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Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait Group reports strong Q1 2026 results with net profit growth of 16% to KD 18.15 mln
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HH the Amir receives Kuwait Foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister.



HH the Crown Prince receives Kuwait Foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister.

Amir, Crown Prince receive new Deputy Foreign Minister

KUWAIT CITY, April 27, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Monday Foreign Minister Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Deputy Foreign Minister Hamad Suleiman Al-Mashaan on occasion of his appointment.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Monday, Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who presented Deputy Foreign Minister Hamad Al-Mashaan on the occasion of his appointment to his new post.

On Sunday, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah signed a decree Sunday appointing Hamad Suleiman Mashaan Al-Mashaan as Deputy Foreign Minister.

The decree stipulated that the Foreign Minister should comply with this decree, which would take effect once published in the official gazette.



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Middle Eastern people do not want Iran to possess nuclear weapons

WHY is the Iranian nuclear issue at the top of international concerns? Why does the international community reject the current Iranian regime's possession of weapons of mass destruction?

The answer to this question is quite simple - the Iranian regime's political behavior has eroded international trust, leading many to prefer distancing themselves from it and, in some cases, view it with hostility or as an enemy.

As a top priority, dealing with the Iranian nuclear issue requires considerable wisdom. The matter is not limited to Iran's attempts to acquire nuclear weapons, but also includes its adoption of the principle of exporting its revolution in its sectarian form as one of the stated objectives of Iran. To achieve this goal, Iran established proxies throughout the Arab region, and its leaders have on several occasions proudly declared their control over four Arab capitals.

This control was not merely a political act to extend influence, but a systematic process aimed at changing the cultures of these countries.

Iran planned to achieve this goal in Syria by working quietly to alter its religious beliefs, which is unacceptable to Arabs and Muslims. The former Damascus regime was under Iranian control, and therefore acquiesced to the massacres perpetrated by Hezbollah and the Revolutionary Guard throughout Syria. Consequently, the entire world, not just the Arab states, condemned these crimes.

The Iranian regime exploited the sectarian reality in Iraq and, unfortunately, with the assistance of the United States after 2003, contributed to the fragmentation of Iraq's national fabric. Today, the

results are clearly evident, as Iran's proxies continue to target the Gulf states, particularly Kuwait.

Iranian interventions have transformed Iraq into a failed state, and it is now facing a constitutional crisis that threatens its very existence if Iranian control over Iraqi political affairs continues.

The Iranian scheme did not stop there, as it has contributed to the deterioration of a third Arab state.

Lebanon is currently experiencing an existential crisis due to Iranian interventions, which has contributed to instability and conflict, including attacks on innocent civilians, in addition to attacks targeting Saudi Arabia, Yemen's natural ally. Today, the Yemeni people suffer from severe poverty and deep political division, which has transformed Yemen into a failed state by all standards.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah continues to disregard the authority of the state and is working to implement the Iranian agenda.

Despite its failure to confront Israel, which occupies approximately ten percent of Lebanon, Hezbollah persists in accusing the Lebanese state of treason for not complying with its demands.

The story does not end there. Yemen has also been affected by Iranian interference, which has contributed to instability and conflict, including attacks on innocent civilians, in addition to attacks targeting Saudi Arabia, Yemen's natural ally. Today, the Yemeni people suffer from severe poverty and deep political division, which has transformed Yemen into a failed state by all standards.

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Day by Day

I WOULD like to commend the Ahmadi Governor for his visit to the Al-Wafra agricultural area, where he inspected its conditions and roads.

It is essential for senior officials to closely follow up on vital facilities that contribute to ensuring food security.

Among the core responsibilities of governors is conducting field visits within their governorates to assess conditions and direct relevant institutions to carry out their roles effectively.

True development begins in local areas.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Crackdown on price, supply manipulation

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: The Competition Authority continues its intensive field operations by expanding market inspections to monitor activities, track availability indicators, and assess price and supply levels in order to create an accurate image of the market situation.

The authority indicated that these inspections are part of its efforts to uncover practices warranting early legal intervention.

It pointed out that it focuses on monitoring anti-competitive behaviors, such as restrictive agreements, exploitation of a leading position, or attempts to manipulate supply and demand.

It called on all market participants to adhere to the relevant laws and strengthen cooperation.

It also urged businesses and consumers to report practices deemed harmful to competition to guarantee a fair economic environment based on equal opportunities.

Residency checks snag 36 violators

Husband walks, wife gets 10 in maid death

By Munif Naif and Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Traffic patrol officers continued their security campaigns in various governorates, resulting in the arrest of 36 individuals within 24 hours.

A security source confirmed the issuance of arrest warrants for those apprehended in the recent series of campaigns for holding expired residency permits. He said all those arrested were referred to the concerned authorities.

The source added that security campaigns are ongoing in order to apprehend wanted individuals and those proven to have violated the laws of the country.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Court acquitted a Jordanian man of the premeditated murder of his housemaid in Hawally, even if the Public Prosecution charged him with offenses punishable by death, while his wife was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

According to the details of the case dating back to December 2025, the prosecution accused the defendants of intentionally killing the victim, as the wife habitually abused her by beating her, pouring hot liquids on her and branding her with a hot iron.

As described in the autopsy report, such acts resulted in severe injuries and deterioration of the health of the housemaid until her death.

The defendants also refused to take her to the hospital in spite of being able to do so.

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Al-Jarallah, Chinese ambassador discuss strong bilateral ties

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah met with Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Kuwait Yang Xin at his office on Monday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Director of the Political and Media Section at the Embassy Zhu Chuhuan and Third Secretary accompanied the Ambassador during the visit.

The Editor-in-Chief warmly welcomed the Ambassador and his companions, highlighting the development of Kuwaiti-Chinese relations, particularly regarding economic cooperation. He pointed out that diplomatic ties, established in the 1970s, have seen steady and continuous development.

Discussing the impact of the Iran-America conflict on the Gulf Arab states and Kuwait, Al-Jarallah stated he hopes "Beijing will play an active role in de-escalation." He described China as "a great nation with influence among various parties, which enables it to work effectively to stop the war."

The Editor-in-Chief also recalled a 15-day trip to China, praising "the remarkable progress it achieved in recent decades, which allowed it to enter global markets strongly."

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Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Ahmed Al-Jarallah meets Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Yang Xin, with Arab Times Managing Editor Marlon Aquino Malinao also in attendance, discussing Kuwait-China relations and regional developments.

Health Ministry digitizes student care

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: The Ministry of Health launched a comprehensive electronic system for school students as part of its strategy to upgrade school health services and improve the efficiency of care provided to students.

The ministry stated on its official X account that the system aims to create a digital health record for each student from the moment of registration, ensuring continuous and accurate monitoring of their health throughout their academic journey.

It explained that the system is based on conducting medi-

cal examinations for students according to precise standards, issuing health decisions immediately, and linking vaccination records, medical history, and allergies within a unified platform.

The system is digitally linked to the Sahel application, in addition to integration with the systems of the Ministry of Education and the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), enabling seamless and secure data exchange between the relevant entities.

The system allows access to students' health records within school clinics, contributing to faster response times in emergencies and enabling healthcare staff to make decisions based on accurate information.

Newswatch

MANAMA: Bahrain King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa discussed with Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tariq Al-Said, in a phone call on Monday, the latest regional and international developments.

The Bahrain News Agency (BNA) said the two leaders emphasized the importance of ensuring freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and all international waterways, in a way that contributes to supporting global trade and enhancing the stability of the global economy.

The call also reviewed the strong fraternal relations between the two countries. (KUNA)

JEDDAH: Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman affirmed that Saudi Vision 2030 has brought about a qualitative leap in the Kingdom's development

path, achieving a comprehensive transformation across economic sectors, services, infrastructure, logistics, and social life.



Saudi Crown Prince

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported on Monday that this came during the Council of Economic and Development Affairs' review of updates to Vision 2030, which, after completing its first and second phases, has laid solid foundations for growth across diverse economic sectors and achieved significant momentum and accomplishments. (KUNA)



Zain Kuwait tops Service Hero's Telecom 8 ranking for 14th time, and country's leading Internet Service Provider for 10th time

Call for peace as Al-Jarallah meets Ukraine ambassador

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah on Monday had a meeting with Ukrainian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Maksym Sobh, who was accompanied by Second Secretary for Public Diplomacy at the Embassy Dr. Dmytro Serov.

Al-Jarallah welcomed the visiting Ambassador and his companion, commending the commitment of the Am

bassador to strengthen bilateral ties between the two nations. The Ambassador then provided an overview of the developments in Ukraine in light of the ongoing war with Russia.

Al-Jarallah voiced his hope that "this war will end as soon as possible, and that the Ukrainian people and all the peoples of that region of Eastern Europe will enjoy peace and security."

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Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:45	Asr	03:21
Sunrise	05:10	Maghrib	06:21
Zohr	11:46	Isha	07:44

AOAD eyes PAAAFR assistance to boost Kuwait's livestock security, sustainability

KUWAIT CITY, April 27, (KUNA): Head of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) regional office Drar Al-Mustafa said Monday efforts are underway to enhance livestock security and sustainability in Kuwait with the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR).

Al-Mustafa told KUNA technical cooperation focuses on assessing and restructuring support mechanisms to develop the livestock sector in line with national and regional food security goals.

He said joint plans aim to shift the sector from traditional practices to a sustainable model based on efficiency and proactive prevention.

He noted restructuring subsidies to ensure feed

and dairy support reaches eligible beneficiaries and boosts domestic production.

He stressed upgrading laboratory capacity, modernizing national labs and training Kuwaiti staff in cooperation with international reference laboratories.

He said improving animal health requires reviewing epidemic control plans and enhancing Gulf early warning services, alongside a national biosecurity protocol to curb disease transmission and protect herds.



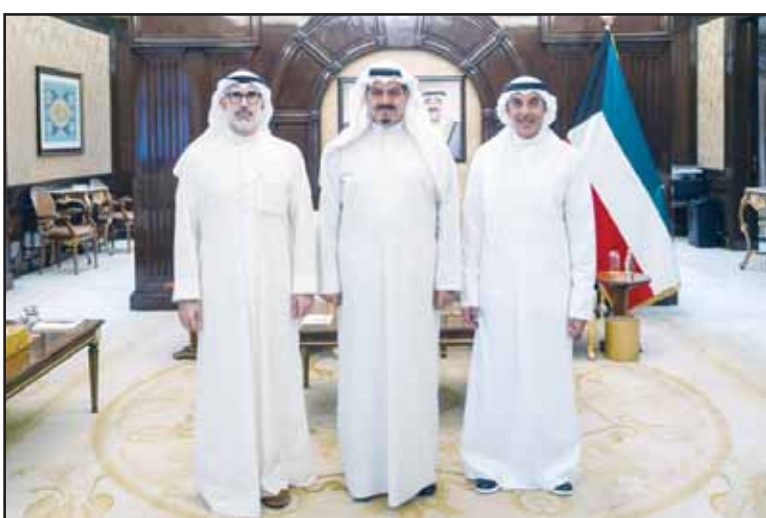
Drar Al-Mustafa

He added cooperation includes digital transformation through livestock numbering, GIS-based farm identification and a unified database to accurately assess herd numbers.

This approach underpins targeted government support, strengthening sustainability and advancing self-sufficiency.

He said a remote technical meeting will bring together experts to set timelines and an action plan supporting Kuwait's food security and resource sustainability vision.

Al-Mustafa affirmed Director-General Professor Ibrahim Al-Dukhairi's support for the authority as a strategic partner in achieving sustainable development goals in Kuwait.



PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and his Deputy Hamad Al-Masha'an.

PM receives FM and his deputy

KUWAIT CITY, April 27, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Monday, Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who presented Deputy Foreign Minister Hamad Al-Masha'an on the occasion of his appointment to his new post.

Visa transfers early May

Apply through 'Ashal/Companies' service

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Only a few days remain until the implementation of Decision No. 2/2026, issued by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), reports Al-Jarida daily.

The decision allows the transfer of expatriate workers employed in specific sectors, namely small and medium enterprises, industry, agriculture, livestock, and fishing, subject to defined regulations and for a temporary period.

Director General of PAM Eng. Rabab Al-Osaimi confirmed that the decision, set to take effect from the beginning of May until the end of June for a period of two months, reflects the

state's commitment to balancing the interests of employers and workers, while maintaining the requirement of the original employer's approval for any transfer.

Al-Osaimi explained that PAM will not accept labor complaints related to the implementation of the decision, particularly those concerning transfers outside the permitted sectors, as the decision is temporary and subject to obtaining the original employer's consent.

The existing legal and regulatory controls, requirements, and timeframes will remain in place to safeguard the rights of all parties, prevent violations, and stop any arbitrary transfers that could negatively impact the stability of the labor market.

The decision stems from a commitment to continuously regulate the labor market and adopt practical solutions that take into account the interests of all parties and align with current regional circumstances.

Applications to benefit from the decision will be submitted through the "Ashal/Companies" service.

Al-Osaimi went on to explain that employers wishing to transfer workers to their accounts will submit applications through the designated service.

Procedures will be completed after obtaining approval from the original employers of workers in the sectors covered by the decision.

This decision complements a series of initiatives aimed at improving the business environment and developing the labor market, spearheaded by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef. These initiatives aim to address many labor market challenges comprehensively and implement broad reforms.

The decision contributes to maximizing the utilization of the existing workforce in Kuwait, rather than allowing it to remain idle or underutilized.

It is expected to significantly benefit the aforementioned labor sectors, particularly the private sector.

It is worth noting that the ban on transferring workers from the five sectors mentioned above to other sectors has been in place for many years.



KUNA photo

Minister of Commerce and Industry Osama Boodai receives the Uzbekistan Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Ayubkhon Yunusov.

Food security boost discussed

Minister of Commerce and Industry Osama Boodai met Monday with Uzbekistan Ambassador to the country Dr. Ayubkhon Yunusov to discuss boosting bilateral cooperation, particularly in food security.

In a statement to KUNA, the ministry said the talks addressed prospects for advancing trade and economic ties to serve mutual interests.

Both sides reviewed opportunities to expand partnerships, enhance trade exchange and support sustainable development.

The meeting reflects Kuwait's commitment to strengthening relations and cooperation across key sectors. (KUNA)

Farmers praised for maintaining steady flow of Al-Wafra produce

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad visited Wafra Agricultural Area, Wafra Agricultural Cooperative Society and Kuwait Farmers Union.



Sheikh Hamoud

Acting Deputy Director General for Technical Affairs at the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) Asma Al-Otaibi and Support Services Supervisor at Wafra Agricultural Administration Eng. Abdullah Al-Rashidi

accompanied the Governor during the visit.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Wafra Agricultural Cooperative Society Nasser Al-Hamdan, Vice Board Chairman Jamal Al-Khaldi, Vice Chairman of Kuwait Farmers Union Fahad Al-Hayyan, board members, farmers and agricultural experts warmly welcomed the Governor.

During the visit, Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad assessed the volume of agricultural production and strategic reserves. He also listened to the comments and suggestions of the experts to develop the agricultural sector.

He underscored the need to hold a meeting with the concerned authorities, including the representatives of farmers, to discuss challenges and find plausible solutions.

Other Voices

Non-racist observations on pulling of nationality

By Ahmad alsarraf

THE withdrawal of citizenship from any citizen is a sovereign right that no individual or entity, inside or outside Kuwait, has the right to object to.

Kuwait has a law that is enforced, and the people accept it. This is the nature of such fateful decisions related to national security.

Despite the sympathy shown by some people towards those whose citizenship was revoked, there was particularly intense sympathy directed toward certain religious figures or opportunists among them.

These individuals included those known for collecting donations and claiming to send preachers to various countries around the world to promote Islam. Among them was one whose last campaign took place during the World Cup, during which he reportedly collected large sums of money but failed to convert anyone to Islam because he didn't actually send any preachers anywhere.

I did not observe similar sympathy for those who served the state, far more than for the religious opportunists.

Racists played a part in fueling discord, spreading hostility, and exacerbating the suffering of those who lost their citizenship. One such individual undermined the value of state sovereignty and the concept of citizenship when he insisted on reducing nationality to the enjoyment of its privileges. This individual demanded that those whose citizenship was revoked should be content with the benefits they had received throughout their years of naturalization.

Governments around the world have the right to revoke the citizenship of their citizens or grant it to others. The degree of strictness or leniency varies from one



alsarraf

country to another for several reasons.

China, India, and Japan, for example, are not lenient in granting citizenship to foreigners, while Egypt is among the more lenient cases. China does not grant citizenship easily, as it is often required that the applicant have Chinese relatives. China also does not allow dual citizenship, and the procedures for obtaining citizenship are limited and bureaucratic.

India does not allow dual citizenship but grants citizenship to those of Indian descent. Naturalized citizens are not entitled to vote. Some countries, such as certain Caribbean nations and the Comoros Islands, use the granting of citizenship as a primary source of income.

Japan is considered one of the most difficult countries in the world from which to obtain citizenship, with specific requirements, including proficiency in the Japanese language.

I believe the recent fundamental amendments to the citizenship law will place Kuwait among the most difficult countries in the world from which to obtain citizenship. * * *

In a notable development, the British Home Secretary, who is of Pakistani origin, revoked the citizenship of British citizen Mark Bullen, a former British police officer, on grounds related to national security, after he decided to marry and reside in Russia.

This was carried out under a law that grants the Home Secretary the authority to revoke citizenship, with the affected individual retaining the right to appeal to the courts. The law was enacted in 1981.

The US Department of Justice has identified 384 Americans born abroad whose citizenship is subject to revocation, as part of efforts to expedite the process. The administration of US President Donald Trump is also seeking to repeal the law that grants citizenship to anyone born on US soil.



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Digital infrastructure protection priority

NCSC eyes GovShield project to battle cyber threats

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: As digital transformation accelerates and cyber threats intensify, particularly in light of current regional circumstances, the government continues to strengthen the national cybersecurity system with rapid steps aimed at protecting digital infrastructure and enhancing the readiness of government entities, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to informed sources, the National Cyber Security Center (NCSC) is intensifying its efforts to implement the Government Cyber Shield project (GovShield) and expand its services to interested government entities.

The NCSC has contacted government entities, inviting them to utilize the project's services as part of strengthening the nation's cyber defense system.

