) during the first half of Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals of the NBA basketball playoffs in Indianapolis, Saturday, May 31, 2025. (AP)

24 points. Karl-Anthony Towns had 22 points and 14 rebounds, while Jalen Brunson added 19 points as the Pacers’ relentless ball pressure forced New York into 17 turnovers.

“There were stretches where we played very good defense and stretches where we didn’t,” Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. “I think once you dig into it and you look at it, was it our defense? Or was it our turnovers? I think it was probably a combination of both.”

Whatever the explanation, the

Knicks are headed home again courtesy of the Pacers. New York still hasn’t played in the finals since 1999.

It was a magical night at Gainbridge Fieldhouse - from the festive pregame atmosphere through the roaring ovation for the starters as they departed with 47.2 seconds to go to Reggie Miller’s presentation of the Eastern Conference’s Bob Cousy Trophy to Pacers owner Herb Simon on TNT’s final NBA broadcast. Miller was one of the tel-

ecast’s color analysts.

And yet, it was a tough, physical game that didn’t always follow the Pacers’ preferred style.

Whether it was Towns limping after drawing a foul or Haliburton holding his jaw when he took a shot that knocked him to the ground, the tone was set early, and never really changed with so much at stake.

Indiana finally broke open a close game by opening the second half on a 9-0 run, then extended their lead to 78-63 courtesy of three straight 3-pointers - two from Thomas Bryant and one from Andrew Nembhard. The run ignited the crowd, which included everyone from Colts quarterback Anthony Richardson to WNBA star Caitlin Clark to Timothée Chalamet to Kylie Jenner.

But when the Knicks answered with eight straight to cut the deficit to 78-71, the Pacers responded with another 9-0 run to take their biggest lead of the game, and the Knicks were forced to play catch-up the rest of the night.

“This is no time to be popping champagne,” said Carlisle, who won the 2011 title as coach of the Dallas Mavericks. “When you get to this point of the season, it’s two teams and it’s one goal. So it becomes an all-or-nothing thing, and we understand the magnitude of it.”

## Kazma appoints Tadic as new head coach

By Hassan Mosa  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: Kazma announced the appointment of Croatian coach Dragan Tadić as the new head coach of the first football team, replacing Bosnian manager Rosmir Cefko. Although the club had initially hoped to retain Cefko for the upcoming season, the Bosnian coach received several offers from Gulf clubs and paused contract renewal talks. He later departed for vacation in his home country and ultimately declined to continue with Kazma.

Born in 1973, Tadić brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record. Most recently, he led Bahraini side Sitra to a strong season – securing third place in the league, reaching the final of the King’s Cup (finishing as runners-up), and qualifying for the 2025 Gulf Champions League.

Tadić’s playing career included stints with Croatian clubs Rijeka, Novalja, Sibenik, Sesveta, and Astra, before transitioning to coaching in 2011. He began his managerial journey with Croatian side Rijeka, followed by roles at Kavala and Slaven Belupo, with multiple returns to Rijeka over the years. He also had international coaching spells with Losinj (Austria) and Mesai-meer (Qatar), and most recently managed Al-Bukayriyah in Saudi Arabia.

Kazma’s decision to appoint Tadić comes amid a rebuilding phase following a challenging season, which saw the team exit early from local competitions and narrowly avoid relegation through the Zain



Tadic, the new coach of Kazma.

Premier League playoffs, where they finished fourth.

In terms of player contracts, the club has chosen to renew the deals of Jordanian winger Anas Al-Awadat and Beninese forward Samson Akiniola. They have also added two new players to the squad: Jordanian midfielder Ali Al-Azaizeh and Youssef Abu Al-Jazar. Negotiations are currently ongoing to sign an Algerian defender, which would complete the club’s quota of foreign players.

## US routs China 3-0

# Girma returns, LaBonta makes historic debut

ST. PAUL, Minn., June 1, (AP): Naomi Girma returned to the national team and Lo’eau LaBonta became the oldest player to make her international debut for the U.S. in a 3-0 win over China.

Catarina Macario, Sam Coffey and Lindsey Heaps scored while goalkeeper Phallon Tullis-Joyce got her second shutout in as many appearances.

LaBonta, the 32-year-old midfielder for the Kansas City Current in the National Women’s Soccer League, came on as a second-half substitute.

