



## Kuwaiti marriages at 75% after law change

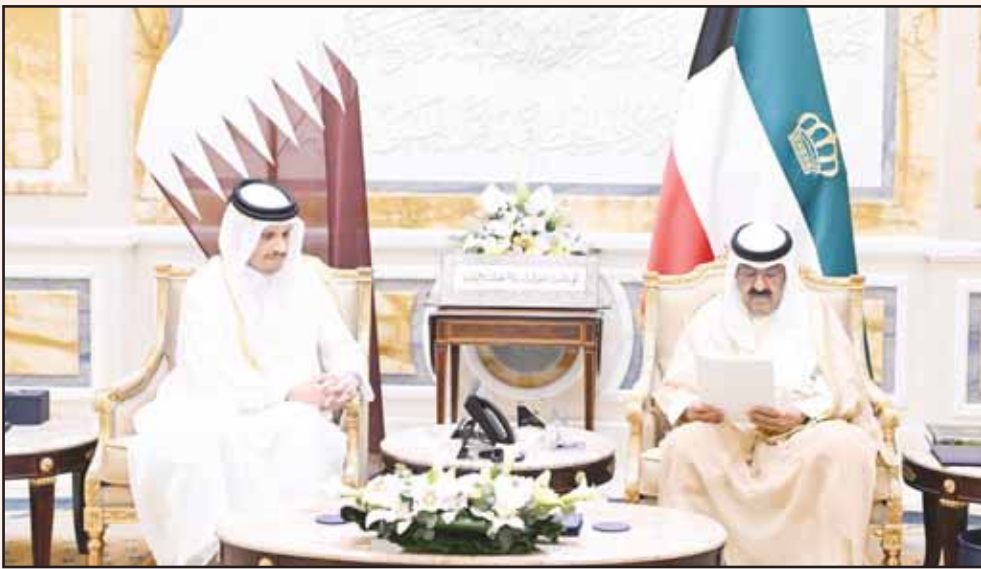
By Jaber Al-Hamoud  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The amendment of some provisions of the Amiri Decree on the Kuwaiti Nationality Law – which aims to strengthen national identity, maintain public order and abolish Article Eight stipulating that the marriage of a foreign woman to a Kuwaiti man does not entail her becoming a Kuwaiti – has led to a 75 percent increase in the number of Kuwaiti women marrying Kuwaiti men and a lower rate of foreign marriages.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the recent statistics issued by the Department of Legal Documentation at the Ministry of Justice; indicating that the number of marriages between Kuwaiti men and Kuwaiti women reached 2,916 from the beginning of January until the end of April 2025.

The statistics showed that 332 Kuwaiti men got married to non-Kuwaiti women, 133 Kuwaiti women got married to non-Kuwaitis, 44 Kuwaiti men got married to Bedouns and 10 Kuwaiti women got married to Bedouns.

Continued on Page 5



HH the Amir receives Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani.

Amiri Diwan photo

## Kuwait Amir receives Amir of Qatar's letter

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace Monday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani on occasion of his visit to the State of Kuwait.

Sheikh Mohammad delivered a letter from Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani to His Highness the Amir regarding distinguished relations between the two countries and their people, as well as means of boosting them in all fields.

The letter also dealt with recent regional and international developments.

His Highness the Amir extended his best regards to Sheikh Tamim and the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, wishing them good health and for the State of Qatar and its people prosperity and development under leadership of Sheikh Tamim.



### Opinion

■ Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

## Words for the Ministers of Finance and Commerce to consider - How did China shift from a starving nation to the world's second-largest economy?

IT is necessary to track and understand China's path to economic power. In the first half of the 20th century, China was a deeply impoverished nation, emerging from Japanese colonial occupation and ravaged by civil wars.

In 1949, Mao Zedong rose to power and launched what became known as the Long March. He introduced a strict authoritarian regime and a series of poorly planned policies, most notably the "Great Leap Forward," which triggered a catastrophic famine that claimed the lives of approximately 15 million people.

During Mao Zedong's rule, China was isolated from the world, heavily dependent on agriculture, and plagued by conflicts among various factions within the Communist Party.

Mao later launched the Cultural Revolution, a campaign that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of citizens. Throughout the 1960s, China was regarded as one of the poorest countries in the world.

A dramatic transformation began in 1978 with the rise of Deng Xiaoping to power, who succeeded Mao and set China on a new economic path.

Xiaoping graduated from a French university and was, remarkably, among those sentenced to death during the Cultural Revolution; however, fate had other plans.

It is reported that after his graduation, Xiaoping said, "The common sentiment in China was that our country was weak. We wanted

to make it strong, so we traveled to the West and endured the hardships of exile to learn."

Driven by his belief in the need to open up to the world, Xiaoping sought the expertise of foreign minds. He enlisted the help of British doctor of Iraqi origin, Elias Korkis, granting him broad powers, and even empowering him to issue directives to ministers.

The most important elements of China's success were openness, reform, encouraging foreign investment, and gradually loosening state control over the economy. Agricultural communes were dismantled as part of these sweeping changes.

This turning point marked the beginning of rapid economic growth, with rates at times exceeding ten percent.

By the early 2010s, China had become the world's factory, relying on its vast pool of inexpensive labor and making heavy infrastructure investments to gain entry into the World Trade Organization.

Continued on Page 5

Follow me on:  
@Ahmedaljarallah  
Ahmed aljarallah  
ahmed@aljarallah.com



Scan QR code to visit the website:  
aljarallah.com

57 locations ready

## Eid prayers Friday at 5:03 a.m.

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): The Ministry of Islamic Affairs declared on Monday that Eid Al-Adha prayers will be held on Friday at 5:03 a.m. at 57 prayer locations and mosques.

The ministry said in a statement that the assistant undersecretary, Badr Al-Otaibi, issued a circular specifying the yards, youth and sports centers where the Eid prayers can be held.

# Kuwait drug sting nets 10

From hash to ammo ... raids haul it all

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior announced on Monday detention of ten persons on charges of dealing with narcotics and psychotropic drugs in a chain of well-planned raids.

The Mol security information department said in a statement that the suspects were apprehended during security operations in Al-Gurain, Wafra, Andalos, Saad Al-Abdullah City, Khairan and Sabah Al-Salem districts.

The engaged personnel found and confiscated six kilograms of shabu (methamphetamine) materials, three kilograms of hashish, a Lyrica capsule, guns of various calibers, ammunition and suspicious funds.

It has affirmed the determination to pursue the security campaigns against "dealers in these contaminating substances," warning that the security forces will act firmly against such dangerous activities.

It called on the citizens and residents to cooperate with the security personnel and report about any suspicious activities for sake of safeguarding the society.

## Grads urged to keep road safe

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has called on high school graduates to follow security and traffic regulations during celebrations to ensure everyone's safety and maintain a civilized image of society.

In a statement issued Monday by the General Directorate of Security Relations and Media, the ministry emphasized that excessively decorating vehicles and placing stickers or graduate photos on windshields constitutes a traffic violation that impairs driver visibility and poses public safety risks.

MoI stressed the importance of not blocking roads or gathering at vital locations in ways that disrupt traffic flow.

It also warned against reckless driving and dangerous stunts that endangers drivers and road users.

The ministry confirmed that celebrations must comply with applicable laws and regulations, urging everyone to cooperate and commit to measures that ensure security and safety for all.



4 Deputy Editor-in-Chief receives KFTU delegation



8 NBK signs MoU with AIU to enhance career development



9 Damascus stock exchange reopens after six-month closure

## GCC urges Iraq to respect Kuwait's borders, sovereignty

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya has confirmed that the meeting between Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah covered all vital issues, during which His Highness emphasized Syria's unity, sovereignty and interests.

Al-Yahya also disclosed that Al-Sharaa met with members of the Syrian community and the private sector; indicating there will be similar meetings in the future, whether at the civil level or in the public and private sectors.

The minister made the statement after a press conference following the 164th session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), with Secretary General of the GCC Jassim Al-Budaiwi in attendance.

On the reopening of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Syria, Al-Yahya announced that procedures are progressing toward this direction; stressing that the matter is linked to internal procedures unrelated to Syria and will be completed soon within the framework of the reappointment of some ambassadors.

He said the GCC countries continue to provide assistance to Syria, affirming that a



KUNA photo  
Kuwait's Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya addresses attendees at the 164th session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

plan is being developed to help Syria either through joint action or bilateral cooperation.

On the upcoming international meeting to discuss the Palestinian issue in New York, he confirmed there is significant Gulf interest in attending the meeting; which will be held on June 17-21 with broad international participation, and the level of representation from France and other countries is expected to be determined soon.

Regarding the unified Gulf visa, he explained that it was not discussed during the meeting, as it is a purely technical issue that will be discussed later at the technical com-

mittee level.

In his speech during the press conference he held with the GCC Secretary General, Al-Yahya indicated that the meetings of the current session were held in a constructive, fraternal atmosphere; reflecting the shared desire to strengthen the path of unified Gulf action, keeping pace with regional and international challenges and developments, and serving the interests of the Gulf peoples.

He revealed that a number of political, security, economic and humanitarian issues were discussed at the meeting, emphasizing the positions of the GCC states on these issues.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, Al-Yahya reiterated the GCC states' firm position on the centrality of the issue; stressing the need to end the Israeli occupation and establish a Palestinian State on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. He called on all countries to complete the procedures for recognizing the State of Palestine.

Regarding the Syrian issue, he praised the outcomes of Al-Sharaa's official visit to Kuwait and his meeting with His Highness the Amir; stressing that the visit reflects both sides' commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Continued on Page 5

Travel agencies warned

## Kuwait targets fake hotel, ticket claims

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) intends to issue a circular to tourism and travel agencies prohibiting the provision of false and unverified information about accommodations and hotel reservations to complete the necessary information for obtaining entry visas (especially Schengen), say reliable sources.

Sources warned that providing incorrect information regarding travel tickets and accommodations prompts embassies to take action, such as refusing to issue visas due to inaccurate information. Sources said such action could affect the credibility of Kuwaitis and the commercial sector in the country when dealing with foreign embassies.

Continued on Page 5

Firms get 10-day grace

## MoCI tightens grip on ownership gaps

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has extended the deadline for companies operating in the country to disclose the 'beneficial owner' of their activities by an additional 10 days to avoid fines and other penalties.

The ministry took this step with the goal of permanently closing the door that leads to money laundering and terrorist financing operations.

Sources from the ministry told the newspaper that the number of companies which have not disclosed their beneficial owners by the beginning of this month reached around 1,430.

Continued on Page 5

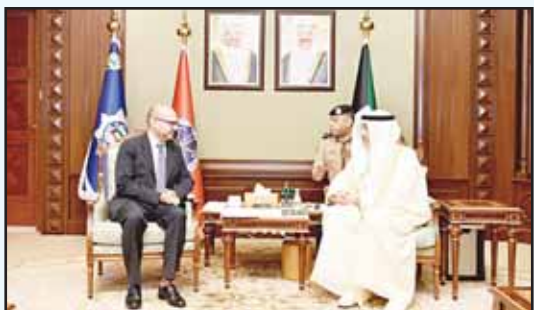
## 1st Deputy PM discusses security, aid with envoys

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah met separately on Monday at Bayan Palace with the UK, France, and Palestine's ambassadors to discuss key issues of mutual interest, especially in security and humanitarian areas.

Continued on Page 5



First Deputy PM and Minister of Interior receives UK's Ambassador to Kuwait.



First Deputy PM and Minister of Interior receives French Ambassador to Kuwait.



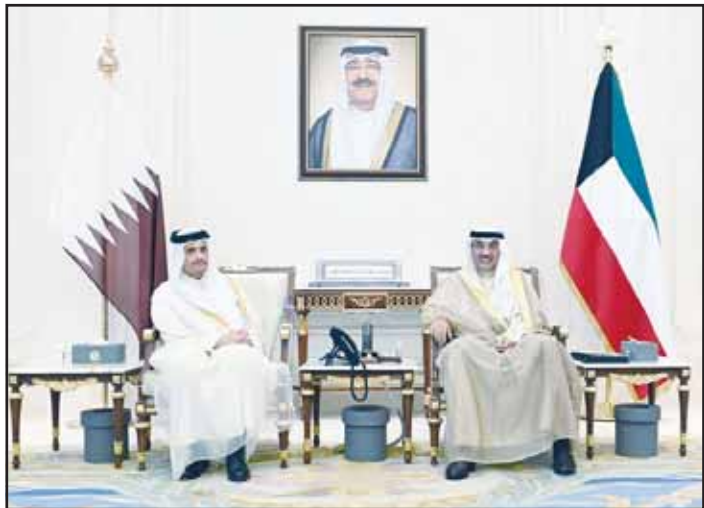
Ministry of Interior photos  
First Deputy PM and Minister of Interior receives Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait.



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	03:15	Asr .....	15:20
Sunrise ..	04:49	Maghrib ..	18:43
Zohr .....	11:46	Isha .....	20:14

# Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Hot and dusty with moderate to fresh strong at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-50 km/h and some high clouds will appear.			
By Night: Hot to rather hot and dust will subside gradually			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	46	34	
Kuwait Airport	46	26	



HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives the Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman.



HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives the UN Mission Rep Ambassador Dr. Mohammad bin Awad Al-Hassan.



Sheikh Abdullah Salem



Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi



Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah



Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi



Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei



Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi

## Crown Prince receives Qatari PM, UN Mission Rep

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Monday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman. The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-

Yahya and other state officials. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received Monday the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN for Iraq and Head of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad bin Awad Al-Hassan.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani.

## Kuwait PM receives Qatari PM on official Kuwait visit

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani and an official delegation accompanying him arrived in Kuwait Monday on an official visit. Sheikh Mohammad was received at Kuwait International Airport by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya and senior state officials.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah welcomed Omani Foreign Minister Bader Al-Busaïdi and his delegation at Kuwait International Airport on Monday right before the 164th Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) foreign ministers meeting.

### UAE delegation

United Arab Emirates Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and his delegation will arrive in Kuwait Tuesday, for an official visit.

## Crown Prince gets greetings from Kuwait gov't ministers

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi on Sunday congratulated His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the first anniversary of his ascension to the post.

A year into his tenure as crown prince, the Kuwaiti minister, who doubles as minister of state for youth affairs, praised His Highness the Crown Prince's "wisdom" and commitment to ensure that the nation remains firmly on the path towards development and prosperity, according to an information ministry statement.

The statement went on to wish His Highness the Crown Prince every success as he continues to serve the nation's best interests.

### Social Affairs Minister

Kuwait's Social Affairs Minister Amthal Al-Huwailah on Sunday congratulated His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the first anniversary of his ascension to the post.

The joyous occasion is "near and dear" to the hearts of Kuwaitis as they look back at a year filled with accomplishments, the minister told KUNA, extolling His Highness the Crown Prince's leadership and wisdom as he continues to serve the nation's best interests, she underlined.

The minister went on to wish the nation continued prosperity and development, under the sage leaderships of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

### Al-Asimah Governor

Al-Asimah Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah extended his sincere congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the first anniversary of assuming office.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah told KUNA on this occasion that the love and appreciation that everyone holds for His Highness the Crown Prince stems from His Highness's honorable record of service to the country and his efforts in advancing its progress.

Sheikh Abdullah wished His Highness the Crown Prince continued health and success, and wished Kuwait continued security, stability, and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

### Awqaf Minister

Kuwaiti Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi on Sunday voiced heartfelt congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the first anniversary of assuming his post.

Speaking to KUNA on this occasion, the minister commended His Highness the Crown Prince's wisdom and insightfulness that reflected the country's development process in various fields, and contributed to promoting institutional reforms and development.

He wished His Highness the Crown Prince well and success in fulfilling the expectations and hopes of the Kuwaiti people for development and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

### Justice Minister

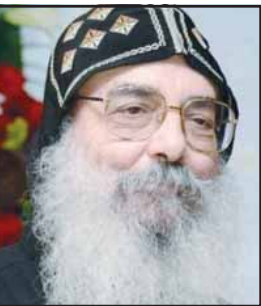
Kuwaiti Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait extended his congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the first anniversary of assuming his post.

In a press statement, the minister added that His Highness the Crown Prince has fulfilled many great achievements on various fronts, and is a statesman known for his great wisdom and integrity.

He wished His Highness health, well-being, and success in maintaining peace, security and prosperity for Kuwait and her people under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

### Health Minister

Kuwaiti Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi on Monday voiced heartfelt congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the first anniversary of assuming his post.



Bishop Bigol

In a press statement on Monday, the Minister affirmed that selecting His Highness as Crown Prince is a profound expression of the wise leadership's confidence and the national will to continue the state's balanced approach based on wisdom and stability, and to consolidate the foundations of development in various fields.

"The past year clearly demonstrated the vital role-played by His Highness the Crown Prince in public life through his continued support for national institutions, his encouragement of development initiatives, his commitment to field work, and to upholding the principles of the Constitution and the rule of law", Dr. Al-Awadhi explained.

He added that the Ministry of Health highly appreciates the interest of His Highness the Crown Prince in the health sector and his continuous directives towards developing the health care system in the country.

He wished His Highness the Crown Prince success in fulfilling the expectations and hopes of the Kuwaiti people for development and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

### Education Minister

Kuwaiti Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei on Monday voiced heartfelt congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the first anniversary of assuming his post.

On this occasion, the minister commended His Highness the Crown Prince's wisdom and insightfulness that reflected on the country's development process in various fields, and contributed to promoting institutional reforms and development, he said in a press statement.

He expressed his appreciation to His Highness the Crown Prince's support for development of education in line with Kuwait's vision and contribution to preparing killed generations.

He also emphasized the Ministry's commitment to continuing the process of construction under the guidance of the wise political leadership.

He wished His Highness the Crown Prince success in fulfilling the expectations and hopes of the Kuwaiti people for development and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

### Coptic Patriarch congratulates Crown Prince

With heartfelt appreciation and best wishes, the Patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Kuwait, Bishop Bigol Anba Bishoy extended his congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled on the first anniversary of his appointment as Crown Prince, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He wished His Highness continued success in fulfilling his national duties and advancing the path of development and stability led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Bishop Bigol said, "On this special national occasion, we recall His Highness's well-deserved nomination as a statesman known for his sound thinking, integrity, and sincere dedication."

He affirmed that His Highness the Crown Prince has assumed this position of responsibility supported by a legacy of trust and respect, and continues to serve with a strong national vision and reformist approaches that enhance the status of the state and its institutions.

Bishop Bigol conveyed the congratulations of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark, and His Grace Bishop Antonios, Metropolitan of Jerusalem, Kuwait, and the Near East, to His Highness the Crown Prince on this auspicious occasion.

He highlighted that the Coptic Church in Kuwait holds great appreciation for the efforts exerted by His Highness the Crown Prince, which have earned him a special place in the hearts of both citizens and residents, thanks to his gentle nature, wisdom, and commitment to the well-being of all.

Bishop Bigol concluded by saying, "We pray that God continues to bless Kuwait with security and stability, grants success to His Highness the Crown Prince, and blesses the leadership of His Highness the Amir."

# Tag-along helpers with caravans against rules, law: Hajj Mission

‘Comply with Kingdom quota strictly’

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Kuwaiti Hajj Mission has warned against the use of any irregular permits or the employment of individuals outside the authorized frameworks during the Hajj season — whether in service or administrative roles.**

In a press statement, the mission said "we call on all Hajj caravans and citizens to strictly comply with all the regulations and instructions issued by the competent authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to avoid legal accountability and penalties that may include the cancellation of permits and the ban on entry to the holy sites."

The mission pointed out that cooperation with the authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is essential to the success of the Hajj season, and that adherence to regulations is a national and religious responsibility.

It disclosed that the competent authorities in the Kingdom have granted Hajj caravans a

maximum of four percent of the total number of authorized pilgrims, to be used to allocate support service personnel, provided that they are issued official Hajj permits. These personnel must be registered with the caravans and meet the approved requirements.

It added that the Kingdom also allocated a maximum of 10 percent of the number of pilgrims for administrative support workers. They are permitted to work during the Hajj season in accordance with the regulations and conditions in force with the Saudi authorities, but they are not permitted to perform the Hajj rituals.

It also stated that the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in the Kingdom issued a circular prohibiting citizens of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries from entering this category of administrative workers. This follows the use of these permits to fraudulently perform Hajj in irregular ways, which is a clear violation punishable by law.

It explained that this comes within the framework of ongoing coordination with the relevant authorities in the Kingdom to ensure that Hajj caravans and Kuwaiti citizens adhere to the regulations and instructions governing the Hajj ritual.

Meanwhile, Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi confirmed that the Ministry of Islamic Affairs

is directly informed about the progress of the Kuwaiti Hajj Mission's work and its preparations to receive Kuwaiti pilgrims.

Al-Wasmi revealed "the activities, efforts and work undertaken by the mission members are clear evidence of their dedication to completing the tasks assigned to them with precision and mastery." He expressed his happiness "that the mission is proceeding according to its plan and that success will be its ally."

He pointed out the vast experience of the mission members, which they have acquired over the past several years, alongside the new members who are dedicated to their work. He affirmed the mission's commitment to provide them with the necessary experience to enable the mission to perform its work with distinction.

He also underscored the need for the committees to continue their efforts, remain active, and work as a team to achieve success. He added that this is not difficult to achieve, but success requires a great deal of effort, perseverance and patience; especially since success is not uncommon for the mission.

He confirmed the ongoing communication with the committees to follow up the work of the mission and ease procedures for the Kuwaiti pilgrims.

## Sacrificial animal prices soar as ‘Eid Al-Adha’ approaches

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: As Eid Al-Adha is fast approaching, livestock markets in the country have begun to witness a remarkable increase in sacrificial animal prices; amid expectations that these prices will continue to rise to record levels in the days leading up to the holiday, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a striking comparison, the price of a local sacrificial animal currently ranges between KD170 and KD200, which is roughly equivalent to the value of nine barrels of oil according to the announced international prices. This is a manifestation of the remarkable increase in the prices of sacrificial animals. The price of imported sheep, on the other hand, ranges between KD110 and KD150, which is also considered relatively high.

The increase in sacrificial animal prices is attributed to a number of interrelated factors as follows:

■ Short supply and high demand: This equation is the primary driver of the price increase, especially given the limited local livestock production, which fails to meet the increased demand during the Eid Al-Adha season.

■ Rising local production costs: Local livestock farmers face rising costs for feed, veterinary care, and other livestock requirements, which directly impact the final selling price to the consumer.

■ Rising import and transportation costs: Kuwait relies heavily on importing live livestock to meet the needs of the local

market. Any increase in shipping, transportation and insurance costs from source countries inevitably leads to higher prices in the local market.

■ Seasonal factors and speculation: Seasonality plays a significant role, as demand increases remarkably before Eid Al-Adha, potentially opening the door to monopolistic practices or speculation that contribute to unjustified price increases.

This is considered a recurring crisis that necessitates radical solutions. The rising price of sacrificial animals is a problem that recurs annually; hence, the need for radical and sustainable measures to address it. Observers believe that these solutions include the following:

■ Support local production: Provide more support to local livestock farmers to encourage them to increase and diversify production.

■ Open new import markets: Search for new markets to import livestock at competitive prices and guaranteed health conditions to ensure ample supply and reasonable prices for consumers.

■ Tighten market control: Intensify oversight of livestock markets to prevent monopolistic practices or unjustified price speculation.

Citizens await the outcome of the coming days, hoping that sacrificial animals will be available at reasonable prices to enable them to perform this important religious ritual.

## MoE nods new majors in '25/'26 scholarship plan

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal has approved the inclusion of a number of new scientific majors in the scholarship plan for academic year 2025/2026.

This decision aims to expand the base of academic options for students and ensure the quality of higher education abroad. The decision was based on the recommendations of the Academic Degree Equivalency Committee and in an effort to update the list of higher education institutions recognized by the ministry, in line with labor market developments and national development requirements.

The newly approved majors in the scholarship plan include Computer Science (Harvey Mudd College in the United States), Marine and Coastal Sciences (University of California-Davis in the United States), and Business Administration and Finance (Boston College in the United States).

The decision emphasized the need for regular attendance during the academic weeks of the approved program, and that scholarships should be granted only to specified institutions within the traditional education system.

The minister indicated that the decision will take effect from the date of its issuance and will repeal all previous decisions that contradict it.

He instructed the relevant authorities to take the necessary measures to implement the decision in line with the ministry's efforts to update its external scholarship policies to keep pace with global developments in higher education and enhance Kuwaiti students' opportunities in future specializations that add value to the local and international labor markets.



## LOCAL

# diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## Demand rises ... temporary fixes will not help curtail power crisis

"SINCE 2008, Kuwait has been grappling with an electricity crisis, as power plants have struggled to meet the country's growing energy demands," columnist **Hamad Salem Al-Marri** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Each year, the government implements measures to reduce the electrical load, either through scheduled power cuts or by urging the public to conserve electricity. Ministries and state agencies are also required to adopt energy-saving practices. Mosques have been included in the conservation efforts by shortening the interval between the call to prayer and the iqamah, turning off air conditioning inside the main prayer halls, and encouraging worshippers to pray in the mosque's outdoor extensions. Air conditioning systems are to be set at 25 degrees Celsius and turned off half an hour after each prayer.

"Despite the many years that have passed since the power outage crisis began, Kuwait has yet to implement a comprehensive, long-term solution. Instead, we have relied on temporary fixes, allowing the problem to worsen, especially with the launch of several housing projects and the growing demand for electricity.

"The ongoing crisis can largely be attributed to a lack of serious commitment to resolving the issue at its core. There has been insufficient action toward building new power plants or investing in alternative energy sources, such as clean and renewable energy.