It also addressed all government entities to submit proposals for joining the Government Cyber Shield project and to provide feedback on their decisions.

It further emphasized the necessity of designat-

ing a dedicated liaison officer upon acceptance to ensure effective coordination and follow-up on the joining procedures and access to the provided services.

The core services provided to all government entities include the establishment of a 24/7 Government Security Operations Center responsible for continuous monitoring, threat detection, incident analysis, and initial response, thereby mitigating the impact of cyberattacks immediately and effectively.

The services also include an advanced system for monitoring cyber threats and analyzing the attack surface, along with the deployment of proactive alerts to help entities take necessary preventive measures before risks materialize. In addition, the project offers integrated cyber incident response services.

The project provides a suite of specialized tools and services aimed at enhancing the security maturity of government entities through compre-

hensive assessments of cyber defenses, detection procedures, and response mechanisms.

These services include voluntary assessments and the execution of internal and external penetration tests according to specific timelines and rigorous technical standards.

The services also encompass active system security assessments, conducted through specialized security analysis to identify vulnerabilities and weaknesses that hackers could exploit for unauthorized access to networks and systems.

The project provides "trusted consultant" services for supporting government entities with specialized expertise to enhance their security strategies.

It is worth noting that the Cyber Shield project is managed by NCSC in cooperation with specialized global entities, ensuring the application of best international practices in the field of cybersecurity, without imposing any financial obligations on participating government entities.

Court awards KD11.6mn to Agility in 'PAI' dispute

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: On April 23, the Court of Cassation ruled on Appeals Nos. 13, 187, and 374/2022 Commercial/4 in the dispute between the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) and Agility Public Warehousing Company concerning the contractual relationship for Phase Five in South Amghara, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The judgment granted Agility the right to recover approximately KD 11.6 million from PAI.

PAI had filed Case No. 3538/2020 before the Commercial Civil Court, seeking confirmation of the termination of its contractual relationship with Agility, the eviction of the company from the disputed site measuring 427,164 square meters, and compensation for the period following the contract's expiry.

In response, Agility filed Case No. 4542/2020 before the Commercial Civil Court with counterclaims.

The Court of First Instance had ruled that the contractual relationship between PAI and Agility had ended as of April 8, 2020, regarding Phase Five of the South Amghara project, and ordered the company to vacate the site and hand it over to PAI. It also ordered Agility to pay PAI KD 44,237,806 for the period from April 8, 2020, until the date of the judgment, in addition to court costs and KD 10 in legal fees. The court dismissed Agility's counterclaim and ordered the company to bear its own court costs and pay KD 10 in legal fees.

Appeals

Dissatisfied with this ruling, both parties filed appeals in Appeals Nos. 1910 and 1920/2021 (Commercial).

The Court of Appeals upheld the judgment in full, while addressing the issue of rent valuation. The case was then further appealed before the Court of Cassation under Appeals Nos. 13, 187, and 374/2022 Commercial/4.

The Court of Cassation first accepted all three appeals. On the merits of Appeal No. 374/2022, it partially overturned the appealed judgment regarding the assessment of rent and ordered the first respondent to pay the costs, along with KD 20 in attorney's fees.

The court dismissed Appeals Nos. 13 and 187/2022 and ordered each appellant to pay the costs of the appeal, in addition to KD 20 in attorney's fees.

The court amended the appealed judgment regarding the benefit payment, ordering Agility to pay PAI KD 80 for each day of delay from the contract's expiry date of April 8, 2020, until full delivery.

The Court of Cassation upheld the appealed judgment, ordering the company to pay the costs and KD 20 in attorney's fees.

According to the published data, the financial outcome of the ruling is that Agility is entitled to recover KD 11,659,198.416.

It is worth noting that the disputed site, located in South Amghara, was officially handed over in November 2024, following the termination of the contractual relationship between the two parties and the completion of all related legal procedures.

Adding 'Al-' to one's name to alter lineage violation of law

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: In a move aimed at regulating personal names and preventing manipulation of lineage, the new law governing procedures for lineage claims and name corrections has established a clear framework for the use of the definite article "Al-", particularly when added to the names of fathers and grandfathers to form surnames, reports Al-Rai daily.

Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait explained that adding "Al-" to the name of a grandfather or ancestor constitutes a name amendment or correction, a procedure permitted only through the relevant committee and based on official documents proving the legitimacy of the surname.

The law does not criminalize the use of surnames in public life or outside official documents, but it emphasizes that providing false or misleading information to the competent authorities or the judiciary is considered a violation.

The concerned committee will not approve the addition of "Al-" except in specific cases, most notably the existence of an official document proving the title, such as its inclusion in the nationality certificate, or the issuance of a judicial ruling proving lineage, particularly in cases involving persons of unknown lineage, or proof of linkage in the lineage column with a family that officially bears the surname, as well as cases of name correction following prior forgery.



Farwaniya Governorate photo

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah with the visiting officials.

Farwaniya Governor reviews 'Cohesive Families' initiative

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received on Monday the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwaiti Association for the Prevention of Family Disintegration, Khaled Al-Mutairi, accompanied by Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Ahmad, Dr. Hussein Al-Hadba, and Dr. Maryam Al-Azmi.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the governor received the attendees and praised the association's efforts in supporting community initiatives aimed at enhancing family stability and instilling positive values.

The discussed "Cohesive Families" initiative, which stems from the vision "Stable

Families ... A Stable Society" and aims to support the stability of Kuwaiti families, enhance family cohesion, reduce conflicts, and raise community awareness of sound family values.

The governor commended the initiative's objectives and its educational and developmental content, affirming the Farwaniya Governorate's support for all initiatives that promote family cohesion and stability.

The attendees expressed their gratitude to the governor for his continued support of the association's activities.

Both sides emphasized the importance of continued cooperation and coordination in addressing family issues and enhancing community stability.

'Desert Warrior'... dramatic epic pulls varied audiences

"DESERT Warrior is not an ordinary film, it is a retelling of history, with many significant moments that invite reflection," columnist **Sheikh Fahad Dawood Al-Sabah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The film centers on the values of freedom, dignity, and standing up against injustice. These universal principles resonate emotionally with any viewer. It presents a call for independence and sovereignty through the story of the Battle of Dhi Qar, told from a historical perspective. The story remains relevant to today's world, making its portrayal in the film particularly meaningful.



Al-Sabah

"Today, we continue to witness events that are not unlike those that occurred in Dhi Qar. The film benefited from a large and generous production, which is reflected in the high quality of the work. Filming in the same locations where the events took place, in Neom and Tabuk, added significant value and gave the film a realism and depth that cannot be achieved through visual effects alone.

"The natural lighting and harsh desert terrain make the environment feel like a protagonist in the story, enhancing the viewer's sense of immersion in the historical era.

"There is no doubt that this film has taken Saudi cinematic production to a new level. It has received global acclaim and reflects the ability to build a cultural bridge, presenting Arabs to a worldwide audience as heroes and warriors in a complete dramatic epic.

"It also offers a cultural perspective that departs from stereotypical portrayals of Arab women, presenting Hind bint Al-Nu'man as a leader with the will and capability to make fateful decisions. The film highlights the role of women in historical and popular narratives in an inspiring way.

"The film cleverly draws upon one of the most significant epics in pre-Islamic Arab history by presenting the story of Hind bint Al-Nu'man. It sheds light on the spark that led to the decline of the Sasanian Empire's prestige and its eventual defeat.

"The deep human dimensions of Hind's character are highlighted, evoking viewers' empathy for her cause, not merely as a princess, but as a human being defending her dignity.

"The film blends historical facts, such as accounts of Sasanian kings forcibly proposing marriage to Hind, with cinematic imagination, portraying her as a warrior.

"This fusion of fact and fiction is a positive one, making the ancient historical narrative more accessible to today's younger audiences. The film presents Hind as an icon, comparable to legendary heroines, global in appeal, yet firmly rooted in an Arab identity.

"There is no doubt that the film is a major achievement for NBC and for Saudi cultural efforts, which aim to establish a strong presence on the global stage."

Also:

"The world has recently witnessed a significant rise in money laundering crimes, which are among the most dangerous economic and financial crimes that all countries strive to combat due to their devastating effects on both the local and global economy, as well as their links to terrorism," Kuwaiti lawyer **Sarah Al-Jassem** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"One form of money laundering is the creation of shell companies that are used as a legal cover to conduct financial transactions in secret.

"The crime of money laundering begins with a series of financial procedures aimed at concealing and disguising the illicit origin of funds, presenting them as legitimate in a way that allows their integration into financial and economic activities without raising suspicion about their source.

"Several factors have contributed to the spread of this type of crime, most notably the freedom of global trade, including sales, mortgages, financing, cryptocurrencies, stock and bond transactions, and investment portfolios used to legitimize illicit funds.

"Money laundering crimes are typically carried out in three main stages. The first is the placement stage, in which illicit funds are introduced into an existing financial system or activity. The second stage is layering and concealment, during which a series of complex financial transactions are conducted to hide the true source of the funds.

"The final stage is integration, where illicit funds are mixed with legitimate funds through various means, such as shell companies, forged invoices, and the use of fictitious investors or employees, among other methods of concealment.

"Accordingly, Law No. 106/2013 on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing was enacted to provide a precise definition of these crimes and their various forms.

"The law criminalizes several acts, including the use of proceeds of crime, receiving funds from unknown sources, or concealing their true nature, as well as failing to report suspicious transactions.

"It mandates the documentation of financial transactions exceeding a certain threshold, and the verification

of the identity of the parties involved and the sources of their funds. It also prohibits transactions conducted under fictitious or anonymous names, and requires individuals to declare to customs authorities any funds or precious metals they carry when entering or leaving the country.

"The legislator toughened the penalties for these crimes, which range from imprisonment and fines to the confiscation of illicit funds, without prejudice to the rights of bonafide third parties.

"The penalty is doubled for major crimes, such as those committed by organized groups, those linked to terrorist acts, or those involving the abuse of office or influence, in addition to the closure of the establishment and the revocation of its license.

"Continuous state oversight and investigation of suspicious activities are the cornerstones of combating this type of crime. In this regard, the Central Bank of Kuwait and other regulatory bodies play a vital role, relying on modern supervisory systems and strict procedures in line with international recommendations, thereby enhancing transparency in the financial sector and protecting the national economy.

"These efforts have had a clear impact in curbing the spread of money laundering and in making the financial environment safer and more stable. Combating money laundering is not solely the responsibility of government agencies, but it is a shared responsibility that requires public awareness and cooperation between citizens and institutions to preserve the integrity of the economy and protect national resources from the risks of this crime."

"During the recent conflict, many initiatives had emerged one after another. They started with the Kuwait flag, 'May God keep this country safe,' which citizens and residents placed on their mobile phones. Then came the Arfaj initiative, followed by 'Kuwait is a red line,' and few others," PhD in Plant Science **Dr. Reem Ahmed Al-Hazeem** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The Arfaj initiative is a symbol of loyalty and appreciation for the front lines, and a tribute to the righteous martyrs. It was launched as a national campaign honoring those stationed in service from the army, police, military personnel, firefighters, and everyone who sacrifices for our beloved Kuwait.

"The Arfaj plant is a well-known desert plant in Kuwait, and its flower is considered the national flower of the country. It is a shrub belonging to the Asteraceae (daisy) family, with a height ranging from 90 centimeters to one meter.

"It has high economic value, as it is one of the most important perennial grazing plants, serving as food for livestock and providing natural shelter and habitats for wild animals and birds. In the past, it had various household uses, was used in dyeing fabrics, and holds significant importance in projects for restoring and rehabilitating the desert environment.

"It stabilizes the soil, combats desertification, reduces sandstorms on highways, and limits soil erosion and degradation.

"Its natural properties are remarkable. It thrives in the harshest desert conditions, tolerates low temperatures and severe winter cold, and withstands heat, drought, salinity, and water scarcity. Despite all this, the Arfaj plant continues to grow and flourish.

"This initiative resonated deeply with me because it connects resilience to the Arfaj plant's deep roots in Kuwaiti soil. The resemblance between the Kuwaiti people and the Arfaj flower reflects determination and a strong sense of belonging to the land and the nation. Its bright yellow flowers inspire optimism for the future, while its clustered blooms, made up of 8 to 12 small flowers, symbolize national unity.

"The thorny edges represent security and safety. The numerous seeds within the flower symbolize the unity of its loyal sons and daughters. It thrives in sandy soil with strong, deep roots, ensuring prosperity and lasting continuity. Given its importance, the state has enacted laws prohibiting its uprooting or any encroachment upon it, reflecting its national and environmental value. Kuwait is a red line for leadership, government, and people alike.

"The presence of the Arfaj plant is an indicator of soil health, and this carries an environmental message. The presence of those on the front lines is a divine message of reassurance, conveying that 'we will return stronger, by the grace of God and through the efforts of its loyal sons.'

"May God strengthen you, protectors of the homeland, and may God have mercy on the righteous martyrs. The people of Kuwait are strong people. These are not mere slogans or chants; history has recorded our resilience in gold. Every crisis we have faced has increased our patience, unity, steadfastness, and resilience on this land. We are like the Arfaj plant, and the Arfaj plant is like us. We hope for a green, productive, and sustainable future for the coming generations."

— Compiled by **Simi K. Kutty**

Mol to rehire retired, fit ex-police personnel

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Ministry of Interior's General Directorate of Police Affairs announced the opening of registration for the 78th Reenlistment Course through its website, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

This course is limited to individuals who previously served in the police force and whose service was terminated due to resignation, dismissal for health reasons, absence from work, or failure to comply with disciplinary penalties.

The ministry clarified that registration will begin on May 1 and continue until May 15.

Applicants must be Kuwaiti citizens, no older than 40 years at the time of application, of good conduct, and have had their service terminated for a period of not less than six months and not more than three years. They must also be medically fit and pass a physical fitness test.

Applicants must not have been dismissed for misconduct, nor convicted of criminal offenses or crimes involving moral turpitude or dishonesty unless their civil rights have been restored. They must also not have been dismissed more than twice.

In addition, applicants must commit to working in their previous specialization and successfully completing the training course and personal interview.

Border cops foil human peddling

Securitymen among culprits

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: The Court of Appeals, presided over by Judge **Nasser Al-Haid**, with Judges **Mutaib Al-Aradhi** and **Saud Al-Sanea** as members, sentenced a citizen to two years in prison with hard labor, a police corporal to three months in prison and another individual to one year in prison for involvement in an attempt to smuggle individuals whose citizenship was revoked through the **Nuwiseeb** border.

The defendants were apprehended in an entrapment set up by the Criminal Investigation Department at the Interior Ministry.

Case details revealed that the Public Prosecution charged several individuals of manipulating an official data system at the ministry. They allegedly attempted to conceal the departure of certain individuals from the entry and exit system at Nuwiseeb border, enabling them to leave the country without official documentation.

One of the defendants, a security officer, was also accused of participating in the scheme in exchange for a bribe, in addition to offering and soliciting bribes to facilitate the operation.

The Criminal Court previously acquitted the defendants of bribery, but convicted them of forgery. One defendant was sentenced to five years in prison, while the remaining defendants received prison sentences of up to three years. Some were ordered deported and others were released on bail.

Also, the Court of Appeals amended the charge, considering the incident to constitute attempted forgery of an official document rather than a completed crime, since the defendants were apprehended before crossing the border.

Accordingly, the court issued the amended ruling, sentencing one defendant to two years in prison, the security officer to three months and another defendant to one year.

Several other defendants were released on bail of KD500 each and required to maintain good conduct for two years. The court upheld the acquittal on bribery charges.

The court also suspended the appeal filed by the prosecution against some of the defendants pending the completion of legal procedures related to the judgments.

Hunt for doctor attacker: An investigator at the Jabriya police station has issued instructions to search for an unidentified individual who was driving an SUV after he allegedly assaulted a doctor working at the Ministry of Health, born in 1986 and employed at **Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital**, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to security sources, the doctor explained that the incident took place in Jabriya, Block 2, near the Cooperative Society roundabout. A verbal altercation occurred between him and another driver while he was on the road. The other driver forced him to stop his vehicle before assaulting him and then fleeing the scene.

The doctor stated that he was unable to identify the vehicle's license plate number, but was able to describe its make and model.

He later obtained a preliminary medical report confirming that he sustained bruises and abrasions as a result of the incident.

The sources revealed that surveillance camera footage in the area will be reviewed to help identify and apprehend the suspect.

Litterers will face legal action

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: The Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality announced on Sunday the launch of cleaning campaigns in all governorates, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a press release, Kuwait Municipality explained that field teams from public hygiene departments will conduct these campaigns, which will continue until the end of April. The campaigns aim to identify violations and take legal action against offenders.

Its inspection teams are placing utmost attention on raising the level of cleanliness in areas under their responsibility and removing waste and obstructions from roads.

The inspection campaigns were launched on Sunday in Hawally Governorate to examine all public cleaning services within the governorate.

The campaign includes monitoring the work of cleaning contractors and public hygiene companies, as well as overseeing street vendors.

'Better workers' rights'

Kuwait witnesses major decline in suicide cases

By **Munif Naif**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: The number of suicide cases recorded last year reached 97, mostly non-Kuwaitis, compared to 149 in 2015 -- an indication of a decline in suicide cases in the country, say security sources.

Sources pointed out this is around 65 percent decrease in suicide cases in a span of 10 years, indicating this percentage reflects the significant impact of stricter laws on protecting workers' rights and improving the work environment.

Sources revealed that the number of suicide cases in 2017 reached 144, and it increased again in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching 175 cases -- the highest during that period.

Sources indicated that the number went down again in the following years, from 120 cases in 2023 to 97 in 2025. Sources explained that this significant decrease is not accidental, as it is the result of series of measures and procedures implemented by the relevant authorities.

Sources said these measures and procedures include intensifying laws related to protecting workers' rights, improving the work environment, and combating practices that could harm the mental health of expatriate workers.

They pointed out that providing a safe and stable work environment and ensuring that workers receive their full rights without delay or reduction positively affects their mental well-being and reduces the pressures that might prompt some to consider ending their lives due to feelings of despair.

They stated that ongoing efforts to monitor the labor market and address violations have contributed to reducing conflicts and problems, which could lead to severe psychological crises.