“When they called my name, I was sitting being the best cheerleader I could be on the bench, I was like, ‘This is amazing. I’ve never been field view watching the national team.’ It was so cool,” LaBonta said after the match. “And they were like, ‘Lo, go.’ And I was like, go where? All right, let’s go!”

The match also marked Girma’s first appearance for the national team this year. The 24-year-old defender has been nursing injuries but recently returned to help Chelsea win the Women’s Super League title and the FA Cup.

Girma commanded a record \$1.1 transfer

fee when she moved from the San Diego Wave to Chelsea earlier this year.

“We’ve missed her. We really have,” U.S. coach Emma Hayes said. “Just in terms of the way we controlled the game, her in the deeper spaces making decisions - when to play forward, when not to - just rebuilding the connections again because if you think about the last time Naomi was here, there’s been a lot of changes. But she said she was so happy to be back. She didn’t realize how much she’d missed it until she drove up in the bus and saw the fans. But she’s a world class player and you could see that.”

Tullis-Joyce, who plays for Manchester United, started in goal in just her second U.S. appearance as Hayes looks to replace Alyssa Naeher, who retired from the national team last year.

Macario scored her 11th international goal after Alyssa Thompson kept the ball alive in a tumble in front of the net in the 28th minute.

Coffey made it 2-0 in the 35th minute, taking a pass from Macario out front and banging her second goal for the U.S. past goalkeeper Pan Hongyan with her left foot.

## Verstappen finishes 10th

# Piastrri wins Spanish Grand Prix ahead of Norris

MONTMELO, Spain, June 1, (AP): Oscar Piastrri won the Spanish Grand Prix ahead of McLaren teammate Lando Norris as McLaren continued its early dominance of the Formula 1 championship on Sunday.

Piastrri flew away from his pole position and executed a flawless race to extend his lead in the driver standings.

Norris crossed behind him after he recovered from a bad start. Charles Leclerc of Ferrari was third.

Max Verstappen crossed fifth but was dropped to 10th after he was given a 10-second penalty for colliding with fourth-place finisher George Russell late after he had been ordered to give back a place when he had overtaken the Mercedes by driving off course.

It was the third McLaren one-two of the season and the team’s seventh win in nine races, with Piastrri taking

five of those victories.

“Very hard to complain. It has been a great year,” Piastrri said. “We executed everything we needed to. I am really enjoying it.”

Piastrri has 186 points, ten more than Norris. Verstappen dropped to 49 points behind the leader.

“I never said that I was in a championship fight,” Verstappen said. “First of all, I think every race so far it’s been tough. You know when they get their things right, they’re unbeatable. And I think that’s quite clear this season.”

Verstappen’s run of three consecutive wins at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya ended after he saw his Red Bull slowed on hard-compound tires that his team put on after a fourth pit stop following a late safety car.

Before the safety car he was third, but after the restart couldn’t stop Leclerc and Russell, who both passed



McLaren driver Oscar Piastrri of Australia celebrates after winning the Spanish Grand Prix Formula One race at the Barcelona Catalunya racetrack in Montmelo, near Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

him. The collision that cost him another five spots occurred when he appeared to be letting Russell pass on orders from stewards only to seem to steer into the Mercedes when the cars were side by side.

This was the first time in a decade that a driver other than Verstappen or Lewis Hamilton won the event held near Barcelona, whose future is in question with the addition of a race in Madrid next year.

Norris’ win in Monaco put the English driver fully back in the title fight after Piastrri had gotten the jump on him with four wins in five races.

While McLaren is cruising to a second straight constructors championship based on the results earned by both cars, Verstappen can only hope that the two papaya-colored cars will take enough points off one another to let the four-time defending champion get back in it.

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PSG's Desire Doue, left, challenges for the ball with Inter Milan's Alessandro Bastoni during the Champions League final soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Milan at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany. (AP)

# Sports

## Pizzi rallies Kuwait ahead of decisive World Cup qualifiers against Palestine and South Korea

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

KUWAIT CITY, June 1: Kuwait continues its intensive daily training sessions at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium, home of Al-Nasr Club, as it prepares for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Palestine (June 5) and South Korea (June 10). These matches represent the ninth and tenth (final) rounds of Group B in the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers for the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Under the guidance of Argentine coach Juan Pizzi, the technical staff met with players before the first training session, stressing the importance of maximum effort, particularly in the pivotal clash against Palestine. Pizzi urged the team to maintain focus, strictly follow tactical instructions, and execute their individual roles to keep alive their slim hopes of reaching the Asian World Cup play-offs.