"The reasons behind this inaction remain unclear. Is it due to commercial disputes among merchants competing for contracts to build power plants? Is it a consequence of the political infighting that has plagued the country in recent years? Could it be the result of influential figures manipulating decisions in the National Assembly? Or is it rooted in the widespread administrative corruption within government agencies?

"A radical solution to the electricity crisis requires a firm decision and consistent follow-up to ensure its implementation. Several viable proposals have been put forward, such as inviting reputable international energy companies and granting them land to build power plants under the Build-Operate-Transfer (B.O.T.) system. Kuwait can also harness renewable energy sources, like solar and wind, by constructing dedicated power plants. Projects developed under the B.O.T. model would not cost the state financially, while creating job opportunities for Kuwaiti youth and offering a long-term solution to the energy crisis.

"This is not to suggest opposition to local companies. However, the reality is that Kuwait currently lacks local firms with the expertise to independently build and operate power plants. Most local companies are general contractors that typically subcontract the work to international firms, but this only drives up costs without resolving the root problem.

"As long as we continue relying on short-term fixes, the electricity crisis will recur year after year. It is time to shift from temporary measures to sustainable, strategic solutions."

### Also:

"Yesterday, we stressed that any approach to developing a specific activity must be preceded by a well-structured, objective scientific study. Any initiative carried out without a thorough understanding of the current educational situation, its realities, and desired outcomes is bound to be random and disorganized," Kuwaiti writer **Dr. Hamoud Al-Hattab** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"So what, then, of the process of developing education itself, which underpins all modernization and progress around the world? Surely, it demands an even greater commitment to scientific, systematic, and objective planning.

"For any work, especially in the field of educational development, to be scientific, objective, and structured, it must be preceded by comprehensive, codified scientific studies. Curriculum development, in particular, should not be approached without this essential groundwork. As the saying goes, the carpenter's door should not be left open.

"Educational and scientific endeavors should serve as a model for applying a rigorous scientific approach. As we mentioned recently, albeit briefly, any effort to develop curricula must be preceded by a series of well-defined scientific and administrative steps. Curriculum reform is a vast and complex undertaking that requires time.

"Also, and in a nutshell, when it comes to the administrative aspect of curriculum development, we must carefully consider who is involved in the process, their qualifications, experience, specialization, and field expertise. It is inappropriate to assign individuals to lead or contribute to curriculum development if they have previously been involved in failed educational reform efforts.

"Thorough vetting and selection processes are absolutely essential. Without them, the curriculum development effort is likely to end in serious failure.

"I will leave it here, with this brief yet important reflection on the intellectual and administrative considerations necessary for steering curriculum reform in the right direction. There is, of course, much more to be said on the subject."

□ □ □

"Our civilization has given rise to many men who have revived the Islamic

nation. Islamic history places great emphasis on the science of biographies, the study of notable individuals and their lives throughout the ages. Among these figures is Zheng He, a Chinese Muslim sailor whose Islamic name was Hajji Mahmud Shams al-Din. He was born in 1371 AD into the "Ma" family, part of the Hui ethnic group in Yunan Province, southwest China. He was raised at the court of Prince Zhu Di of the Ming Dynasty, the prince of the Yan region (present-day Beijing)," columnist **Mohammad Al-Fawzan** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The third emperor of the Ming Dynasty commissioned him to undertake seven exploratory voyages around the world between 1405 and 1433 AD. Zheng He's massive fleets traveled across the globe, reportedly reaching the shores of North America long before Columbus. His fleet consisted of 62 giant ships.

"The crews aboard these ships included sailors, soldiers, officials, doctors, astronomers, and dozens of skilled professionals such as blacksmiths, carpenters, cooks, and tailors, along with numerous translators fluent in several world languages.

"His voyages were not only exploratory but also commercial, carrying abundant Chinese silks, porcelain, and copper coins to be traded for tropical spices, fragrant woods, precious and semi-precious stones, and rare animals for the Chinese emperor.

"He converted large numbers of Southeast Asians to Islam, while many Chinese immigrants settled in the region. Their descendants still live today in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei.

"Zheng He's seven voyages left a lasting impression on both the Chinese and foreign peoples. In 1418, the Chinese Muslim explorer even drew a map depicting the Americas, decades before Columbus's voyage. The exact date of Zheng He's death is unknown, but it is believed he passed away between 1433 and 1435.

"A tomb was built in his honor in Nanjing to commemorate his legacy. This text is adapted from the 'History of the Ming Dynasty'."

□ □ □

"During a symposium held by the Kuwait Teachers' Society on a Wednesday evening, we received news of the passing of the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. Present at the event were the then-Minister of Education, Khaled Al-Masoud, as well as National Assembly members Khaled Al-Mudhaf and Abdul-Baqi Al-Nouri. The three men abruptly interrupted the symposium and left the venue, prompting whispers among the attendees that the Amir had passed away," Kuwaiti journalist **Hassan Ali Karam** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem had been suffering from heart problems. At the time, the British were still present in Kuwait under the terms of the 1899 protectorate agreement, which remained in effect until January 1961.

"The announcement of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem's death was met with deep and unprecedented grief throughout Kuwait.

"Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem had been ill for about two weeks. His health began to decline during the opening day of the National Assembly's session, when he collapsed in his chair inside the Assembly hall. The late MP Dr. Ahmad Al-Khatib, the Speaker of the National Assembly at the time, and the Prime Minister and Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem, who had delegated the late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to deliver the government's speech, rushed to assist him.

"Both citizens and residents in Kuwait mourned the passing of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem the next morning,



Hassan Ali Karam

Thursday, November 25. Never in my life had I witnessed such sorrow as on that somber, black day. It was a true reflection of the people's immense love for this great man. Arab radio stations, including the BBC and even Israel Radio, interrupted their regular programs to broadcast recitations of the Holy Quran, a powerful testament to Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem's stature not only in Kuwait but across the world.

"Upon assuming power, the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem spearheaded a comprehensive reconstruction effort and launched a renaissance in education and healthcare. Shuwaikh High School and several other schools were built, and education was expanded to reach all cities and regions of Kuwait. Hospitals, health centers, and clinics were established throughout the country.

"During his reign, the Kuwaiti Constitution was promulgated, and Kuwait held its first National Assembly elections. Residents were granted the same access to health and education services as Kuwaiti citizens. Many of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem's advisors and staff at his office and the Amiri Diwan were of various Arab nationalities.

"The late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem was more than a ruler... he was a father to all Kuwaitis and residents alike. To this day, people still speak of him and mourn his loss.

"Truly great individuals never die; their legacy lives on through their deeds."

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



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah arrives at the Investigations Unit.



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah honors one of the officials.

## Farwaniya Gov praises Investigations Unit output

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah honored a number of officers and personnel from the Farwaniya Investigations Force in recognition of their tireless efforts in maintaining security and resolving numerous cases recently.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the ceremony was attended by Farwaniya Security Director Brigadier General Mohammad Al-Mutairi and Assistant Director Brigadier General Nayef Al-Hajraf. The Governor also honored Acting Director of Farwaniya Investigations Colonel Ahmed Al-Yassin and a

number of investigation officers.

The governor praised the efforts of the Farwaniya Investigations Department, affirming that their achievements reflect their dedication and hard work.

He stressed the importance of continuing to intensify efforts to ensure the security and safety of the governorate's residents.

Attendees expressed their gratitude to the governor, noting that the honor motivates them to work even harder to serve the nation and its citizens.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's health ministry on Sunday praised the immediate response of its emer-

gency teams to a fire that gutted an apartment block in Riggae area, southwest of Kuwait City.

Emergency teams provided immediate health-care aid to those wounded amid the blaze, some of whom needed to be whisked away to nearby hospitals for medical attention, said a health ministry statement.

Extending its condolences to the families of those who were killed in the fire, the statement went on to underline that the health ministry, in conjunction with other state bodies, stands prepared to deal with similar emergencies in a bid to protect lives and properties.

## Jail suspended for 3 Diwan advisors

Drug-runners stay in jail

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Misdemeanor Section in the Appeals Court suspended the prison sentence imposed on three former Amiri Diwan advisors accused of causing significant damage -- estimated at \$180 million of public funds -- by withholding information from Kuwait Airways regarding a contract to equip an Amiri aircraft with an American company.**

The Misdemeanor Court had earlier sentenced them to three years in prison, fined them KD10,000 and dismissed them from their jobs on charges of negligence of their duties, breach of their duties, and abuse of power in and outside the country.

Case files indicate they neglected and failed to fulfill their duties in supervising the implementation of a contract to equip, furnish and receive an Amiri aircraft and caused significant damage to public funds amounting to \$180 million by withholding information from Kuwait Airways regarding the contract to equip the Amiri aircraft with an American company.

□ □ □

**Detention extended:** The detention renewal judge on Sunday extended until June 14 the detention of a renowned lawyer, a female citizen and a male citizen accused -- along with a fugitive defendant -- of smuggling drugs from London by express mail; pending investigation.

Officers from the Drug Control General Department in the Interior Ministry arrested the renowned lawyer with various drugs stored in his office.

A warrant was obtained from the Public Prosecution to raid the office, where the lawyer was arrested in possession of various drugs, along with two others.

□ □ □

**Mol staff wins case:** In an important judicial ruling that reinforces the principle of justice and the protection of employees' rights, the Administrative Division at the Court of First Instance ruled in favor of an employee in a department at the Ministry of Interior, reports Al-Anba daily. Attorney Mohammad Hamad Al-Ajmi filed the case against an administrative body that accused the employee of unlawfully receiving money.

The court ruled that the right of the department to recover the amounts disbursed to the employee was forfeited due to the expiration of the statute of limitations of more than five years. The court noted that the passage of more than five years without a legal claim forfeits the right to claim, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions.

It also rejected the argument of the department that the employee deliberately failed to report his son's attainment of legal age to stop receiving the social allowance, considering this "fraud and deception."

The court challenged this claim, affirming that the responsibility for following up social allowance entitlements lies with the department; as it has all official data and documents, such as the civil identification card and birth certificate.

The court confirmed in its reasoning that the department did not provide any evidence that the employee deliberately concealed information or used fraudulent means. Rather, it became clear that the department itself recorded false and incorrect dates.

### Gold shops targeted

## Two women wanted in multiple thefts nabbed

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Officers from Bayan Investigation Division in Hawally Governorate Investigation Department arrested two women accused of stealing jewelry valued at KD200,000, reports Al-Anba daily.

The suspects reportedly targeted gold and diamond shops where they selected lightweight but high-value items, catching vendors off guard. Among the stolen items were diamond necklaces of internationally renowned brands.

A task force was formed after a series of theft reports filed within a short period in Hawally Governorate. Security camera footage from the targeted stores showed the two women -- both clad in luxurious clothing, sunglasses and accessories -- posing as affluent customers while discreetly stealing valuable jewelry.

Authorities tracked the suspects and identified the vehicle used during the thefts. Once their identities were confirmed, the Public Prosecution issued warrants for their arrest and to search their residences.

The women were apprehended in coordinated raids at their homes in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak and Hawally, where the stolen jewelry was recovered before it could be smuggled abroad, as per their confessions.

During interrogation, the suspects admitted to conducting the thefts over multiple visits to different stores, exploiting moments when shopkeepers were distracted by other customers. They presented themselves as wealthy individuals to avoid suspicion.

The suspects, along with the stolen items recovered from their possession, have been referred to the prosecution.

□ □ □

**Kuwaiti embezzled:** The Egyptian Public Prosecution has referred an official of an Egyptian bank and another individual to criminal trial on charges of embezzling funds from the bank account of a former senior Kuwaiti official, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to Egyptian media, the defendants are accused of embezzling over 15 million Egyptian pounds by forging an investment certificate application worth \$309,800 and withdrawing the amount from the Kuwaiti official's bank account.

The forgery reportedly extended to official bank documents, including account statements and withdrawal and deposit receipts, aimed at concealing the crime and distorting the truth.

## No escape...fugitive back to Kuwait after ten years

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: After a decade of pursuit, Kuwait received fugitive Mused Al-Musaileem on Saturday evening, following his arrest by Malaysian authorities based on an Interpol warrant, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Musaileem arrived in Kuwait on a Kuwait Airways flight from Doha, where the plane had made a transit stop.

Kuwaiti security officials took custody of Al-Musaileem upon his arrival at Kuwait Airport to complete his detention and begin investigations ahead of his referral to trial.

Commenting on Al-Musaileem's arrest, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah explained that those who flee Kuwait believing they can attack and insult it from abroad are mistaken.

Sooner or later, they will be arrested and brought to justice unless they repent and correct their course.

He highlighted the stark contrast between those who return home with pride after completing their higher education and those who return in disgrace for actions that harmed Kuwait, its people, and its leadership.

## Man electrocuted at work

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: An Egyptian died of electrocution while working in a building under construction in Mutlaa.

According to a security source, the Egyptian was electrocuted at work, leading to his immediate death.

The source indicated that the deceased was 32 years old. His body was transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department.

A case was registered and investigation is underway to determine the circumstances leading to the worker's death.

## 130 illegal expats nabbed

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: A security campaign conducted in Sabah Al-Ahmad residential area recently led to the arrest of 130 expatriates, reports Al-Anba daily.

The campaign targeted individuals proven to have violated the Residency Law, including those with absconding cases and others who failed to present valid identification documents.

A security source stated that the campaign was a joint effort between Ahmadi security forces and the Public Safety General Department at the Interior Ministry, focusing on companies operating in the area.

Among those arrested were 17 expatriates who incurred fines, 18 with active absconding reports, and 95 individuals who failed to provide legal proof of residency.



### MUGHAL MAHAL APP OFFERS

# 20% OFF + 5% CASHBACK

IN WALLET





SCAN THE QR TO DOWNLOAD THE APP




## 1800 188 / 5501 1985





HH the Amir

HH the Crown Prince

HH the Prime Minister

## HH Amir congratulates Italy President on Republic Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the Italian President Sergio Mattarella, on the occasion of his country's Republic Day celebration.

His Highness the Amir wished the Italian President well-being and his country further prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to the Italian President Sergio Mattarella, on the occasion of his country's Republic Day celebration.

His Highness wished the Italian President well-being and his country further prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a similar cable of congratulations to the Italian President Sergio Mattarella, on the occasion of his country's Republic Day celebration.

### Panel calls for justice, equality

#### Focus on women's housing rights

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Women's Cultural and Social Society recently organized a panel discussion entitled, "The Housing Law: Ambition and Challenges," reports Al-Jarida daily.

The panel discussion focused on the legal and social challenges related to women's housing rights; leading to the proposal of realistic and implementable solutions that reinforce the principles of justice and equality among members of society.

Speaking at the event, Chairperson of the Housing Care Affairs Committee at Kuwait Society of Lawyers Nafie Al-Mutairi tackled women's housing care rights and obstacles to obtaining these rights.

Attorney Adhraa Al-Rifai, a member of the society and the 'My Paper' team, pointed out that women's access to housing care was easier before 1993. She explained that many women applied for low-cost housing, but received nothing.

Fawaz Al-Hasban, an activist in the field of disability rights, emphasized that the Housing Care Law does not protect women with disabilities from exploitation, which sometimes comes from members of their own families.

Suad Maarefi of the National Association for Family Security (RAWASI) pointed out the law's failure to provide adequate housing for abused women.

The panel presented several important and constructive recommendations to develop the Housing Law in order to achieve social justice. These recommendations will be submitted to the government agencies and parties involved in implementing the law. The 'Waraqati' team of the organization will also follow up the implementation of these recommendations.



Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah newspaper Suleiman Abdul Aziz Al-Jarallah receives the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Fish Trade Union (KFTU) Fares Ahmad Buqamaz, and the union's Treasurer Abdullah Mohammad Al-Kandari.

### Deputy Editor-in-Chief receives KFTU delegation

Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah newspaper Suleiman Abdul Aziz Al-Jarallah recently received the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Fish Trade Union (KFTU) Fares Ahmed Buqamaz, and the union's Treasurer Abdullah Mohammad Al-Kandari. During the meeting, they discussed the objectives of establishing KFTU and strategies to ensure a steady supply of imported fish to Kuwaiti markets.

Buqamaz highlighted that the quantity of fish imported in 2024 reached 14.5 million kilograms, valued at KD 43.1 million, which was sufficient to meet consumer demand.

He affirmed the union's efforts to replace the traditional auction system with a direct fish sale system to increase supply and reduce prices.

# Water consumption hits peak in May ... highest ever – MEW

## 'Strategic reserve recovering after dip'


KUWAIT CITY, June 2: A special report published by the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy revealed that the highest water consumption in its history reached 522.368 million imperial gallons on May 28, surpassing the previous record of 520.083 million gallons on July 18 last year, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to sources, the recent consumption level remains within the production capacity of the ministry, which reached 539.252 million gallons -- leaving a surplus of about 19 million gallons. Sources affirmed that the strategic water reserve is recovering, having risen to 2,712 million gallons following a temporary dip during scheduled distillation plant maintenance.

In a related development, the two-day symposium titled, "Desalination Sector Privatization Programs in GCC Countries", organized by the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Kuwait, concluded with a set of key recommendations aimed at reforming and modernizing the water sector in the region.

The symposium brought together officials, government and private sector representatives, and experts in water and energy. Discussions focused on aligning the visions of GCC countries for enhanced water security, sustainability and increased private sector involvement in desalination projects.

Participants reviewed the current status of privatization in the region, identified opportunities and challenges, and explored ways to strengthen regional cooperation and knowledge sharing in this vital sector.



# EID ADHA

## Special Promotion

<b>Book for One-night</b> (Inclusive of breakfast)	Queen Cabana (2 persons), 2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons).	<b>BHD 76.230</b> <b>BHD 170.247</b>
<b>Book for Two nights and get 15% discount</b> (Inclusive of breakfast) (Non-refundable/Non-Cancellable)	Queen Cabana (2 persons) per night. 2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons) per night.	<b>BHD 65.000 net</b> <b>BHD 145.000 net</b>
<b>Book for Three nights and get 25% discount</b> (Inclusive of breakfast) (Non-refundable/Non-Cancellable)	Queen Cabana (2 persons) per night. 2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons) per night.	<b>BHD 57.173</b> <b>BHD 128.000 net</b>

### Food & Beverage Promotion

Enjoy a festive lunch buffet at **Café Marisol** with specially prepared dishes from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of Eid, from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM. For only **BD 7.900** per person.

**20% Happy Hours discount at Andalucia Café**

Promotion valid from 5<sup>th</sup> of June till 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2025

Terms and conditions apply

Tel: +973 17701201 – Ext 351 | Email: reservation@albander.com | www.albander.com | @albanderhotelandresort



KUNA photo

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah chairs the committee meeting.

### 1st Deputy PM chairs meeting

## Allow 'adahi' projects, money for orphans, says committee

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah on Monday headed the fourth meeting of the committee for regulating humanitarian and charitable action.

The Ministry of Interior said in a press release that the commission recommended allowing "adahi" projects (Eid Al-Adha livestock slaughtering), allocations for the orphans and addressing guidelines in the humanitarian and charitable sectors in cooperation with the Ministry of Information and Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) to boost public education and awareness in this vital sphere.

The meeting was held as part of the state efforts to enhance and regulate the national humanitarian action in compatibility with international criteria -- for sake of safeguarding the country's image.

The press release noted the acting social affairs undersecretary, Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, presented during the session outcome of the committee's delegation visit to Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar last week. The mission aimed at examining these countries' experience in the field.

The delegation examined e-governance at state departments and oversight on charities in these countries.



Farwaniya governorate photo

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives Uzbekistan Ambassador Dr. Ayub Khan Yunusov at his office.

## 'Kuwait-Uzbekistan relations solid'

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan Dr. Ayub Khan Yunusov at his office in Farwaniya Governorate on Sunday.

The two parties exchanged friendly discussions and discussed topics of mutual interest during the meeting. The governor highlighted the strong bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

Ambassador Yunusov expressed his sincere appreciation to Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser for the warm reception and conveyed his best wishes for Kuwait's continued progress and prosperity.



Dr. Izoulet joins Economic Affairs Unit with key paper on U.S.–China structural tensions

# Reconnaissance Research welcomes French economist Maxime Izoulet

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Reconnaissance Research is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Maxime Izoulet, a distinguished French economist, to its Economic Affairs Unit. He will contribute to the center’s strategic output through in-depth analytical papers and global economic assessments, with a focus on structural dynamics shaping international relations.

Dr. Izoulet holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the prestigious EHESS in Paris, where he studied under prominent economists such as Jacques Sapir and Alberto Bag-nai. His doctoral work explored the accounting theory of money and finance, and his research has been published in several internationally peer-reviewed journals indexed by France’s National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS).

Dr. Izoulet commented on his ap-pointment:

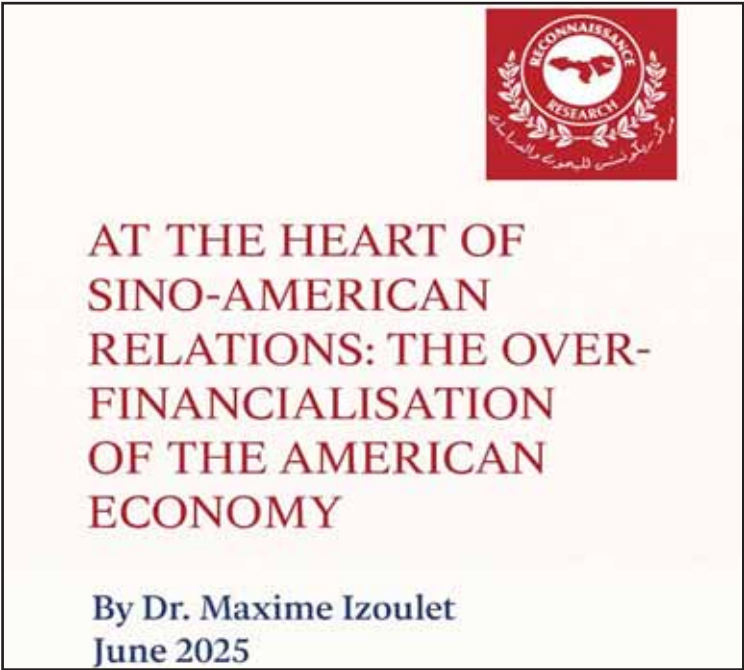
“I believe institutions like Reconnaissance Research play a vital role



Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri, Founder and CEO of Reconnaissance Research

in offering a rare space for serious thought. I am honored to contribute to its independence, regional insight, commitment to strategic clarity and to engage with a team that values long-view analysis over short-term noise.”

He marks the beginning of his tenure at Reconnaissance Research with the release of a timely and insightful paper titled:



Reconnaissance Research key paper.



Dr. Maxime Izoulet, French economist

“At the Heart of Sino-American Relations: The Over-Financialisa-tion of the American Economy.”

The paper argues that the United States’ disproportionate reliance on fi-nancial markets – at the expense of its productive base – is at the core of the emerging asymmetry with China. Dr. Izoulet examines how this economic

over-financialisation weakens U.S. domestic capacity, amplifies global instability, and shapes the Trump administration’s strategic posture to-wards trade, tariffs, and international alignment. His analysis offers a com-pelling framework for understanding the contradictions between America’s global economic influence and its in-ternal industrial erosion.

Founder and CEO of Reconnaissance Research, Abdulaziz Al-An-geri, said:

“We are confident that Dr. Izoulet’s expertise will strengthen our mission to provide high-impact eco-nomic insights to policymakers and global stakeholders operating at the intersection of economics, strategy, and geopolitics.”, he added: “His joining also reflects our commit-ment to making Reconnaissance a platform for intellectual rigor, and meaningful exchange – bridging Kuwait with global expertise and re-affirming our belief in the value of serious, independent knowledge.”

## Kuwait boost eco-goals with partnership

## Scientific Center, UN Habitat team up for sustainability

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): The Scientific Center of Kuwait (TSCK) signed, Monday, a partnership agreement with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to boost cooperation across several fields.

Speaking to KUNA, TSCK Director General Musaed Al-Yaseen said that the agreement reflects the shared commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda, aiming to turn environmental awareness into tangible initiatives that benefit society.

Al-Yaseen noted that the partnership would include public science events, training workshops, and support for local environmental projects, as well as produce educational content focused on urban sustainability, climate change, and Quality of Life (QoL) in cities.

Calling this agreement a “strategic partnership”, Al-Yaseen reaffirmed he TSCK’s dedication to achieve environmental sustainability, describing this cooperation as a stepping stone toward building an informed, balanced society.

For her part, Head of the UN-Habitat Mission in the region Dr. Amira Al-Hassan said the agreement marks the beginning of a long-term cooperation, highlighting UN-Habitat’s commitment to youth-focused programs that create real environmental impact.

She also hailed TSCK’s leading role in promoting sustainability and launching initiatives that bring communities closer to environmental action.



KUNA photos  
Photos during the signing of partnership agreement.



KUNA photo  
Coordination meeting of the permanent representatives of the Arab League in preparation for the meetings of the Arab-European dialogue.

# Arab envoys gear up for Brussels meeting

AL eyes stronger EU ties

CAIRO, June 2, (KUNA): Arab diplomats held a coordinative meeting in Cairo on Sunday to look into ongoing preparations for the 10th meeting with Euro-pean 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 cooperative 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.

Kuwait’s Permanent Representative at the Arab League Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi represented the State of Kuwait during the meeting.

In other news, Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit said Sunday the document launched by former UN

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, titled the (Peace Agenda) represents a comprehensive vision to enhance preventive diplomacy, restore and maintain peace.