In a related development, sources confirmed that there were zero cases of suicide attempts in 2025, reflecting the remarkable success in reducing such attempts.

Sources said this decline also reflects the rising public awareness on the importance of mental health, alongside the efforts of official bodies and civil society organizations in providing psychological support and counseling, and opening channels of communication with individuals experiencing difficult mental health circumstances.

Despite these positive indicators, sources stressed the importance of continuing to work at an accelerated pace to maintain this decline by strengthening psychological support programs and intensifying awareness campaigns to ensure the protection of all segments of society from falling into acute mental health crises.



KUNA photos

Top and above: The National Crisis Management Center (AMAN) team during the virtual coordination meeting with Turkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD).

Kuwait, Turkiye seek to upgrade crisis handling

KUWAIT CITY, April 27, (KUNA): The National Crisis Management Center (AMAN) team held a virtual coordination meeting with Turkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), to discuss cooperation and exchange expertise in crisis and emergency management.

In a press statement on Monday, the team explained that they reviewed several practices and experiences related to enhancing preparedness, institutional coordination mechanisms, and ways to strengthen the capacity to handle various emergency scenarios, thereby supporting efficient response and rapid decision-making.

They also discussed opportunities for joint cooperation in training, knowledge exchange, and leveraging specialized expertise to enhance institutional capabilities and keep pace with the rapidly evolving challenges in crisis and disaster management.

PAI shuts 29 industrial plots in rules violation

By **Marwa Al-Bahrawi**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: The Public Authority for Industry (PAI) closed 29 industrial plots in Amghara, Murghab, Shuwaikh, Mina Abdullah, Subhan, Al-Rai, Al-Mustaqbal and Sabah Al-Ahmad, as a result of intensive campaigns carried out recently to uncover violations and ensure compliance with the regulations.

The closure orders were published in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Yaum', on Sunday, after the concerned authorities discovered several violations in the abovementioned plots. These violations include encroachment on State properties, engaging in unlicensed activities, expired licenses, storage outside the specified boundaries, lack of fire safety permits, obstruction of emergency exits, electrical hazards, failure to dispose solid and liquid waste in the designated sites, improper storage of materials (particularly paint cans), and absence of appropriate containers for non-hazardous waste.



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Nazaha, CAPT explore stronger cooperation to curb corruption

Kuwait steps up tender integrity

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Chairperson of the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), Dr. Rana Al-Fares, met with the Head of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), Essam Al-Marzouq, on Sunday to discuss ways to enhance institutional cooperation and exchange expertise in the areas of integrity and

combating corruption, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a press statement issued by Nazaha on the occasion of Dr. Al-Fares's official visit to CAPT headquarters, several important topics were discussed, most notably ways to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two sides, which would contribute to supporting anti-corruption ef-

orts, particularly in the digitization of tendering procedures.

Coordination between the two sides plays a pivotal role in improving government performance efficiency, promoting integrity, and reducing unlawful practices in line with international best practices in this field.

The visit reflects CAPT's role in strengthening the integrity system in managing government tenders and overseeing related procedures to ensure fairness and equal opportunities for all bidders.

The statement emphasized the commitment of both sides to unifying efforts and integrating roles, given that CAPT's work is a fundamental pillar in protecting public funds, reducing corruption, and supporting the state's direction toward implementing the highest standards of governance.



Nazaha photo

Officials pose for a group photo during a meeting aimed at strengthening cooperation on integrity and public tender oversight in Kuwait.

24/7 inspections ensure compliance

Food safety standards in local markets reassuring, says PAFN

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Mubarak Al-Kabeer Inspection Supervisor at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), Hanan Haji, affirmed that the level of food safety in local markets is reassuring and is subject to continuous 24/7 monitoring, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement issued on Sunday, Haji pointed out that inspections

focus on important criteria, including compliance with health requirements, the safety of workers and their possession of health certificates, the suitability of food products, and proper storage methods.

She emphasized that PAFN takes immediate and decisive action against any violations that may harm consumer health.



KUNA photo

Tunisian Finance Minister Michket Khaldi with Rashid Al-Haroun, the Director General of the Arab Investment and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation.

Tunisian Finance Minister praises investment relations with Kuwait

TUNIS, April 27, (KUNA): Tunisian Finance Minister Michket Khaldi praised the "distinguished" cooperation with the Kuwait-based Arab Investment and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (Dhaman).

According to a ministry statement, this came during a meeting between Minister Khaldi and the Corporation's Director General, Rashid Al-Haroun, during which they discussed strengthening cooperation between the two sides in the areas of investment promotion and foreign trade insurance.

The Tunisian minister emphasized

the importance of supporting such cooperation, particularly regarding risk insurance, considering the geopolitical crises the world is witnessing.

In a related context, Khaldi stressed the depth of cooperation and partnership between Tunisia and Kuwait, which contributes to the capital of COTUNACE; the Tunisian Company for the Insurance of Foreign Trade.

For his part, Al-Haroun commended the high caliber of Tunisian professionals working at Dhaman.

PAFN slaughterhouses fully ready for Eid Al-Adha

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Director of the Slaughterhouses Department at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) Mohammad Al-Salem confirmed readiness for Eid Al-Adha, indicating that the slaughterhouses operate round the clock to provide sheep and cattle, along with rigorous veterinary inspections to ensure their safety for human consumption.

In a statement to the newspaper, Al-Salem revealed that the expected number of livestock, which will be consumed during the four days of Eid Al-Adha, will range between 18,000 to 20,000 like last year. He affirmed that the main slaughterhouses -- Capital, Rai, Ahmadi, Jahra and Farwaniya -- are fully prepared to



PAFN photo

Livestock gathered at a holding pen inside a slaughterhouse ahead of Eid Al-Adha, as facilities prepare for peak demand and inspections.

meet the needs of consumers.

He said each slaughterhouse has around 60 to 70 butchers working 24/7, while inspections are conducted daily to ensure compliance with health regulations.

He indicated that the department prepared early for the season, adding that in the past, especially during Ramadan, more than 100,000 sheep were inspected and processed. He said this proves the high operational capacity of the slaughterhouses, stressing that a sufficient number of veterinarians and inspectors are available to handle the expected surge during Eid al-Adha.

He emphasized the vital role of veterinarians, as the livestock is inspected before it is slaughtered to guarantee it is healthy and then re-inspected after slaughtering it according to Islamic law to ensure it is free from internal diseases.

Platform streamlines tests, interviews until May 3

MoE launches online registration for supervisory job assessments

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: The Ministry of Education has launched a service for equivalency assessments and personal interviews for applicants seeking supervisory educational positions.

This service is available through the official website of the ministry under Administrative Services Section, starting Sunday and will continue until May 3.

The ministry urged those interested to register and complete the required procedures within the specified period through its official website to ensure a smooth application process, enhance transparency, and guarantee equal opportunities.

It is part of a series of steps the ministry is taking to reduce reliance on paper transactions, simplify procedures, and save time and effort for the educational staff, in line with the digital transformation move of the government.

Within the framework of digital transformation, the registration process for new primary school students has emerged as a prime example of

advanced digital government integration. It is implemented through the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), within an interconnected electronic system designed to provide a seamless experience for parents.

The Government Communication Center published an explanatory video on its social media platforms detailing the registration process, which consists of five steps. It begins with a notification sent to the parents through the 'Sahel' application informing them that registration is open. This is followed by the completion of the required information electronically, then selecting the appropriate school. Next, a notification is sent to the nearest school health center to complete the necessary health procedures. The process culminates in the notification of the student's acceptance into the school.

Observers consider these steps a significant leap in the development of educational services, given the move towards building a comprehensive digital education system.

KU holds 1201-1500 in THE 2026 rankings

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026 placed Kuwait University in the 1201-1500 range globally, based on performance indicators in teaching, research, international outlook, and industry influence, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The rankings showed the university's strong performance in several disciplines. It ranked in the 401-500 range globally in health and medical

sciences, and in the 801-1000 range in business administration and economics.

Other rankings included computer science (1001+), education studies (601-800), engineering (1001-1250), life sciences (801-1000), physical sciences (1251+), and social sciences (1001+).

It is worth noting that Kuwait University's overall ranking has remained unchanged within the 1201-1500 range since 2025.

Health Ministry approves licensing exams for new doctors from 2027

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: The Ministry of Health has approved the implementation of Ministerial Resolution No. 75/2026, effective January 1, 2027, which sets additional requirements and standards for appointing medical staff, reports Al-Rai daily.

As per the appointment requirements, newly graduated physicians must pass the national licensing examinations as a prerequisite for appointment to the position of Resident Physician/Registered Assistant. These examinations are:

■ **Human Medicine:** Passing the Kuwait Medical Licensing Examination (KMLE).

■ **Dentistry:** Passing the Kuwait Dental Licensing Examination (KDLE).

The resolution also establishes a Kuwait Examination Board, affiliated with the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS), to oversee these examinations. The Board is chaired by the Secretary-General of KIMS and includes a select group of academic and healthcare leaders.

The decision is part of the ministry's vision to modernize the professional licensing system. It aims to ensure the competence and readiness of physicians in line with the most stringent international standards, enhance the quality of healthcare provided to the community, and guarantee the qualification of both national and expatriate medical personnel based on advanced scientific and professional principles.



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Ministers call for de-escalation after regional attacks

Jordan eyes stronger Kuwaiti investment and trade links

AMMAN, April 27, (KUNA): Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi renewed on Sunday Jordan's condemnation of Iranian attacks targeting Jordan, Kuwait and other Arab states.

In a statement, the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said this came during Safadi's meeting with Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who is on an official visit to Amman.

Safadi affirmed Jordan's full solidarity with Kuwait in all measures taken to defend its sovereignty, security, and the

safety of its citizens and residents.

For his part, Sheikh Jarrah reiterated Kuwait's full solidarity with Jordan and Arab states against Iranian attacks targeting them.

Both ministers stressed the depth of longstanding fraternal relations between the two countries and their united stance in facing challenges, while discussing ways to enhance bilateral cooperation across various fields.

They agreed to prepare for the sixth session of the Kuwaiti-



Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo
Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi with Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Jordanian Joint Higher Committee and to hold a new round of political consultations between their foreign ministries soon.

Safadi also praised Kuwaiti investments in Jordan, expressing his country's desire to further boost them and increase bilateral trade.

The two sides emphasized the importance of building on the ceasefire agreement between the US and Iran to reach a sustainable solution that addresses the causes of tension, respects international law, state sovereignty, good neighborly relations, and

ensures freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

They also discussed developments in the occupied Palestinian territories, stressing the need to stabilize the situation in Gaza, ensure the full implementation of plans proposed by Donald Trump, and remove obstacles to humanitarian aid delivery.

On Lebanon, both ministers underlined the need to uphold the ceasefire and support the Lebanese government's efforts to assert sovereignty over all its territory.



MoE photo
Minister of Education meets Italian Ambassador at the ministry headquarters, discussing bilateral cooperation in education and culture, with official portraits of Kuwait's leadership in the background.

Education Minister, Italian envoy explore stronger education co-op

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaie welcomed Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Kuwait Lorenzo Morini and Head of the Cultural and Trade Office Luana Franchitto at his office in the headquarters of the ministry on Monday, with a number of officials in attend-

ance.

During the meeting, both parties discussed several topics of mutual interest. These discussions affirmed the commitment of the two sides to strengthen bilateral partnership and expand cooperative efforts to achieve the educational and cultural goals of both nations.

IICO to participate in launch of Tadamon 2 program in Jeddah

KUWAIT CITY, April 27, (KUNA): The International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) announced Monday its participation, within a delegation headed by Director General Bader Al-Sumait, in the launch ceremony of the second phase of the "Tadamon 2" program organized by the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah.

Director of Grants and Capacity Building and Acting Director of Strategic Partnerships at IICO Sami Zain Al-Abideen told KUNA that the launch ceremony will witness the signing of a joint cooperation agreement between the Islamic Development Bank and IICO.

He said the agreement reflects IICO's commitment to enhancing its presence in international development initiatives and expanding

strategic partnerships to better serve vulnerable communities, reinforcing its role in supporting humanitarian and sustainable development efforts worldwide.

Zain Al-Abideen noted that the "Tadamon 2" program builds on the success of its first phase from 2019 to 2024, which empowered over 5,000 civil society organizations and mobilized more than USD 155 million in co-financing.

He added that the new phase for 2025-2030 focuses on measurable outcomes, streamlined procedures and expanded capacity-building, including the Tadamon Academy, Development Accelerator and Islamic Finance Windows, while strengthening civil society and advancing sustainable development goals.

Ahmadi OKs street numbering in Mahboula and Abu Halifa

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, April 27: The Ahmadi Governorate Committee at the Municipal Council, chaired by Nassar Al-Azmi, held its seventh meeting for the fourth term on Monday.

The committee approved the numbering of streets in Mahboula and Abu Halifa, as part of a comprehensive plan to modernize the address system and reorganize road naming throughout the country.

This is a government project that aims to reorganize road names by replacing the names of main and secondary streets with regulatory numbers in line with urban development requirements and to ease

access to various locations.

It is one of the important steps in modernizing the address system, following a series of regulatory measures taken in recent years to standardize the road naming process and reduce similarity and duplication of street names.

A reliable source from the Kuwait Municipality told the newspaper that the road numbering project is implemented in phases, in coordination with the relevant committees in the six governorates to ensure rapid and accurate completion.

The source explained that the fieldwork includes replacing old signs with the ones bearing the approved numbers, in addition to updating maps and electronic data related to addresses.

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: The initiative, "A Child Reads" -- part of the Arab Reading Challenge -- was launched in the second semester of the current academic year, with the participation of kindergarten teachers and their students, as well as the educational districts.

In a press statement, the Education Ministry revealed that such an educational initiative proves the rising awareness on the importance of instilling love for reading in early childhood and the success of efforts to cultivate the love for books and knowledge in young children.

General Coordinator of the Arab Reading Challenge in Kuwait Abdullah Al-Barrak explained that the initiative aims to solidify the reading culture from the early stages of education. He praised the resounding success of the initiative among the kindergartens in all educational districts.

Al-Barrak said the judging process for selecting the best teacher, the best kindergarten supervisor, the outstanding kindergarten, and the gifted child covered 215 kindergartens. He confirmed that the entries underwent rigorous selection stages, culminating in the selection of 20 finalists for personal interview, which was conducted in front of a panel of judges, chaired by Director General of the General Administration for Educational Support Services Mariam Al-Enezi. He added that the panel evaluated the candidates according to the educational and professional standards that prove the quality of their performance and their ability to develop the reading skills of children.

He went on to say that the initiative is part of the 10th Arab



MoE photo
Director General of the General Administration for Educational Support Services Mariam Al-Enezi chaired the judging panel for the 'A Child Reads' initiative, overseeing the evaluation of kindergarten participants and highlighting educational standards in early childhood reading programs.

Reading Challenge, based on the vision of Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaie, who stressed the need to provide high-quality programs for kindergarten children that foster an early connection with reading and instill the love for books.

He stated that the objectives of the initiative include the development of pre-reading skills due to the vital role of such skills in developing the mind, imagination and comprehension abilities of children. "This prepares them to excel in the next educational stages and to understand stories, analyze events therein, and grasp the plots," he added.

He indicated that the initiative

was launched in the second semester and witnessed widespread interaction and significant participation of the children, even during the shift to distance learning. "Kindergartens continued exerting efforts. The role of supervisors and teachers was vital in the success of the initiative through continuous follow-up and effective communication. The fruits of this work were evident in the quality of the entries. Outstanding projects reflecting considerable effort were reviewed, along with promising student models that represent a bright future for Kuwait. The children exhibited impressive examples of imagination and comprehension of stories. They demonstrated an ability to

identify time and characters and even went beyond that to skills considered advanced for their age, such as changing the title of the story and suggesting different endings," he elaborated.

He also pointed out that the initiative contributed to the development of the language skills of children, such as distinguishing between the meanings of words in different contexts, expressing emotions, and transforming words into mental images and real-life applications.

He reiterated that the children showed a level of creativity that exceeded expectations, thereby, achieving and even surpassing the goals of the initiative.

Registration open via website until May 14

PAHW launches accreditation window for training providers

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: The Administrative Development and Training Department at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced the opening of registration and accreditation for private training companies and institutes on May 3-14.

Registration can be completed by filling out the form on the website of PAHW and then submit it by email to training@pahw.gov.kw.

The department emphasized that no applications will be accepted after the specified period. It stressed the importance of fulfilling all requirements and submitting the application in PDF format for approval. It clarified that the data form and all attachments must be approved by the responsible manager or authorized signatory, adding that incomplete applications will be rejected without consideration.

Following are the documents required for registration:

■ A letter addressed to the relevant department requesting accreditation

■ License from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET)

■ Registration of the institute with the Civil Service Commission (CSC)

■ Registration of the institute with the Central Agency for Information Technology (for computer programs).

■ Administrative structure, including names and job titles of employees

■ Names of full-time lecturers, along with their qualifications and areas of specialization

■ Government and private entities with which the company or institute has collaborated with since 2019

■ Copies of accreditations and cooperation agreements (if applicable)

■ Quality certificates (if applicable)

■ Any additional accreditations

■ Authorized signatory

Continued from Page 1

Middle Eastern

Tehran's proxy in Sana'a - the Houthis - are doing everything in their power to obstruct internal and external reconciliation efforts aimed at resolving Yemen's crisis.

When we examine these facts objectively, we would understand that if the rogue state Iran were to acquire any weapons of mass destruction, it would pose a threat not only to its neighbors but to the entire world.

If we consider Iran's attempt to target the Diego Garcia base in the Indian Ocean, we would understand why the whole world must stand in solidarity with the United States to prevent this regime from acquiring nuclear weapons, to stop it from developing its missile program, and to eliminate its proxies in the region.

Residency checks

The prosecution demanded their punishment as per articles 79/2 and 149 of the Penal Code, considering their actions as premeditated murder, a crime punishable by death.

During the trial, the lawyer of the husband, Attorney Omar Al-Rashed, affirmed the innocence of his client and requested that the investigating officer be called as a witness. He argued that the elements of premeditated murder were absent, particularly the physical element and criminal intent, emphasizing his client's lack of direct involvement in the incident or any interaction with the victim.