Currently, Kuwait sits at the bottom of Group B with 5 points. It must win both upcoming matches to stay in contention. However, qualification will also depend on Oman losing its remaining two games. The group standings are led by South Korea with 16 points, followed by Jordan (13), Iraq (12), Oman (10), and Palestine (6).

The Kuwaiti team will begin a training camp starting tomorrow, continuing through the match days. It is scheduled to travel to Seoul next Friday to face the South Korean side.

Coach Pizzi has called up a 26-player roster for the qualifiers, including key names like Saud Al-Hoshan, Fahad Al-Hajri, Yousef Nasser, and Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, among others.

Meanwhile, the Palestine national team delegation is set to arrive in Kuwait today to commence its training sessions immediately. Palestine striker Wisam Abu Ali will join the squad from Cairo, and Oday Al-Dabbagh is already participating in the training camp, which started in mid-May.



In this file photo, Kuwait head coach on the touch line to make a change.

# Rampant PSG crowned kings of Europe

Doué leads French champs rout of Inter

MUNICH, June 1, (AP): Paris Saint-Germain, Champions League winner.

At long last, the club that was transformed by Qatari billions and bought and sold a succession of the world's greatest players in an extravagant bid to get to the top has got its hands on the big one.

European club soccer's grandest prize has a new home after PSG thrashed Inter Milan 5-0 in Saturday's final in Munich.

"It's in the bag, it's coming home with us to Paris tomorrow," coach Luis Enrique said. "My first day at the PSG campus, I said the ultimate goal was to fill the trophy cabinet. The only trophy missing was the Champions League. Here we have ticked that box."

It was the trophy that not even Lionel Messi, Neymar, or Kylian Mbappe could deliver to the French club. Luis Enrique has achieved it after overseeing PSG's shift from the era of Galactico signings to one of genuine team-building.

Fitting then that Désiré Doué, the 19-year-old French forward, emblematic of the club's new generation, was the chief inspiration and player of the match as PSG recorded the biggest win in a final in the competition's 70-year history. In a scintillating performance, Doué scored two goals and set up another goal in little over an hour on the field before being substituted.

"It is wonderful, it is magical, we are rewriting the history of this club and French football," he said.

Achraf Hakimi, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, and substitute Senny Mayulu all scored around Doué's double in a game in which PSG could have run out an even bigger winner.

"It's exceptional," striker Ousmane Dembele said. "It's perfect since we did it in style."

Now PSG can truly sit alongside the royalty of European soccer, not by



PSG's captain Marquinhos celebrates with Champions League trophy after the Champions League final soccer match between Paris Saint Germain and Inter Milan, at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany. (AP)

turnover or merchandizing but on the merits of its achievements on the field. The Champions League is the ultimate barometer of the continent's elite clubs, and up until now, PSG has been a flashy contender that always came up short.

That all changed at Allianz Arena,

the home of Bayern Munich, one of the titans of Europe, and a fitting stage for PSG's crowning moment. Not least because it was against Bayern that it lost its only other Champions League final in 2020, leaving Neymar in tears in an empty stadium in Lisbon, where fans were locked out because of the

pandemic.

On this occasion, thousands of PSG supporters were there to revel in the moment, waving flags, lighting flares, and drowning out their rivals from Inter, many of whose supporters left the stadium long before the final whistle. They'd been partying in the streets

of Munich throughout the day, but that was nothing compared to the scenes of joy when captain Marquinhos held the trophy aloft with fireworks and golden confetti exploding behind him.

"I have nothing left, I have given everything," Marquinhos told broadcaster Canal Plus. "The fans are proud

of us. Make the most of it, guys, I love you."

After so many setbacks in this competition, PSG truly delivered on the night.

It took just 12 minutes for the French champion to go ahead with a move of speed and precision when Vitinha's threaded pass into the box found the feet of Doué. The forward could have shot, but instead slid in Hakimi to tap into an open net.

Former Inter player Hakimi muted his celebrations, but the PSG fans went wild.

Eight minutes later and the lead was doubled when Doué's shot from the right of the box deflected off Federico Dimarco and past Inter goalkeeper Yann Sommer.

He got his second in the 63rd, sliding the ball into the bottom corner when through on goal.

Kvaratskhelia added the fourth 10 minutes later, and Mayulu struck in the 86th, just two minutes after coming on.