This came in a speech delivered on his behalf by the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of Media and Communication Sector at the Arab League, Ambassador Ahmad Khatabi, during a ceremony held at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo on the occasion of launching the (Boutros Ghali Award for Diplomacy, Peace, and Development).

Abul-Gheit emphasized that the (Peace Agenda) document, launched by Boutros Ghali, who passed away at the age of 93 in 2016, proposed various means to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations system.

In this context, he described Boutros Ghali as a “statesman, political thinker, and academic,” as well as the author of over 100 works.

He noted that Boutros Ghali was the first Arab and African to serve as UN Secretary-General (1992-1996), during the post-Cold War period marked by the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of bipolarity.

He added that, in his capacity as UN Secretary-General, Boutros Ghali convened, for the first time, a Security Council meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government to issue an international declaration for “a stable and just world that respects fundamental human rights.”

# ASCC unveils science-filled Eid program

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): The Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Centre (ASCC) will mark Eid Al-Adha with a three-day program of workshops and guided science tours across its galleries.

Visitors can attend new interactive planetarium shows in the Space Museum that explore astronomy, the latest space technologies, and

the upcoming celestial calendar, ASCC said in a statement to KUNA on Monday.

The Science and Technology Museum will screen “Kashif,” a 4D ride that journeys inside the human body with motion-synchronized seats, while the Ecosystems Museum will present live shark-feeding demonstrations, it said.

An exhibition on “Kalila wa Dimna,” staged

with the French Research Centre of the Arabian Peninsula, highlights classic Arab literature in the Arab Islamic Science Museum and includes children’s workshops, it noted.

ASCC, which hosts Kuwait’s largest collection of scientific and cultural content, invites all age groups and shares full event details on its social channels (AsccKw).

Continued from Page 1

## Words for

As a result, China’s exports soared to \$15 trillion within a few years, and its brands flooded global markets. China then moved to diversify its economy, expanding into the world of technology and services. It provided strong support to national companies, prioritized clean energy, and entered the realm of artificial intelligence.

Then came the Belt and Road Initiative, a major milestone in China’s development, aimed at expanding its global trade influence. This initiative helped propel China’s GDP to \$19 trillion, accounting for roughly 20 percent of the global economy.

As mentioned earlier, a main figure in building this powerful economy was Elias Korkis, a British national of Iraqi origin. Despite China’s vast pool of capabilities and competencies, there was no objection to his leadership. No one demanded his replacement with a “pure” native Chinese citizen.

This Iraqi-born doctor was the driving force behind China’s reforms, opening the country’s doors to foreign professionals and investors. China has welcomed hundreds of thousands of people from various nationalities to work and thrive.

The Chinese are no different from other peoples around the world. They are a diverse mix of tribes and communities, many of whom have become naturalized citizens. Millions of immigrants own property, run businesses, and contribute to the growth of China, which is a vast and diverse nation with a population of 1.408 billion. The Chinese have no time to waste on repeating naive slogans. Everyone works toward the best interests of their country.

In nearly half a century, China transformed into the powerhouse behind this tremendous economy, securing its distinguished position among the world’s nations through a clear and focused vision. This is why the world today watches the Chinese experience with amazement and a keen desire to learn.

## Kuwaiti Embassy

He reaffirmed the GCC states’ support for the positive developments in Syria; aimed at achieving security, stability and the aspirations of the Syrian people.

He pointed out that the Ministerial Council coordinated the efforts made by the GCC states to provide humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people, confirming the council’s support for all efforts aimed at stabilizing the political and economic situation in Syria.

He stressed the importance of strengthening strategic partnerships between the GCC and friendly countries and regional and internation-

al organizations, while praising the outcomes of recent strategic meetings and summits, including the Gulf-US Summit, Gulf-Asian Summit, and the trilateral summit bringing together the GCC, ASEAN and the People’s Republic of China.

On the demarcation of the maritime border between Kuwait and Iraq beyond Mark 162, he confirmed that the Ministerial Council of the GCC deliberated these developments and emphasized the need for Iraq to respect Kuwait’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, abide by relevant bilateral and international agreements and United Nations resolutions, and reject any infringement on Kuwait’s sovereignty over its territories, islands and maritime areas.

He also pointed out that the Durra oilfield lies entirely within the maritime zones of the State of Kuwait and that ownership of the natural resources in the area adjacent to the Saudi-Kuwaiti Divided Zone, including the Durra field, is between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait; and that they alone have the right to exploit them, based on international law and applicable agreements.

## Kuwaiti marriages

In addition, the number of divorce between Kuwaiti husbands and Kuwaiti wives reached 1,419; while the number of divorce between Kuwaiti husbands and non-Kuwaiti wives reached 332, and 141 Kuwaiti women were divorced from non-Kuwaiti men.

Moreover, a statistical analysis of the achievements of the Sharia Documentation Department in April 2025 revealed that the number of documented marriages, by nationality, reached 1,149.

The rate of marriages where both spouses are Kuwaiti nationals was 75 percent, while the percentage of marriages where both spouses are non-Kuwaiti nationals was 13.4 percent.

The rate of marriages where the husband is Kuwaiti and the wife is non-Kuwaiti was 8.4 percent, while the percentage of marriages where the husband is non-Kuwaiti and the wife is Kuwaiti was 3.2 percent of the total marriages.

The total number of documented authentication cases by nationality of husband and wife reached 117.

The rate of documented authentication cases in which both spouses are Kuwaiti citizens was 4.3 percent, while the percentage of documented authentication cases in which both spouses are non-Kuwaiti citizens was 29.9 percent.

The rate of documented authentication cases in which the husband is Kuwaiti and the wife is non-Kuwaiti was 60.7 percent, while the percentage of documented authentication cases in

which the husband is non-Kuwaiti and the wife is Kuwaiti was 5.1 percent.

The total number of documented divorces by nationality of the husband and wife was 754. The percentage of documented divorces in which both spouses are Kuwaiti citizens was 59.1 percent, while the percentage of divorces in which both spouses is non-Kuwaiti citizens was 18.4 percent.

The rate of divorces in which the husband is Kuwaiti and the wife is non-Kuwaiti was 15.9 percent, while the percentage of divorces in which the husband is non-Kuwaiti and the wife is Kuwaiti was 6.5 percent.

## 1st Deputy

This came in a statement issued by the General Department of Relations and Security Media at the Ministry of Interior following the meetings with UK’s Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis, French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin, and the Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub.

The statement noted that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef emphasized Kuwait’s commitment to strengthening ties with friendly countries, praising the ambassadors for their role in enhancing cooperation.

The envoys expressed gratitude to Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef for the warm reception and reaffirmed their countries’ strong relations with Kuwait and their commitment to further developing bilateral ties.

## Kuwait targets

Sources stressed the need to comply with the laws, regulations and circulars issued by the DGCA on this matter; indicating all the necessary legal measures will be taken to regulate the air transport market in the country.

## MoCI tightens

Sources estimated that the number of companies required to disclose their beneficial owners reached 146,948 and 145,518 of which complied with the requirements within the specified period; hence, the compliance rate of companies is almost 99 percent.

Sources explained that the high compliance rate led to the extension of the deadline for all companies to meet the requirements in order to avoid fines ranging from KD1,000 to KD10,000; in addition to the penalties stated in Law No. 106 on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, which stipulates fines up to KD500,000.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

وزارة التجارة والصناعة  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry

RECALL INFORMATION

GMC

Sierra 1500 vehicles

equipped with chrome front grille deflectors - 2022 Year models

RECALL REASON

One or more of the attachments holding the front upper grille deflector may fracture over time. If all eight points break, the deflector may detach while driving.

REMEDY

Dealers will reinforce or repair all attachment points on the chrome front grille deflector.

CONTACT

Contact Mohammed Saleh and Reda Youssef Behbehani  
Company. Phone: 1884411  
Working Hours: Saturday to Wednesday from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
Thursday from 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM

This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42,43,44,45,46,47and48) of no.(27/2015) issuing the executive by laws no.(39/2014) on Consumer Protection



‘Bad person who, in his own way, probably hates America’

Trump frustrated with some judges and lashes out at conservative legal activist Leo

NEW YORK, June 2, (AP): Conservative legal activist Leonard Leo helped President Donald Trump transform the federal judiciary in his first term. He closely advised Trump on his Supreme Court picks and is widely credited as the architect of the conservative majority responsible for overturning Roe v. Wade.

But Trump last week lashed out at Leo, blaming his former adviser and the group Leo used to head for encouraging him to appoint judges who are now blocking his agenda. Trump called Leo, the former longtime leader of the conservative Federalist Society, a “real ‘sleazebag’” and “bad person who, in his own way, probably hates America.”

Trump’s broadsides came after a three-judge panel at the US Court of International Trade blocked his sweeping tariffs, ruling that he had overstepped his authority when he invoked the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act to declare a national emergency and levy tariffs on imports from almost every country in the world.

While an appeals court soon intervened and allowed the administration to continue collecting the tariffs while the legal fight plays out, the decision - and Trump’s fury at Leo - underscored the extent to which the judiciary is serving as a rare check on Trump’s power as he pushes the bounds of executive authority. The judiciary has intervened as he has ordered mass deportations, deep cuts to university funding and the firing of federal workers en masse.

Trump’s words reflect his broad frustrations with the judiciary, including members of the Supreme Court he appointed on Leo’s recommendation, who have allowed some of his more controversial efforts to move forward, but blocked others.

Trump’s rhetoric also appeared to be a tactic to shift blame for setbacks to his agenda - this time notably pointing the finger at a person who once helped Trump build credibility with conservative voters. But it’s unclear what - if anything - Leo had to do with the tariff decision.

Leo said that neither he nor the Federalist Society was involved in shaping appointments to the trade court. He offered only praise for Trump.

“I’m very grateful for President Trump transforming the Federal Courts, and it was a privilege being involved,” he said in a statement. “There’s more work to be done, for sure, but the Federal Judiciary is better than it’s ever been in modern history, and that will be President Trump’s most important legacy.”

Trump’s fury came via Truth Social after the court tried to halt the central



Leonard Leo speaks at the National Lawyers Convention in Washington on Nov 16, 2017. (AP)

plank of the president’s economic agenda: sweeping tariffs that have rattled global financial markets, dismayed longtime trading partners, and prompted warnings about higher prices and inflation.

In response, Trump issued a lengthy and angry missive criticizing the judges behind the decision, accusing them of “destroying America” and saying he hoped the Supreme Court would quickly reverse “this horrible, Country

threatening decision.”

Trump then referred to his first term as president, saying he “was new to Washington, and it was suggested that I use The Federalist Society as a recommending source on Judges. I did so, openly and freely, but then realized that they were under the thumb of a real ‘sleazebag’ named Leonard Leo, a bad person who, in his own way, probably hates America, and obviously has his own separate ambitions.”

Wildfires threaten air quality in some US states

Thousands evacuate in 3 Canada provinces from fast-moving fires

FLIN FLON, Manitoba, June 2, (AP): More than 25,000 residents in three provinces have been evacuated as dozens of wildfires remained active Sunday and diminished air quality in parts of Canada and the US, according to officials.

Most of the evacuated residents were from Manitoba, which declared a state of emergency last week. About 17,000 people there were evacuated by Saturday along with 1,300 in Alberta. About 8,000 people in Saskatchewan had been relocated as leaders there warned the number could climb.

Smoke was worsening air quality and reducing visibility in Canada and into some US states along the border.

“Air quality and visibility due to wildfire smoke can fluctuate over short distances and can vary considerably from hour to hour,” Saskatchewan’s Public Safety Agency warned Sunday. “As smoke levels increase, health risks increase.”

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said firefighters, emergency crews and aircraft from other provinces and US states, including Alaska, Oregon and Arizona, were being sent to help fight the blazes.

“We are truly grateful, and we stand stronger because of you,” Moe said in a post on social media.

He said ongoing hot, dry weather is allowing some fires to grow and threaten communities, and resources to fight the fires and support the evacuees are stretched thin.

“The next four to seven days are



Wildfire smoke hangs in the air above Highway 97 north of Buckinghorse River, British Columbia, on May 30. (AP)

absolutely critical until we can find our way to changing weather patterns, and ultimately a soaking rain throughout the north,” Moe said at a Saturday news conference.

In Manitoba, more than 5,000 of those evacuated are from Flin Flon, located nearly 645 kilometers (400 miles) northwest of the provincial capital of Winnipeg. In northern Manitoba, fire knocked out power to the community of Cranberry Portage, forcing a mandatory evacuation order Saturday for about 600 residents.

The fire menacing Flin Flon began

a week ago near Creighton, Saskatchewan, and quickly jumped the boundary into Manitoba. Crews have struggled to contain it. Water bombers have been intermittently grounded due to heavy smoke and a drone incursion.

The US Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service deployed an air tanker to Alberta and said it would send 150 firefighters and equipment to Canada.

In some parts of the US, air quality reached “unhealthy” levels Sunday in North Dakota and small swaths of Montana, Minnesota and South Dakota, according to the U.S. Environmen-

tal Protection Agency’s AirNow page.

“We should expect at least a couple more rounds of Canadian smoke to come through the U.S. over the next week,” said Bryan Jackson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in the U.S.

Separately, a fire in the US border state of Idaho burned at least 100 acres (40 hectares) as of Sunday, prompting road closures and some evacuations, according to the Idaho Department of Lands. The agency said in a news release that at least one structure was burned, but did not provide additional details about the damage.

Strong gusty winds of 15 to 20 mph (24 to 32 kph) and steep terrain were making it difficult for firefighters battling the fire, which ignited Saturday.


Evacuation centers have opened across Manitoba for those fleeing the fires, one as far south as Winkler, 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the U.S. border. Winnipeg opened up public buildings for evacuees as it deals with hotels already crammed with other fire refugees, vacationers, business people and convention-goers.

Manitoba’s Indigenous leaders said Saturday at a news conference that hotel rooms in the cities where evacuees are arriving are full, and they called on the government to direct hotel owners to give evacuees priority.

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Kyra Wilson said it was one of the largest evacuations in the province since the 1990s.

America

1 dead in LA shooting: An officer was killed and another wounded while responding to a report of a man shooting rounds with a rifle and a



Luna

Police kills man: A police officer handling security at a southwest Atlanta apartment complex shot and

‘Man died by suicide’: The man who whose burned body was found near the top of Stone Mountain outside Atlanta died by suicide, authorities said Sunday.

The body was found near the top of the mountain Saturday morning after a hiker who discovered it called 911. Stone Mountain Park Police spokesperson John Bankhead said.

Police determined the man died by suicide after his parents found a note with details about how and where he planned to kill himself. Police also obtained his driver’s license and determined he was a white male in his late 20s.

The body was taken to the DeKalb County Medical Examiner’s Office and his death is being investigated by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Stone Mountain is outside Atlanta and features a giant carving of Confederate leaders Gen. Robert E. Lee, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson on its northern face. (AP)

Trzaskowski concedes defeat

Nawrocki wins Poland’s presidential election

WARSAW, Poland, June 2, (AP): Conservative Karol Nawrocki won Poland’s weekend presidential runoff election, according to the final vote count on Monday. Nawrocki won 50.89% of votes in a very tight race against liberal Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski, who received 49.11%.

The race had Poland on edge since a first round of voting two weeks earlier, revealing deep divisions in the country along the eastern flank of NATO and the European Union.

An early exit poll released Sunday evening suggested Trzaskowski was headed to victory before updated polling began to reverse the picture a couple of hours later.

The outcome suggests that Poland can be expected to take a more populist and nationalist path under its new president, who was backed by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Trzaskowski conceded defeat and congratulated Nawrocki on Monday, thanking all those who voted for him. “I fought for us to build a strong, safe, honest, and empathetic Poland together,” he wrote on X. “I’m sorry I wasn’t able to convince the majority of citizens of my vision for Poland. I’m sorry we didn’t win together.”

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was among the leaders offering their congratulations to Nawrocki on Monday morning, an ac-



Presidential candidate Karol Nawrocki, a conservative historian backed by the right-wing Law and Justice party addresses supporters at his headquarters after the presidential election runoff in Warsaw, Poland on June 1. (AP)

knowledge of Poland’s key role as a neighbor, ally and hub for Western weapons sent to Kyiv.

He called Poland “a pillar of regional and European security,” and said, “by reinforcing one another on our continent, we give greater strength to Europe in global competition and bring the achievement of real and lasting peace closer. I look

forward to continued fruitful cooperation with Poland and with President Nawrocki personally.”

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who shares Nawrocki’s national conservative worldview, hailed Nawrocki’s “fantastic victory.”

Meanwhile, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen offered measured congratulations, emphasizing continued EU-Poland collaboration rooted in shared democratic values: “We are all stronger together in our community of peace, democracy, and values. So let us work to ensure the security and prosperity of our common home.”

Most day-to-day power in the Polish political system rests with a prime minister chosen by the parliament. However, the president’s role is not merely ceremonial. The office holds the power to influence foreign policy and to veto legislation.

Nawrocki will succeed Andrzej Duda, a conservative whose second and final term ends on Aug 6.

Under the Polish constitution, the president serves a five-year term and may be re-elected once.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk came to power in late 2023 with a coalition government that spans a broad ideological divide - so broad that it hasn’t been able to fulfill certain of his electoral promises.



In this photo released by the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense, Russian and Ukrainian delegations attend talks at the Ciragan Palace in Istanbul, Turkey on June 2. (AP)

Delegations from Ukraine and Russia end latest round of direct peace talks in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, June 2, (AP): Delegations from Russia and Ukraine ended their latest peace talks Monday in Turkey after just over an hour, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian state media said.

Speaking in Vilnius, Lithuania, Zelenskyy said both sides “exchanged documents through the Turkish side, and we are preparing a new release of prisoners of the war.”

Expectations were low for any breakthrough on ending the 3-year-old war after a string of stunning attacks over the weekend.

Kyiv officials said a surprise drone attack Sunday damaged or destroyed more than 40 warplanes at air bases deep inside Russia, including the remote Arctic, Siberian and Far East regions more than 7,000 kilometers (4,300 miles) from Ukraine.

The complex and unprecedented raid, which struck simultaneously in three time zones, took over a year and a half to prepare and was “a major slap in the face for Russia’s military power,” said Vasyli Maluk, the head of the Ukrainian security service who led its planning.

Zelenskyy called it a “brilliant operation” that would go down in history. The operation destroyed or heavily

damaged nearly a third of Moscow’s strategic bomber fleet, according to Ukrainian officials.

Russia on Sunday fired the biggest number of drones - 472 - at Ukraine since its full-scale invasion in 2022, Ukraine’s air force said, in an apparent effort to overwhelm air defenses. That was part of a recently escalating campaign of strikes in civilian areas of Ukraine.

In Lithuania, Zelenskyy said a new release of prisoners of war was being prepared after the Istanbul meeting. The previous direct talks on May 16 also led to a swap of prisoners, with 1,000 on both sides being exchanged.

Ukraine also handed Russia an official list of children it says were forcibly deported and must be returned, said Andriy Yermak, head of Zelenskyy’s office.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan had chaired the peace talks at Istanbul’s Ciragan Palace, a residence dating from the Ottoman Empire.

The talks aimed to discuss both sides’ ceasefire terms, he said, adding that “the whole world’s eyes are focused on the contacts and discussions you will have here.”

U.S.-led efforts to push the two sides into accepting a ceasefire have

so far failed. Ukraine accepted that step, but the Kremlin effectively rejected it.

The Ukrainian delegation was led by Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, while Vladimir Medinsky, an aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin, headed the Kremlin team.

The Russian and Ukrainian delegations, each numbering more than a dozen people, sat at a U-shaped table across from each other with Turkish officials between them. Many of the Ukrainians wore military fatigues.

Recent comments by senior officials in both countries indicate they remain far apart on the key conditions for stopping the war.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said Sunday that “Russia is attempting to delay negotiations and prolong the war in order to make additional battlefield gains.”

The relentless fighting has frustrated US President Donald Trump’s goal of bringing about a quick end to the war. A week ago, he expressed impatience with Putin as Moscow pounded Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities with drones and missiles for a third straight night. Trump said on social media that Putin “has gone absolutely CRAZY!”

UK getting defense boost aimed at sending message to Moscow

LONDON, June 2, (AP): The United Kingdom will build new nuclear-powered attack submarines, get its army ready to fight a war in Europe and become “a battle-ready, armor-clad nation,” Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Monday, part of a boost to military spending designed to send a message to Moscow - and Washington.

Starmer said Britain “cannot ignore the threat that Russia poses” as he pledged to undertake the most sweeping changes to Britain’s defenses since the collapse of the Soviet Union more than three decades ago.

“The threat we face is more serious, more immediate and more unpredictable than at any time since the Cold War,” Starmer told workers and journalists at a navy shipyard in Scotland.

Like other NATO members, the UK has been reassessing its defense spending since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

The government announced military plans in response to a strategic defense review commissioned by Starmer and led by George Robertson, a former UK defense secretary and NATO secretary general.



Britain’s Prime Minister Keir Starmer delivers his speech during a visit to the BAE Systems’ Govan facility, in Glasgow, Scotland on June 2. (AP)



Asia

**Myanmar passenger bus accident kills 6:** Six people were killed and 11 others injured after a highway passenger bus rolled over in central Myanmar's Mandalay region, an official from the Mandalay Region Fire Services Department told Xinhua on Monday.

The accident occurred at around 3:30 am local time on Monday in Meiktila township in Mandalay, he said, adding that the bus, carrying about 19 passengers, slipped off the road due to rain and overturned. All the injured were taken to the local hospital, the official said. (Xinhua)

**Cyclist killed in Australia train crash:** A cyclist has died after being hit by a train in the southern suburbs of Brisbane, Australia, in the early hours of Monday morning. A police statement said that emergency services were called to reports of a collision at a level crossing in Runcorn, 15 km south of central Brisbane, around 4:30 am on Monday.

The cyclist, a 69-year-old local man, was found with head injuries and died at the scene. A spokesperson for the railway operator in the state of Queensland told Nine Entertainment newspapers that boom gates were down at the level crossing and lights were flashing to warn of an approaching train at the time of the collision.

Road closures and diversions were put in place and commuters were told to expect train delays of up to 60 minutes following the incident. Train services returned to normal by 9:30 a.m. The Queensland Police Service said that the forensic crash unit has commenced an investigation into the incident. (Xinhua)

**Quake strikes off Japan's Hokkaido:** A 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck off the east coast of Japan's Hokkaido early Monday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The earthquake occurred at 3:52 amlocal time (1852 GMT Sunday) at a shallow depth, measuring 4 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in areas such as Taiki and Urahoro in the eastern region of Hokkaido Prefecture, the



This photo taken on June 1, 2025 shows the aurora seen at the outskirts of Canberra, Australia. (Xinhua)

**4 dead in Japan suspected murder-suicide:** Four people were found dead in a suspected murder-suicide on Monday in the western Japanese prefecture of Osaka, local media reported. An emergency call was made around 6:20 am local time to report a man collapsed on a street in Suita City in Osaka Prefecture.

The 26-year-old man was later pronounced dead at a hospital, Kyodo News re-

ported. Police visited his home nearby where they found the bodies of a woman and two children with blood around their abdomens, the report said. Police identified the man's home from his belongings and found a blood-stained bladed object and what appeared to be a suicide note he had written in the apartment, it added. The police suspect the 26-year-old woman and two girls, aged one and two, were related to the man. (Xinhua)

**4,328 killed in Vietnam traffic accidents in 5 months:** A total of 4,328 people were killed and 5,307 others injured in traffic accidents across Vietnam between Dec. 15, 2024, and May 14, 2025, according to a report from the National Traffic Safety Committee. Tran Huu Minh, chief of the committee's office, said the figures represent a significant decline compared to the same period last year, Vietnam News Agency reported on Monday.

Road accidents accounted for the vast majority of traffic accidents, with 7,781 cases resulting in 4,277 deaths and 5,292 injuries. These figures reflect year-on-year decreases of 25.31 percent in the number of traffic accidents, 5.56 percent in fatalities and 34.72 percent in injuries, said the report. (Xinhua)

**Vietnam Party chief calls on thrift practice:** General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee To Lam has called on the public to promote a culture of thrift in daily life as part of the nation's broader efforts to combat wastefulness, Vietnam News Agency reported.

In an article published on Sunday, he proposed the establishment of an annual national thrift day to further encourage and institutionalize this practice across society.

As an example of effective cost-cutting, the Party chief highlighted the ongoing restructuring of the government apparatus, which began in late 2024.

This includes the merger of provinces, the dissolution of certain district-level administrative units and the consolidation of commune-level units. These reforms are projected to save the State budget more than 20 trillion Vietnamese dong (770 million U.S. dollars) annually during the 2025-2030 period, with savings expected to exceed 30 trillion dong (1.2 billion dollars) per year from 2030 onward, he wrote. (Xinhua)

Path to lasting peace in Asia-Pacific should be based on win-win cooperation — expert

SINGAPORE, June 2, (Xinhua): Peace and development in the Asia-Pacific region should be built on win-win cooperation instead of military deterrence, an Indonesian expert has said. China's practical cooperation with Indonesia and other regional countries has contributed greatly to the region's peace and development, said Veronika Saraswati, director of the Indonesia-China Partnership Studies Institute, in a recent interview with Xinhua.

China has never engaged in the colonization of other nations. On the contrary, China itself suffered from colonialism in the 19th and early 20th century, the expert noted. "This shared experience has fostered solidarity between China and developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America," she said. Noting that China has long been Indonesia's largest trading partner, with fruitful cooperation in infrastructure, digital economy and other fields, she said, "Any rhetoric or action that undermines Indonesia-China relations would directly harm Indonesia's own development interests."