The defense also requested an amendment to the charges, citing Article 132 of the Criminal Procedure

Code, which allows the court to re-classify the legal description of the incident based on the evidence presented.

After reviewing the case, the court concluded that the evidence against the husband was insufficient and acquitted him. The wife was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Call for

On the other hand, Ambassador Sobh stated that the relationship between Kuwait and Ukraine is "based on mutual respect." He expressed appreciation for Kuwait's "principled stances" and the "dignified approach to humanitarian issues" shown by its people.

He asserted that "despite the war,

the Ukrainian economy continues to play a significant role in the global economy, which proves our people's determination to persevere and not succumb to the war machine."

He considers it "a great honor to meet a prominent media figure in the Gulf and Arab world like Ahmed Al-Jarallah. We hope that our cooperation with the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers will be distinguished.

He pointed out that the two newspapers' coverage of the Ukrainian crisis, especially "since the war has led to a remarkable decline in Gulf tourism to Ukraine, which was at its peak before the four-year conflict."

He added that there are "indications of growing trade relations between Ukraine and the Gulf states, especially in the food sector," hoping

that this cooperation will continue, particularly with Kuwait.

Managing Editor of the Arab Times Marlon Aquino Malinao also attended the meeting.

Al-Jarallah, Chinese

Ambassador Yang Xin confirmed that China is focused on advancing its ties with Gulf nations, specifically the State of Kuwait. He referenced recent development agreements signed under the Silk Road and the Belt and Road Initiative.

He expressed gratitude for Al-Jarallah's favorable view of Chinese efforts and hoped that "relations between China and Kuwait will continue on their current path of development."

"I have been following Gulf-Chinese relations in general, and Kuwaiti-Chinese relations in particular, for some time now. I have been very pleased with this important development," he said.

He added that since 1971, the relationship between Beijing and Kuwait has been improving year after year.

Ambassador Yang Xin concluded "I recall that the first Arab support for China at that time came from the Kuwait Fund for Development. This undoubtedly distinguishes our strong friendship and ongoing relations with the State of Kuwait from that time until today."

Managing Editor of the Arab Times Marlon Aquino Malinao also attended the meeting.

America

5 injured in shooting near Indiana University: At least five people were injured in a mass shooting near Indiana University in Bloomington, US state of Indiana, early Sunday morning, authorities said.

Bloomington Police Department Chief **Mike Diekhoff** said at a news conference that all the wounded were taken to local hospitals and are in stable condition. Official sources previously said nine people were injured in the shooting.

At approximately 12:25 a.m. local time, police responded to reports of gunshots on Kirkwood Avenue where a large crowd gathered, and found multiple individuals wounded.

Diekhoff said officers also found shell casings at the scene and believed both suspects to be male.

Investigators have determined by reviewing footage that a fight broke out between two women, during which several people drew handguns and two people fired weapons.

Police have not yet taken a suspect into custody following the shooting. The investigation is underway. (Xinhua)



Diekhoff

Ex-rep Riegle dies at 88: Donald W. Riegle, who represented Michigan in Congress for nearly three decades under seven presidents, has died, his family said Sunday. He was 88.

Riegle, who began his career as a Republican and later became a Democrat, died Friday of cardiac arrest at his home in San Diego, according to a family statement.

"The cornerstone of our family, Don was a kind, loving, courageous leader who taught us to stand up for justice, economic opportunity, and fairness for everyone," the state-

ment said.

His family said Riegle was proud of fighting for the rights of working people and leading the Senate opposition to NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement that resulted in the loss of many jobs in his home state. He pushed for economic development and the expansion of health insurance in Michigan.

The native of Flint, Michigan, was first elected to the US House of Representatives as a Republican in 1966 at age 28. As a congressman, he challenged President Richard Nixon's policies on the Vietnam War and crossed the aisle to join the Democratic Party in 1973. Three years later, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he served until 1994. (AP)

Georgia wildfire tops 31 square miles: One of two large wildfires in southeastern Georgia continues to grow and now exceeds 31 square miles (80 square kilometers), officials reported Sunday.

The Highway 82 Fire has been burning since April 20 and as of Saturday had destroyed at least 87 homes. On Sunday morning, officials said it was only 7% contained.

Highway 82 in Brantley County is about 35 miles (56.3 kilometers) north of the state line with Florida.

"The fire basically doubled last night in size," Brantley County Manager Joey Cason said Sunday in a Facebook post. "It is a dynamic fire event that will be impacted by the wind."

Wind gusts of about 15 mph (24.1 kph) were expected Sunday.

Cason also said evacuation notices could be issued Sunday and that residents should heed them.

"We had folks that did not evacuate and they almost got caught by that fire," he added. "It's going to be another potential bad fire day as the winds pick up later in the day."

A second fire about 70 miles (110 kilometers) to the southwest in Clinch and Echols counties, near the Florida state line, had burned more than 46 square miles (121 square kilometers), destroyed at least 35 homes and only was about 10% contained as of Saturday. That blaze was started by sparks from a welding operation until 1994. (AP)



Traffic backs up along State Highway 199 as crews work to repair a heavily damaged power pole and lines along State Highway 199 on April 26, in Springtown, Texas. (AP)

Tornadoes in northern Texas kill 2, destroy multiple homes

A tornado-producing thunderstorm left at least two people dead in northern Texas and displaced at least 20 families, with many homes sustaining major damage, authorities said Sunday.

At least one person was killed and numerous homes were damaged Saturday night in the town of

Runaway Bay, said Wise County Judge J.D. Clark, who serves as the county's chief executive. Emergency responders worked to clear debris to reach damaged homes and provide medical care where needed, Clark said.

"Access has been difficult due to blocked roadways and downed

utilities, but crews have continued pushing forward to reach those in need," Clark said.

The storm also hit Springtown, where Parker County Assistant Fire Chief David Pruitt said in an email that a second person died south of the city limits. There was "significant damage" in the area, Pruitt said. (AP)

'Presidency is a dangerous profession'

Trump calls for unity and bipartisan healing after violent incident, but will it last?

WASHINGTON, April 27, (AP): US President Donald Trump was somberly contemplative and unusually conciliatory after confronting what he saw as a third attempt on his life in less than two years. He suggested that his personal politics had made him a repeated target, but he also called for unity and bipartisan healing in an increasingly violent world.

"It's always shocking when something like this happens. Happened to me, a little bit. And that never changes," a subdued Trump told reporters in a hastily organized news conference at the White House late Saturday.

Only a short time before, a man with guns and knives tried to rush past the security perimeter inside the Washington hotel where the Republican president was about to address the White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

Authorities are trying to determine what happened and why. A suspect was taken into custody and identified as Cole Tomas Allen, 31, of Torrance, California.

Trump said he himself was undoubtedly the target. The presidency is "a dangerous profession," he said, noting that violence associated with politics had escalated in the US and around the world. "No country is immune."

Trump suggested it was a sign of how successful his presidency has been.

"I've studied assassinations, and I must tell you the most impactful people - the people who do the most, take

a look at Abraham Lincoln," Trump said. He added: "The people that make the biggest impact, they're the ones that they go after. They don't go after the ones that don't do much."

The president called for Americans to put aside their differences and unite - a break from his usual gleefully combative political talk.

"We have to, we have to resolve our differences," Trump said. "I will say, you had Republicans, Democrats, independents, conservatives, liberals and progressives. Those words are interchangeable, perhaps, but maybe they're not. But yet everybody in that room, big crowd, record-setting crowd, there was a record-setting group of people, and there was a tremendous amount of love and coming together. I watched, I watched, and I was very, very impressed by that."

The president kept up a similar tone during a Sunday interview with Fox News Channel, calling the dinner "an evening where a lot of people got together."

"I saw some Democrats, as we were leaving - and they were generally hostile - and last night they were waving to me. Politicians, congressmen, senators. They were waving and saying, 'Great going' and 'Hello,'" Trump said. "The place was just coming together. It was very nice to see."

He also said he had originally planned to give a speech blistering the media. "I was gonna really rip it last night," Trump said of his initial plan.

But immediately after the incident,



Members of the US Secret Service counter assault team stand on the stage after a shooting incident outside the ballroom during the White House Correspondents' Dinner, on April 25, in Washington. (AP)

when there was some thought that the event would carry on, Trump said he wanted to change course with remarks that were "gonna be much different. It'll be a speech of love."

"But I didn't get a chance to do that," Trump said. "Probably I was better off, if I didn't. I don't know."

There was still some of his old edge, especially when he spoke about the suspect: "I hated a guy like this - a sick, bad person - I hated somebody like that changing the course of our

country."

Trump has called for national unity before, only to quickly pivot.

He told Fox News that what happened Saturday proved the necessity of the White House ballroom he's building. Trump also wrote on social media that the attack "would never have happened with the Militarily Top Secret Ballroom currently under construction at the White House. It cannot be built fast enough!" And he scoffed at a legal challenge against the construction

that led to the demolition of the White House's East Wing, calling it the "ridiculous ballroom lawsuit."

After the shooting in 2024 during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, when Trump was wounded in the ear and a supporter was killed, the president strode into the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee two days later. That same week, he gave a speech featured a softer and deeply personal message, drawing directly from his brush with death.

"The discord and division in our society must be healed. We must heal it quickly," Trump said then. "As Americans, we are bound together by a single fate and a shared destiny. We rise together. Or we fall apart."

Such calls proved to be very short lived. Trump later in that same speech veered back into his trademark combativeness. He repeated false claims about the 2020 election was stolen from him and assertions that Democratic President Joe Biden had done "unthinkable" damage to the nation.

The pattern played out anew in September 2024, when Secret Service agents fired at a man who was armed with a rifle as Trump played golf at his resort club in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Steve Witkoff, Trump's golf partner when the second incident occurred, described Trump's initial reaction as "courageous and stoic." It was not long before Trump was talking constantly about "radical" Democrats and

"left-wing lunatics." He branded Ryan Routh, the man sentenced to life in prison for trying to kill him, a "sick" individual.

Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said increasingly polarizing rhetoric was partly to blame for so many violent incidents around Trump.

"There have been threats against leadership for a very long time. Years and years and years. That's not new," Blanche said on ABC's "This Week."

"There is something unique about the threats against President Trump and his Cabinet that is disgusting."

Unlike the first two incidents, however, the latest one occurred with first lady Melania Trump by his side. The president said on Sunday that his wife "was doing great."

That followed the previous evening, when Trump described the first lady as being rattled but also "very cognizant, I think, of what happened."

"I think she knew immediately," Trump said. "She was saying 'It's a bad noise.'"

He added, "It was a rather traumatic experience for her."

Buckingham Palace said Sunday that the US visit by King Charles III will go ahead as planned despite the incident at the correspondents' dinner.

The announcement came after discussions between American and British officials on questions of security. The trip, an intricately planned affair, is meant to showcase the strength of the trans-Atlantic "special relationship."



French President Emmanuel Macron, (center), French First Lady Brigitte Macron, (center left), and Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, (center right), prepare to visit the exhibition 'Seeking the East: Crossroads of Archaeologists' at the National Library in Athens, Greece, on April 25. (AP)

Leaders of France and Greece say EU's defense splurge is no alternative to NATO alliance

ATHENS, Greece, April 27, (AP): The European Union's ongoing push to bolster its own defensive capabilities isn't intended to spawn an alternative to the NATO alliance but to answer a long-standing U.S. call for the continent to take charge of its own security, the French president said Saturday.

Emmanuel Macron said Europe mustn't act to weaken NATO, which connects the continent with its American ally. Instead, Europeans are now stepping up to meet Washington's demand made over the past decade "sometimes nicely, sometimes less nicely" to take care of their own security.

"The lesson we must draw is, let us no longer be dependent," Macron said after talks with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. "We Europeans must strengthen this European pillar of NATO, we must strengthen this Europe of defense - not against anyone, not as an alternative to anything."

Mitsotakis echoed the French president, saying the U.S. should be pleased that the EU is taking its own self-reliance seriously and investing more in its own defense, calling the American demand to spend more "justified."

After traveling to Cyprus for an informal European Union leaders' summit, Macron visited the Greek capital to renew a 2021 defense partnership between France and Greece that includes a mutual assistance clause in case of an armed attack against either.

"This mutual assurance and assistance clause is inviolable, and it is not up for debate between us," Macron said. "So there are no question marks, no doubts to be entertained - and all our potential, or real, enemies need to be very clear about that."

The 3-billion-euro agreement included the purchase of 24 Rafale fighter jets and four state-of-the-art frigates including

the Kimon, which Macron and Mitsotakis visited Saturday. Greece, which has long had troubled relations with its eastern neighbor Turkey, has been overhauling its military capabilities, and much of its defense procurement has come from France. Among those is the French MICA anti-air-missile system that can be used by aircraft, land forces and warships.

Both leaders hailed the agreement as an example for other EU partners to follow and boost the 27-member bloc's competitiveness. Mitsotakis encouraged EU leaders to drop "national egotism" that pulls a protective curtain over their domestic industry and move forward with more mergers to produce economies of scale.

Macron underscored the need for European industry to innovate and win back consumers with better, more desirable products that will finance the EU's defense goals.

"All of us Europeans - the Franco-Greek relationship is a prime example - need to buy more European products, produce more European goods, and innovate more within Europe," he said.

Both leaders referred to Article 42.7, the EU's own mutual defense clause, that Macron said wasn't "just empty words." The French president pointed to both countries' rush to assist fellow EU member Cyprus by dispatching warships there in early March after a Shahed drone struck a British base on the island nation during the Iran war.

The French president warned against instigating panic with talk about fuel shortages as a result of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz from which roughly a fifth of the world's oil and gas passes. He said the fuel supply remains "under control" and that he doesn't foresee any shortages.

He said Europe remains focused on helping to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, although he acknowledged that it will take some time for the situation to return to normal.

King Charles III heads to Washington on delicate mission to restore the UK-US ties

WASHINGTON, April 27, (AP): Two and a half centuries after the American colonies declared independence from Britain under King George III, his descendant King Charles III lands in Washington Monday with trans-Atlantic ties under strain and security in the spotlight.

A shooting at a Washington dinner attended by President Donald Trump on Saturday sparked a last-minute security review of the four-day state visit, intended to celebrate the United States' 250th anniversary, and the US-UK "special relationship."

Buckingham Palace said the king "is greatly relieved to hear that the president, first lady and all guests have been unharmed." After a security review, the palace said the trip "will proceed as planned."

A rift between the U.K. government and Trump over issues including the Iran war had already raised the political stakes for the British monarch's visit.

In recent weeks, Trump has lambasted Prime Minister Keir Starmer over his unwillingness to join US military attacks on Iran, dismissing Britain's leader as "not Winston Churchill" - the World War II prime



US President Donald Trump gestures next to Britain's King Charles III before leaving Windsor Castle, Windsor, England on Sept. 18, 2025. (AP)

minister who coined the phrase "special relationship" for the UK-US bond.

It's part of a wider rift between Trump and the United States' NATO allies, whom he has called "cowards" and "useless" for not joining action against Iran. A leaked Pentagon email suggested the U.S. could reassess support for the UK's sovereignty over the Falkland Islands in the south Atlantic. Britain

and Argentina fought a 1982 war over the islands, also known as the Islas Malvinas.

The president insists the political chill won't affect the royal visit. Charles "has nothing to do with that," Trump said in March, meaning NATO.

The president has spoken in glowing terms about Charles, repeatedly referring to the monarch as his "friend" and a "great guy."

Ukrainian drones kill 2 in Kherson

Russian drone attack wounds 14

KYIV, Ukraine, April 27, (AP): A Russian drone attack before dawn on Ukraine's southern city of Odesa wounded 14 people, including two children, authorities said Monday, in the latest barrage of civilian areas that have been a hallmark of Moscow's full-scale invasion.

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian drone strike killed two people in the Russia-occupied part of Ukraine's southern Kherson region, Moscow-installed Gov. Vladimir Saldo said Monday. A man and a woman in their 70s died in the village of Dnipro, he said.

In Odesa, drones hit residential neighborhoods and civilian infrastructure, said Serhii Lysak, the head of the city's administration. Russia has repeatedly targeted Odesa, a key Black Sea port for Ukraine, since Moscow launched the war more than four years ago on Feb. 24, 2022.

Five of the wounded, most of them with shrapnel wounds, were hospitalized, according to Oleh Kiper, the head of the regional military administration.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday that Russia has fired approximately 1,900 attack drones, nearly 1,400 powerful guided aerial bombs and around 60 missiles of various types at Ukraine over the past week.

Ukraine's wartime development of cutting-edge military technology means that it's intercepting more than 90% of



A rescue worker walks inside apartments destroyed by a Russian strike in Odesa, Ukraine on April 27. (AP)

the drones that Russia launches, Zelenskyy said in an X post. However, Ukraine needs more American-made Patriot air defense missiles, which are able to shoot down Russia's ballistic missiles.

Ukraine has recently been helping Middle Eastern and Gulf region countries, which are countering attacks on their territory by Iranian drones, with know-how during the Iran war.

INTERNATIONAL

North Korea opens memorial museum for troops killed in Russia-Ukraine war

SEOUL, South Korea, April 27, (AP): North Korea has opened a memorial museum for its soldiers killed while fighting for Russia against Ukraine, with top leaders of North Korea and Russia pledging a push for greater cooperation.

In April 2025, North Korea and Russia announced that their soldiers fought together to repel a Ukraine incursion into Russia's Kursk border region. The two countries haven't disclosed exactly how many North Korean soldiers were deployed, but South Korea's intelligence service estimated last year that North Korea sent about 15,000 troops and 2,000 of them were killed.

The North's Korean Central News Agency reported Monday the museum's inaugural ceremony was held in Pyongyang on Sunday to mark the one-year anniversary of the end of an operation to liberate the Kursk region. KCNA said leader Kim Jong Un attended the ceremony along with top visiting Russian officials including Vyacheslav Volodin, speaker of the State Duma, and Defense Minister Andrei



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, (from front, right to left), its leader Kim Jong Un, Russian parliament speaker Vyacheslav Volodin and Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov attend an inaugural ceremony of a memorial museum in Pyongyang, North Korea on April 26. (AP)

Belousov.

During the ceremony, Kim threw dirt over the remains of one dead soldier and laid flowers before others

whose bodies were already placed in a mortuary, before he and Volodin and Belousov left messages on the guest book, according to KCNA.