Doué and Mayulu became the third and fourth teenagers to score in a Champions League final, following Patrick Kluivert in 1995 and Carlos Alberto in 2004.

Luis Enrique, who won the 2015 Champions League with Barcelona, became the seventh coach to win the trophy with two different teams, joining greats Carlo Ancelotti, Pep Guardiola, and Jose Mourinho.

He also led PSG to a first treble of trophies - the Champions League added to Ligue 1 and the French Cup - matching his achievement with Barcelona 10 years ago.

His players threw him high in the air in celebration after the whistle.

"We are ambitious, we are going to continue to conquer the football world," he said.

For PSG, this moment has been 14 years in the making since it was bought by Qatar Sports Investments in 2011 and, awash with newfound riches, targeted marquee signings to speed up its route to the top.

## Kuwait wins nine medals, tops Asian Masters Weightlifting Championship



The champions celebrate with the national flag.

DOHA, June 1, (KUNA): Kuwait's women weightlifters clinched first place overall at the conclusion of the Asian Masters Weightlifting Championship held in Doha, capping their participation with nine medals across various categories.

Sultan Al-Mutairi, board member of Al-Nasr Club, hailed the athletes' dedication and tireless preparation, which led to this remarkable achievement. Speaking to KUNA, he emphasized that the medals were a result of "continuous hard work and consistent training."

Al-Mutairi dedicated the victory to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sa-

bah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

He also extended his appreciation to Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sport Bashar Abdullah, Director of Sports Authorities Jarrah Al-Saeedi, and President of the Kuwait Weightlifting Federation Talal Al-Jassar, for their support.

Speaking to KUNA, gold medalist Abrar Al-Fahad credited the club and the Kuwait Federation for their backing, stressing that the athletes' success was built on "relentless training and continuous support."

## Svitolina survives match points to reach quarters Swiatek extends bid for a 4th title in a row

PARIS, June 1, (AP): Iga Swiatek turned things around at Roland-Garros after dropping eight of the first nine games against 12th-seeded Elena Rybakina in the fourth round Sunday, putting together a 1-6, 6-3, 7-5 victory to extend her bid for a record fourth consecutive French Open championship.

The big-serving and hard-hitting Rybakina - who won Wimbledon in 2022 - got off to a stunning start, leading 5-0 after less than 20 minutes and grabbing 24 of the initial 32 points. She was responsible for 10 of the match's first 12 winners.

"I needed to do something to get back in the match and, honestly, with her playing like that, I didn't have a lot of hope," Swiatek said afterward.

There was more of the same early in the second set. Swiatek double-faulted to close the first game, then turned to her team in the stands with her palms up and said something; soon she was down 2-0.

That, though, is when Swiatek suddenly transformed back into what she's been so often in recent seasons, but not over the past 12 months: a seemingly invincible force on red clay who has won four of the past five titles at the



French Open, where she is 39-2 for her career and unbeaten in her past 25 contests.

That certainly seemed in danger at the outset in Court Philippe-Chatrier, where Swiatek had trouble dealing with Rybakina's power and repeatedly was forced into errors. Given the rough stretch since June 2024 for Swiatek, a 23-year-old from Poland, maybe it would not have been entirely shocking for her to take a loss Sunday.

After all, Swiatek hasn't reached the final of any event since earning the trophy in Paris a year ago and has slid from No.

1 to No. 5 in the WTA rankings.

On Tuesday, Swiatek will play No. 13 Elina Svitolina, a three-time major semifinalist but 0-4 in previous French Open quarterfinals.

Svitolina saved three match points and came back to eliminate 2024 runner-up Jasmine Paolini 4-6, 7-6 (6), 6-1 on Sunday, earning her fifth French Open quarterfinal appearance.

The 13th-seeded Svitolina, who is from Ukraine, is a three-time Grand Slam semifinalist - getting that far twice at Wimbledon and once at the U.S. Open - but is 0-4 so far in the quarterfinals at Roland-Garros.

She'll try to go a step further on Tuesday, when she will face either three-time defending champion Iga Swiatek or 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina. They were scheduled to play each other next at Court Philippe-Chatrier.

In the day's first men's match, Tommy Paul beat No. 25 Alexei Popyrin 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 to become the first American man in the quarterfinals at Roland-Garros since Andre Agassi in 2003. The 28-year-old Paul, who is seeded 12th, was coming off consecutive five-setters but breezed to this victory.