"Over the past two decades, China has become an indispensable node in global supply chains,



Veronika Saraswati, director of the Indonesia-China Partnership Studies Institute.

and cooperation between regional countries and China is crucial for maintaining stability and prosperity in Asia-Pacific," she said. On the issue of how to ensure long-term stability in the Asia-Pacific region, Saraswati described the Western concept of "peace through strength" as a profound paradox.

"Throughout history, no lasting peace has ever been achieved through war," she stressed, adding

that the approach to seek security via military deterrence will inevitably lead to arms races and heighten tensions. Moreover, Saraswati said that the idea that military deterrence serves as a "path to peace" is a narrative designed to justify the interests of the war industry of certain countries.

"Behind the rhetoric of 'peace' lies a vast war economy," Saraswati said. In contrast, she said, China's approach is aimed at fostering longstanding peace. "True stability comes from trust-building, economic interdependence, and conflict resolution mechanisms, not zero-sum confrontation," she said. Saraswati strongly opposed the framing of regional security as a game between powers.

"This Cold War mentality disrespects the strategic autonomy of ASEAN nations. Indonesia, for instance, pursues an independent foreign policy and refuses to be a proxy in great-power rivalry," she said. "ASEAN aims to become the world's fourth-largest economy by 2030, which requires stability and connectivity, not bloc confrontation. China's model of shared development, not military coercion, is the path to lasting peace," she added.

UK latest country to back Morocco's plan in disputed Western Sahara

RABAT, Morocco, June 2, (AP): The United Kingdom on Sunday became the latest country to back Morocco's position on the disputed Western Sahara, calling its plan to keep the territory under Moroccan control "the most credible, viable and pragmatic" way to resolve the decades-long conflict.

At a joint press conference in Morocco's capital, British Foreign Minister David Lammy said the United Kingdom was changing its position to support Morocco's plan to offer the area limited autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty. He and Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita lauded the two countries' ties on security and trade, noting Morocco's role as co-host of the 2030 FIFA World Cup.

"The time for a resolution and to move this issue forward is long-overdue, and would strengthen the stability of North Africa," Lammy said.

He also reiterated support for the United Nations-led process and called on Morocco to "expand on details of what autonomy within the Moroccan State could entail for the region."

Western Sahara is a strip of coastal desert rich in phosphates and fish that the United Nations has considered a "non-self-governing territory" throughout almost 50 years of dispute. It's claimed by both Morocco and Polisario, a pro-independence group that operates out of refugee camps in southwestern Algeria.

The shift fulfills one of Morocco's primary foreign policy objectives and makes the United Kingdom the third permanent member of the United Nations Security Council to back its position, following France and the United States. Since 1991, the United Nations has administered a peacekeeping mission designed to hold a referendum to determine the status of the disputed territory, all of which is under Morocco's control except for a small sliver near the Algerian border.



An archway in the entrance of Dakhla carries an image of Morocco's King Mohammed VI, in Western Sahara on Dec 21, 2020. (AP)

It's claimed by both Morocco and Polisario, a pro-independence group that operates out of refugee camps in southwestern Algeria.

The shift fulfills one of Morocco's primary foreign policy objectives and makes the United Kingdom the third permanent member of the United Nations Security Council to back its position, following France and the United States. Since 1991, the United Nations has administered a peacekeeping mission designed to hold a referendum to determine the status of the disputed territory, all of which is under Morocco's control except for a small sliver near the Algerian border.

4 terrorists dead in police encounter in Pakistan's Punjab

ISLAMABAD, June 2, (Xinhua): Police have claimed to have killed four terrorists in an encounter in Dera Ghazi Khan district of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province. According to a statement from a police spokesperson, police received intelligence information about the movement of terrorists in Kot Mubarak area of the district bordering northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. "Police teams immediately mobilized, surrounded the area and launched an operation," said the spokesperson, adding that the terrorists attacked the police teams using heavy weapons, leading to fierce fire exchange.

The spokesperson confirmed that four terrorists were killed in the operation, while their accomplices managed to escape under the cover of bushes and sand dunes. Police launched a search and sweep operation in the area to bring the remaining terrorists to justice as soon as possible, said the spokesperson.

**Also:**

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian military on Saturday confirmed for the first time that it lost fighter jets during the clash with Pakistan earlier this month.

The confirmation was made by India's Chief of Defense Staff (CDS) **Anil Chauhan** in an interview with foreign media in Singapore, Indian media reported. However, Chauhan did



Firefighters carry out a mock drill to train civilians and security personnel to respond in case of an attack during Operation Shield, a large-scale civil defence exercise in Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir on May 31. (AP)

not specify the number of fighter jets that India lost.

"I think what is important is that, not the jet being down, but why they were being down," Chauhan told Bloomberg TV. "The good part is that we are able to understand the tactical mistake which we made, remedy it, rectify it, and then implement it again after two days and flew all our jets again, targeting at long range. Chauhan was in Singapore to attend the Shangri-La Dialogue,

New leader faces tasks of trying to heal domestic divide

S.Korea holds snap presidential election Tuesday

SEOUL, South Korea, June 2, (AP): After months of political turmoil, South Korea will elect a new president this week to succeed conservative Yoon Suk Yeol, who was ousted over his brief but shocking imposition of martial law.

Surveys suggested liberal Lee Jae-myung is heavily favored to win Tuesday's snap election, riding on a wave of public disappointment of Yoon's martial law debacle in December. The main conservative candidate, Kim Moon Soo, wants a come-from-behind victory, but observers say his refusal to directly criticize Yoon made it difficult for him to narrow the gap with Lee.

The winner will be sworn in as president on Wednesday without the typical two-month transition period. The new leader faces the urgent tasks of trying to heal the deep domestic divide over Yoon's action as well as focusing on US President Donald Trump's America-first policy and North Korea's advancing nuclear program.

Lee, who represents the main liberal Democratic Party, is the favorite to win the elections. In three Gallup Korea surveys released last week, 46% to 49% of respondents picked Lee as their choice for next president, giving him a comfortable lead over Kim with 35% to 37%.

Lee narrowly lost the 2022 election to Yoon, and spearheaded parliament's two votes to overturn Yoon's martial law decree and impeach him, before the Constitutional Court formally dismissed him in April.

Lee's outspoken criticism of South Korea's conservative establishment and calls to punish those involved in Yoon's martial law enactment have caused worries among his opponents that Lee's election would further polarize the country.

Kim, a former labor minister under Yoon, has fought an uphill battle against Lee as his People Power Party struggles to restore public confidence. Kim's opposition to Yoon's impeachment and reluctance to explicitly criticize the disgraced leader drove him away from moderate voters, analysts say.

Three other politicians are running for the presidency, including Lee Jun-seok of the small conservative New Reform Party, who has categorically rejected Kim's request to field a unified candidate between them to prevent a split in conservative votes.

The election has got ugly, with candidates levelling damaging statements, personal attacks and even sexually offensive language against each other without unveiling clear, long-term visions for South Korea.

During last week's televised debate, Lee Jae-myung labelled Kim as "Yoon Suk Yeol's avatar," while Kim called Lee a "harbinger of monster politics and dictatorship." Lee Jun-seok faced withering public criticism after he used graphic references to women's bodies to criticize Lee Jae-myung's son over his purported sexually explicit online slur targeting a female singer.

Unlike past elections, North Korea's nuclear program hasn't emerged as a hot-button topic, suggesting that most candidates share a view that South Korea has few immediate ways to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons. Dealing with Trump's aggressive tariffs policy hasn't been a divisive issue either.



From left: South Korea's presidential candidates, Kim Moon Soo of the People Power Party, Kwon Young-guk of the Democratic Labor Party, Lee Jun-seok of the New Reform Party and Lee Jae-myung of the Democratic Party pose for photograph ahead of a televised presidential debate for the upcoming June 3 presidential election at SBS studio in Seoul, on May 18. (AP)

Lat/Am

**Mexico rehab center fire kills 12:** A fire in a drug rehabilitation center in the violence-plagued Mexican state of Guanajuato killed 12 people and injured at least three others, authorities said Sunday.

The fire broke out early Sunday in the town of San Jose Iturbe, where the municipal government said it was still investigating what caused the deadly blaze.

"We express our solidarity with the families of those who have been killed while they tried to overcome addictions," the municipal government said in a statement, adding that it will help to pay for the funeral expenses of those killed.

Mexican media outlets reported that the victims of the fire had been locked up inside the rehab center. Mexico's president is **Claudia Sheinbaum**.

Mexico's privately run drug rehabilitation centers are often abusive, clandestine, unregulated and underfunded. They have been the targets of similar attacks in the past.

The industrial and agricultural state of Guanajuato has for years been the scene of a bloody turf battle between the Jalisco New Generation Cartel and a local gang, the Santa Rosa de Lima Cartel. Guanajuato has the highest number of homicides of any state in Mexico.

Mexican drug gangs have killed suspected street-level dealers from rival gangs sheltering at rehab facilities in the past.

In 2020, gunmen shot to death 27 people at rehab center in another city in Guanajuato, Irapuato. In 2010, 19 people were killed in an attack on a rehab center in Chihuahua, a city in northern Mexico. More than a dozen other attacks on such facilities occurred in the decade between those massacres. (AP)

**Guatemala court convicts 3 ex-paramilitaries:** More than four decades after Guatemalan soldiers and paramilitaries raped Indigenous women during their efforts to crush an insurgency in the country's 36-year civil war, a court convicted three men of crimes against humanity for their actions and sentenced them to 40 years in prison.

Thirty-six women from the Maya Achi Indigenous group came forward in 2011 to seek justice for the abuses they suffered between 1981 and 1985. They came from Rabinal, a small town about 55 miles (88 kms) north of the capital.

Six of them testified against the three men convicted Friday.

Judge Maria Eugenia Castellanos, president of the panel, said the women had been brave to come on repeated occasions to testify. "They are crimes of solitude that stigmatize the woman. It is not easy to speak of them," she said.

Judge Marling Mayela González Arrivillaga said there was no doubt about the women's testimony.

In 2022, five other paramilitaries - men from the area trained by soldiers to help root out insurgents - were convicted of raping women and sentenced to 30 years in prison. No soldiers have been tried for the acts.

Guatemala's civil war pitted the army and police against leftist rebels. It ended with the signing of peace accords in 1996. (AP)



Sheinbaum

Somalia president sets date for unity conference to enhance reforms

MOGADISHU, June 2, (Xinhua): Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud announced on Sunday that a consultative forum bringing together political and civil society leaders will be held in the capital, Mogadishu, on June 15 to help forge unity, strengthen peace and advance reforms in the country. Mohamud said the forum will convene politicians, government officials and community leaders to build consensus on key state-building priorities, including national security, democratization and electoral processes, completion of the constitution, national unity and political reconciliation.

According to a statement issued by the Presidency, the forum will offer Somali political stakeholders and civil society representatives an opportunity to chart a path forward on critical issues such as institutional governance and the ongoing fight against terrorism. The initiative follows weeks of consultations led by the president with former national leaders, federal member state authorities, political parties and civil society actors.

The Presidency said that the forum aims to find practical solutions to the country's pressing challenges and pave the way toward sustainable peace and development. This development comes after the president launched his new Justice and Solidarity Party on May 13 during a meeting with opposition leaders, as the country prepares for a shift in its electoral system. Political analysts said Somalia is preparing for an election in 2026, and that the formation of political parties and broad consensus-building around key priorities are essential steps toward that goal.



African Union peacekeepers from Uganda provide security as Somali lawmakers arrive to cast their vote in the presidential election, at the Halane military camp in Mogadishu, Somalia on May 15. (AP)



## Boursa Kuwait ends flat, general index up 0.01%

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait wrapped up Monday's trading session with its general index edging up by 1.03 points, or 0.01%, to close at 8,147.86 points. A total of 319.4 million shares changed hands across 20,120 transactions, with a turnover of KD 86.9 million (approximately

USD 266.7 million).

The Main Market Index declined by 55.75 points, or 0.79%, to settle at 6,958.43 points. Trading volume reached 139.16 million shares across 8,524 transactions, generating KD 17.3 million (USD 53.11 million) in value.

# Business

## Encompassing a group of innovative workshops and training programs

## NBK signs MoU with AIU to enhance career development

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: National Bank of Kuwait signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the American International University to provide collaborative and innovative training programs and professional development workshops. Signing the memorandum were Mr. Emad Al-Ablani – Group Chief Human Resources Officer from NBK and Mr. Nael Alawadhi – Member of Board of Trustees from AIU with the attendance of officials from both institutions.

According to the agreement, AIU will invite NBK representatives to participate in training programs and workshops organized by the university, which stands as a remarkable chance for exchanging knowledge and experiences. Moreover, specialized training programs will be organized for NBK employees in collaboration with the Human Resources Department, further enhancing the partnership in the field of professional development and elevating professional competencies.

From its end, AIU will share its activities with the bank to explore sponsorship opportunities, and it will facilitate and prioritize NBK's access to campus to attend the different workshops and activities. AIU will also provide special care for students working part time at NBK by adjusting their schedules in line with their professional obligations, which reflects the two institutions' commitment to supporting continued education and profes-



Group photo NBK & AIU.

sional development.

This initiative comes as part of NBK's continued efforts to promote social responsibility and support education, as it firmly believes that investing in education is key to achieving a sustainable future, and it mirrors its dedication to collaborate with academic institutions to develop national professionals in line with Kuwait Vision 2035 and build a private sector-led economy that is diversified, sustainable, and underpinned by education, innovation, and technology.

On this occasion, Al-Ablani commented: "We strive to provide cutting-edge educational and training tools as per the latest international standards for competency develop-

ment and enable our employees to access a diversified educational content that imparts knowledge and necessary experiences to boost innovation and enhance sustainability."

Al-Ablani added: "We are proud of our long-standing relationships with all of Kuwait's educational and academic institutions that enable us to exchange training experiences and ultimately enhance professional competencies, as we are keen on aligning our own economic sustainability objectives with Kuwait's, and this relies heavily on providing training opportunities as per the highest international standards."

Al-Ablani also emphasized NBK's strong belief in education

and its essential role in shaping the future of society, further indicating that the collaboration with AIU confirms NBK's commitment to preparing a generation of competent leaders and innovators in different fields by motivating students and establishing a nurturing environment that promotes innovation and creativity.

Due to its essential role in affirming its leadership and excellence, NBK is remarkably keen on investing in its human capital by providing the best specialized programs as per international standards, presented by top banking experts who impart their knowledge, and transform professionals into future leaders.

## S&P GCC composite index is down by 2.4% in May 2025

# Kuwait equities rose in May, led by gains in Premier Market stocks: Markaz report

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" released its Monthly Market Review report for May 2025. Kuwait equity market was positive during May 2025, supported by strong corporate earnings for some companies and improvement in oil prices. Global markets were buoyed by signs of easing trade tensions. Oil prices increased for the month on the back of de-escalation of trade tensions even as supply concerns tempered gains.

Kuwait markets were positive in May 2025, led by gains in Premier Market stocks. Kuwait's All Share Index (price returns) gained 1.9% supported by positive corporate earnings for some companies. Consumer staples and oil and gas sectors were the top gainers, rising 16.2% and 6.9% respectively. The banking sector index increased 1.6% for the month. Among banking stocks, Burgan Bank and Warba Bank were the top gainers, rising 12.4% and 11.3% respectively during the month. Warba bank has increased its paid-up capital by 100% to KD 436.7 million. Warba Bank and Gulf Bank have initiated discussions to explore a potential merger of the two banks. This is Gulf Bank's third merger discussion following its earlier discussion with Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (2023) and Boubyan Bank (January 2025). Among Premier Market stocks, Jazeera Airways and Boursa Kuwait were the top gainers, rising 36.7% and 17.7% respectively. Jazeera Airways has reported a 274.8% y/y increase in its net profit for Q1 2025, totaling KD 4.7 million. The increase in passenger traffic and an increase in ancillary revenue after the introduction of new services and products supported growth in profits.

S&P has affirmed Kuwait's credit rating at A+ with stable outlook, citing strong public and external balance sheets, backed by significant stock of government financial assets. The agency expects Kuwait's fiscal deficit to remain high, averaging 8.9% of GDP between 2025 and 2028. However, the agency expects the fiscal deficit to decline 6% of GDP by 2028 from about 14% in 2025, due to higher oil revenue on the back of higher production and measures taken by the government to increase non-oil revenue.

The S&P GCC Composite index declined by 2.4% in May 2025 weighed by decline in Saudi equities. Saudi equity index declined by 5.8% during the month, amid decline in earnings for some majors like Saudi Aramco and SABIC, concerns on long-term impact of broader weakness in oil



Markaz logo

prices on government spending and 12% m/m decrease in the country's oil exports in March 2025. Saudi Telecom Company and Al Rajhi Bank's stock prices declined by 8.0% and 6.5% respectively for the month. flynas, Saudi Arabia's budget airline, has launched its IPO, seeking to raise SAR 3.9 billion (USD 1.0 billion) and SAR 4.1 billion (USD 1.1 billion). Abu Dhabi's equity index increased by 1.6% in May 2025, supported by gains in banking stocks. First Abu Dhabi Bank and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank gained 7.2% and 3.8% respectively for the month, likely due to continuing momentum from the positive earnings report last month. Dubai's equity index gained 3.3% for the month, supported by gains in blue chips. Emirates NBD gained 9.0% during the month. The bank has received in-principle regulatory approval to set up wholly owned subsidiary in India. It has also offered USD 6 to 7 billion in an all-cash deal for a 61% stake in India's government owned IDBI Bank. Qatar's equity markets were flat for the month.

Saudi Arabia's real GDP increased by 2.7% y/y in Q1 2025, supported by non-oil economic activity and government activity. The country's fiscal deficit rose to USD 15.65 billion in Q1 2025 from USD 3.30 billion in Q1 2024 due to an 18% y/y decline in oil revenues and a 5% y/y rise in expenditure. IPO proceeds across MENA region for Q1 2025 reached USD 21 billion, registering a 106% y/y rise, according to EY. Saudi Arabia had been the epicenter of activity with 12 of the 14 listings taking place in the country.

Global markets were positive during May 2025, supported by de-escalation of trade tensions. The MSCI World and S&P 500 indices rose by 5.7% and 6.2% respectively for the month. U.S. and China have agreed to pause levy of additional tariffs announced in April 2025 for 90 days and to also lower tariff levels. The U.S. and U.K. have also arrived at a trade deal to lower tariffs, giving room for optimism that U.S. might strike such

deals with other countries as well. Nasdaq 100 surged by 9.0% during the month on the back of strong earnings reports and expansion plans from tech companies. The MSCI EM index gained 4.0% during the month. Chinese equities rose by 2.1%, supported by easing trade tensions, stimulus measures, rate cuts and positive economic data. Indian equities also gained by 1.5% for the month, on the back of institutional interest and earnings momentum.

U.S. inflation stood at 2.3% y/y in April 2025, slightly down from 2.4% y/y reading in March 2025. The U.S. labor market added 177,000 jobs in April, down from 185,000 jobs added in March.

The yield on the 10-year US treasury notes rose by 24bps during the month to 4.41%. The U.S. Fed held rates steady in May 2025, citing an increased risk of inflation and unemployment and higher uncertainty around the economic outlook, in the backdrop of recent tariffs. Moody's has downgraded the U.S.' sovereign credit rating to Aa1 from Aaa, citing concerns on the growing debt of over USD 36 trillion due to increasing government expenditure and flat government revenues. The U.S. House of Representatives has also passed the tax and spending bill which would increase tax breaks and defence spending, weakening the country's fiscal position.

Oil (Brent) prices closed the month at USD 63.9 per barrel, rising by 1.2% during the month. While the easing of trade tensions lent support, concerns of rise in supply weighed on prices. In the backdrop of U.S. sanctions on Iran and ongoing discussions between the two countries on nuclear deal, easing of sanctions would enable Iran to re-enter oil market. This would add 400,000 bpd to the global crude supply. OPEC+ is also widely expected to continue to hike output in July 2025. Gold prices closed at USD 3,289, closing flat for the month, maintaining its YTD gain of 25.4%.

While expected de-escalation of trade tensions had supported markets during the month, further developments on trade relations between U.S.-China and U.S.-EU would continue to impact markets, with persisting concerns over economic outlook and inflation. While progress in trade relations and volatility in oil prices might continue to influence GCC markets, sustained momentum in non-oil economic activity and improvement in oil GDP are likely to support investor sentiments.

Program in collaboration with KFAS, NBK

## Zain completes TechEdge program to digitally empower Kuwaiti youth

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Zain announced the successful conclusion of its participation in the TechEdge program, one of the leading training initiatives focused on digitally empowering young talent. The program was held under the umbrella of Zain's Innovation Nation (IN) initiative, a strategic collaboration with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), and the National University of Singapore (NUS).

The program spanned several phases, starting locally in Kuwait, followed by virtual masterclasses, and culminating in a global learning experience hosted by NUS in Singapore. The initiative aimed to equip early-career Kuwaiti professionals with advanced technology skills through intensive workshops on artificial intelligence, data science, cybersecurity, cloud computing, software development, entrepreneurial thinking, and more.

Zain expressed its pride in the outstanding performance of its employees, Nada Ibrahim and Othman Al-Shammari, who demonstrated remarkable dedication and passion throughout the program. Both actively participated in real-world innovation challenges that bridged theory with practice. In recognition of their inspiring performance, they were honored by Zain Kuwait CEO Nawaf Al-Gharabally, CTO Daaij Al-Oud, and Chief Purpose & HR Officer Nawal Bourisli.

Commenting on the achievement, Nawal Bourisli said: "At Zain, we be-

lieve in the power of Kuwaiti youth to lead the future of the digital economy. Our support of the TechEdge program aligns with our strategy of investing in national talent through our broader Innovation Nation initiative, which reflects our long-term vision of equipping the next generation with the skills that are becoming the foundation of tomorrow's job market."

She added: "We take great pride in the success of this program and in the exceptional global experience it offered the participants in partnership with a prestigious academic institution like NUS. These types of initiatives embody our deep commitment to accelerating digital transformation, transferring private sector expertise, and fostering a culture of innovation in the workplace."

This program represents a strategic collaboration between the three institutions and falls within national efforts to contribute to the realization of the New Kuwait 2035 Vision, which aims to diversify the economy and drive innovation through increased reliance on digitalization.

The objectives of TechEdge align with Zain's strategic vision to empower talent, accelerate digital literacy, and cultivate a workplace environment built on innovation and sustainable growth. These goals are embodied in the Innovation Nation initiative, which has resulted in numerous successful projects over the past years and continues to cement Zain's leadership in driving Kuwait's innovation and digital transformation.



Nawaf Al-Gharabally honors Nada Ibrahim in the presence of Nawal Bourisli and Daaij Al-Oud.



Al-Gharabally honors Othman Al-Shammari in the presence of Bourisli and Al-Oud.



Ibrahim and Al-Shammari with fellow TechEdge participants in Singapore.

# Gulf Bank organizes cleanup of Qaruh Island's waters and shores with support from bank divers and Sawa'ed AlKhaleej volunteers

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: To mark World Turtle Day, Gulf Bank partnered with the Trashtag and Dive36 teams to organize an environmental cleanup campaign on Qaruh Island. The effort included the participation of the bank's divers and volunteers from 'Sawa'ed AlKhaleej,' working together to clean the island's waters and shores.

This campaign highlights Gulf Bank's continued dedication to protecting the marine environment and promoting a culture of sustainability within the community. The bank consistently works to launch and support initiatives that safeguard natural resources and increase environmental awareness. For Gulf Bank, environmental protection goes beyond volunteer efforts – it's a fundamental part of its corporate and social responsibility.

The campaign also reinforces Gulf Bank's active role in supporting both national and global efforts to tackle environmental challenges such as marine pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss. The Bank remains committed to embedding sustainability into its daily operations – from reducing resource consumption and advancing



Gulf Bank divers carry the flag underwater.

digital transformation to limit paper use, to backing environmental initiatives that engage and benefit the wider community.

Gulf Bank firmly believes that collaboration and environmental responsibility are essential to shaping a sustainable future. Initiatives like this

serve as a powerful reminder that meaningful change starts with a single step, and that each person and organization has a part to play in creating a cleaner, more balanced world.

The Bank extends its sincere appreciation to all the divers and employee volunteers who played a vital role in

the success of this campaign, reaffirming its unwavering commitment to advancing environmental sustainability across Kuwait and beyond.

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 commit-

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



A group photo of the divers from the Gulf Bank's employees and the Sawa'ed AlKhaleej team.



A special greeting for Hajj pilgrims departing to Makkah

# stc surprises Hajj pilgrims at Kuwait International Airport

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, surprised passengers at Kuwait International Airport’s Terminal 4 departing to Makkah to complete the Hajj pilgrimage with special hospitality. The initiative, organized in collaboration with Kuwait International Airport and the Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Incheon Korea for Airports Services- T4, for the 4th year in a row, comes as part of the activities organized under stc’s extensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) program in support of the community.

Representatives from stc, in collaboration with the staff of Kuwait International Airport and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Incheon Korea for Airports Services T4, welcomed departed Hejaj to Makkah with coffee and dates. stc’s special



A group photo of the company's staff with officials from Incheon Korea.

greetings comes as a reoccurring initiative that the Company organizes in recognition of this special time of the



stc's participation in bidding farewell to the pilgrims.

With community focus as a key pillar of its extensive CSR program, stc has built

a strong network of partners that have helped expand its reach and broaden its initiatives to support Kuwaiti society.

As a pioneer in Kuwait’s telecom sector, stc believes in the crucial role that companies play in empowering the community and strengthening the economy. By implementing its CSR strategy, stc spares no effort in achieving its objectives to positively impact society. The Company will continue to form fruitful collaborations and strategic partnerships with local entities and businesses of various sizes, creating a larger lasting impact.