Asia

6.2 quake shakes part of northern Japan: A magnitude 6.2 earthquake shook part of northern Japan early Monday, but there was no damage or casualties.

No tsunami advisory was issued by the Japan Meteorological Agency.

The inland quake struck 18 kilometers (11 miles) west of the small town of Sarabetsu on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido at a depth of 81 kilometers (50 miles), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It measured the quake's strength at 6.1 magnitude.

A week ago, a 7.7 magnitude offshore earthquake prompted Japan to issue an advisory of a slightly higher risk of a possible megaquake for the nation's northeastern coastal areas.

The JMA said Monday's quake was outside of the area subject to a megaquake advisory and that the special awareness week is set to end as planned. (AP)

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China steps up preparations for rainfall: The Office of the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters and the Ministry of Emergency Management on Saturday emphasized the urgency of guarding against flood risks, as heavy rainfall is expected in multiple parts of southern China.

These downpours are set to sweep across multiple southern regions from April 26 to 29, covering a wide area and advancing rapidly, according to a meeting held by the two authorities together with meteorological and water conservancy departments.

The meeting underscored the need to reinforce patrols and emergency responses for reservoirs and dams, while



An official of the Japan Meteorological Agency speaks near a monitor showing a tsunami alert during a news conference at the agency in Tokyo on April 20, 2026, after an earthquake that struck off the northern Japanese coast. (AP)

urging enhanced routine maintenance and inspections. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Philippines bust illegal cigarette network: Police have dismantled a large-scale illegal cigarette manufacturing and distribution network in the Philippines, seizing nearly 800 million pesos (about 13 million US dollars) worth of raw materials and equipment, local media reported on Saturday.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) carried out the seizure earlier this week. The illegal operation had been active since the third quarter of 2025, according to Jonvic Remulla, secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government. (Xinhua)

'This is a lifeline for us retirees with small pensions'

Many elderly Cubans left to fend for themselves as crisis deepens

HAVANA, April 27, (AP): On a recent afternoon, a group of elderly residents slipped through the wooden doors of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Old Havana and gathered for a modest meal of ground meat, rice, red beans and crackers topped with mayonnaise - all finished with a cup of strong Cuban coffee.

"May the Lord bless from his height, the meal our belly will take with delight," they chanted in unison before beginning their lunch, a ritual that takes place three times a week in the dining hall adjacent to the church.

Among the nearly 50 elderly people was Carmen Casado, an 84-year-old retired chemical engineer who attends without fail. Her monthly pension of 2,000 Cuban pesos is equivalent to \$4 at the informal exchange rate that people use on a daily basis. She lives alone, has no children and does not receive remittances from relatives abroad.

She says the church meals are a needed supplement to the meager rations, such as bread, rice and beans, that she can obtain for free from state-run stores, or bodegas.

"This is a lifeline for us retirees with small pensions," said Casado, speaking in a rapid-fire tone. "What we get from the bodegas alone is not enough." The elderly are among the hardest

hit by the severe economic crisis on the island, which has worsened dramatically since the beginning of the year following an oil embargo imposed by US President Donald Trump.

Most are former government employees - teachers, doctors, nurses, technicians, custodians, lawyers - whose pensions are usually less than \$10 a month and who must face cuts to the basket of goods that have been subsidized for decades, as well as the loneliness brought on by the growing emigration of young people.

They were young when Fidel Castro entered Havana and lived through all the major events on the island, from the Bay of Pigs invasion to US President Barack Obama shaking the hand of Raúl Castro in 2016.

Now, their revolutionary spirit is being tested in the latest crisis, which is forcing them to sell cigarettes on the streets, line up for a loaf of bread and seek free meals offered by churches and some state institutions.

After lunch, Casado walked the four blocks home to tend to household chores she still performs without assistance. Her home is on the second and top floors of a 19th-century building that, like many in the capital, is falling apart.

Born in 1942, Casado was a teenager when the revolution led by Castro triumphed. Her life has spanned the island's most defining moments, from the 1962 Missile Crisis to the so-called Special Period following the collapse of the Soviet Union. She also lived through the 1970s and 80s, when the island's economy was heavily subsidized by the Soviets and when the Cuban system seemed to promise a brighter future.

"This is our life; we were born and raised here," she said.

Even before the economic crisis worsened and before the wave of emigration over the past five years, Cuba was already one of the countries with the oldest populations in Latin America, a trend nudged further by high life expectancy and low birth rates.

According to Cuba's National Bureau of Statistics, by the end of 2024, almost 26% of the population was aged 60 or older. That is almost twice the regional average of 14.2% in the same year, according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, CEPAL.

The last five years have seen a population decline in Cuba of nearly 1.5 million, primarily due to migration. The number of Cubans residing on the island, which stood at 11.1 million, has

fallen to just 9.7 million.

The impact of the crisis and the exodus of youth is visible at a glance. Elderly people walk the streets alone - some rummaging through trash, others standing in long lines for the bread and rice provided by the ration book, the basic subsidized foods the state guarantees to every Cuban.

The plight of the elderly is so critical that the government recently authorized private entrepreneurs to operate elder care services and residential facilities, a move marking a significant departure from the island's traditional model of total state control.

Casado insists that she is still privileged. She is mentally sharp and has no physical impairments - she doesn't even use a cane - and manages entirely on her own. Her only medication is half a tablet for blood pressure, which, "so far," remains available at the state-run pharmacies.

Despite the poverty and loneliness, she continues to have faith in the government and blames the country's woes on the United States.

"We're doing everything we can here to move the country forward," she said. "But the thing is, we have a very powerful enemy, and he's right there, right on our doorstep."



Elderly residents watch a tai chi class for seniors at the Belen Convent in Old Havana, Cuba on Feb 20, 2025. (AP)

Lat/Am

US army strike on boat kills 3 in e.Pacific: The latest US military strike on a boat accused of ferrying drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean killed three people Sunday, according to a social media post by U.S. Southern Command.

The Trump administration's campaign of blowing up alleged drug-trafficking vessels in Latin American waters has gone on since early September and killed at least 186 people in total. Other strikes have taken place in the Caribbean Sea.

The military has not provided evidence that any of the vessels were carrying drugs.

After Sunday's attack, Southern Command posted a video on X showing a boat moving swiftly in the water before an explosion left it in flames. It repeated previous statements by saying it had targeted the alleged drug traffickers along known smuggling routes.

The attacks began as the US built up its largest military presence in the region in generations and came months ahead of the raid in January that captured then-Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. He was brought to New York to face drug trafficking charges and has pleaded not guilty.

President Donald Trump has said the US is in "armed conflict" with cartels in Latin America and has justified the attacks as a necessary escalation to stem the flow of drugs into the United States.

Critics, meanwhile, have questioned the overall legality



Maduro

of the boat strikes. (AP)

Bus bombing death toll rises to 20: The number of people killed in a bombing in a volatile region in southwest Colombia rose to 20, officials said Sunday.

The attack happened Saturday when an explosive device was detonated on a bus traveling along the Pan-American Highway in the municipality of Cajibío. So far, 15 women and five men are among the victims, according to Octavio Guzmán, governor of the region of Cauca.

He wrote on X that the attack injured 36 others, three of whom are in intensive care. Guzmán noted that five of the injured are minors who are expected to recover.

Colombia's Institute of Legal Medicine said that specialists including dentists, anthropologists and forensic doctors are identifying the victims.

The bombing is the latest attack in the region, with more than two dozen incidents reported in the past three days in southwestern Colombia. The region is home to illegal armed groups who vie for control of coca leaf cultivation areas and for sea and river access routes to run drug trafficking operations to Central America and Europe.

Gen. Hugo López, commander of Colombia's Armed Forces, has described the incident as a "terrorist act." He blamed it on the network of a man known as "Iván Mordisco" - one of Colombia's most wanted figures - and the Jaime Martínez faction. Both are dissidents of the now-defunct Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia that operate in the region.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights condemned the attacks against the civilian population and called on authorities to investigate the incidents and "guarantee justice for the victims."

Guzmán declared three days of mourning on Sunday in memory of the victims. (AP)



Migrants walk on the highway through the municipality of Huehuetan, Chiapas state, Mexico on April 21, after leaving Tapachula the previous night. (AP)

Migrant caravan leaves southern Mexican city

Hundreds of migrants, most of them from Haiti, left the southern Mexican city of Tapachula on foot seeking better living conditions elsewhere in Mexico.

Migrant caravans like the one that left Tapachula used to aim for the US border. But many of the migrants leaving Tapachula said they had lost hope of making it to the

US due to the restrictions that the Trump administration has placed on asylum seekers.

Instead, the migrants said they wanted to settle down in large Mexican cities, where they may be able to find work and file asylum claims. Some of the migrants said that they had been unable to get responses for asylum claims in Tapachula, de-

spite spending months in the small city near Mexico's border with Guatemala.

"The United States is no longer an option for us" said Jerry Gabriel, a 29-year-old Haitian migrant. "We only want to make it to Mexico City, Monterrey, Tijuana or another place where we might be able to live." (AP)

Afghanistan calls on Afghans who helped US in war and now stuck in Qatar to return home

KABUL, Afghanistan, April 27, (AP): Afghanistan's foreign ministry says Afghans who helped America's war effort and have been stuck in Qatar in the hope of reaching the United States, can safely return to Afghanistan.

The statement Saturday by foreign ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi comes after reports emerged that the Trump administration is in discussions to potentially send 1,100 Afghans who assisted the U.S. during its war in Afghanistan and relatives of US service members to Congo.

An organization called #AfghanEvac that supports Afghan resettlement efforts said Wednesday that US officials had informed the group of discussions between the United States and Congo about taking the Afghan refugees who have been in limbo at Camp As-Sayliyah, a US base in Doha, for the past year.

The State Department said it is working to identify options to "voluntarily" resettle the refugees in a third country, but did not confirm which nations were being discussed.

An alternative provided to the refugees was to return to Afghanistan, #AfghanEvac said, where they fear reprisals or even death at the hands of the Taliban, who have been running the country since they seized power in the wake of the chaotic withdrawal of US-led forces in 2021, for working alongside the US during the two-decade war.

Afghanistan's foreign ministry "reiterates that Afghanistan constitutes the



In this Aug 22, 2021 file photo provided by the U.S. Air Force, service members stand at a doorway as Afghan evacuees prepare to board an aircraft at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. (AP)

shared homeland of all Afghans and it invites all those concerned, as well as others sharing a similar situation, (to) return to their homeland, whose doors remain open to them, to do so with full confidence & peace of mind," Balkhi wrote in his statement.

He added that "those intending to travel to another country may do so at an appropriate juncture through legal & dignified channels." Afghanistan's foreign ministry "stands ready to engage with all countries," Balkhi said, adding that the foreign ministry "un-

derscores to all sides that there exist no security threats in Afghanistan, & none is compelled to leave the country on account of security considerations."

In a joint statement posted by the #AfghanEvac group on behalf of those in Camp As-Sayliyah, the Afghans said they had received no information from U.S. officials about the talks to potentially relocate them, and had found out about it from the press. The state of limbo they have been living in is taking a severe toll on them, they said.

At least 42 killed in eastern Chad during clashes over water resources: deputy PM

N'DJAMENA, Chad, April 27, (AP): At least 42 people were killed in eastern Chad after a clash between two families over a water point escalated into a cycle of reprisals, the country's deputy prime minister said late Sunday.

Limane Mahamat said during a visit to the village of Igote, in the Wadi Fira province, near the border with Sudan, where the clashes occurred on Saturday, that 42 people were killed and 10 wounded. He said those injured were evacuated to the provincial health center.

Mahamat said the cycle of reprisals had spread over a fairly large area, prompting an intervention by the army. He said the "swift response" by the military helped contain the clashes and that the situation is now "under control."

The deputy prime minister announced the launch of a "customary mediation" process in the village and of judicial proceedings to determine criminal responsibility.

Intercommunal clashes over resources are common in the Central African country. Last year, clashes between farmers and herders in south-



Refugees arrive at the border between Chad and Sudan before going to the Tine transit camp in Chad's Wadi Fara province on May 4, 2025. (AP)

western Chad left 42 people dead and several homes burned.

Mahamat said the government will take "all necessary measures" to prevent a destabilization of the border

area, where the clashes took place.

Chad's eastern provinces have for several months been hosting refugees fleeing the war in Sudan and are facing increasing pressure on resources and security.

Dual recognition reflects Zain's customer service leadership in Kuwait's digital sector

Zain Kuwait tops Service Hero's Telecom ranking for 14th time, and country's leading Internet Service Provider for 10th time

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Zain Kuwait has reaffirmed its leadership in customer experience after ranking first in the Telecom category of Service Hero's Customer Satisfaction Index for the 14th time. The company also secured first place in the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) category for the 10th time, further strengthening its position as Kuwait's leading digital service provider.

The latest recognition reaffirms Zain's strong customer trust and sustained leadership in one of Kuwait's most competitive sectors. It reflects the company's continued focus on elevating service quality, strengthening reliability, and delivering greater value through seamless digital experiences across every customer touchpoint.

Zain's continued first-place ranking in both Telecom and ISPs demonstrates the strength of its customer-centric approach, which continues to place service quality, network experience, digital innovation, and responsiveness at the heart of its operations. The achievement is particularly significant as telecom-related services continue to be among the most demanding categories measured by



Faten Abu-Ghazaleh presents Zain's awards to Waleed Al-Khashti and Zain's team.

the index, making Zain's sustained leadership a strong reflection of customer confidence and brand preference.

Service Hero announced the top brands in Kuwait based on its Customer Satisfaction Index for 2025,

marking the highest customer satisfaction levels recorded in the index's 16-year history. Kuwait's national Customer Satisfaction Index reached 84.0 points, up from 78.9 the previous year, reflecting a 6% increase and signaling continued improvement in

the country's service economy.

The 2025 index was based on 27,582 validated consumer assessments across a broad sample of respondents by gender, age, nationality, and education level. The wider Service Hero platform collects more

than 35,000 annual assessments across 21 industries and over 900 brands, accepting only ratings that meet its strict verification protocols.

Headquartered in Kuwait, Service Hero is the only consumer-powered customer satisfaction index in the

Middle East. The company is a member of ESOMAR and adheres to the global organization's principles and guidelines for self-regulation and ethical market practice. Its results are overseen by an Independent Advisory Council to ensure impartial, objective, and transparent outcomes that accurately reflect consumer preferences.

This recognition further complements Zain's recent record of independent network accolades. The company recently won three Ookla Speedtest Awards at MWC Barcelona 2026, securing the titles of Fastest 5G Network in Kuwait, Best Coverage in Kuwait, and Best 5G Network in Kuwait based on Speedtest Intelligence data for H2 2025.

Zain was also recognized with Opensignal's Best Network Award in the February 2026 Mobile Network Experience Report, topping nine metrics, more than any other operator in the market. Together, these achievements reinforce Zain's position as Kuwait's Most Awarded 5G Network and reflect its continued investment in customer experience, network modernization, and future-ready digital infrastructure.



Sector sees modest Q1

Kuwait consumer stocks recover as tensions ease

KUWAIT CITY, April 27, (KUNA): Consumer services sector in Boursa Kuwait witnessed mixed performance during the first quarter of 2026 and beginning of second quarter, amid fast profit-gaining and regional geopolitical developments that cast a shadow over performance on the stock exchange.

Despite this "volatile" environment, some sector stocks showed relative resilience, supported by operational factors and dividends that made them lucrative for investment.

This performance reflects a state of caution and anticipation among investors, particularly with emergence of speculative trading in several stocks, alongside the impact on sensitive sub-sectors such as aviation and retail resulted from economic changes and supply chain disruptions.

Companies in the sector, including aviation, hotels, education, fuel supply, are divided into three price tiers: dollar-level stocks, stocks trading below one dinar, and a third category priced between 105 and 300 fils, making them accessible to different groups of traders.

Kuwaiti economists told KUNA in separate statements that consumer services stocks showed flexible movements in some components during the first quarter and early second quarter, despite pressure on sales affecting many of them, especially during weekly closings aimed at quick profit-taking.

Ibrahim Al-Failakawi said speculative performance was the most prominent feature of the sector's stock movements, particularly among small investors, attributing this to the ease of entry and exit in these stocks, as well as their affordable price levels.

Al-Failakawi described the sector's performance in the first quarter of 2026 as "modest," with the exception of one airline stock and another consumer services company operating in small-scale retail, due to their strong performance compared to other stocks that experienced speculative movements recently as a result of rapid profit-taking pressures.

He noted that some sector stocks relied in their trading on dividends and support generated by activities during the first quarter, emphasizing that operational stocks remain the most influential factor in the sector's movement.

Al-Failakawi said geopolitical developments would put pressure on many of these companies' stocks during the current quarter, noting the aviation sector has been globally affected, including Gulf airlines.

Meanwhile, Deputy Head of Investment at Kuwait Investment Company, Fawzi Al-Dhefiri, said the sector recorded mixed performance during the first quarter of 2026, as its index declined by about 8.5 percent, affected by a sharp drop in March amid escalating geopolitical tensions and the outbreak of war, during which the index lost around 8.2 percent.

Al-Dhefiri added that the traded value of the sector's stocks reached about 135 million Kuwaiti dinars (approximately USD 413 million) during the first quarter, representing about 3.6 percent of the total market trading value.

He pointed to early signs of improvement at the beginning of the second quarter, coinciding with easing of tensions, as the sector index rose by 7.2 percent up to April 20, helping reduce its losses to around two percent.

Al-Dhefiri emphasized that the sector's performance would remain tied to geopolitical developments, given the sensitivity of its components, such as aviation and retail, to economic conditions and demand trends, noting the sector's direction would depend on whether tensions ease or escalate and their impact on consumer confidence and economic activity.

For his part, Daryoush Redhaei, Head of Research at Al-Shall Consulting, told KUNA expectations for the sector's performance in the second

quarter were linked to a complex landscape involving two main factors: cash dividends and their market impact, and regional geopolitical variables and their reflection on operational performance.

Redhaei added that 10 companies in the sector achieved profits in 2025, compared to one company that recorded losses. The sector's total profits reached about KD 111.9 million (approximately USD 342.4 million), compared to KD 90.5 million (about USD 277 million) in 2024, an increase of KD 21.4 million dinars, or 23.6 percent, boosting its performance and credibility among investors.

He noted the sector has entered the dividend season, supported by strong financial results for 2025, as eight out of 11 companies announced their intention to distribute dividends: four offering cash dividends only, two offering bonus shares only, and two offering mixed distributions.

He expected that the entitlement to cash dividends, much of which is concentrated in April and May according to the stock exchange's historical pattern, would lead to what he called entitlement gap phenomenon, where stock prices face limited selling pressure after the entitlement date before rising again as liquidity is reinjected into the market.

He added that the timing of bonus share distributions provided the sector with an additional boost to operational liquidity without pressuring cash balances.

However, the variation between cash and bonus distributions may lead to dual investment behavior, as some institutional investors reinvest profits within the sector, while some individuals opt to liquidate, potentially causing limited volatility during the second quarter.

He emphasized that the sector's distributions, representing 3.3 percent of the total market value of the exchange, contribute to supporting overall liquidity cycles, as a large portion is reinvested within the market, providing support to the general index.

He explained that regional developments were casting a shadow over expectations, in light of IMF estimates issued in April 2026 indicating that countries in the region were affected by disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, including a decline in non-oil activity and pressures on supply chains.

He pointed out that these repercussions have directly affected companies in the sector that rely on imports, through higher costs and shipment delays, in addition to rising consumer goods prices due to disruptions affecting about 70 percent of the region's food imports, alongside increased shipping and insurance costs.

In contrast, he noted that companies relying on local services, such as entertainment, media and telecommunications, enjoy a relatively higher margin of protection, reinforcing the divergence in sector performance between domestic companies and import-distribution companies.

Redhaei expected the sector to follow a dual path during the second quarter: relative stability or gradual improvement in trading supported by dividend liquidity, against pressures on profit margins of import companies due to rising supply costs.

He concluded that oil prices and the speed of containing disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz would remain the most influential factors in determining the sector's direction in the current period.

The number of companies listed in the consumer services sector reached 11 by the end of the first quarter of 2026, with a total market value of about KD 1.64 billion Kuwaiti (approximately USD five billion), representing 3.3 percent of the total market, compared to KD 1.85 billion (about USD 4.8 billion) at the end of December 2025, an increase of 3.7 percent, following growth of 10.4 percent during 2025 compared to 2024.

Boosting recycling and sustainability efforts in Kuwait

InvestGB enters strategic partnership with Omniya

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: As part of its ongoing efforts to reinforce environmental sustainability standards within the community, and on the occasion of Earth Day, Gulf Capital Investment Company KSCC "InvestGB", the investment arm of Gulf Bank, announced the signing of a strategic partnership with Omniya to support recycling and sustainability efforts in Kuwait through the collection and recycling of plastic materials.

The agreement was signed in the presence of InvestGB's Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications, Mr. Nazem Yousef AlGhabra, and Omniya's CEO, Ms. Sana'a AlGhemlas, along with representatives from both parties.

This strategic partnership marks an important step for InvestGB in contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable environment by reducing waste, promoting resource reuse, and improving quality of life for future generations. It reflects the company's leading role in corporate social responsibility and its continued commitment to environmental preservation.

InvestGB has consistently adopted a proactive approach to supporting environmental initiatives, implementing various programs aligned



Omniya, InvestGB join forces on waste reduction.

with this vision. As part of its sustainability efforts, the company organized an eco-friendly transportation initiative last year using electric vehicles. This initiative aimed to highlight practical applications of green technology and promote the

integration of sustainability into daily operations.

Commenting on the partnership, AlGhabra expressed his appreciation with this collaboration with Omniya, stating that it reflects InvestGB's commitment to protect-

ing the environment and encouraging the community to adopt recycling practices through increased awareness. It also highlights the company's dedication to supporting environmentally friendly initiatives as part of its sustainable development strategy.

He further noted that InvestGB has installed dedicated bins for collecting plastic and recyclable materials across its offices. These materials will be collected by Omniya on a scheduled basis for recycling, rather than being disposed of through conventional methods, greatly reducing environmental impact and promoting employee engagement in sustainable practices.

For her part, Ms. Sana'a AlGhemlas stated: "We are proud to partner with InvestGB in an initiative that reflects a shared commitment to advancing environmental sustainability in Kuwait. Through this collaboration, we aim to strengthen the culture of recycling and facilitate effective sorting and collection of plastic materials, contributing to waste reduction and the promotion of a circular economy. We believe that partnerships with leading institutions such as InvestGB are key to building a more sustainable future for generations to come."

For its exceptional record in managing regional Investment Banking mandates

Kamco Invest named 'Best for Financial Services/Banking in Middle East 2026' by Global Finance

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest assets under management in the region, announced that it has been awarded the title of "Best for Financial Services/Banking in Middle East 2026" at Global Finance's 27th annual World's Best Investment Banks Awards. The recognition reflects the Company's strong and consistent performance across Debt Capital Markets (DCM), Equity Capital Markets (ECM), and Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A), as well as its growing role in shaping capital markets across Kuwait and the GCC.

The award comes on the back of a strong track record of executing complex transactions across market cycles. Kamco Invest has advised on and managed a broad spectrum of deals across sectors and geographies, reinforcing its position as a trusted financial partner to governments, financial institutions, and leading corporates. The Company's investment banking track record exceeds USD 48 billion in successfully executed transactions since inception, supported by a disciplined approach to structuring, distribution, and advisory.

Commenting on the award, **Abdullah M. AlSharekh**, Managing Director of Markets and Investment Banking of Kamco Invest, said, "This recognition from Global Finance reflects the depth of our investment banking platform and the trust placed in us by our clients across the region. Over the past several years, we have consistently delivered on complex transactions across debt and equity capital markets, as well as advisory mandates, supported by a strong execution framework and deep market insight."

AlSharekh added, "We continue to see meaningful development across regional financial markets, driven by regulatory enhancements, broader investor participation, and increasing depth across capital markets. Kamco Invest remains focused on originating and executing transactions that align with our clients' strategic objectives, while contributing to the continued evolution of markets in Kuwait and the wider GCC."

In Debt Capital Markets, Kamco Invest has played a leading role in facilitating access to funding through conventional and Shariah-compliant instruments. In 2025, the Company successfully managed 14 debt transactions with an aggregate value of USD 7.0 billion, including 13 bond and sukuk issuances worth USD 6.7 billion and a USD 304 million liquidity management transaction. In 2024, Kamco Invest arranged 9 bond and sukuk issuances totaling USD 4.2 billion across Kuwait, Saudi Ara-



Abdullah M. AlSharekh

bia, the UAE, and Bahrain. Among the most notable transactions was the first perpetual Additional Tier 1 Capital Bond denominated in Kuwaiti Dinar by a bank, marking a key milestone in the local debt capital market.

The Company's DCM platform has consistently delivered landmark transactions over the years, including debut issuances and first-of-their-kind structures in Kuwait, such as the first bond issuance by an insurance company and the first KWD-denominated perpetual bond issuance. These achievements form part of Kamco Invest's broad activity regional and local debt transactions across financial institutions, real estate companies, and diversified corporates, highlighting the Company's ability to structure and place instruments across varying market conditions.

Kamco Invest's Equity Capital Markets platform has also built a strong record of execution capabilities, supporting clients in raising capital and accessing public markets. Kamco Invest acted as Lead Manager and Subscription Agent on all the latest three rights issues for Kuwaiti banks, raising fresh capital exceeding USD 700 million, and most recently on Digitus which was oversubscribed by 21 times. In 2024, the Company played a key role in the IPO of a sovereign-owned oil company in Oman, further expanding its regional ECM footprint. The transactions for the Kuwaiti banks accounted for approximately 82% of the total value of rights issues by Kuwaiti listed companies during the year, underscoring the Company's leading position in the local ECM space. Earlier ECM milestones include the IPO of Ali Alghanim and Sons Automotive on Boursa Kuwait in 2022, where Kamco Invest acted as Joint Bookrunner and Subscription Agent, as well as several private place-



ments, accelerated equity offerings, and follow-on issuances across regional markets.

In Mergers and Acquisitions, Kamco Invest has advised on a range of strategic transactions across sectors, supporting clients in executing growth, consolidation, and restructuring strategies. The Company led the largest mandatory tender offer in Kuwait's insurance sector, reinforcing its advisory capabilities in complex and high-value transactions. The Company's M&A track record also includes advising on the full acquisition of E-Portal by stc Kuwait, the sale of a 95% stake in Global-Corp Egypt to a consortium of international investors, and multiple merger transactions involving leading Kuwaiti listed entities.

Across regional markets, Kamco Invest has also acted on cross-border transactions, including sell-side mandates in the industrial and healthcare sectors, and buy-side advisory roles in the oil, insurance, and financial services sectors. These mandates highlight the breadth of the Company's advisory capabilities and its ability to connect regional opportunities with international capital.

Kamco Invest's continued recognition by leading international institutions highlights the strength of its platform and its consistent ability to deliver results. The Company was recently named "Kuwait's Best Investment Bank - DCM" at the Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2025, further positioning its leadership role in debt capital markets.

Kamco Invest remains focused on expanding its regional footprint, strengthening its advisory capabilities, and delivering innovative, value-driven solutions that support clients while contributing to the advancement of financial markets in Kuwait and the wider region.

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait Group reports strong Q1 2026 results with net profit growth of 16% to KD 18.15 mln

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) Group reported strong financial results for the first quarter of 2026, delivering growth across key performance indicators. The Group's performance reflects continued execution of its strategic priorities and its commitment to creating sustainable value for shareholders and customers.

Financial Results

ABK Group reported a net profit of KD 18.15 million for Q1 2026, representing a year-on-year increase of 16%, while earnings per share rose by 20% to 6 fils. Operating profit increased by 11% to KD 32.39 million.

Total assets stood at KD 7.29 billion, with customer deposits reaching KD 4.36 billion. Loans and advances grew to KD 4.79 billion, reflecting continued business momentum. Operating income increased by 13% to KD 56.96 million.

Asset quality remained strong, with the non-performing loan (NPL) ratio at 1.32% and a robust coverage ratio of 356%.

The Group maintained a solid capital position, with a capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of 17.90%, while shareholders' equity increased to KD 650.69 million.

Strong Indicators

On this occasion, Mr. **Talal Mohammed Reza Behbehani**, Chairman of ABK Group, stated that the results for the first three months of the year reflect ABK Group's success in maintaining strong capital adequacy and liquidity levels, alongside solid profitability indicators. These results demonstrate the Group's ability to navigate regional challenges while sustaining growth.

He added that the Group has continued to execute its strategic priorities and strengthen its financial position through well-established plans and disciplined risk management, noting that the financial indicators achieved reaffirm its ability to create sustainable value for shareholders and stakeholders.

Mr. Behbehani commended the Central Bank of Kuwait for its proactive measures and vision in building a resilient banking sector capable of withstanding challenges. He also praised the efforts of other regulatory authorities, including the Capital Markets Authority, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Central Bank of Egypt, the Central Bank of the UAE, and Dubai Financial Services Authority, and others for their continued support of the Group and the banking sector.

He further highlighted that ABK Group continued during Q1 2026 to support Kuwait Vision 2035 by financing major corporates and large-scale projects, reaffirming its commitment to contributing to national economic objectives.

Mr. Behbehani emphasised the Group's readiness to seize promising opportunities and enhance its banking experience, expressing optimism about



Talal Mohammed Reza Behbehani, Chairman of ABK Group

■ The Group has continued to execute its strategic priorities and strengthen its financial position



Giel-Jan M. Van Der Tol, Group Chief Executive Officer

■ Our sustained growth reflects the resilience of our business model in a dynamic environment

future performance. He reaffirmed the Group's commitment to protecting shareholders' interests, maintaining a balance between revenue growth and cost efficiency, and diversifying income streams to sustain its leading market position.

He also noted that ABK maintained its strong credit ratings of A (Fitch) and A2 (Moody's), reflecting the confidence of global rating agencies in the Group's performance.

ESG

Mr. Behbehani stated, "Our commitment to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards, as well as corporate social responsibility (CSR), remains at the core of our strategy and daily operations. We will soon issue our 2025 sustainability report, further reinforcing investor and customer confidence in ABK as a responsible and sustainable financial institution operating to the highest international standards in Kuwait, the UAE, and Egypt."

Strong Position

Mr. **Giel-Jan M. Van Der Tol**, Group Chief Executive Officer of ABK, commented, "Our Q1 performance reflects continued growth and underscores the strength of our financial position and operating model. We remain well positioned to navigate evolving market conditions while delivering consistent value to our stakeholders."



value within a strong governance and risk management framework."

He further emphasised the Group's strong risk management capabilities, noting that ABK continues to maintain high asset quality and liquidity levels, ensuring operational resilience and uninterrupted customer service.

segmentation and driving sustainable shareholder value within a strong governance and risk management framework."

He further emphasised the Group's strong risk management capabilities, noting that ABK continues to maintain high asset quality and liquidity levels, ensuring operational resilience and uninterrupted customer service.

Digital Transformation

Mr. Van Der Tol highlighted that ABK continues to advance its digital transformation agenda through ongoing enhancements to its mobile banking platforms in Kuwait and the UAE, the introduction of new digital services and the modernization of its ATM network.

The Bank is also accelerating the adoption of advanced technologies, including robotic process automation (RPA) and artificial intelligence, to im-

prove operational efficiency and customer experience.

He noted that ABK obtained ISO certification for Business Continuity Management, reflecting adherence to international best practices and ensuring resilience across key functions, including operations, treasury, investment, retail banking and IT.

During the quarter, the Bank launched ABK Build, an innovative platform designed to support customers in building their homes by offering integrated financing solutions and end-to-end support in collaboration with strategic partners.

The Bank also continued to invest in upgrading its branch network in Kuwait to enhance customer experience through advanced technologies and improved service environments.

The UAE and Egypt

Mr. Van Der Tol noted that international operations continue to be a key contributor to Group profitability. In the UAE, ABK obtained a license from the Abu Dhabi Real Estate Centre (ADREC) to act as an escrow agent for real estate services, becoming the first Kuwaiti and GCC bank to offer this service in Abu Dhabi, following a similar license obtained in Dubai in late 2024.

The Bank also launched a fully revamped mobile banking application in the UAE, reflecting strong collaboration across Group functions.

In Egypt, ABK continued to strengthen its growth trajectory, advancing its digital transformation agenda while delivering solid financial performance. Since its acquisition in 2016, ABK Egypt has remained a key contributor to the Group's overall performance.

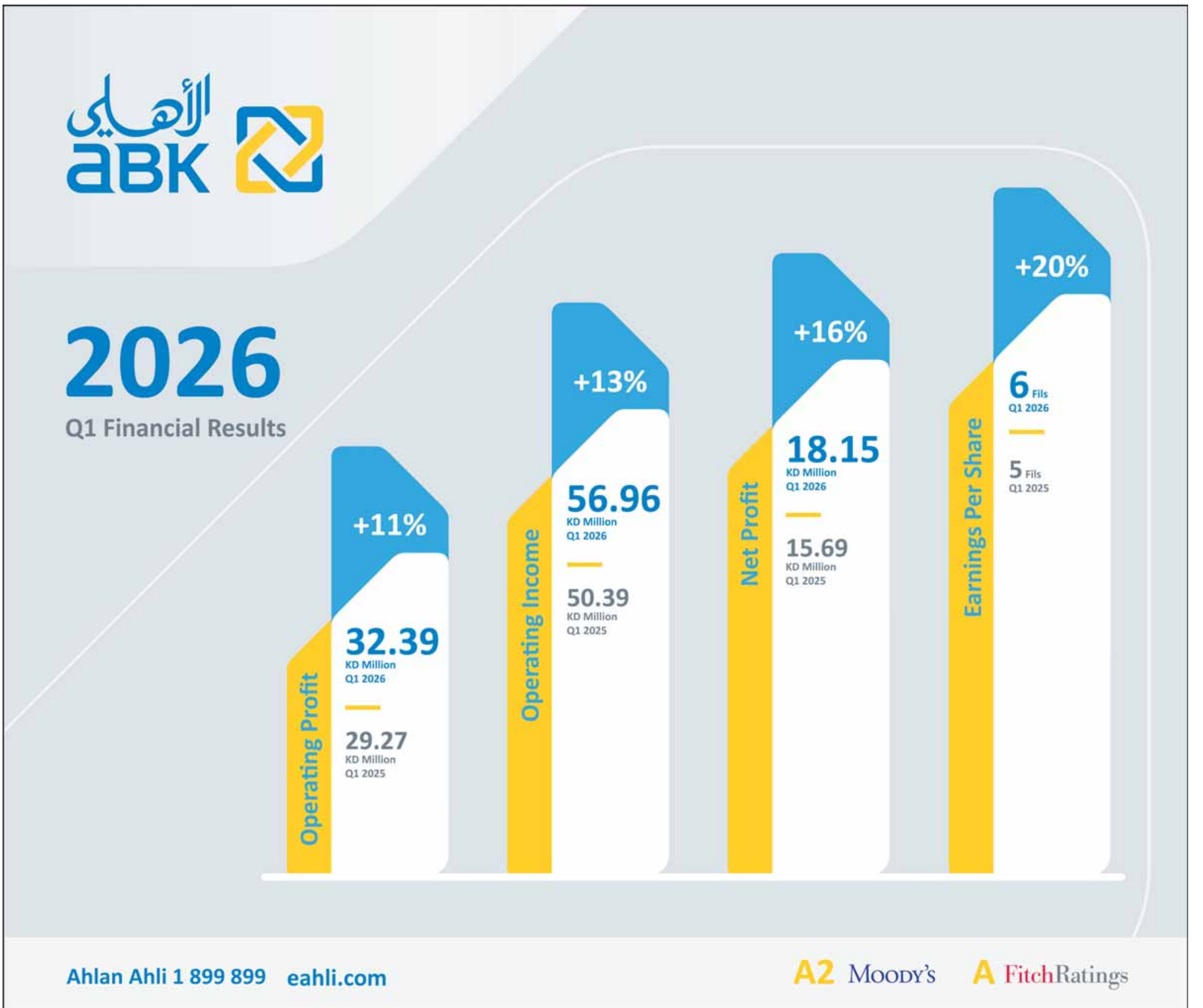
The Bank also continued to expand its branch network in Egypt, enhance customer experience across segments, and support SMEs and corporate clients. It maintained close collaboration with government entities and the Central Bank of Egypt to promote financial inclusion and support economic development.