In this regard, stc extends its gratitude to Kuwait International Airport, DGCA, and Incheon Korea for Airports Services T4 and all those who contributed to arranging the special initiative. The Company also highlighted that it will continue to show its support and dedication to the community by organizing, participating or sponsoring initiatives that align with its strategic CSR objectives and pillars.

## Branches closed June 5–9

ABK extends Eid Al Adha greetings to Kuwait’s Leadership and people

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) extends its greetings to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as well as the government, people, and residents of Kuwait on the occasion of Eid Al Adha, hoping it bestows an abundance of blessings.

ABK discloses that its branches will be closed from Thursday, 5 June 2025 to Monday, 9 June 2025, to resume operations on Tuesday, 10 June 2025. During this time, ABK’s newly launched digital branch in Al Khiran mall will be functional to service customers from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Bank has also confirmed its full operational readiness to serve customers 24/7 via its various digital platforms throughout the holiday. This includes On-line Banking via eahli.com, Mobile Banking through the ABK app, as well as the Bank’s call center Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 and its ATM network.



Eid Greeting

Delivery available for private banking

## KFH offers Eidiyah through KFH-Online, KFH Express, & branches

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the availability of new Eidiyah banknotes in various denominations through KFH-Online, KFH Express e-branches, and its branches across Kuwait. Additionally, delivery services are available for certain customer segments. This initiative aligns with the bank’s commitment to community engagement during various occasions and holidays, by providing diverse and accessible communication channels. This enables KFH to remain close to its customers, wherever they are.

KFH Executive Manager Digital Channels, Meshal Mandani, said that Eidiyah service will be available at KFH Express e-Branches in the following co-ops (Ishbiliya, Jabriya, Mangaf, Al Salam, Abu Futaira, and Sabah Al-Ahmad). In addition, this service will also be available on June 4th and 5th at the KFH Auto Shuwaikh showroom and the Kuwait Airport branch.

He further noted that customers can transfer Eidiyah via KFHOnline app (using WAMD service and KFH Pay links). This e-service will be available starting from the first day of Eid Al-Adha. In addition, the Eidiyah delivery service to Private Banking and Pre-



Meshal Mandani

mium customers has already started, based on their specific denomination needs and in line with the distinctive nature of this customer segment.

Mandani stated that KFH has offered the Eidiyah delivery service to its Private Banking and Premium customers through their dedicated Relationship Managers, according to the amounts requested by each segment.

He explained that KFH has ensured the availability of Eidiyah across its branches, offering various denominations to cater to all segments of customers. through all available channels.

## Damascus stock exchange re-opens after six-month closure

DAMASCUS, June 2, (AP): Trading resumed on the Damascus Securities Exchange Monday after a six-month closure, as Syria’s new leaders attempt to shore up the country’s battered economy and begin rebuilding after nearly 14 years of civil war.

The stock exchange had closed during the chaotic days leading up to the ouster of former President Bashar Assad in a lightning rebel offensive.

Syrian Finance Minister Mohammed Yisr Barnieh, who attended the reopening, said that it signals that the country’s economy is beginning to recover and that the stock exchange “will operate as a private company and serve as a genuine hub for Syria’s economic development, with a strong focus on digital,” state-run news agency SANA reported.

He said the country’s new leaders plan to “facilitate business operations and open doors to promising investment opportunities.”

The move to reopen comes as international restrictions on Syria’s financial systems begin to ease. The United States and Europe both last month announced the lifting of a wide raft of sanctions that had been slapped on Syria under the Assad dynasty’s rule.

Last week, Syria inked a power deal worth \$7 billion with a consortium of Qatari, Turkish and U.S. companies for development of a 5,000-megawatt energy project to revitalize much of Syria’s war-battered electricity grid.

The consortium led by Qatar’s UCC Concession Investments - along with Power International USA and Turkey’s Kalyon GES Enerji Yatirimlari, Cengiz Enerji - will develop four combined-cycle gas turbines with a total generating capacity estimated at approximately 4,000 megawatts and a 1,000-megawatt solar power plant.

# Warba Bank bids farewell to Hajj pilgrims with gifts at Kuwait International Airport

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: As part of its annual activity during the Hajj season, Warba Bank bid farewell to pilgrims traveling to the Masjid al-Haram in Makkah with gifts and hospitality at Kuwait International Airport, specifically at Terminal 4, wishing them a blessed and smooth journey.

This initiative falls under the bank’s corporate social responsibility program and reflects its commitment to sharing religious and national occasions with its clients and community. It also embodies Warba’s human-centered approach inspired by Islamic values and social solidarity, particularly during the sacred Hajj season, which holds a profound place in the hearts of Muslims. Pilgrims expressed their gratitude for this thoughtful gesture, which uplifted their spirits and created a warm, faith-filled farewell experience. They praised the bank’s attention and spirit of care.

On this occasion, Director Marketing and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, said: “We are committed at Warba Bank to being part of the meaningful moments our community



Warba Bank - Farewell to Pilgrims.

experiences. We take pride in sending off pilgrims every year with gifts as a symbolic gesture of appreciation and heartfelt prayers for an accepted pilgrimage and sincere efforts. This initiative reflects our Islamic values and social responsibility that places people

at the heart of everything we do.”

Al-Mutairi added that Warba Bank continues to launch unique initiatives in line with its identity rooted in Islamic Sharia principles and its motto, “Let’s Own Tomorrow.” He emphasized the bank’s focus on supporting

events and initiatives that promote religious and social values while reinforcing its ongoing commitment to community impact.

Guided by its motto “Let’s Own Tomorrow,” Warba Bank aims to set new benchmarks for the future of Islamic banking, redefining customer experiences and contributing to the development of a sustainable and inclusive financial ecosystem. As one of the fastest-growing Islamic banks in Kuwait, Warba remains steadfast in its commitment to excellence, sustainability, and innovation, cementing its role as a trusted partner for individuals and businesses alike.

Warba Bank has achieved remarkable success in a short period, establishing a leading position in the field of digital Islamic banking. With one of the largest shareholder bases among local banks, Warba has built a close connection with all segments of society. This achievement further reinforces the bank’s standing as a reliable financial partner that combines innovation and social responsibility to deliver superior financial services and products.

## Trade war and rising oil supplies weigh on crude prices

By National Bank of Kuwait

Worries over the health of the global economy amid escalating trade protectionism together with an accelerated unwind of OPEC+ output cuts pushed Brent crude to a four-year low of \$60/bbl in early May – though prices have risen off their lows. Responding to the weaker economic outlook, the IEA downgraded its 2025 oil demand growth projections to a multi-year low of 740 kb/d, which, in the context of faster OPEC+ supply increases and rising non-OPEC flows, risks a supply glut over the medium term. This is the central downside risk to oil prices, signaled by weaker oil futures and a spate of downward price revisions by forecasting agencies. Providing some upside potential is the prospect of supply disruptions from more stringent US sanctions on Iran and Venezuela or a de-escalation in the global trade tariff conflict.

**Markets:** Trade tariffs and oversupply concerns push prices down to four-year lows from April

Largely unchanged in Q1, benchmark oil prices have dropped precipitously so far in Q2, after President Trump’s “Liberation Day” tariff deluge on US trading partners and OPEC+’s decision to accelerate the pace of its supply cut unwinding schedule. Brent fell to four-year lows in April, shedding 15% by the close of the month, the steepest monthly decline since November 2021, and then dropped further to \$60.2 earlier in May. The marker has since struggled to break out of the low-to-mid-60s range, though President Trump’s decision to slash tariffs on Chinese goods for 90-days did lift prices marginally.

Prices are now ranging around \$64/bbl, caught between bearish sentiment linked to unexpected crude inventory builds in the US and a third consecutive month of schedule-busting OPEC+ supply hikes on the one hand, and falling US oil rig counts and pessimism surrounding the prospects for a new Iran nuclear deal that would satisfy both the US and Iran on the other. President Trump’s “maximum pressure” strategy vis-à-vis Iran and threat to impose even more stringent sanctions on the country’s energy exports has been one of the few bullish impulses for oil prices and could puncture the negative sentiment that has befallen the oil market in 2025. The pessimism has also been evident in the formation of a curious anomaly in Brent’s forward curve: while the front end of the curve has been ‘backwardated’ (near-term prices higher than prices in the future), later month prices have shifted into a contango structure that see prices rising over earlier months. This so-called ‘smiley’ structure is fairly unprecedented and appears to signal that markets believe summer oil demand will be healthy enough to keep prices firm in the short term but insufficient to prevent a surplus and stock builds later on. And this is due to the potent combination of trade-tariff linked macroeconomic weakness and accelerating OPEC+ supply especially.

Meanwhile, the bullish speculator positions that had built up in Q1 quickly reversed in Q2 amid the spike in risk and uncertainty that followed April’s tariff onslaught and OPEC+’s accelerated resupply timetable. ‘Net length’, the difference between the number of ‘long’ (betting on prices rising) and ‘short’ contracts (positions staked on prices falling) declined by 155,838 lots w/w in the week-ending 4 April, the sharpest drop in the available data. Net length has recovered slightly more recently as hedge funds view some upside risk in US-Iran nuclear talks failing to progress.

**Oil demand:** Growth at slowest since pandemic on tariff-linked trade dislocations

Near-term oil demand growth was revised sharply lower following the escalation of the trade war



between the US and China. The International Energy Agency (IEA), taking its cue from the earlier downgrade by the IMF to global GDP growth in 2025 (and beyond), has lowered its forecast for oil demand growth this year to 740 kb/d and 760 kb/d in 2026. This is the weakest rate of growth since pandemic-affected 2020. The IEA pegs total oil demand at 105 mb/d in 2025. OPEC lowered its demand growth forecast by a less severe 150 kb/d to 1.3 mb/d for both years. OPEC cites higher petrochemical production, solid road and air mobility as well as robust industrial activity in support of its more bullish oil demand growth projection compared to peers. This would also not be incongruous with its recent policy of fast-tracking the unwinding of members’ voluntary supply cuts.

**Supply:** OPEC+ accelerates output cut unwinding for May, June and July; US peak production on the horizon

Despite broad demand-side worries, OPEC+ surprised the markets by accelerating the pace of unwind of 2.2 mb/d in voluntary output cuts by the ‘OPEC-8’ (which includes Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, UAE, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Oman) from 131 kb/d per month from April to 411 kb/d in May and then again for both June and July. The move was ostensibly framed as a bid to ‘punish’ serial quota violators, such as Kazakhstan and Iraq, for failing to cut production in line with their quota obligations and compensatory cut promises. The Saudis hoped the fiscal discomfort of freefalling oil prices would bring about the discipline that has so far been absent among these overproducing members.

Part of the deal was that overproducing members would in good faith compensate for their non-compliance by cutting production according to a mutually agreed timetable thereby offsetting some of the supply that was about to be released. According to OPEC secondary sources, the average aggregate volume of OPEC-8 compensatory cuts required as ‘payback’ for members’ overproduction from January 2024 to March 2025 is 305 kb/d, which would have easily offset the 131 kb/d of monthly incremental production OPEC-8 had originally planned. This would have resulted in a de-facto output cut. That said, in April, the first month in the schedule that called for higher OPEC-8 supply, monthly supply gains from the group, at 23 kb/d, fell far short of the 131 kb/d that had been planned. Only four of the eight producers – Saudi, the UAE, Oman and Russia – increased production. Despite lowering output in April, Kazakhstan and Iraq were once again producing well above their respective quotas never mind honoring compensatory cut pledges. Declaration of Cooperation (DOC) production (excluding quota-exempt Iran, Libya, Venezuela and Mexico) fell slightly in April to 30.0 mb/d (-17 kb/d).

In the US, crude production hovered near record levels of 13.4 mb/d by mid-May, as per Energy In-

formation Administration (EIA) data. Following the plunge in oil prices and the downturn in global macroeconomic prospects, the EIA lowered its forecast for US crude oil output growth this year by nearly half to 208 kb/d, the slowest rate of expansion since 2021. For 2026, growth is expected to decelerate even further to just 82 kb/d as producers pull back on activity amid lower oil prices. According to a Dallas Fed energy survey, the average breakeven price in the shale patch to drill a new oil well is around \$65/bbl, several dollars above the current price of West Texas Intermediate.

US shale firms have also been grappling with the challenges of rising gas-to-oil and water-to-oil ratios, which are straining infrastructure and raising operational costs. The EIA is projecting US crude oil production to peak in 2027 at 14 mb/d, with shale oil production topping out at 10 mb/d before declining through to 2050. The recent decline in oil prices is also weighing on broader non-DoC production, prompting downgrades to the outlook, though at an estimated 1.3 mb/d this year according to the IEA, supply growth is still well outpacing demand growth. This is being driven by higher production in Brazil, Guyana, and Canada as well as in the US. For 2026, however, the IEA sees non-DoC supply growth lagging demand growth, at 820 kb/d.

**Market balance and price outlook:** Risks tilted to the downside amid a scarcity of upside catalysts

Weaker oil demand prospects due to trade tariff-linked global macroeconomic headwinds and rising supply both from OPEC+ and non-OPEC+ producers, are weighing heavily on market sentiment and by extension oil prices. The fundamentals are signaling a loosening oil market that will shift from a slight supply deficit last year to a pronounced surplus in 2025. The IEA estimates the ‘call’ on OPEC+ (the volume of OPEC+ crude needed to balance the market after accounting for demand and non-OPEC supply) to be in the region of 41.2 mb/d on average in 2025. OPEC+ was already pumping significantly above the IEA’s estimate for the call in Q1 2025 (+800 kb/d) before the group decided to ramp up output in April. And the increase in OECD commercial crude stocks in March was beginning to reflect that. (Chart 7.) With OPEC-8 seemingly pressing ahead with a more rapid resupply pace, that buffer will quickly erode. Assuming no change to current OPEC-8 policy and no offsetting compensatory cuts, the entirety of 2023-2024’s 2.2 mb/d of supply cuts would have been unwound by October 2025 (rather than the original late 2026), pushing the market into firm surplus territory, averaging 1.4 mb/d, according to our calculations. Risks to our standing oil price forecast of \$70/bbl (2025 and 2026) are increasingly concentrated to the downside, barring significant supply-side geopolitical disruptions such as tighter Iran sanctions or, on the demand side, an upturn in global economic prospects, perhaps by a rolling back of trade tariffs.



Agreement establishes framework for collaborative efforts

# Al-Tijaria signs strategic MoU with CSCEC to collaborate on government-tendered development projects in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Commercial Real Estate Company (Al-Tijaria), one of Kuwait's leading real estate companies, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd. (CSCEC), a global construction giant based in China, to jointly explore and collaborate on a range of strategically selected development projects tendered by governmental authorities in Kuwait.

This agreement establishes the framework for collaborative efforts in conducting technical and financial feasibility studies during the bidding phase with CSCEC, who will perform these services in the capacity of the prospective construction contractor, subject to the viability of the project and the successful award of the contract. The partnership also outlines a framework for CSCEC to potentially invest in the projects alongside Al-Tijaria – subject to regulatory and authority approvals.

CSCEC, in its capacity as the contractor, may also extend its support by introducing potential lenders to facilitate project financing arrangements on competitive terms.

**CEO of Al-Tijaria, Eng. Abdulmutaleb Marafie, commented:**

"This MOU marks a significant step in our strategy to en-

gage in public-private development opportunities in Kuwait. Partnering with CSCEC enables us to strengthen our technical and financial preparation during the bidding process and the execution upon award. Their global expertise and strong regional presence support our vision to develop large-scale real estate projects aligned with Kuwait Vision 2040. We are proud to work alongside one of the world's largest and most capable engineering and contracting firms."

**Mr. Ji Tao, General Manager of CSCEC in Kuwait, stated:**

"We are honored to collaborate with Al-Tijaria, a pioneer in Kuwait's real estate sector. Our goal is to share our global experience and technical capabilities to support the success of development projects in Kuwait and contribute to the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035. Al-Tijaria's strong market presence and proven track record make it a highly capable partner for such ongoing development initiatives"

Al-Tijaria and CSCEC will continue to collaborate in good faith throughout the preparatory and bidding phases followed by implementation, in the best interest of shareholders and in alignment with applicable regulatory requirements.

**About Al Tijaria**

Established in 1968, is a listed company in Kuwait Boursa and was promoted to Premier market in 2023 and was included into FTSE Russell Index in September 2024.

With one of the largest paid-up capitals in real estate sector of Kuwait and a solid business activity base in Kuwait featuring multiple prestigious office, residential, hospitality, commercial & entertainment projects, Al Tijaria has diversified and expanded its footprints both regionally in GCC and globally into MENA, USA and Europe through strategic investments into recurring assets as well as development projects.

**About CSCEC**

China State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd. (CSCEC) is one of the world's largest investment and construction groups with a global footprint across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and beyond. With a diversified portfolio including infrastructure, high-rise buildings, real estate development and smart cities, CSCEC is a leader in delivering complex and iconic projects across the globe.

In 2024, CSCEC ranked No. 14 in the Fortune Global 500, No. 4 on the list of China's top 500 companies, and topped Engineering News Record's (ENR) Top 250 Global Contractors list. CSCEC also maintains the highest credit rating in the global construction industry.



The two sides after signing the MoU

## Contributing to unique joy of Eid Al-Adha and expanding on year-long 'Teach Them Young' CSR campaign

# Burgan Bank provides 'Eidya' across all branches and ATMs to support the 'Eidity' campaign in collaboration with CBK

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: With the approach of Eid Al-Adha, Burgan Bank is committed to supporting the 'Eidity' campaign in collaboration with the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), and KNET. Driven by the Bank's digital transformation strategy and adoption of digital banking solutions, customers will be able to easily send and receive Eidya digitally in a swift and secure manner. This reflects Burgan Bank's steadfast commitment to delivering a consistent banking experience and offering convenient services, espe-

cially during holidays.

As part of the campaign, customers will have the opportunity to withdraw Eidya in any KD denomination of their choice starting June 1st at 26 Burgan Bank branches, and from June 3rd at 14 ATMs strategically located throughout Kuwait, including shopping malls and the airport. In addition, customers can use the instant payment service WAMD through the Bank's mobile banking application to transfer the Eidya. For more information about the branch locations and ATMs, customers can refer to the Bank's



A flyer of 'Teach The Young' CSR campaign.

official website and social media platforms.

The support for the 'Eidity' campaign also aligns with the Bank's continued efforts to instill the culture of savings and financial literacy, under the umbrella of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) campaign "Teach Them Young the Value of Savings" and its continued backing of the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) campaign, launched by CBK and KBA in collaboration with local banks.

Since its launch in 2020, the Eidity initiative has been warmly em-

braced by customers, as it facilitates the continuity of the Kuwaiti tradition of sharing Eidya among family members. This Eid Al-Adha, Burgan Bank will continue to offer its Elite customers a complimentary Eidya delivery service, in collaboration with Peacock Concierge.

As a proactive and engaged corporate citizen, Burgan Bank continues to participate in and support all initiatives organized by CBK and KBA, contributing to the elevation and advancement of the Kuwaiti banking sector and the banking experience it offers its customers.

# Global shares slide as Russia-Ukraine war, OPEC+ output plan push oil prices higher

U.S. dollar falls to 142.91 Japanese yen

**HONG KONG, June 2, (AP):** Global shares sank on Monday and oil prices jumped as trade tensions and the Russian-Ukraine conflict ratcheted up geopolitical uncertainty.

The future for the S&P 500 lost 0.5% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average gave up 0.4%.

Germany's DAX retreated 0.4% to 23,891.11 and the CAC 40 in Paris declined 0.5% to 7,712.40.

British FTSE 100 gained 1% to 8,778.84.

In Asia, Hong Kong's Hang Seng initially plunged more than 2% as Beijing and Washington traded harsh words over trade. U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement that he will double tariffs on steel and aluminum to 50% layered on still more worries for investors.

But the Hang Seng closed just

0.6% lower, at 23,157.97. Markets in mainland China were closed for a holiday.

China blasted the U.S. for issuing AI chip export control guidelines, stopping the sale of chip design software to China, and planning to revoke Chinese student visas.

A report over the weekend that China's factory activity contracted in May, although the decline slowed from April as the country reached a deal with the U.S. to slash President Donald Trump's sky-high tariffs, further undermined market sentiment.

Oil prices rallied after OPEC+ decided on a modest increase in output beginning in July. It was the third monthly increase in a row.

U.S. benchmark crude oil gained \$2.08 to \$62.87 per barrel, while Brent crude, the international standard, was up \$1.75 at \$64.53 per barrel.

Moscow pounded Ukraine with

missiles and drones just hours before a new round of direct peace talks in Istanbul and a Ukrainian drone attack destroyed more than 40 Russian planes deep in Russia's territory, Ukraine's Security Service said on Sunday.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 0.6% to 23,157.97 as China and the U.S. accused each other of breaching their tariff agreement reached in Geneva last month.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 lost 1.3% to 37,470.67, while the Kospi in Seoul added 0.1% to 2,698.97.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 retreated 0.2% to 8,414.10.

India's Sensex lost 0.4% while the Taixen in Taiwan fell 1.6%.

On Friday, Wall Street closed its best month since 2023. The S&P 500 retreated less than 0.1% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average edged 0.1% higher. The Nasdaq composite fell 0.3%.

Hopes had largely been rising



A dealer walks past a screen showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) at a dealing room of Hana Bank in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, June 2, 2025. (AP)

that the worst of such worries had passed, which in turn sent stocks rallying, after Trump paused his

Trump's sweeping tariffs. That all sent the S&P 500 in May to its first winning month in four and its best since November.

But the tariffs remain in place while the White House appeals the ruling by the U.S. Court of International Trade, and the ultimate outcome is still uncertain.

In the bond market, Treasury yields eased after a report showed that the measure of inflation that the Federal Reserve likes to use was slightly lower in April than economists expected.

A separate report from the University of Michigan said that sentiment among U.S. consumers was better in May than economists expected. Sentiment improved in the back half of the month after Trump paused many of his tariffs on China.

In currency trading early Monday, the U.S. dollar fell to 142.91 Japanese yen from 143.87 yen. The euro inched up to \$1.1421 from \$1.1351.

## Visit follows after the signing of an executive order

# Trump officials are visiting Alaska to discuss a gas pipeline and oil drilling

JUNEAU, Alaska, June 2, (AP): The Trump administration is sending three Cabinet members to Alaska this week as it pursues oil drilling in the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and reinvigorating a natural gas project that's languished for years.

The visit by Department of Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, Energy Secretary Chris Wright and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin comes after Trump signed an executive order earlier this year aimed at boosting oil and gas drilling, mining and logging in Alaska. It also comes amid tariff talks with Asian countries that are seen as possible leverage for the administration to secure investments in the proposed Alaska liquefied natural gas project.

Their itinerary includes a meeting Sunday with resource development groups and U.S. Sens. Dan Sullivan and Lisa Murkowski in Anchorage before heading to Utqiagvik, an Arctic town on the petroleum-rich North Slope where many Alaska Native leaders see oil development as economically vital to the region.

The federal officials also plan to visit the Prudhoe Bay oil field Monday - near the coast of the Arctic Ocean and more than 850 miles (1,368 kilometers) north of Anchorage - and speak at Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy's annual energy



The Kaktovik Lagoon and the Brooks Range mountains of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are seen in Kaktovik, Alaska, Oct. 15, 2024. (AP)

conference Tuesday in Anchorage.

While it's not unusual for U.S. officials to visit Alaska during warmer weather months, Dunleavy's office said the officials' visit is significant. Dunleavy, a Trump ally, said he is thankful for an administration that "recognizes Alaska's unique value."

Government and industry representatives from a number of Asian countries, including Japan, are expected to participate in a portion of the trip, reflecting

pressure from the U.S. to invest in the pipeline - despite skepticism and opposition from environmental groups.

In Alaska, some environmentalists criticized the agenda for Dunleavy's conference. Highlighting fossil fuels alongside renewable or alternative energy make "energy sources of the past look more legitimate at a conference like this," said Andy Moderow, senior policy director with the Alaska Wilderness League.

# Increase in steel tariffs could imperil Trump promise of lower grocery prices

NEW YORK, June 2, (AP): President Donald Trump's doubling of tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum could hit Americans in an unexpected place: grocery aisles.

The announcement Friday of a staggering 50% levy on those imports stoked fear that big-ticket purchases from cars to washing machines to houses could see major price increases. But those metals are so ubiquitous in packaging, they're likely to pack a punch across consumer products from soup to nuts.

"Rising grocery prices would be part of the ripple effects," says Usha Haley, an expert on trade and professor at Wichita State University, who added that the tariffs could raise costs across industries and further strain ties with allies "without aiding a long-term U.S. manufacturing revival."

Trump's return to the White House has come with an unrivaled barrage of tariffs, with levies threatened, added and, often, taken away, in such a whiplash-inducing frenzy it's hard to keep up. He insisted the latest tariff hike was necessary to "even further secure the steel industry in the U.S."

That promise, though, could be at odds with his pledge to reduce food costs.

Rising grocery prices, Trump has said, were among the biggest reasons voters swung his way. A look around a supermarket makes clear how many products could be impacted by new taxes on steel and aluminum, from beer and soda to dog food to can after can of beans, fruit, tomato paste and more.

"It plays into the hands of China and other foreign canned food producers, which are more than happy to undercut American farmers and food producers," insists Can Manufacturers Institute president Robert Budway. "Doubling the steel tariff will further increase the cost of canned goods at the grocery store."

Budway says production by domestic tin mill steel producers, whose products are used in cans, have dramatically decreased in recent years, making manufacturers reliant on imported materials. When those prices go up, he says, "the cost is levied upon millions of American families."

Food companies were already warily assessing the administration's tariffs before the latest hike, which Trump said would go into effect on Wednesday. The Campbell Co.,



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

whose soup cans are a staple for millions of Americans, has said it was working to mitigate the impact of tariffs but may be forced to raise prices. ConAgra Brands, which puts everything from cans of Reddi-Whip to cooking sprays like Pam on supermarket shelves, likewise has pointed to the impact steel and aluminum tariffs have.

"We can't get all of our materials from the US because there's no supply," ConAgra CFO David Marberger said at a recent Goldman Sachs conference on global staples.

Beyond the obvious products - canned foods like tuna, chicken broth and cranberry sauce - economists warn of a spillover effect that tariffs can have on a gamut of items. If the cost to build a store or buy a truck to haul food rise, the prices of products may follow.

Most Americans will never buy a tractor, but Babak Hafezi, who runs a global consulting firm and teaches international business at American University, says a price spike in such a big-ticket item vital to food production will spill down to all sorts of other items.



**'Karate Kid: Legends' opens strong****'Lilo & Stitch' becomes 2nd highest-grossing film of 2025**

LOS ANGELES, June 2, (AP): "Lilo & Stitch" and "Mission: Impossible—The Final Reckoning" dominated the box office charts again after fueling a record-breaking Memorial Day weekend. Theaters in the US and Canada had several new films to offer this weekend as well, including Sony's family friendly "Karate Kid: Legends" and the A24 horror movie "Bring Her Back." According to studio estimates Sunday, it added up to a robust \$149 million post-holiday weekend that's up over 120% from the same timeframe last year.

Disney's live-action hybrid "Lilo & Stitch" took first place again with \$63 million from 4,410 locations in North America. It was enough to pass "Sinners" to become the second-highest grossing movie of the year with \$280.1 million in domestic ticket sales. Globally, its running



This image shows Maia Kealoha, (left), and Sydney Agudong in a still from the film 'Lilo & Stitch.' (AP)

total is \$610.8 million. "Sinners," meanwhile, is still going strong in its seventh weekend with another \$5.2 million, bumping it to \$267.1 million domestically and \$350.1 million globally.

The eighth "Mission: Impossible" movie also repeated in second place, with \$27.3 million from 3,861 locations. As with "Lilo & Stitch," that's down 57% from its opening. With \$122.6 million in domestic tickets

sold, it's performing in line with the two previous installments. But with a reported production budget of \$400 million, profitability is a ways off. Internationally, it added \$76.1 million (including \$25.2 million from China where it just opened), bringing its global total to \$353.8 million.

"This is the year of longterm playability," said Paul Dergarabedian, Comscore's senior media analyst. "The currency of word of mouth and the strong hold is more important than opening weekend dollars."

Leading the newcomers was Sony's "Karate Kid: Legends," with an estimated \$21 million from 3,809 locations. The movie brings Jackie Chan and Ralph Macchio together to train a new kid, the kung fu prodigy Li Fong (Ben Wang). Chan starred in a 2010 reboot of the 1984 original, while Macchio has found a new

generation of fans in the series "Cobra Kai," which just concluded a six-season run.

Reviews might have been mixed, but opening weekend audiences gave the PG-13 rated film a strong A- CinemaScore and 4.5 stars on PostTrak. It also only cost a reported \$45 million to produce and has several weeks until a new family-friendly film arrives. "Karate Kid: Legends" opened earlier internationally and has a worldwide total of \$47 million.

Fourth place went "Final Destination: Bloodlines," which earned \$10.8 million in its third weekend. The movie is the highest-grossing in the franchise, not accounting for inflation, with \$229.3 million globally.

The weekend's other big newcomer, "Bring Her Back" rounded out the top five with \$7.1 million from 2,449 screens. Starring Sally Hawkins as a

foster mother with some disturbing plans, the film is the sophomore feature of twin filmmakers Danny and Michael Philippou, who made the 2023 horror breakout "Talk to Me." It earned a rare-for-horror B+ CinemaScore and is essentially the only new film in the genre until "28 Years Later" opens on June 20.

A new Wes Anderson movie, "The Phoenix Scheme," also debuted in New York and Los Angeles this weekend, where it made \$270,000. It expands nationwide next weekend.

The summer box office forecast remains promising, though there's a long way to go to get to the \$4 billion target (a pre-pandemic norm that only the "Barbenheimer" summer has surpassed). The month of May is expected to close out with \$973 million - up 75% from May 2024, according to data from Comscore.

## Horror thriller

**A chilling portrait of grief in gory 'Brink Her Back'**

LOS ANGELES, June 2, (AP): Beware the quirky foster mother who introduces herself as a bit of a weirdo. That's how Laura (Sally Hawkins) cheerily greets the newly orphaned teenage siblings Andy and Piper in the new horror "Bring Her Back," which opened in theaters Friday.

The comment, more telling than the kids realize at the time, comes after Laura excitedly introduces Piper, who is non-sighted, to her dog. She thinks it's a good joke to not explain first that the animal is not alive.

The taxidermy is in fact the least weird thing about Laura. Australian filmmakers Michael and Danny Philippou, also behind the teen chiller debut "Talk to Me," have dreamed up a new nightmare of trauma, grief, resurrection and the deep failures of Australia's child protective services. That last part is not actually a prominent throughline in the film, but after witnessing what these kids endure in the brisk 104-minute runtime, you too might have some questions about that department's standard practices.

Many horror movies and stories have utilized non-seeing characters to enhance the suspense. "Bring Her Back" strives to make Piper (newcomer Sora Wong) more than a gimmick but a young woman trying to assert her independence - she refuses to use her cane, which she thinks makes everyone baby her.

Piper's main protector is her sweet and attentive older brother Andy (Billy Barratt). The film gives the audience a morsel of normality with these two before plunging us into the horror, first with the sudden death of their father, and then with the strange goings on at Laura's secluded home.

They're surprised when they arrive to find there's another child there as well: Olly (Jonah Wren Phillips), who is mute, deeply strange and, when not locked in his room, getting into bloody messes of his own making. If you're squeamish about gaping wounds and the full surround sound experience of their squishing and oozing, this might not be the movie for you. For those who delight in the crafts behind it all, the makeup and sound work here is truly top notch.

## Mystery

Like many of "Bring Her Back's" genre peers, the occult, nude older men and grainy VHS tapes also co-star in the proceedings. Laura, whose non-seeing daughter drowned recently, is particularly fixated on Piper and equally as dismissive of poor Andy.

While you can probably guess her endgame, the way it comes together is more of the point, and the Philippou twins certainly infuse the film with a fair amount of foreboding before anything truly deranged starts happening. It's a fun mystery to watch Laura's strange behavior, which one eventful day includes encouraging Andy to kiss his dead father on the lips ("it's custom"), getting the kids drunk and peeing in a measuring cup.

Andy, three months shy of 18, was not originally supposed to accompany his sister to the foster home. But he convinces the social worker to give him a chance until he can apply for legal guardianship. Unfortunately, Laura seems intent on driving him away. He already has lingering trauma from finding his dead father (and other things that will be revealed in time), and now there's this chipper, tiny woman ready to gaslight him into insanity. Barratt, who won acclaim for his portrayal of a 12-year-old accused of killing his mother's boyfriend in the British television film "Responsible Child," is excellent in a difficult role.

Hawkins, meanwhile, gets to be bigger and wilder with Laura, shedding the nurturing mothers of "Paddington" and "Wonka" for something defiantly disturbed. She's also got a few delightfully chilling lines that I won't spoil. And yet somehow Hawkins is also able to stay clear of campiness and make Laura, unhinged though she may be, the teeniest bit empathetic.

The film doesn't quite earn the emotional catharsis it seems to be striving for. It's a little too insane and also underdeveloped, especially Piper's character, to let the audience in on that level. But if you've come for unexpected scares and creativity, "Bring Her Back" will not disappoint.

"Bring Her Back," an A24 currently in theaters, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "some grisly images, language, graphic nudity, strong violent content, underage drinking. Running time: 104 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.



This image released by A24 shows Sally Hawkins in a scene from 'Bring Her Back.' (AP)

## Film



Justine Lupe arrives at an Academy of Arts & Sciences screening of 'Nobody Wants This' on Sunday, June 1, at Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles. (AP)

**Awards marks 25 years with star power****BET Awards to honor Carey, Dogg, Foxx and Franklin as ultimate icons**

LOS ANGELES, June 2, (AP): The BET Awards will celebrate its 25th anniversary by honoring four legendary performers - Mariah Carey, Snoop Dogg, Jamie Foxx and Kirk Franklin.

Carey, Snoop, Foxx and Franklin will receive the Ultimate Icon Award at next month's awards show, where Kendrick Lamar is the leading nominee.

BET says the Ultimate Icon recipients were selected due to their impact on entertainment as well as their community impact and advocacy.

Here's more to know about the show.

Lamar earned 10 nominations earlier this month, including an album of the year for his highly-acclaimed project "GNX." His ubiquitous diss track "Not Like Us," emanating from the Drake feud, received nominations for video of the year and viewer's choice award.

The rap megastar made waves with his Grammy triumph, winning song and record of the year for "Not Like Us." He followed up with a groundbreaking halftime show, becoming the first solo hip-hop performer to headline the coveted slot. He is currently on the Grand National Tour with SZA.

Doechii, Drake, Future and GloRilla tied for the second-most nominations with six. Metro Boomin pulled in five nods, while SZA and The Weeknd each scored four.

Rap icon Lil Wayne, rapper GloRilla and singer Teyana Taylor will hit the BET Awards stage.

The lineup of performers also includes rapper Playboi Carti and singer Leon Thomas.

Kevin Hart is expected to bring the funny as host of the awards show, celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The comedian-actor, who hosted the BET Awards in 2011, called this year's ceremony a "black-tie affair."

"It's a chance to reflect, cherish and honor life's unforgettable moments," Hart said in a statement. He has a history with the network, hosting "Comic View: One Night Stand" in 2008. He was an executive producer and one of the stars of "Real Husbands of Hollywood" and launched adult animated comedy "Lil Kev" on BET+.

The BET Awards will offer tributes to former popular hosts and performances, including the network's once-flagship program "106 & Park."

"'106 & Park' was more than just a music countdown show; it was the heartbeat of Black youth culture and one of the highest-rated BET programs for over a decade," said Scott Mills, BET's president and CEO. The weekday show launched in 2000 and lasted for more than a decade.

The show thrived with a video countdown, interviews and performances.

The show will reunite past hosts A.J. Calloway, Free, Julissa Bermudez, Keshia Chanté, Rocsi Diaz and Terrence J. The tribute will feature performers such as Bow Wow, Amerie, B2K, Jim Jones, Mya, T.I. and Mr. 106 & Park.

It is not yet known whether Carey, Snoop, Foxx and Franklin will receive individual tributes during the ceremony.

## Variety

**NEW YORK:** Harvey Weinstein doesn't plan to testify at his New York sex crimes retrial, his lawyer said Sunday. That means jurors soon will get the case against the former movie studio boss who propelled the #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct.



Weinstein

The trial will move on to closing arguments Tuesday without testimony from Weinstein, Arthur Aidala said Sunday night. The court handles other cases on Mondays.

It's unclear whether jury deliberations would begin Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday.

It was a fraught decision for Weinstein, who didn't testify at previous trials in New York and California and was convicted in both. He denies the allegations, and Aidala has said that Weinstein was carefully weighing whether to take the stand this time.

While his California appeal winds on, Weinstein won a new trial in his New York rape and sexual assault case when the state's highest court overturned his 2020 conviction.

He's charged in New York with assaulting Jessica Mann in 2013 and with separate incidents involving Miriam Haley and Kaja Sokola in 2006. Mann was an actor and hairstylist. Haley a production assistant and producer, and Sokola a model who aspired to an acting career.

All three women testified for days at the retrial, giving emotional and graphic accounts of what they say they endured. They said Weinstein suggested he'd help them achieve their show-business dreams, but then maneuvered them into private settings and preyed on them. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Ernie Johnson could barely get the words out.

The run of "Inside the NBA" on TNT came to an end on Saturday night after nearly four decades as a fixture of the league. The show will move to ESPN and ABC next season - and keep Johnson, Shaquille O'Neal, Kenny Smith and Charles Barkley together, still doing most shows from Atlanta - but the final TNT sign-off was an emotional one.

"I'm proud to say for the last time, 'Thanks for watching us. It's the NBA on TNT,'" Johnson said, before turning his back to the camera, placing his microphone on the desk and getting up from that set for the final time.

NBA games will not be airing on TNT starting next season when the league's new television package kicks in - an 11-year media rights deal worth at least \$76 billion, one that keeps games on ABC and ESPN, brings the league back to NBC and starts a new relationship with Amazon Prime Video.

ABC will broadcast the NBA Finals, meaning the end of the Eastern Conference finals between Indiana and New York was the end of TNT's run. Turner Sports first acquired an NBA package in 1984 and games were on TNT since the network launched in 1988.

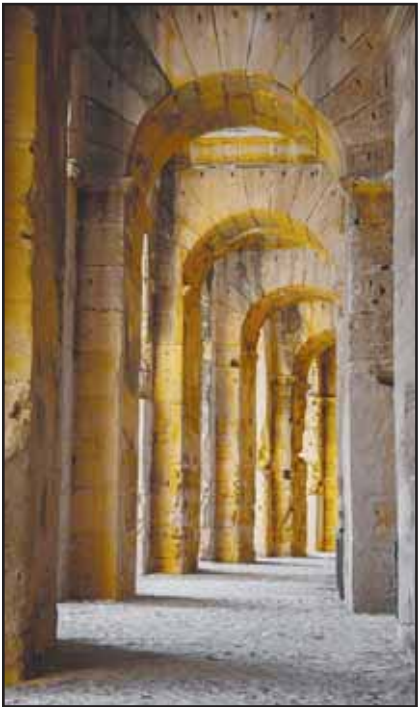
"Even though the name changes, the engine is still the same," O'Neal said during the final broadcast. "And to that new network we're coming to, we're not coming to (expletive) around. ... We're taking over, OK? I love you guys and I appreciate you guys."

The moment was not lost on Indiana coach Rick Carlisle. His team had just clinched a spot in the NBA Finals by beating New York, and when his brief interview with Johnson during the trophy ceremony was over, Carlisle grabbed the microphone out of the host's hands. (AP)





Audience enjoying a symphony at El Djem Palace amphitheater.



A side aisle dividing the audience sections overlooking the stage during the performances.



A view of the exterior of El Djem Palace.

KUNA photos

El Djem Palace, a historic symbol of Tunisia's ancient heritage

With its unique architectural design, the El Djem Palace, which dates back to 238 AD, continues to commemorate the legacy of one of the most important civilizations that passed through the land of Tunisia.

The palace, also known as the El Djem Colosseum,

has been classified as one of the most beautiful architectural landmarks, particularly renowned for its mosaic art.

Its well-preserved structure and vast area have made it the third-largest Roman amphitheater in the world, after the Colosseum of Rome and the Colosseum of

Capua in Italy. It is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

During the Roman era, the amphitheater served as an arena where gladiators mainly war captives faced wild beasts such as lions. It also hosted chariot races, with both the public and Roman nobility gathering to

watch these spectacles.

Today, the amphitheater has become a destination for renowned international artists and musicians. It hosts annual festivals and concerts by major global ensembles, especially those performing symphonies and jazz music. (KUNA)

Frequency School's global anthem amplifies voices from across the globe

Kuwaiti voice in Guinness World Record ‘195’ song

LOS ANGELES, June 2, (AP): The Frequency School set a new Guinness World Records title for “Most nationalities to contribute vocals to a musical recording (single song)” with the “195” song on Monday, in a bid to raise awareness about gender equality and to ignite a global movement uplifting people through the transformative power of soundhealing frequencies.

The record-breaking “195” is the first song in history featuring women from all of the world’s 195 countries, including Kuwaiti participant Suad Al Sabah, and using sound healing frequencies and the 528 Hz ‘Love Frequency’.

The Frequency School co-founded by US Grammy-nominated and multi-platinum music producer Maejor, Martina Fuchs, Kingsley M, Brandon Lee and Aaron Dawson produced this visionary, powerful and universal campaign and premiered it during the 55th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, from January 20-24.

Using the sounds of birds and the heartbeat as instrumental elements, the “195” aims to raise the world’s frequency, elevate humanity, and trigger a positive impact by uniting and empowering women worldwide.

One woman in every one of the world’s 195 countries recognized by the United Nations said one word: “Equality” in her national language or native tongue and sent in her voice and video recording.

Verified

The number of women and nationalities participating in the song was officially verified by a Guinness World Records adjudicator.

Martina Fuchs, Executive Producer of the “195” and Co-Founder of the Frequency School, said: “It has always been my dream to produce the first song in history featuring every country on the planet. Our vision was to unite 195 ordinary women from all walks of life in this pioneering and ground-breaking initiative to advocate for gender equality and the rights of women and girls, and to help people struggling with mental health issues. Breaking this record is only the beginning: we are on a global mission to make our world a more peaceful place.”

Maejor, Founder and CEO of the Frequency School who produced the song, said: “The world record is a testimony to our work and the universal language of music. This achievement is a call to every one of us to lift each other up and spread peace, love and harmony. We chose to use 528 Hz which is often referred to as the ‘love frequency’, or the frequency of transformation and miracles. We wanted to promote more respect and fairness for women, as well as deep inner healing and a state of peace. The transformative vibration of 528 Hz can inspire positive action and empathy and people to act more kindly and inclusively.”

According to scientific studies and music theory, Solfeggio frequencies, ranging from 174 Hz to 963 Hz, offer unique sound patterns that promote relaxation, stress relief, and overall well-being. These frequencies have been shown to positively impact mental, emotional, and physical health by generating vibrations that help achieve a state of calm and balance of the mind, body and spirit.

Kingsley Maduka, Co-Founder of the Frequency School, said: “We’re incredibly excited to set a new world record, and I am honored to have the youngest lady in my family, my 6 year-old daughter, to be apart of such an intentional women empowerment project, focused on wellness. Being a man, it’s important that we do our parts to support our better halves for the sake of the mental health and wellness of humanity. The Frequency School is such an amazing platform for utilizing, implementing and amplifying wellness tools - working at the intersection of music, wellness, mental health and education is some of the most impactful work I’ve been able to be apart of.”

Brandon Lee, Co-Founder of the Frequency School, said: “Every one of us enters this world through a woman-women are the very heartbeat of humanity. I’m deeply honored to be part of this project and inspired by the future initiatives we’re building at



‘195’ is the first song featuring women from all 195 countries, using music to promote gender equality and women’s mental health worldwide.



The Frequency School set a Guinness World Record with its ‘195’ song featuring vocals from the most nationalities.

Frequency School to uplift women’s wellness. Earning the Guinness World Records title will amplify our mission globally, allowing us to create an even greater impact.”

Aaron Dawson, Co-Founder and Creative Director of the Frequency School, said: “This project is much more than a world record, it’s a reflection of the immense gratitude I hold for women everywhere. I carry deep appreciation for every woman who have shaped me: my mother, grandmothers, aunts, cousins, godchildren, teachers, ancestors, and the many women whose love and existence have given me and the world such beautiful life. A better world exists when we honor women’s gifts, invest in them, and protect their well-being.”

Miriam Moriati, President of the Kiribati Rotaract Youth Club and a Women and Youth representative for OARS (Ocean Alliance for Resilience and Sustainability), said: “I’m from Kiribati, a small island nation in the Pacific, where our highest point is just 3 meters above sea level. Our women in Kiribati are vulnerable due to gender equality not being part of our culture and traditions. They are often the first to be affected by crises and the last to recover. Being part of this initiative to support women on an international stage is an incredible honor. Opportunities to represent our small country are rare, and I am grateful for this platform to amplify the voices of Kiribati women.”

List of ‘195’ participants:

- Fawzia Koofti, Afghanistan  
Juxhina Sotiri Gjoni, Albania  
Kajina Bouagache, Algeria  
Jimená Cierco Martínez and Júlía Carreras Salvadó, Andorra  
Ester Nilsson, Angola  
Abrianna Cooper, Antigua and Barbuda  
Romina Sudack, Argentina  
Sose Markosyan, Armenia  
Anjali Nadaradjane, Australia  
Delia Fischer, Austria  
Bahar Balayeva, Azerbaijan  
Amanda Darville, Bahamas  
Ahdeya Ahmed Al-Sayed, Bahrain  
Laiba Jannati Priitha, Bangladesh  
Gloria Carter, Barbados  
Kristina Lozinskaya, Belarus  
Nyanchama Okemwa, Belgium  
Julie Robinson, Belize  
Adjalla Senami Naomi Campbell Maricela, Benin  
Yangdon Sonam, Bhutan  
Valentina Crespo Kuljis, Bolivia (Plurinational State of)  
Iman Daneyia Zulum, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Kabelo Bothe Dikobe, Botswana  
Samanta Bullock, Brazil  
Daphne Lai Teck Ching, Brunei Darussalam  
Natalini Yordanova, Bulgaria  
Audrey Korsaga, Burkina Faso  
Jeanne Irakoze, Burundi  
Zanu Alves, Cabo Verde  
Savada Prom, Cambodia  
Sabrina Love, Cameroon  
Alyson Meister, Canada  
Kessy Martine Ekomo-Soignet, Central African Republic  
Mariam Abdoulaye Malloum, Chad  
Bernardita Castillo Passi, Chile  
Joyce Peng Peng, China  
Karín Andrea Stephan, Colombia

- Arnel Azihar Sly-vania, Comoros  
Giséle Brice Mabilia, Republic of the Congo  
Maria Jose Freer Murillo, Costa Rica  
Noussoue Bih, Côte D'Ivoire  
Marijana Maros, Croatia  
Lixandra Díaz Portuondo, Cuba  
Louiza Nikolaou, Cyprus  
Shelley Pleva, Czechia  
Esther Eom, Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
Dodo Liwanga, Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Heidi Bjerkman, Denmark  
Intibah Ali Abdallah, Djibouti  
Sapphire Vital, Dominica  
Maria Eugenia del Castillo, Dominican Republic  
Margarita Heredia Forster, Ecuador  
Amena Bakr, Egypt  
Fabiola Torres, El Salvador  
Paulina Laurel Sami, Equatorial Guinea  
Harena Amanuel, Eritrea  
Anette Maria Rennit, Estonia  
Zandisile Howe, Eswatini  
Lina Getachew Ayenew, Ethiopia  
Renita Reddy, Fiji  
Julia Sulonen, Finland  
Anino Emuwa, France  
Rita Aboghe, Gabon  
Sarjo M Jallo, Gambia (Republic of The)  
Eka Khorbaladze, Georgia  
Carolin Strunz, Germany  
Michelle Nana Adwoa Agyakomah Yeboah, Ghana  
Efi Pylarinou, Greece  
Laureen Redhead, Grenada  
Lilian Viviana Tzul Pérez, Guatemala  
Fatoumata Diallo, Guinea  
Walterima Audilia Monteiro Eckert, Guinea Bissau  
Amrita Naraine, Guyana  
Stephanie Garçonvil, Haiti  
Carmen Elisa Méndez Silva, Honduras

- Aliz McLean, Hungary  
Mardis Karlsdottir, Iceland  
Asma Khan, India  
Siti Suliatin Buechel, Indonesia  
Sanam Shantayaei, Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Aya Al-Shakarchi, Iraq  
Lisa Armstrong, Ireland  
Dalith Steiger, Israel  
Cristina Romelli Gervasoni, Italy  
Heather Carrington, Jamaica  
Meguri Fujisawa, Japan  
Suad Musallam Hijazin, Jordan  
Zhanna Kan, Kazakhstan  
Shayoon, Kenya  
Miriam Moriati Koea, Kiribati  
Suad Al Sabah, Kuwait  
Aigerim Sultanbekova, Kyrgyzstan  
Duangtavanh Oudomchith, Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Laima Dimiſevska, Latvia  
Dia Audi, Lebanon  
Reekelitsoe Molapo, Lesotho  
Laymah E. Kollic, Liberia  
Manal Aboujtila, Libya  
Katrin Eggenberger, Liechtenstein  
Deimile Soares, Lithuania  
Sophie-Anne Schaul, Luxembourg  
Mireille Ramampandison, Madagascar  
Jacqueline Nhlema, Malawi  
Harpreet Bhal, Malaysia  
Widhath Waheed, Maldives  
Binthily Youma Macalou, Mali  
Michelle Muscat, Malta  
Claret ChongGum, Marshall Islands  
Habibata Cissé, Mauritania  
Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Mauritius  
Yolanda Sánchez, Mexico  
Dinnette James, Micronesia (Fed States of)  
Annabelle Jaeger-Seydoux, Monaco  
Amrita Gerelt-od, Mongolia  
Milica Markovic, Montenegro  
Touria El Glaoui, Morocco  
Maria Honoria da Silva Mocambique, Mozambique  
Ei Han, Myanmar  
Tisha Haushona, Namibia  
Angelina Waqa, Nauru  
Sahana Vajracharya, Nepal  
Andrea B. Maier, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)  
Alexia Hilbertidou, New Zealand  
Kathia Salazar, Nicaragua  
Alassane Soumana Roukayatou, Niger  
Elytola St. Matthew-Daniel, Nigeria  
Matea Kocovska, North Macedonia  
Alliance Niyigena, Norway  
Ruby Saharan, Oman  
Mariam Zaidi, Pakistan  
Dee Raya Antonio, Palau  
Nadia Hazem, Palestine  
Trishna Nagrani, Panama  
Jenny Namana, Papua New Guinea  
Emilie Seitz, Paraguay  
Gigi Caballero, Peru  
Andrea Mikaela Geronimo, Philippines  
Elvira Eevr Djaltchinova-Malec, Poland  
Sandra Fankhauser, Portugal  
Dr. Asmaa Alfidala, Qatar  
Sylvia Shin, Republic of Korea  
Dana Muntean, Republic of Moldova  
Carina Schuster, Romania  
Ashley Dudarenok, Russian Federation  
Bonita Mutoni, Rwanda  
Vicia Woods, Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Sheridin Jones, Saint Lucia  
Rianka Chance, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
Faaugia Maiava Onosai Sauluma, Samoa  
Martina Mattioli, San Marino  
Katy Nascimento, Sao Tome and Principe  
Asma Alsharif, Saudi Arabia  
Korka Dieng, Senegal  
Teodora Cosic, Serbia  
Beverly Dick, Seychelles  
Sylvia Conteh, Sierra Leone  
Cheng Ying (Monica), Singapore  
Lucia Kupcova, Slovakia  
Ksenia Juvan, Slovenia  
Sharon Inone, Solomon Islands  
Amran Abocar, Somalia  
Kim August, South Africa  
Josephine Albino, South Sudan  
Alejandra Costales Richards, Spain  
Suba Umathevan, Sri Lanka  
Tahani Karrar, Sudan  
Radhiya Ebermann-Joval, Suriname  
Sabiniye von Gaffke, Sweden  
Martina Fuchs, Switzerland  
Stephanie Ghazi, Syrian Arab Republic  
Zarina Khasanova, Tajikistan  
Ratih Paramitha, Thailand  
Dalia Kiakilir, Timor-Leste  
Isbath Esther Ali, Togo  
Oia Agé, Tonga  
Alexa Chin Pang, Trinidad and Tobago  
Aya Chebbi, Tunisia  
Guelistan Fuchs, Türkiye  
Aylar Babayeva, Turkmenistan  
Lilly Teafa, Tuvalu  
Jovia Kisaakye, Uganda  
Kateryna Krasnozhan, Ukraine  
Suad Al Shamsi, United Arab Emirates  
Melissa Monique, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
Flaviana Matata, United Republic of Tanzania  
Kenzi Kachi Maduka, United States of America  
Camila Bentancur, Uruguay  
Muldir Khayitova, Uzbekistan  
Adrina J.L. Abel, Vanuatu  
Boglarka Szances, Vatican City  
Sophia Santi Guevara, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela  
Yip Thy Diep Ta, Viet Nam  
Wadha Abdullah Mohsin, Yemen  
Suwilanji Nachula, Zambia  
Rosheen Ngorigma, Zimbabwe

Variety

**CATANIA, Italy:** Climate campaigner **Greta Thunberg** and other 11 activists set sail on Sunday afternoon for Gaza on a ship aimed at “breaking Israel’s siege” of the devastated territory, organizers said.