CSR

Mr. Van Der Tol added that ABK continued to actively support community initiatives during the quarter, including Ramadan programs, health awareness events, and various social initiatives.

ABK Wealth Management also entered into a strategic partnership with Rafa Nadal Academy Kuwait, reinforcing the Bank's commitment to youth development and community engagement.

The Bank also continues to support the 'Let's Be Aware' campaign in collaboration with the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association, aimed at enhancing financial literacy and raising customer awareness of banking services, rights, and responsibilities across digital and traditional channels.



According to a report issued by the UNDP

Kuwait Finance House leads the Green Sukuk issuance market

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: In its report, "The Potential Growth and Future Trends of Green Sukuk as a Tool for Sustainable Financing," the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlights Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Group, through its Turkiye operations, as a key contributor to the development of green and thematic sukuk markets, reflecting its role in advancing this segment of the market.

The first-ever global Tier-2 Sustainability Sukuk issued by an Islamic bank

The report spotlighted the success of KFH-Turkiye, in issuing a global Tier-2 Sustainability Sukuk, which represents the first-ever global sustainability-linked sukuk ever issued by an Islamic bank. The issuance drew robust international interest, reaching an oversubscription of 12 times. KFH-Turkiye allocated a substantial portion of the proceeds toward Shariah-compliant assets, specifically targeting the financing of green and social initiatives.

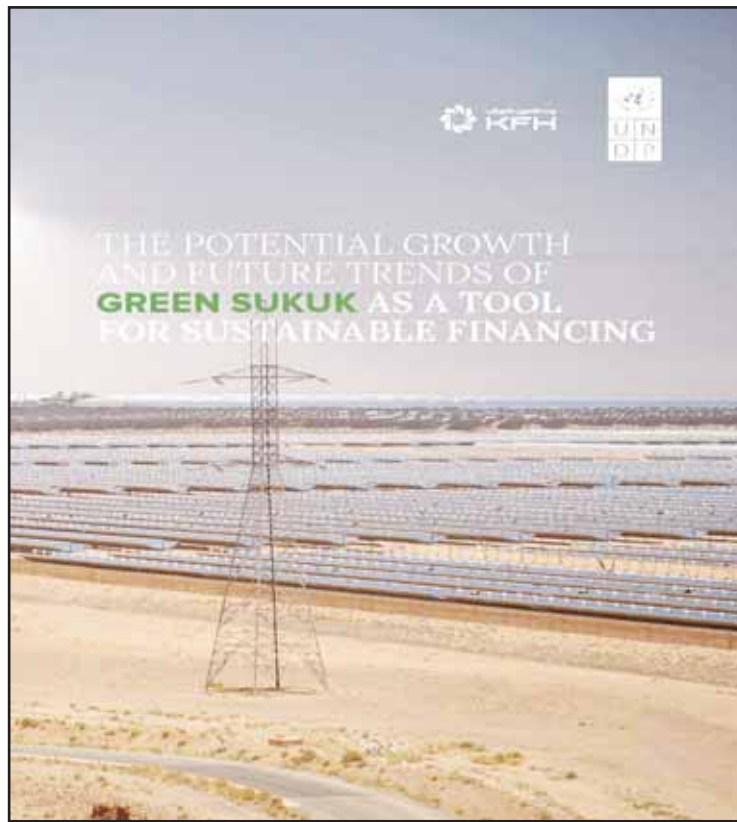
Additionally, it mentioned the successful sustainability endeavors of KFH-Turkiye, which is driven around its mission "We grow with our values". In this regard, the bank adopts sustainability for its practices and embraces an inclusive approach comprising all its stakeholders.

Innovative green finance instruments

The report highlights KFH-Turkiye's experience in green sukuk as an illustration of evolving practice in the market. This milestone reflects KFH Group's leadership in pioneering innovative, Shariah-compliant green finance solutions.

It also indicated that the KFH-Turkiye experience once again confirms that Islamic finance is capable of leading sustainable finance globally, not only within traditional Islamic markets, and that strong institutional commitment to sustainability facilitates the attraction of international investors.

The UNDP report highlights the expanding role of Islamic finance and Green Sukuk as innovative tools for financing sustainable development and



addressing global environmental challenges-including climate change and biodiversity loss. It notes that while developing countries require annual investments of USD 5 to USD 7 trillion to achieve the SDGs, they face a persistent shortfall of over USD 2.5 trillion. Consequently, sustainable finance instruments, particularly Green Sukuk, have become essential to bridge this funding gap.

The report also indicated that Green Sukuk emerged as Shariah-compliant key instruments whose proceeds are used exclusively to finance projects with positive environmental impact, such as renewable energy (solar, wind, and hydropower), energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, in addition to water and waste management.

The Role of Green Sukuk in expanding investors pool

The report also addressed the role of Green Sukuk in expanding the investor pool to include sustainability-focused investors alongside traditional investors, as well as their importance in enabling governments and corporates to finance climate-related projects without compromising Shariah principles.

The report also revealed the development of the Green Sukuk market on the global front, noting that the landmark moment for Green Sukuk occurred in 2017. Despite the global economic slowdown in 2022, the Green Sukuk market resumed growth in 2023. However, Green Sukuk still represents a small share of the overall global bonds and Sustainable Sukuk markets, indicating substantial potential for growth.

It is worth noting that "The Potential Growth and Future Trends of Green Sukuk as a Tool for Sustainable Financing" report is issued by the UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector Development, alongside the UNDP Kuwait Country Office and KFH. The report aims to shed light on the emergence, market dynamics, and regulatory frameworks of Green Sukuk, offering a comprehensive guide to leveraging this instrument as a pillar of sustainable finance.

Democrats warn on Fed independence

Thom Tillis drops opposition to Fed pick after probe ends

WASHINGTON, April 27. (AP) The Republican senator who had effectively blocked confirmation of President Donald Trump's pick to lead the Federal Reserve said Sunday he was dropping his opposition after the Department of Justice ended its investigation of the current central bank chair.

The announcement by Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina removes a big hurdle to Trump's effort to install Kevin Warsh, a former high-ranking Fed official, in the job in place of Jerome Powell, long under White House pressure to lower interest rates. Tillis' opposition was enough to stall the nomination in the GOP-controlled Senate Banking Committee as Powell neared the scheduled end of his term on May 15.

"I am prepared to move on with the confirmation of Mr. Warsh. I think he's going to be a great Fed chair," Tillis told NBC's "Meet the Press," two days after the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia said her office's investigation of the Fed's multi-billion-dollar building renovations was over. Powell's brief congressional testimony last summer about that work was also under review.

The Fed's internal watchdog is scrutinizing a project, now at \$2.5 billion after earlier estimates had put it at \$1.9 billion, that the Republican president has criticized for cost overruns. Powell had asked in July for the inspector general's review.

"I believe that there will not be any wrongdoing. May we find a little stupid here in terms of somebody responsible for the project making a decision they shouldn't? Maybe. But it doesn't rise to a criminal prosecution. That was my problem to begin with because I feel like there were prosecutors in D.C. that thought this was going to be a lever to have Mr. Powell leave early," he said.

Tillis, who infuriated Trump in June for opposing his big tax and spending cuts bill over Medicaid reductions and then announced he would not seek reelection in 2026, added that he had received assurances from the Justice Department that "the case is completely and fully settled ... and that the only way an investigation would be opened would be a criminal referral from one of the most respected inspector generals."

The committee on Saturday said it planned to vote Wednesday on Warsh's nomination. The ranking Democrat, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, responded with a statement that "no Republican claiming to care about Fed independence should support moving forward the nomination of Kevin Warsh, who proved in his nomination hearing to be nothing more than President Trump's sock puppet."

At a hearing last week, Warsh told senators he never promised the White House that he would cut interest rates and pledged to be "an independent actor" if confirmed as chair. Hours before that, Trump had been asked in a CNBC interview whether he would

be disappointed if Warsh did not immediately cut rates. "I would," the president said.

Without the constraints of a political campaign, Tillis has spoken out forcefully about Powell, decrying the inquiry by U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro, a longtime Trump ally, as a "vindictive prosecution" and suggested it threatened the Fed's longtime independence from day-to-day politics. Tillis told NBC that he had gotten assurances from the Justice Department that he needed "to feel like they were not using DOJ as a weapon to threaten the independence of the Fed. So this will allow Mr. Warsh to move on with his confirmation."

On Saturday, Trump was asked by reporters whether there was now smooth sailing for Warsh with the end of the Justice Department's investigation. "I imagine it's smooth," Trump said, adding that his nominee "is going to be fantastic." The president said he still wanted to find out "how can a building of that size cost ... whatever it's going to be."

Trump visited the Fed building in July and, in front of television cameras, said the renovations would run \$3.1 billion. Powell, standing next to him, said after looking at a paper presented to him by Trump, that the president's latest price tag was incorrect.

The investigation was among several undertaken by the Justice Department into Trump's perceived adversaries. For months it had failed to gain traction as prosecutors struggled to articulate a basis to suspect criminal conduct. Other efforts by the department to prosecute Trump's adversaries, including New York state Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat, and former FBI Director James Comey, have also been unsuccessful.

Last month, a federal judge quashed Justice Department subpoenas issued to the Fed in the investigation, describing their purpose as "to harass and pressure Powell to resign" and open the path for a new chair. A prosecutor handling the Powell case had acknowledged at a closed-door court hearing that the government had not found any evidence of a crime.

Pirro said Friday on X that she "will not hesitate to restart a criminal investigation should the facts warrant doing so." The acting attorney general, Todd Blanche, told NBC on Sunday that "there is no doubt that we will investigate" if the inspector general finds evidence of criminal conduct.

Trump appointed Powell as chair in 2017 during his first administration and has for years attempted to pressure the central bank to cut short-term interest rate.

Even after a new Fed chair is in place, Powell could elect to stay on the board to finish his term as a Fed governor, which lasts until January 2028. He has told reporters he had not yet decided whether to do so.

Warsh is a financier and former member of the Fed's board of governors. Trump nominated him January.

Weyay collaborates with Interior, Fire Force, BioHack, & Kuwait Hospital to boost community preparedness

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: In a move that reflects its strong commitment to its role as a key partner in community development and in supporting Kuwaiti youth, Weyay Bank announced the launch of an awareness initiative aimed at strengthening community preparedness and emergency readiness. The initiative, with the participation of the Kuwait Fire Force and the Ministry of Interior, is part of the Bank's Social Responsibility programs and is implemented in collaboration with BioHack and Kuwait Hospital.

The initiative was delivered through a public awareness event hosted at Kuwait Hospital under the title: "First Aid & Emergency Response for the Public: What to Do Before Help Arrives."

The event sought to empower community members with the essential knowledge and practical skills needed to respond to emergency situations with confidence and composure. This was achieved through a series of interactive sessions covering first aid and rapid medical response delivered by specialists from Kuwait Hospital, public safety and emergency response guidance presented by the Kuwait Fire Force, as well as a strong focus on psychological readiness and stress management during crises, highlighted by the Ministry of Interior as a critical factor in sound decision-making during emergencies.

A key pillar of the event was financial safety, recognized as an integral component of overall preparedness. This session was delivered by Naser Al Duwaisan, Assistant Vice President, Products Department at Weyay Bank, who addressed the importance of financial readiness during crises, responsible liability management, and making informed financial decisions that help mitigate the impact of emergencies on individuals and families. During his remarks, Al Duwaisan noted: "At Weyay Bank, we believe that true preparedness begins with awareness. Readiness is not limited to financial planning alone; it also encompasses psychological and physical safety. Through our participation in this initiative, we aimed to highlight the importance of financial safety during emergencies, empowering individuals to manage their resources wisely and avoid impulsive decisions during critical moments."

On the psychological preparedness front, Major Sarah Alabdulsalam, Senior Practitioner of Psychotherapy at the Ministry of Interior, emphasized the role of mental readiness during emergencies, underscoring the importance of managing stress and emotional pressure. She highlighted that mental calmness, and appropriate reactions play a direct role in protecting individuals and those around them, while also enhancing collective crisis response.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah Alhaji, Representative of the Kuwait Fire Force, Public Relations and Media Department, de-



Photos during the event.

livered awareness-focused sessions on public safety and proper behavior during fires and accidents. He stressed that spreading community awareness and ensuring prior training are essential pillars in reducing losses, protecting lives, and supporting the efforts of emergency response entities.

The program also featured a specialized workshop on first aid fundamentals and rapid emergency response, delivered by Dr. Shamlan Al Qina, Specialist in General Surgery and Upper GI at Kuwait Hospital, who provided a practical overview of life-saving procedures that can be performed before medical teams ar-

rive, emphasizing that the first few minutes following an incident can be decisive in saving lives and minimizing complications.

In this context, Mariam Alawadh, the Chief Operating Officer at the organizing company, BioHack, commented: "Through these workshops, we aim to empower individuals to better understand how their bodies respond under pressure, and to transform stress into a tool for focus and sound decision-making. True preparedness begins with self-awareness, which directly impacts one's ability to protect themselves and others in emergency situations."

The event was hosted and moder-

ated by Mr. Salman Alnajadi, who played a key role in fostering an engaging and interactive environment that encouraged direct dialogue between speakers and attendees, further enhancing the educational and practical value of the sessions.

This initiative reaffirms Weyay Bank's commitment to CSR programs that extend beyond traditional banking, focusing on investing in community awareness, health, and psychological and financial well-being. The bank continues to believe that empowering individuals with knowledge and preparedness is a fundamental step toward a safer, more resilient, and sustainable future.

Earth Day initiative reflects Warba's community commitment

Warba Bank launches 'Zahrat Al Arfaj' initiative to mark Earth Day

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Warba Bank launched an initiative to mark International Earth Day, distributing seedlings containing seeds of the "Arfaj"-Kuwait's national flower- as a tribute to front-line workers. The initiative promotes environmental sustainability and the preservation of local natural heritage.

The seedlings were distributed across several branches, including Jaber Al-Ahmad, Al-Shuhada, Jaber Al-Ali, and Adaliya. The campaign aimed to encourage the planting of Arfaj and promote local green spaces, strengthening the connection to Kuwait's environmental identity.

National Identity and Sustainability:

Abdullah Nasser Al-Shuail, Senior Director of Branches at Warba Bank, said the bank's role extends beyond banking services to include active contributions to environmental programs with a lasting impact.

"Through this initiative, we express our appreciation for front-line workers while connecting this global occasion with a national message focused on environmental care," Al-Shuail said. He added that the bank remains committed to adopting impactful initiatives that promote shared responsibility toward a more environmentally conscious society.



Al-Shuail

About Warba Bank:

Warba Bank is a leading Islamic bank in Kuwait with a strong focus on Sharia-compliant digital banking. With one of the largest shareholder bases in the country, the bank delivers innovative financial products and services, reinforcing its position as a digital-focused institution.

Environmental and Social Impact:

The initiative highlights the symbolic importance of the Arfaj as a key wild plant linked to Kuwait's environmental heritage. By distributing these seedlings, the bank aims to raise awareness about the preservation of local vegetation, aligning with national efforts to protect natural resources.

Warba Bank continues to implement a range of programs across humanitarian, environmental, and developmental sectors. These efforts reinforce the bank's commitment to community partnerships that create a lasting and sustainable impact.



Warba tote bag

Faisal Al-Omairi commands underworld as Hades

Myth meets magic in 'Hercules'

By Faleh Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: When the play, "Zarqoun and the Magic Lamp", achieved resounding success in its previous run, the creators capitalized on the audience's enthusiasm and praise for this type of performance by presenting a new theatrical work in a different format.

The new work retained the same spirit in terms of story, elements and captivating spectacle that draws the audience, giving birth to the idea of presenting the play, "Hercules," directed by Najaf Jamal and inspired by Greek mythology.

The cast includes Haifa Adel, Faisal Al-Omairi, Mohammad Al-Kazemi, Lulwa Al-Mulla, Alaa Al-Hindi, Ali Al-Muhaini, Alaa Maryam Shuaib, Bader Al-Bakr and the dance troupes.

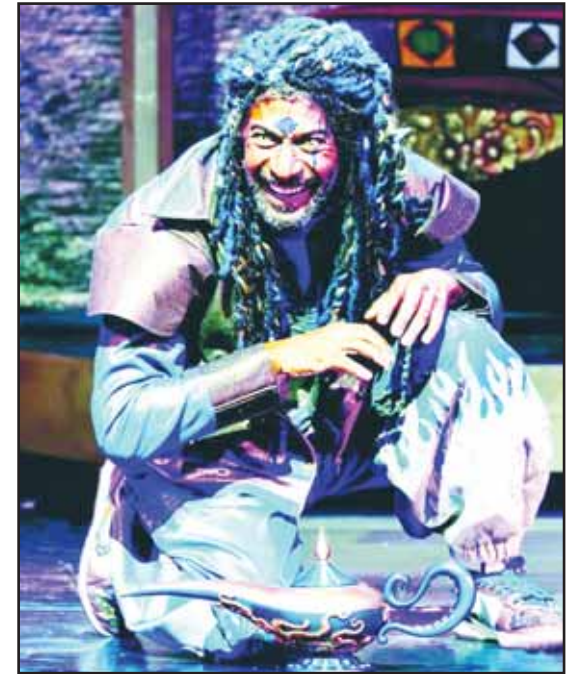
In an interview with the newspaper, Faisal Al-Omairi, the star of the play, confirmed that the audience is in for a new and worthwhile experience in terms of concept, execution and the young cast, led by esteemed actress Haifa Adel in the lead role.

Al-Omairi said "without a doubt, there is no similarity with the previous play, "Zarqoun and the Magic Lamp." Perhaps, the common factor is that both are inspired by myths and fairy tales, but in terms of the details of the work, there is no comparison, whether the idea or the directorial vision of Najaf Jamal. During rehearsals, he focused on deep aspects of the text, which naturally deals with the eternal struggle between the forces of good and evil, but from a purely human perspective that suits the mentality of today's children. The audience in general, and the viewer in particular, will experience a dazzling and worthwhile work of artistic and human value."