The sailing boat Madleen - operated by activist group Freedom Flotilla Coalition - departed from the Sicilian port of Catania, in southern Italy.

It will try to reach the shores of the Gaza Strip in an effort to bring in some aid and raise “international awareness” over the ongoing humanitarian crisis, the activists said at a press conference on Sunday, ahead of departure.

“We are doing this because, no matter what odds we are against, we have to keep trying,” Thunberg said, bursting into tears during her speech.

“Because the moment we stop trying is when we lose our humanity. And no matter how dangerous this mission is, it’s not even near as dangerous as the silence of the entire world in the face of the live-streamed genocide,” she added.

Israel, which was founded in the aftermath of the Holocaust, has adamantly rejected genocide allegations against it as an antisemitic “blood libel.”

In mid-May, Israel slightly eased its blockade of Gaza after nearly three months, allowing a limited amount of humanitarian aid into the territory. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Sen. Cory Booker has expanded upon his historic Senate floor speech from last month into an upcoming book.

“Stand” will be published Nov. 11, St. Martin’s Press announced Wednesday. In April, the New Jersey Democrat made headlines by delivering the country’s longest continuous Senate floor speech - just over 25 hours. The 56-year-old Booker spoke in opposition to numerous Trump administration policies, whether the desire to make Canada part of the United States or cuts to Social Security offices.

“This book is about the virtues vital to our success as a nation and lessons we can draw from generations of Americans who fought for them,” Booker said in a statement.

Booker’s speech broke a record set by Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, a segregationist and southern Democrat who opposed the advance of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, which eventually passed. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** CBS Sports has acquired the US broadcast rights for the UEFA Women’s Champions League through the 2029-30 season, the network announced Saturday.

All 75 matches for the upcoming season will be streamed on Paramount+, with select games aired on CBS Sports Network and CBS Sports Golazo Network.

CBS Sports and UC3, the commercial partnership between UEFA and the European Club Association, announced the deal before the men’s Champions League final in Munich.

The Women’s Champions League is expanding next season to 18 teams from 16, in a single league standings instead of groups before the knockout stage. A second-tier Women’s Europa Cup also will launch.

Last week UC3 announced that Disney+ will stream the women’s matches in Europe through the 2030 season. One game per week will be shown on some free-to-air networks and members of the European Broadcasting Union. (AP)



Move to prevent litter and harmful chemical leaks

UK bans single-use vapes to stem use by children

LONDON, June 2, (AP): A ban on disposable vapes came into force across the UK on Sunday as the British government aims to stem their use by children, reduce litter and prevent the leaking of harmful chemicals into the environment.

The ban makes it illegal for any retailer - online or in-store - to sell vapes, whether they contain nicotine or not. They will still be able to sell reusable vapes.

The crackdown follows the soaring use of disposable vapes in schools and a rising tide of trash as users dispose of the vapes. It is estimated that as many as 5 million disposable vapes are thrown in bins or littered every week across the UK, rather than being recycled.

A number of countries are seeking to regulate the vape market, which has grown exponentially over the past decade or so. Australia outlawed the sale of vapes outside pharmacies last year in some of the world's toughest re-

strictions on electronic cigarettes, while Belgium became the first European Country to ban the use of disposable vapes at the start of this year. California has been at the forefront of bringing in new regulations in the US.

The UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said usage among young people remained too high, and the ban would "put an end to their alarming rise in school playgrounds and the avalanche of rubbish flooding the nation's streets."

Also known as single-use vapes, disposable vapes are non-refillable and unable to be recharged, and are typically thrown away with general waste or just thrown on the street. Even when they are recycled, they need to be taken apart by hand, while their batteries are a fire risk to recycling facilities and can leak harmful chemicals into the environment and potentially harming wildlife.

Businesses were given six months to prepare for the change by selling any existing stock. Rogue traders who continue to sell them risk a fine of 200 (£260) in the first instance, followed by an unlimited fine or jail time for repeat offending.

The UK Vaping Industry Association said its members had moved quickly to comply with the June 1 deadline, but warned of "serious unintended consequences" emanating from too much regulation.

"We are concerned that this ban will encourage former smokers who have already transitioned from cigarettes, which kill 220 people every day in the UK, to return to combustible tobacco or opt for unregulated vapes," said its director general, John Dunne.

Separately, the British government is legislating to potentially restrict the packaging, marketing and flavors of e-cigarettes.



Pedestrians pass a vape shop in London, Monday, Jan. 29, 2024. (AP)



A health worker administers a polio vaccine to a child at a neighbourhood, in Lahore, Pakistan, Monday, May 26, 2025. (AP)

Measles cases surge in US

Pakistan's anti-polio drive suffers blow with new case

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, June 2, (AP): Pakistan efforts to eliminate polio suffered another blow on Monday after a northern enclave reported its first case in seven years. Overall, it was the country's 11th case since January, despite the launch of several immunization drives.

The virus was detected in a child from the district of Diamer in the Gilgit-Baltistan region, according to the country's polio eradication program.

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

The new case was reported after Pakistan on Sunday wrapped up its third nationwide polio vaccination drive of the year, aiming to immunize 45 million children.

Mohammad Iqbal, a director at the polio program in the northwest, said local health officials were still trying to determine how the poliovirus that was found in the southern port city of Karachi had infected the child in Diamer.

During the summer season, thousands of tourists from Karachi and elsewhere visit tourist resorts in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Pakistan's polio eradication program has been running anti-polio campaigns for years, though health workers and the police assigned to protect them are often targeted by militants who falsely claim the vaccination campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children.

Since the 1990s, attacks on polio

vaccination teams have killed more than 200 workers and security personnel.

**Measles:** Measles cases inched up slightly in the US this past week, with a new county impacted in Texas and Colorado reporting a new outbreak.

There are 1,088 confirmed measles cases in the US, up 42 from last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday. Texas, where the nation's biggest outbreak raged during the late winter and spring, reported 10 additional cases this week for a total of 738.

There are three other major outbreaks in North America.

One in Ontario, Canada, has resulted in 1,888 cases from mid-October through May 27. Another in Alberta, Canada, has sickened 628 as of Thursday. And the Mexican state of Chihuahua had 1,693 measles cases and three deaths as of Wednesday, according to data from the state health ministry.

Since the outbreak in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma began, two elementary school-aged children in the epicenter in West Texas and an adult in New Mexico have died of measles. All were unvaccinated.

Other states with active outbreaks - which the CDC defines as three or more related cases - include Colorado, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that's airborne and spreads easily when an infected person breathes, sneezes or coughs. It is preventable through vaccines, and has been considered eliminated from the US. since 2000.

RFK Jr. vows to find autism causes

Kennedy's autism comments spark debate among families and experts

WASHINGTON, June 2, (AP): Emery Eversoll and her mother shared a good laugh when Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said that some autistic children will never write poems.

The 16-year-old's bedroom is full of notebooks featuring her prose. Sometimes, she quietly recites poetry to get through an outburst of anger. Her mother began suspecting she may have autism, in part, because she had memorized every word from a favorite book by age 2.

Still, this Kansas family is optimistic about Kennedy's plans to launch a broad-based study of what causes autism, the complex developmental disorder that impacts the brain and causes delays in language or learning, social withdrawal and an unusual need for routine. Kennedy has vowed to identify some of the causes of autism, which has been studied for decades, by September.

Kennedy has said autism "destroys families." He said children with autism "will never pay taxes, they'll never hold a job, they'll never play baseball, they'll never write a poem, they'll never go out on a date. Many of them will never use a toilet unassisted."

His comments and his plan to swiftly study its causes, have splintered a community of millions of people living with autism. For some, they were an overdue recognition of the day-to-day difficulties for families with autistic loved ones. To others, Kennedy deeply misrepresented the realities of their disability, provoking concern about his ability to handle a sweeping assessment of the disorder.



Charlie Lamb, (right), who is diagnosed with autism and is non-verbal, uses an AAC device to communicate with his mother Eileen Lamb left, who also has autism, as Charlie's sister Billie looks on, Monday, May 12, 2025, in Austin, Texas. (AP)

now, tears well up in her eyes as she talks about that decision.

"My child, I do truly believe, that if he were able to tell us, he would not want autism because this has not affected him in a positive way," Van Den Berghe said. "So, for me, having someone finally recognize my son and his population is amazing."

The Eversolls viewed Kennedy's comments that way, too. Emery Eversoll struggles with fits of anger. Loud noises can bug her. And clothes can feel weird, especially jeans or socks, which often need to be worn inside out.

"It is hard if your child has any kind of thing that they have to work through or deal with that's extra," said Jessica Eversoll. "Just like if your child had lost their hand, it's still the same child, but they're going to have struggles navigating the world around them."

Eileen Lamb knows those struggles well. She was diagnosed with autism after she started noticing signs a decade ago that her first son, Charlie, may have autism.

**Supervision**

Days in Austin, Texas, can be daunting with Charlie, younger brother Jude, a 9-year-old who also has autism, and a 2-year-old sister, Billie.

At 12, Charlie still requires constant supervision, especially with his habit of eating non-food items; last year he swallowed a screw. At night, she monitors Charlie with a video camera, a motion detector and a tent-like safety bed to make sure that he does not bang his head or try to eat the walls. On a blog, Eileen Lamb shares therapy tips, family wins - like taking all three kids to a little league soccer game - and mourns some of the milestones that Charlie has missed.

Lamb said it's unlikely Charlie will ever play baseball or go on a date - as

Kennedy said last month when describing autism - but she also doesn't only view her child's limitations.

"I see where he was going with his comments," Lamb said. "But I also think that's not how you measure the value of our children's lives. The language we use matters."

Copeland, the Ohio father, also believes his 21-year-old son fit Kennedy's description of autism. His son is non-verbal, lives at home and requires around-the-clock care because he doesn't sense danger.

Kennedy's comments, however, made it clear to Copeland that he's had little experience with the disorder.

"I don't appreciate people presenting themselves as experts when they don't know a damn thing about something," he said.

Kennedy has described autism as a "preventable disease."

That's rattled families that see a clear-cut answer for the cause of autism: genetics. Scientists, too, have concluded that genetics play a significant factor.

Ashley Seliquini, a 40-year-old mom and speech pathologist living in Greensboro, North Carolina, can clearly see the connections in her family. She and her 5-year-old daughter have both been diagnosed with the disorder. Both sometimes lose their ability to speak. Her daughter, too, gets overwhelmed by loud noises.

"You see it run in families," Seliquini said. "Sometimes the parents are not aware that they are autistic. After their child gets diagnosed they go, 'Oh, my goodness, I'm autistic, too.'"

Doctors and medical experts have attributed the rise in autism cases - about 1 in 31 U.S. kids are now diagnosed with it - to increased awareness, especially around milder forms of the disorder.

Novel drugs

New hope for breast cancer

SAN CARLOS, Calif., June 2, (AP): BeOne Medicines Ltd., a global oncology company, announced new clinical data from its emerging breast cancer pipeline at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in Chicago. Poster presentations feature preliminary results of the dose escalation studies of two investigational molecules: BG-C9074, a novel B7-H4-targeting antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) in patients with advanced solid tumors, including breast cancer, and BG-68501, a cyclin-dependent kinase-2 inhibitor (CDK2i), in HR+/HER2- breast cancer patients with prior CDK4/6i exposure.

"Presenting the first clinical data for two novel breast cancer candidates at ASCO 2025 marks a pivotal moment for BeOne," said Mark Lanasa, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Medical Officer, Solid Tumors at BeOne. "These early results highlight the strong potential of our B7-H4-targeting ADC and CDK2 inhibitor to address critical gaps in breast cancer treatment. Alongside our advancing CDK4 inhibitor, they represent just the beginning of a pipeline built on targeted, biology-driven innovation. As we debut our new identity as BeOne, this milestone reflects the momentum behind our science and our commitment to delivering impactful therapies to cancer patients worldwide."

Effective

BeOne is advancing a robust pipeline of differentiated investigational medicines for breast cancer that may both effectively combat the disease and potentially improve quality of life for patients receiving treatment.

BeOne presented initial results of the ongoing first-in-human, Phase 1a dose escalation study of BG-C9074 monotherapy in 78 patients with advanced solid tumors, of which more than a quarter were breast cancer patients. BG-C9074, an investigational topoisomerase I inhibitor ADC that targets the B7-H4 protein, which is broadly expressed in breast and gynecologic cancers, is designed with an innovative drug linker to deliver a potent cancer-killing drug directly to the cancer cells.

With limited follow-up among the 56 efficacy-evaluable patients, preliminary clinical responses were observed at multiple dose levels across various tumor types without selection for B7-H4 expression in these heavily pretreated patients. Confirmed overall response rate (ORR) was 16.1% (9/56; 95% CI: 7.6%-28.3%), with 9 confirmed partial responses; unconfirmed ORR was 25.0% (14/56; 14.4%-38.4%) (n=14 partial responses). Confirmed disease control rate (DCR) was 73.2% (59.7%-84.2%) and confirmed clinical benefit rate (CBR) was 17.9% (8.9%-30.4%).

Pharmacokinetics (PK) were observed to be approximately dose-proportional across dose levels.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: 69994428 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For  
your  
ads on  
this page

Call: 69994428

E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

مرکز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي  
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE  
الفحاحيل FAHAHEEL

Dr. Sabitha Venkitesh  
MBBS, DNB  
(Ophthal)

Dr. Vivek P.S  
MBBS, DO, DNB  
(Ophthal)

Dr. Reshma Ravindra  
MBBS, MS  
(Ophthal)

Special package for family available for eye check up

HOTLINE: 65 95 95 34

- Comprehensive Eye screening
- Paediatric visual assessment
- Glaucoma screening
- Diabetic Retinopathy Screening
- Foreign Body removal

Mecca Street, Near Roundabout, Life Tower  
Fahaheel.  
Tel: +965 2391 9020  
www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw



Hosts score 312-7 with 7 balls remaining in reply to tourists' 308 all out

## Root hits 166 not out to lead England to series win against West Indies

CARDIFF, Wales, June 2, (AP): Joe Root hit a stunning 166 not out as England beat West Indies by three wickets at Sophia Gardens in the second ODI to clinch the series.

England scored 312-7 with seven balls remaining in reply to West Indies' 308 all out in 47.4 overs - led by Keacy Carty's 103.

After winning the toss and putting on a ragged display in the field with four dropped catches and two missed runouts, England was reeling in its chase on 2-2 and 133-5.

But Root thumped two sixes and 21 fours, putting on 143 in 121 balls alongside Will Jacks, who made a vital 49, to lift England into an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Root leapfrogged Eoin Morgan to become England's all-time leading ODI run-scorer during his 139-ball innings.

Root has 7,082 runs, passing Morgan's tally of 6,957.

"I want to give as much as I can for England for as long as I can," Root said. "I've still got a lot to give and a lot more runs in there and, hopefully, an innings like that shows that."

England's Harry Brook, who scored 47, enjoyed his first series win since becoming full-time white-ball captain.

Brandon King (59) and Shai Hope (78) backed up Carty but England fought back thanks to 4-63 from Adil Rashid and Saqib Mahmood's 3-37 as the Windies lost its last eight wickets for 103.

It seemed that total would be enough to set up a decider at the Oval on Tuesday but Root's 18th ODI hundred and his highest score in the format got England over the line.

His efforts were all the more remarkable after England lost three of its top

five for ducks, including both openers as Jamie Smith pushed hard and nicked off and Ben Duckett flashed to deep third. Jos Buttler also failed to score any runs.

Alzarri Joseph took 4-31 in 10 overs.

The 34-year-old Root dominated the day at Cardiff and scored the winning runs.

Root is also England's all-time leading scorer in test matches.

With the scores level, Root hit a four off Jayden Seales to seal the win and complete arguably one of his best innings in any format, given England's dreadful start.

England made an enforced change, bringing in seamer Matthew Potts for Jamie Overton, who broke a finger on Thursday as England won the first ODI by 238 runs at Edgbaston.

West Indies replaced Amir Jangoor with Shimron Hetmyer in the middle order.



England's Joe Root celebrates after hitting the winning runs in the second One Day International cricket match between West Indies and England at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, Wales. (AP)

## Haris ton earns 3-0 sweep for new-look Pakistan vs B'desh



Pakistani players pose for a photo with the trophy after they won the T20 series against Bangladesh on the end of the third Twenty20 cricket match between Pakistan and Bangladesh, in Lahore, Pakistan. (AP)

Wicketkeeper-batter raises his 1st T20 century off 45 balls

**LAHORE, Pakistan, June 2, (AP):** Mohammad Haris smashed Pakistan's second fastest century in a T20 game to complete a 3-0 sweep for his team against Bangladesh.

The wicketkeeper-batter raised his first T20 hundred off 45 balls and remained unbeaten on 107 as a new-look Pakistan cruised to 197-3 for a seven-wicket win in the third Twenty20 with 16 balls to spare.

Bangladesh had earlier made 196-6, its highest total in a T20 against Pakistan, after Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha won his third successive toss of the series but decided to chase for the first time.

Haris continued to follow Pakistan's new ag-

gressive batting approach in coach Mike Hesson's first series as white-ball head coach. Haris hit seven sixes and eight boundaries and also became the first non-opening Pakistan batter to score a T20 century.

Pakistan had dropped seasoned pros Babar Azam, wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi for the series to test its fringe T20 players as a build-up for next year's T20 World Cup.

Opener Saim Ayub, who struggled in Pakistan's first two wins with scores of 0 and 4, returned to form with 45 off 29 balls and put on 92 runs with Haris after Sahibzada Farhan fell for 1 in the first over.

Power-hitter Hasan Nawaz, who scored Pakistan's quickest-ever century in a T20 against New Zealand in March off 44 balls, scored 20 of his

26 runs in fours and sixes before he gave spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz (2-26) his second wicket.

Bangladesh couldn't capitalize on a 110-run opening stand between Parvez Hossain Emon (66) and Tanzid Hasan (42).

Leg-spinner Shadab Khan dismissed Emon in the 12th over and squeezed Bangladesh in the middle overs before fast bowler Abbas Afridi (2-26) choked the batting further in the death overs.

Afridi gave away only eight runs in his last two overs and picked up the wickets of Shamim Hossain (8) and Towhid Hridoy (25) as Bangladesh could score only 46 runs in the last five overs and lost four wickets.

Pakistan won the first match by 37 runs and the second by 57 runs after Bangladesh failed to chase down identical targets of 202 runs in both games.

'I'm ready to go celebrate'

## Blaney races to first NASCAR Cup Series win of the year at Nashville

LEBANON, Tenn., June 2, (AP): Ryan Blaney and Team Penske have been fast with his No. 12 Ford Mustang this year only to have races slip away when it mattered most.

Not Sunday night.

Blaney ran away down the stretch for his first Cup Series victory of the year Sunday night at Nashville Superspeedway, then he celebrated with a burnout in front of the roaring fans after what he called a rough year. "I'm ready to go celebrate," Blaney said.

The 2023 Cup champ had been racing well with five top-five finishes over the first half of this season. He finally got to victory lane for his 14th career victory and first since Martinsville in November.

"I never gave up hope that's for sure," Blaney said. "We've had great speed all year. It just hasn't really been the best year for us as far as good fortune. But (No.) 12 boys are awesome. They stick with it no matter how it goes."

He became the ninth different winner this season and the fifth driver to win in as many races at Nashville. He also gave Team Penske a second straight Cup win at Nashville's 1.33-mile concrete track.

Blaney, who started 15th, quickly drove his way to the front as he won the second stage. He easily held off



Ryan Blaney celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race in Lebanon, Tenn. (AP)

Carson Hocevar by 2.83 seconds. Hocevar matched his career-best finish at Atlanta in February after complaining during the race that his No. 77 Chevrolet was undriveable.

"Either I'm really dramatic or they're really good on adjustments," Hocevar said. "Probably a little bit of both, but, yeah, proud of this group proud of this car. A place that is really, really difficult to pass, we're able to go 26th to second."

Denny Hamlin finished third in his 700th career Cup Series race, matching the third-place finish by Jeff Gordon at Darlington in 2013 for the best finish in a driver's 700th race. Joey Logano, who won here last year, was fourth and William Byron fifth.

Hamlin was hoping for one more caution that never came after seven cautions for 35 laps.

"Just couldn't run with the 12 (Blaney) there in the super long

run," Hamlin said. "After 40 laps, I could maintain with him. But then after that, he just pulled away and stretched it on us."

There was a sprint to the finish under green forcing teams and drivers to pick and choose went to pit. Blaney had led 107 laps when he went to the pits under green flag on lap 248. Hamlin took the lead before going to pit road on lap 256.

Crew chief Jonathan Hassler said they decided on Blaney's fifth and final pit stop trying to make sure he could get back out into the cleanest air possible. "It was really nice just to finish off a race," Hassler said.

Brad Keselowski had the lead when he went to the pits on lap 269. Blaney took the lead for the final 31 laps.

Hamlin raced Sunday night hoping to take advantage of his starting spot beside pole-sitter Chase Briscoe. Whether Hamlin would chase his third win this season had been in question with his third child, a boy, due the same day.

Hamlin practiced and qualified well, so he drove his No. 11 Toyota even as Joe Gibbs Racing had Ryan Truex on standby in case Hamlin got the call that his fiancée was in labor. Hamlin won the first stage and survived the final stretch without water or fresh air.

Kings beat Indians by five wickets

## Punjab sets up showdown with Royal Challengers

AHMEDABAD, India, June 2, (AP): Shreyas Iyer hit a 41-ball 87 not out as Punjab Kings beat Mumbai Indians by five wickets in a rain-delayed Qualifier 2 to reach the final of the Indian Premier League.

Skipper Iyer led from the front as he smashed eight sixes and five fours to lead Punjab to only its second IPL final.

Punjab set up a title clash with Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Tuesday - also in Ahmedabad. Neither team has ever won the IPL.

Punjab scored 207-5 to chase down Mumbai's 203-6 (20 overs) with an over to spare.

This was after the game was delayed by more than two hours because of rain. No overs were lost and the match started at 9:40 p.m. local time.

After losing the toss, Mumbai started quickly with Jonny Bairstow scoring 38 off 24 balls, including two sixes, after Rohit Sharma was out cheaply for eight.

Bairstow and Tilak Varma (44) added 51 for the second wicket.

Varma then put on 72 runs off seven overs with Suryakumar Yadav, whose 26-ball 44 included three sixes. Their partnership saw Mumbai heading for a 200-plus total.

But wrist spinner Yuzvendra Chahal provided the breakthrough in the 14th over and then Afghanistan all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai struck twice in the death overs as Mumbai lost steam.

Naman Dhir scored 37 off 18 but Mumbai was short by about 20 runs on a fine batting surface.

Left-arm pacer Trent Boult provided the early wicket for Mumbai when in-form opener Prabhsimran Singh was out for six. Co-opener Priyansh Arya was also out for 20.

Josh Inglis helped provide the momentum with 38 off 21 balls. But Iyer took over thereafter, helped by Nehal Wadhwa's 48 off 29.

Even star pacer Jasprit Bumrah couldn't unleash his magic - he went for 0-40 in four overs.

Iyer hit 50 off 27 balls - his sixth half-century of the season - and then accelerated further, scoring the next 37 off only 14 balls.

He hit four sixes either side of his 50-mark, signaling the end of Mumbai's campaign.

Punjab featured in the 2014 IPL final, losing to Kolkata Knight Riders. Bengaluru has previously finished runners-up in 2009, 2011 and 2016.



Punjab Kings' captain Shreyas Iyer plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India. (AP)

Aces hold off late surge to beat Storm

## Liberty routs Sun for 2nd-biggest margin of victory in WNBA history

NEW YORK, June 2, (AP): The New York Liberty matched their own WNBA record by hitting 19 3-pointers in a 100-52 rout of the Connecticut Sun on Sunday.

The victory was the largest in franchise history, eclipsing a 43-point win over Washington in 1998. New York fell short of the all-time scoring margin record of 59 points held by Minnesota in a victory over Indiana in 2017.

Sabrina Ionescu led New York with 18 points while Jonquel Jones added 13 points and 11 rebounds. Breanna Stewart and Leonie Fiebich also had 13 points. All four sat out for nearly the entire fourth quarter.

Still, New York improved to 7-0 for the first time since the 1997 season.

New York also hit 19 3-pointers against Chicago on May 22 to break the previous league record. The Liberty almost eclipsed that mark through three quarters as they hit 18 3s in the first 30 minutes, but they went cold in the fourth from the outside, only making one.

The Liberty finished off a busy week by winning their fourth game in six days. They now have a bit of a break now with their next game in Washington on Thursday.

Sunday's matchup was the first game of the three-week long Commissioner's Cup in-season tournament. New York made the final last year before losing to Minnesota. The Liberty got their revenge by winning the WNBA championship.

New York took it right at Connecticut, building a 31-13 lead after one quarter as Stewart, Ionescu, Fiebich and Jones combined to score all the points. The Liberty kept it rolling in the second quarter extending the advantage to 60-28 at the half. New York shot 68% from the field in the first half, including making 12 3-pointers.

The Liberty didn't let up in the third quarter and the points kept going on the scoreboard.

Even up 50 points, New York challenged a foul committed by Ionescu on a 3-point shot by Marina Mabrey. New York won the challenge and the star guard ran out on the court in excitement then high-fived the Liberty staff for challenging the call.

Tina Charles and Jacy Sheldon led Connecticut (1-6) with 10 points each.

A'ja Wilson had 19 points, seven rebounds and three steals. Jewell Loyd hit two free throws with 6.1 seconds left, and Las Vegas gave up most of a 17-point lead before the Aces beat the Seattle Storm 75-70.

Loyd, who was traded to Las Vegas (4-2) in January after 10 seasons with the Storm, finished with 10 points and seven rebounds. Jackie Young added 12 points.

Dominique Malonga scored Seattle's first eight fourth-quarter points and Erica Wheeler added eight more to help the Storm cut their deficit to three points when Gabby Williams made a layup with 37.8 seconds left. The Storm forced a shot-clock violation to take possession with 13.1 seconds remaining but the 6-foot-6 Malonga missed a turn-around jumper in the lane over Wilson, the WNBA defensive player of the year in 2022 and 2023.

Loyd's free throws capped the scoring.

The 19-year-old Malonga was the No. 2 pick in April's draft, part of the package Seattle received in return for Loyd, who requested to be traded.

Rookie Aaliyah Nye scored a season-high 10 points for the Aces, and Chelsea Gray also had 10 points.



Sepúlveda finishes with a tournament-best nine goals

# Cruz Azul routs Whitecaps for CONCACAF Champions Cup title

MEXICO CITY, June 2, (AP): Ángel Sepúlveda scored twice and Cruz Azul routed the Vancouver Whitecaps 5-0 to win its seventh CONCACAF Champions Cup.

Sepúlveda finished with a tournament-best nine goals. Ignacio Rivero, Lorenzo Faravelli and Mateusz Bogusz also scored for Cruz Azul, which built a 4-0 lead by half-time.

The Liga MX club tied crosstown rival Club America for most titles in the tournament. It was Cruz Azul's first title since 2013-14 when La Máquina beat Tijuana.

The Whitecaps were looking to make history as the first Canadian team to win the tournament, and the first winner from Major League Soccer since the Seattle Sounders in 2022.

"Cruz Azul is a club that demands a lot," Cruz Azul coach Vicente Sánchez said through a translator. "We prepared ourselves for this final. We had two weeks to prepare ourselves for this match, so we had a couple of friendly matches. Some players went to the national team. We knew this team, this rival."

Cruz Azul had four shots on goal in the first half and scored on all of them. La Máquina took advantage of a defensive lapse by the Whitecaps and Ignacio Rivero coolly finished with his left foot in the seventh minute in front of cheering home fans at Estadio Olímpico Universitario.

Faravelli's goal came after a similar defensive lapse, struck from distance and went into the net after hitting the post.

After Sepúlveda's sliding goal in the 37th, Bogusz added

a goal in the 45th just before the teams went into the break. Sepúlveda added another goal on a header in the 50th.

It was Cruz Azul goalkeeper Kevin Mier's fourth clean sheet of the tournament. The Whitecaps had no shots on goal during the match.

"I think that the main thing was that we were not able to come out with the calmness and confidence, and we were up against a team that came out very confident, playing at their home turf and also in front of a great home crowd. So that was, I think, the main decider," Whitecaps coach Jesper Sorensen said.

Vancouver was without Sebastian Berhalter because of yellow card accumulation. He scored in both legs of the semifinal against Lionel Messi and Inter Miami.

The Whitecaps had hoped that captain Ryan Gauld would return from a knee injury in time for the game but he was not available.

Cruz Azul advanced with a two-legged victory over UANL Tigres.

Sanchez, who took over as interim coach of La Máquina in January, was peppered with questions after the match about his future with the team. He fell to his knees and sobbed on the field after the final whistle.

"I don't know about the future. It's one day at a time," Sanchez said. "I don't know what is going to happen tomorrow. We have to enjoy today with the people that supported us, with fans. And tomorrow we'll see, the decision does not depend on me." It was the first meeting between the Whitecaps and Cruz Azul.



Mexico's Cruz Azul players celebrate with the trophy after winning the CONCACAF Champions Cup final soccer match against Canada's Vancouver Whitecaps in Mexico City. (AP)

# Scheffler wins again at Memorial as Stark takes US Women's Open

Jiménez continues hot streak with Iowa playoff victory

**DUBLIN, Ohio, June 2, (AP): Scottie Scheffler never lost the lead and never gave anyone much of a chance down the stretch Sunday in another relentless performance, closing with a 2-under 70 for a four-shot victory to join Tiger Woods as the only repeat winners of the Memorial.**

Slowed by hand surgery at the start of the year from a freak accident, Scheffler appears to be in full stride with one major already in the bag and another around the corner at the U.S. Open.

On one of the tougher PGA Tour tests of the year, Scheffler made one bogey over the final 40 holes at Muirfield Village. He finished at 10-under 278.



Maja Stark, of Sweden, holds her winning trophy after winning the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament at Erin Hills in Erin, Wis. (AP)

Ben Griffin tried to make it interesting at the end with a 12-foot eagle on the par-5 15th and a 25-foot birdie putt on the par-3 16th to close within two shots with two to play. Scheffler, however, doesn't make mistakes. Griffin made double bogey on the 17th. Griffin made a 4-foot par on the 18th for a 73 to finish alone in second, worth \$2.2 million, more than what he earned when he won at Colonial last week.

Sepp Straka (70) finished another shot back.

Scheffler now has won three times in his last four starts - the exception was Colonial, a tie for fourth the week after winning the PGA Championship - and expanded his margin at No. 1 in the world to levels not seen since Woods in his peak years.

Woods is a five-time winner at Memorial who won three straight from 1999 through 2001. No one had repeated at Muirfield Village since then until Scheffler.

Maja Stark of Sweden continued the steady play she demonstrated all week to win the U.S. Women's Open at Erin Hills for her first major championship.

Stark shot an even-par 72 to finish at 7-under 281, two strokes ahead of top-ranked Nelly Korda and Japan's Rio Takeda.

Stark earned \$2.4 million in the biggest event of the women's golf season. The 25-year-old Stark became the sixth Swede to win a women's major, and the first since Anna Nordqvist in the 2021 Women's British Open. The former Oklahoma State player is the first Swede to win

a U.S. Women's Open since Annika Sorenstam in 2006.

Stark won her second second LPGA Tour title. She also won the 2022 ISPS Handa World Invitational in Northern Ireland, an event co-sanctioned by Ladies European Tour.

Korda closed with a 71, and Takeda had a 72.

Hye-Jin Choi (68), Ruoning Yin (70) and Mao Saigo (73) tied for fourth at 4 under. Hailee Cooper (70) and Hinako Shibuno (74) were 3 under.

Nicolai von Dellingshausen of Germany closed with a 5-under 65 to win the Austrian Alpine Open by two shots and capture his first title on the European tour.

Von Dellingshausen began the final round one shot behind fellow German Marcel Schneider and quickly seized control with three birdies and an eagle on the opening nine. After another birdie to start the back nine, he closed with eight straight pars.

Von Dellingshausen finished at 19-under 261, two ahead of Schneider (68) and Kristoffer Reitan, who was coming off a victory in Belgium last week at the Soudal Open. Reitan shot a 60, missing an eagle putt on the final hole in his bid for only the second 59 in European tour history.

Miguel Angel Jimenez won the Principal Charity Classic at Wakonda Club for his third PGA Tour



career Korn Ferry Tour title.

Crowe had a one-shot lead over Martin Laird going into the final round and was four ahead heading to the back nine.

Laird stayed in the game, and a two-shot swing on the 14th - Laird made birdie, Crowe his first bogey of the day - trimmed Crowe's lead to one. Crowe birdied the 15th for a two-shot swing in his favor, and Laird bogeyed the next two. Crowe finished at 21-under 259 for a five-shot win over Laird (69), Davis Chatfield (68) and Hank Lebioda (61).

Mikiya Akutsu closed with a 1-under 71 to win the Mizuno Open by four shots over Young-Han Song and Riki Kawamoto on the Japan Golf Tour. All three players earned a spot in the British Open as part of Open Qualifying Series.

Rocco Repetto Taylor won his first Challenge Tour title on home soil when he closed with a 4-under 68 for a one-shot victory in the Challenge de Cadiz in Spain. ... Malcolm Mitchell closed with a 1-under 71 and defeated Jonathan Broomhead in a playoff to win the Gary & Vivienne Player Challenge on the Sunshine Tour in South Africa.

Nanako Inagaki held on with a 1-over 73 for a one-shot victory in the Resort Trust Ladies on the Japan LPGA. ... Yunji Jeong shot a 1-under 70 and for a one-shot win in the Suhyp Bank MBN Ladies Open on the Korea LPGA.

Champions victory of the year, beating Soren Kjeldsen and Cameron Percy with a birdie on the first hole of a playoff. Jimenez closed with a birdie on the 311-yard, par-4 18th for a 2-under 70, then made a 4-footer for another birdie on the extra hole. The 61-year-old Spanish star led wire-to-wire, opening with rounds of 63 and 66.

Jimenez has 16 career PGA Tour Champions victories, also winning the Trophy Hassan II in February in Morocco and the Hoag Classic in March in Newport Beach, California.

Kjeldsen finished with a 63, and Percy shot 67 to match Jimenez at 17-under 199. Kevin Sutherland was a stroke back after a 68.

Trace Crowe made five birdies on the front nine to build a comfortable lead, and then survived a few nervous moment before pulling away with a 5-under 65 to win the UNC Health Championship for his second

# British rider Simon Yates wins elusive Giro d'Italia title

ROME, June 2, (AP): British rider Simon Yates cruised to overall victory in the Giro d'Italia, finally winning the race that had eluded him so often.

After attacking on the gravel-road climb to take the pink jersey in the penultimate stage on Saturday, Yates finished nearly four minutes ahead of runner-up Isaac Del Toro, the 21-year-old Mexican who wore pink for 10 days before Yates took control.

It's the second Grand Tour title for Yates after he won the Spanish Vuelta in 2018.

"It's a defining moment of my career, there's no doubt about that," Yates said.

Yates wore pink for 13 days during the 2018 Giro before cracking on one of the final climbs. He also had to withdraw from the Italian race in 2020 and 2022 - because of coronavirus and a knee injury, respectively.

"I'm still in shock of what I've done," Yates said. "It's something that I've been working toward for a long time." Yates, who rides for



Britain's Simon Yates holds the trophy after winning the Giro d'Italia cycling race, in Rome. (AP)

Team Visma Lease a Bike, finished 3 minutes, 56 seconds ahead of Del Toro and 4:43 ahead of Richard Carapaz, the 2019 champion from Ecuador.

Dutch rider Olav Kooij, Yates' teammate, won the final stage in a sprint finish. It was his second vic-

tory in this Giro after also winning the 12th stage - and third overall after winning one in 2024.

"Perfect final weekend for us. After yesterday we were all really happy with what Simon pulled off," Kooij said. "To finish it off is really cool."

During the non-competitive neutralized period just before the mostly ceremonial final stage actually began, the peloton passed through the Vatican and was blessed by Pope Leo XIV.

The 143-kilometer (89-mile) final stage concluded with a circuit of eight laps through downtown Rome and finished next to the Circus Maximus - the ancient Roman chariot-racing stadium.

At age 32, Yates already acknowledged that this victory is "the peak" of his career. His best finish in the Tour de France was fourth in 2023.

Yates and his twin brother, Adam, have long been among the peloton's elite. Adam Yates rode this Giro for UAE Team Emirates as a support rider for Del Toro - so was competing against his brother. But the brothers posed arm-in-arm for photos together during the final stage. Before the final stage started, a moment of silence was observed following the death of former Visma rider Robert Gesink's wife.

‘Don’t settle for this’

## Postecoglou wants ambition from Spurs after Europa League success

LONDON, June 2, (AP): Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou has urged the club to show ambition after ending its 17-year trophy drought as he awaits a decision on whether he will stay on for a third season at the English team.

Tottenham claimed its first piece of major silverware since 2008 by beating Manchester United 1-0 in the Europa League final last month, earning in the process a spot in next season's Champions League.

Postecoglou remains in the dark about his future, though, with his status affected by Tottenham's 17th-placed finish - its lowest since the Premier League was founded in 1992.

In an interview with Australian Broadcasting Corp. - published Monday - while on a family holiday in Greece, Postecoglou said he hasn't wanted to let the club "just enjoy the moment" because he "wanted us to think about what's next."

"Don't settle for this," he tells ABC's Australian Story. "We've got a taste of it now. My players have got a taste for it. The club's got a taste for it. Well, let's make sure we're back here again."

Those comments explain why, during Tottenham's trophy parade, the 59-year-old Australian declared in front of tens of thousands of fans in north London: "Season three is always better than season two."

However, away from winning the Europa League, Tottenham has been on a downward trajectory in the Premier League since the team's strong start to Postecoglou's first



Tottenham Hotspur manager Ange Postecoglou on the open-top team bus during the Europa League winners parade in North London. (AP)

season in charge.

This season, he clearly made Europa League success the priority over results in the Premier League, rotating heavily and protecting the fitness of various key players.

Tottenham lost 22 of its 38 league games and that woeful record has increased the scrutiny and pressure on Postecoglou.

"That was when the laser focus came in," Postecoglou said in Australian Story when explaining why he essentially sacrificed the league. "Every decision I made was around, 'Well, how do we navigate this to get to where we want to?'"

## Best of the Rest

**Griezmann signs contract extension:** Atletico Madrid handed Antoine Griezmann a two-year contract extension Monday which could keep the French forward with the club until he's 36.

Griezmann's previous contract had a year to run. He scored 19 goals in 53 games in all competitions this season as Atletico placed third in the Spanish league and reached the semifinals of the Copa del Rey.

The 34-year-old Griezmann is the club's all-time top scorer with 197 career goals.

The announcement comes as Griezmann and Atletico prepare for the Club World Cup in the United States.

Atletico's first game is June 15 against Champions League winner Paris Saint-Germain at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., in the group stage, before playing the Seattle Sounders and Brazil's Botafogo. (AP)

□ □ □

**Kovacic out of Club World Cup after surgery:** Manchester City midfielder Mateo Kovacic was ruled out of the Club World Cup after undergoing surgery on an Achilles injury, the English team said Monday.

"Mateo will spend the summer rehabilitating from the operation," City said, "and everyone at the club wishes him a speedy recovery."

The expanded 32-team Club World Cup starts on June 14, with City in the same group as Juventus, Al Ain and Wydad Casablanca. City's first match is on June 18.

Kovacic will also miss Croatia's World Cup qualifiers against Gibraltar and the Czech Republic over the next week. (AP)

ARAB TIMES

Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call

51508991

51526559





Players intensify training for the key qualifiers in Kuwait.

# Sports

Ashkanani under medical watch

## Kuwait still in the hunt for World Cup playoff spot despite long odds

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

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Kuwait launched an internal training camp today as part of its preparations for two decisive matches against Palestine and South Korea. These fixtures, set for Thursday and the following Tuesday, mark the ninth and tenth (final) rounds of Group B in the AFC qualifiers for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

The Blues currently sit in sixth and last place in Group B with five points. South Korea tops the group with 16 points, followed by Jordan (13), Iraq (12), Oman (10), and Palestine (6).

Despite the odds, National Teams Director Saud Al-Mujammed believes Kuwait still has a mathematical chance to reach the Asian play-offs. "Everyone is

holding on to this hope, even though it is slim," he said.

Al-Mujammed noted that qualification now hinges on the outcomes of other group matches. "It's no longer in our hands," he acknowledged, "but the team is determined to give its best and achieve positive results in both games."

He also confirmed that Argentine coach Juan Antonio Pizzi and his technical staff are fully in charge of player selection, expressing optimism that the squad will perform at a high level and fight for victories.

Midfielder Hussein Ashkanani underwent an X-ray after experiencing minor muscle discomfort, as advised by Dr. Abdul Majeed Al-Bannai, head of the Football Association's Medical Committee.

Dr. Al-Bannai confirmed Ashkanani will continue training under medical supervision. He also pointed out that some drop in physical condition is expected, as

the domestic season has concluded and players may lack proper recovery training. "The medical staff is closely monitoring all players to ensure full readiness for both matches," he said.

The Asian Football Confederation has appointed a Tajik officiating crew for Kuwait's clash against Palestine. Sadullo Gulmoradi will serve as the referee, assisted by Hasan Karimov and Farkhad Karlov, with Abdul Davalotov as fourth official. Emirati referees Mohammed Obaid and Yahya Al-Mulla will manage VAR duties.

The Palestinian national team began its preparations with a training session yesterday at Thamer Stadium and will hold a second session this evening at the same venue. Their final practice before the match will take place tomorrow night at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, where the game will be played on Thursday.

## Pyramids secure historic CAF Champs League win

President Sisi congratulates team



Pyramids players celebrate their victory.

CAIRO, June 2, (Agencies): The African Champions League soccer title stayed in Egypt with Pyramids winning the final Sunday, just seven years after the club was renamed and moved to Cairo.

The president of African soccer's governing body, Patrice Motsepe, presented the trophy after watching the South African club he owns, Mamelodi Sundowns, lose the second leg in Cairo 2-1, giving Pyramids a 3-2 aggregate win.

Pyramids took a first-half lead with Congo forward Fiston Mayele's competition-best ninth goal. Defender Ahmed Samy added a second in the 56th minute for the team coached by Krunoslav Jurcic from Croatia.

Iqraam Rayners cut the lead in the 75th, and Pyramids survived pressure during 10 minutes of stoppage time added.

Egypt now holds a record 19 African club titles, won by four different teams. Al Ahly has 12, including the past two competitions, Zamalek has five, and Ismaily has one.

Pyramids were rebranded and brought to the Egyptian

capital in 2018 by Saudi sports executive Turki Al-Sheikh, who is now a key official in boxing. One year later, the big-spending club's new owner was Salem Al-Shamsi, a businessman from the United Arab Emirates, who had been its vice president.

Pyramids' first African title earned a place at FIFA's Club World Cup in 2029.

Sundowns, which won its only African title in 2016, qualified to play in the United States next month in the first 32-team edition of the FIFA tournament.

The South African club was drawn in a group to play Ul-san in Orlando on June 17, then Borussia Dortmund in Cincinnati, and Fluminense in Miami.

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi congratulated Pyramids FC in a post on social media, praising the club's determination and the team's historic accomplishment.

"This victory embodies the spirit of determination and perseverance that has always distinguished Egyptian sports," President El-Sisi said. "It confirms our clubs' ability to compete strongly on the continental and international stage."

He expressed hopes for continued success for Egyptian football in upcoming regional and global competitions.

## Kuwait Squash Federation expands to 15 clubs after General Assembly meeting



The General Assembly meeting takes place.

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The General Assembly of the Kuwait Squash Federation convened at its headquarters in South Surra, where it approved both the administrative and financial reports for the past year. The meeting was attended by representatives from 11 out of the 14 member clubs.

The session was chaired by Federa-

tion President Walid Al-Sumaie, with Secretary General Hamed Al-Omran and Treasurer Mishaal Al-Sharqawi also in attendance.

Al-Sumaie opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and highlighting the national teams' achievements over the past year. A three-member committee was formed to verify and approve the

meeting minutes. The committee included Dr. Faisal Sarkhou (Al-Tadamon), Dr. Nasser Al-Fadhli (Kazma), and Bashar Al-Ramzi (Al-Salmiya).

Additionally, the General Assembly approved Fahaheel Club's request to join the squash federation for the 2025-2026 season, raising the total number of member clubs to 15.

### Best of the Rest

**Neymar apologizes for red card:** Neymar has apologized for a red card that he says cost Santos a victory in the Brazilian league, claiming that "desperation" to score led to the mistake in what could be his final match with the club.

Neymar was sent off in the 76th minute of Santos' 1-0 loss to Botafogo at home on Sunday after using his hand to score a goal.

Neymar's contract with Santos ends at the end of June and Santos plays only one more league game before the break for the Club World Cup. Since Neymar is suspended for the next match and there's still no deal to extend his contract, he may not play for the club again in this stint.

Realizing he was not going to reach the ball with his head before a defender could clear it away, Neymar used his right hand to push the ball into the net. The Brazil forward already had a yellow card and was shown his second by the referee, which immediately disallowed the goal. (AP)



A commemorative photo featuring the honorees from Yarmouk Club.

## Yarmouk Club celebrates 60 years of sporting excellence

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Yarmouk Club's Board of Directors held a commemorative celebration at its headquarters in Mishref, marking the club's 60th anniversary. The event brought together former club presidents, administrators, and stars from the golden generation, along with prominent Kuwaiti sports officials, including the Acting Director of the Public Authority for Sports, Bashar Abdullah.

The ceremony honored past presidents and standout players of the "Sons of Mishref," recognizing their invaluable contributions since the club's founding in 1965 on Failaka Island.

Bashar Abdullah lauded Yarmouk Club's rich legacy and its vital role in shaping the Kuwaiti sports landscape. "Six decades of achievement and dedication deserve to be cel-

ebrated and passed on with pride to future generations," he said. He also expressed hope that this initiative would serve as a model for other clubs across Kuwait.

Club President Ahmed Al-Jarki warmly welcomed attendees and expressed heartfelt gratitude to all those who laid the foundations of Yarmouk Club. "This exceptional ceremony is a tribute to those who worked hard on Failaka Island to establish our beloved institution," he said. "Today's turnout reflects our trust and deep appreciation for your efforts throughout the club's journey."

Al-Jarki emphasized the impact of past leadership in transitioning the club from Failaka to its current location in Mishref, highlighting the club's proudest moments—winning the Amir Cup twice and clinching the joint league cup. He also extended thanks to the Public Authority for Sports for its continued support.

## Unseeded Frenchwoman Boisson stuns Pegula, joins Gauff in quarterfinals

PARIS, June 2, (AP): Lois Boisson had never even played at the French Open before, let alone in the biggest arena at Roland-Garros, and now the unseeded 21-year-old Frenchwoman is through to the quarterfinals.

Boisson, a wild card entry ranked 361st, threw her head back and roared after beating

third-seeded American Jessica Pegula 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 on Court Philippe-Chatrier in Monday's fourth-round play.

Quite some victory, considering Pegula was the U.S. Open runner-up last year. Understandably, Boisson was nervous as she served for the match and saved three break points.

After Pegula missed an easy-looking winner at the net, and then clutched her head in her hands, Boisson had her first match point, and the biggest point of her career so far.

Pegula returned a strong serve to the back of the court, where Boisson unleashed a brilliant forehand winner down the line. She then

raised her arms in the air, realising the enormity of her win.

In other women's fourth-round play, second-seeded Coco Gauff, the 2023 U.S. Open champion, won 6-0, 7-5 against No. 20 Ekaterina Alexandrova.

Over on Court Suzanne-Lenglen, the 18-year-old Andreeva, who reached the semifinals at

Roland-Garros last year for her best performance at a major, won 7-5, 6-3 against No. 17 Daria Kasatkina. She playfully threw her wristband at Andreeva when they came to the net and Andreeva joked she would keep it.

No. 7 Madison Keys also advanced on Court Suzanne-Lenglen after beating Hailey Baptiste

6-3, 7-5 in an all-American contest. There's another one coming up for Keys against Gauff.

In remaining men's fourth-round play, No. 3 Alexander Zverev, last year's runner-up, was leading 6-4, 3-0 against Tallon Griekspoor when the unseeded Dutch player retired from the match. He later said it was due to an abdominal strain.