He explained that "the plot revolves around the birth of Hercules, who, according to the myth, is half-human and half-god. He has superhuman powers and great abilities. He confronts Hades, the king of the underworld, who also possesses powers that he uses to achieve his diabolical goals. The conflict between them intensifies until the events have their final say at the end of the play".

He revealed that he portrays the character of Hades, who is determined to do everything in his power to expose his diabolical intentions. "Hades resorts to malicious plots and devilish tricks to win his battle against Hercules," he added.

He emphasized that the play is not just a performance



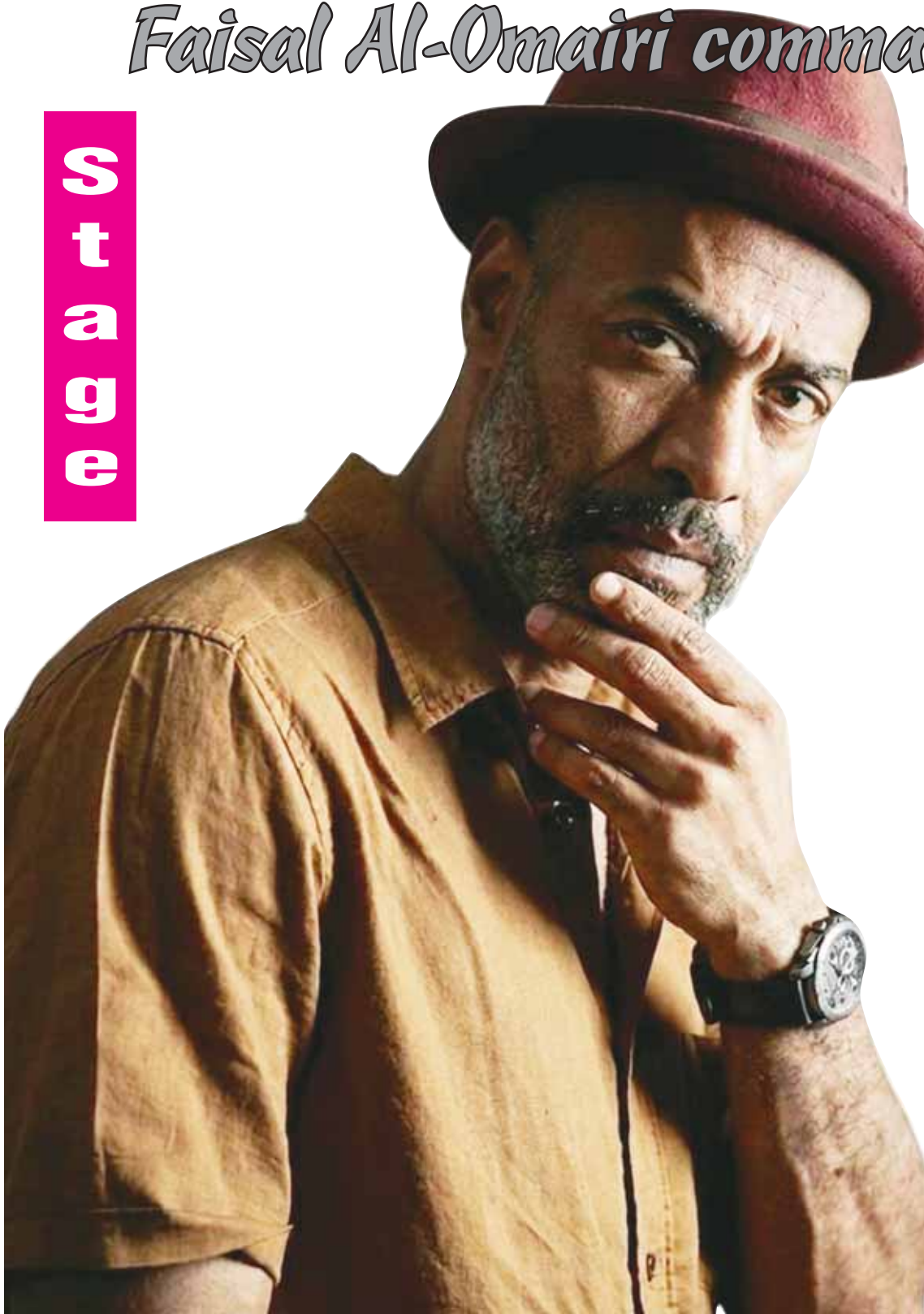
'Zarqoun and the Magic Lamp'

for children to enjoy, as it is a journey where the child finds himself a partner in the events, interacting with them and interpreting them according to his unique intellect. "The child of today has a sharp, active and enthusiastic mind, with diverse abilities to experience the story, explain and analyze it as he sees fit," he asserted.

It is worth mentioning that the latest work of Al-Omairi is the series "Maze," written by Ali Shams and directed by Mohammed Daham. He co-starred with Fawz Al-Shatti, Reem Rahma, Abdullah Al-Turkmani, Hussein Al-Haddad, Ali Al-Muhaini, Nour Mohammed, Rahaf Al-Enezi and others.

He played the character of Officer Ahmed, who was tasked to solve a murder mystery weeks before his retirement. He succeeded despite the hindrances in his quest to uncover the truth.

Stage



Faisal Al-Omairi

Variety

MILAN: Venice's renowned La Fenice opera house is breaking ties with the controversial incoming music director with ties to Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni following months of protests by musicians.

General manager Nicola Colabianchi cited **Beatrice Venezi's** "repeated and serious public statements that were offensive and harmful" to the theater and its orchestra for the decision to cancel future collaboration, the theater's foundation said Sunday.



Venezi

Italy's Culture Minister Alessandro Giuli said that he hoped the move would "clear misunderstandings, tensions and manipulations," that had surrounded Venezi's selection.

Musicians, singers and backstage hands had vociferously opposed her appointment, citing a lack of transparency and lack of experience necessary to lead the theater.

Their escalating protests included a strike that forced the cancellation of a performance and a march through Venice joined by workers from other opera houses, reflecting concerns of political interference in artistic decisions.

The audience and orchestra erupted in applause during a performance Sunday night at the news that Venezi's appointment had been blocked, according to video circulated by Italian media. (AP)

LUSAKA: China and Zambia on Thursday launched a painting exhibition in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, showcasing the construction history of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway, and the cultural landscapes and natural scenery along its route.

The exhibition includes 38 artworks from the National Museum of China and 11 works by Zambian artists, featuring a fusion of traditional Chinese painting and distinctive Zambian artistic styles.

During his remarks at the opening ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Zambia Han Jing described the exhibition as a key activity of the China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges in Zambia and a meaningful tribute to a project that transformed regional connectivity.

"Through these art pieces, we hope to offer an opportunity for more people to pay tribute to our shared history and deepen mutual understanding," Han said.

Han emphasized that the revitalization of the railway is progressing, which will support industrial parks, logistics centers, agro-processing hubs, and manufacturing industries along the route, bringing jobs, investment, and modern infrastructure closer to communities. (AP)

Film



This image released by Lionsgate shows Jaafar Jackson as Michael Jackson in a scene from 'Michael.' (AP)

Big budget spectacle shatters record for music biopics

'Michael' moonwalks to \$97 million opening

NEW YORK, April 27, (AP): "Michael," the big-budget Michael Jackson spectacle, shrugged off bad reviews and a troubled production to launch with \$97 million in U.S. and Canada theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday, shattering a record debut for music biopics.

A highly authorized portrayal of the King of Pop, co-produced by the Jackson estate, Lionsgate's "Michael" far surpassed previous biopic top performers like "Straight Outta Compton" (a \$60.2 million debut in 2015) and "Bohemian Rhapsody" (\$51 million in 2018).

International sales were also strong. "Michael" collected \$120.4 million overseas, to give it a \$217.4 million global opening - a new high for a music biopic. Universal picked up distribution in most international markets.

A few weeks back, estimates for "Michael" were closer to \$50 million. Going into the weekend, the studio estimated closer to \$70 million. But it wildly overperformed.

"From the beginning, all of the signals were that something like this was possible," said Adam Fogelson, Lionsgate chairman. "We were seeing massive engagement with every conceivable audience segment that you could identify."

Even in the lucrative market of music biopics, "Michael" was an audacious bet by Lionsgate on an extraordinarily popular but controversial figure. The reputation of Jackson, who died in

2009 at the age of 50, has been repeatedly tarnished by allegations of sexual abuse of children. Jackson and his estate have maintained his innocence, though the pop star acknowledged sharing a bedroom with other people's children. He was acquitted in his sole criminal trial in 2005.

Some Jackson family members opposed the film. Janet Jackson was uninvolved and doesn't appear in it. Jackson's daughter, Paris, called it "fantasy land." But three years after "Leaving Neverland," the 2009 documentary about Jackson's alleged sexual abuse of children, "Bohemian Rhapsody" producer Graham King announced plans for the biopic. Jackson's nephew, Jaafar Jackson, was cast to star.

"Michael" had an unusually rocky production. After shooting was completed, producers realized they had made a costly mistake. The third act focused on the accusations of Jordan Chandler, then 13 years old, whom Jackson paid \$23 million to in a 1994 settlement. The terms of that settlement barred the Jackson estate from ever mentioning Chandler in a movie.

A huge chunk of the film had to be cut. Reshoots for as much as \$50 million were done at the estate's expense. Director Antoine Fuqua and screenwriter John Logan reworked the movie to conclude in 1988, before any accusations were made.

"I would take issue with the idea that we as a studio or as filmmakers were running around in a panic," said

Fogelson. "It was definitely a unique and challenging circumstance to figure out how to work through. But it created an opportunity to tell more story than any one film could possibly contain."

Yet as bad as things once looked for "Michael," the movie turned into a huge hit. The film's total production cost came close to \$200 million. To defray costs, Lionsgate sold international distribution rights to Universal. A sequel is in development. A third film after that, Fogelson said, is "not inconceivable."

"The audience spoke loud and clear," Fogelson said. "The portion of Michael's life that this story tells couldn't have gotten into those allegations because the allegations themselves hadn't happened in the period this movie existed. I think the audience is judging it on those terms. We'll see what happens as we move into the possibility of subsequent films."

Critics slammed the film for glossing over some of the less convenient aspects of Jackson's life. It scored a paltry 38% on Rotten Tomatoes. But audiences were far more enthusiastic. "Michael" earned an "A-" CinemaScore.

"It's the only human nature to enjoy yourself at the movie theater," said Paul Dergarabedian, head of marketplace trends for Comscore. "The movie was perfectly positioned ahead of the start of the summer movie season which launches later this week with the "The Devil Wears Prada

2" that is also poised to outpace even the most generous opening weekend projections."

The opening for "Michael" added to a strong spring for Hollywood boosted by box-office hits like Amazon MGM's "Project Hail Mary" and Universal's "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie." After three weeks atop the box office, the "Mario" sequel slid to second place, with \$21.2 million. In four weeks, it's collected \$386.5 million domestically and \$445 million internationally.

Meanwhile, "Project Hail Mary" surged past \$600 million worldwide in its sixth weekend of release. The film's total haul for Amazon MGM stands at \$305.3 million domestic and \$613.3 million globally.

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore:

1. "Michael," \$97 million.
2. "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie," \$21.2 million.
3. "Project Hail Mary," \$13.2 million.
4. "Lee Cronin's The Mummy," \$5.6 million.
5. "The Drama," \$2.6 million.
6. "Hoppers," \$1.9 million.
7. "You, Me & Tuscany," \$1.5 million.
8. "Over Your Dead Body," \$1.4 million.
9. "Mother Mary," \$1.2 million.
10. "American Youngboy," \$1.2 million.

Travel

Beyond the ramp: The new era of inclusive travel

Museums and agencies roll out barrier-free tours, but gaps persist

BERLIN, April 27, (AP) — For people living with disabilities, barriers to tourism can range from the obvious — such as an out-of-service elevator — to the unseen, like an outing that's too long or a setting that's too loud.

As the baby boom generation ages, the travel industry is increasingly catering to older adults with the time and money to sightsee internationally and who sometimes need additional assistance. Truly inclusive accessibility, though, accommodates a much greater range of tourists, from individuals with physical disabilities to people with autism or dementia.

To better serve visitors with visible or invisible disabilities, museums and other cultural institutions worldwide have added specialized guides and barrier-free tours, some made possible by advances in technology.

These include sign-language tours for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, touch-based events for guests with blindness or low vision, and programs designed for people on the autism spectrum. Tourism agencies dedicated to serving disabled travelers have sprung up, too.

Offering barrier-free tours shows people with disabilities they are welcome in cultural spaces, said Ashley Grady, an accessibility program specialist at the Office of Visitor Accessibility of Washington's Smithsonian Institution.

The services are a way of saying, "we've thought of you," Grady said. "We want you to come to our museums. We want you to see yourselves reflected in our staff and our collections. And we want to make these programs as accessible as possible for you, your family, your loved ones, your friends."

Still, gaps remain. Ivor Ambrose, managing director of the nonprofit European Network for Accessible Tourism, said there's a continuing lack of awareness around the different levels



Ingrid Barkow, left, is wrapped in a blanket by her daughter Manuela Gruda, during a guided tour for people with dementia organized by Malteser Deutschland, part of the international Catholic aid organization Malteser Order of Malta, at the Zoo in Berlin, Germany, on March 26, 2026. (AP)

of accessibility that travelers need.

"This is actually a really big market and an opportunity, which is still not fulfilled by the operators in all these different areas of tourism," he said.

Here is advice from several experts about how to take advantage of barrier-free options for yourself or someone else.

Josh Grisdale, the founder of Accessible Japan, a website that publishes databases, resources and guides to navigating the country for people with disabilities, has cerebral palsy and uses a power wheelchair. Before traveling to a new place, he peruses Reddit, watches travel videos on YouTube — even if the person filming didn't require accommodations — and browses Google's Street View to look for stairs or other features that aren't suitable for wheelchairs.

Facebook can be helpful, but tips often are buried in private groups that aren't searchable, Grisdale said. If a

hotel has a concierge, he recommends working with them and calling ahead to ask if a place you'd like to visit has the proper accessibility. Most museums and cultural institutions have written guides and other resources online detailing their barrier-free options.

Gridsdale also created the online platform tabifolk, which crowdsources knowledge about accessible travel from around the world. A lack of such information can make researching and planning a trip even more stressful, so he wanted there to be a place where people could help each other through their lived experiences.

"Even though I'm in a wheelchair and I've had a disability my whole life, there's things that I don't know about other disabilities," he said.

In Africa, proper planning is crucial for people with disabilities to be able to enjoy what the continent has to offer, such as going on a safari or climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, according



Monika Jansen, 85, touches a sculpture of a rhino as she takes part in a guided tour for people with dementia organized by Malteser Deutschland, part of the international Catholic aid organization Malteser Order of Malta, at the Zoo in Berlin, Germany, on March 26, 2026. (AP)

to Joanne Ndirangu, the founder and director of accessible tourism agency Scout Group Agency.

Ndirangu promotes and advocates for expanding accessible tourism throughout Africa, particularly in Kenya. She urges visitors to work with local travel agents or other trained experts who know the region and what accessible options exist. Those people may have been the ones who worked to get a hotel or restaurant to install ramps or train the staff on helping someone who is neurodivergent.

"Let's say you want to see giraffes somewhere," Ndirangu said. "I can now advise you, 'That place is not viable if you're on a wheelchair or on crutches because of the hills and the valleys.' So I can give you an alternative — and you get to see the giraffes."

Tours organized for the general public may not be ideal for people with disabilities in many cases, whether it's because the exhibits are too high for

anyone in a wheelchair to see, or too loud for a person with sensory issues.

The offerings at the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum complex, include the sensory-friendly "Morning at the Museum" program, which is designed so participants who are neurodivergent and their families can visit a Smithsonian museum in Washington once a month before it opens to the public. They can engage in hands-on, multi-sensory activities or just stroll around at their own pace.

"We can control the environment, we can reduce the crowds," Grady said. "It's a completely judgment-free environment and one that's really meant to hopefully be that full bridge to inclusion, where they are able to come to a museum, have a great experience, and then maybe come back when we're open to the public."

In Berlin, Catholic aid organization Malteser Deutschland noticed that people with dementia were often

overlooked as visitors. The organization designed barrier-free tours specifically for this population at the Berlin Zoo, the Museum of Natural History, Britzer Garden and Charlottenburg Palace, with hopes of expanding to other locations.

The Berlin Zoo tour is limited to a handful of people, and runs about 90 minutes. The program skips the majority of the zoo's vast collection of species to focus a few habitats so the participants don't get too tired or overwhelmed.

Ndirangu said her team was trained to ask visitors upfront if they or their family members require accommodations for any disabilities so they can suggest the best options. It's not always possible to mitigate what they don't know about ahead of time, she said. Most hotels in Kenya only have one or two accessible rooms, for example, and they might already be booked by the time a guest who needs it arrives.

"Give us that opportunity to give you solutions," she said. "We've had guests who don't mention anything."

The European Network for Accessible Tourism encourages travel companies to build the cost of providing barrier-free services into their programming so it's spread among all participants instead of only those who might require them. Many museums, for example, offer discounted rates for people with disabilities or free or reduced tickets for a companion.

Grady at the Smithsonian said the institution adapted its offerings after feedback from participants as well as an advisory group. Their advice has ranged from adjusting the colors on an app for people with low vision, to working with curators to ensure that upcoming exhibits are properly accessible for all.

"They're not asking for anything out of the ordinary," she said. "They're literally just trying to experience a visit just like anyone else."

Arts & Culture

Old skills, new tools shape artists

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts blends heritage with high-tech innovation



This undated file photo shows performers from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts's School of Chinese Opera.

HONG KONG, April 27, (Xinhua) — At the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA), students are taught that to innovate, one must first master the ancient. As the institution climbs the global rankings, it is becoming a high-tech laboratory for the future of Asian culture.

In a city known for its vertical skyline and its role as a dynamic link bridging different regions, the HKAPA stands as a quiet yet powerful force for cultural integration. Here, the air is filled with the scent of sawdust from traditional carpentry workshops and the soft hum of high technology, a microcosm of Hong Kong's broader ambition to maintain its status as the world's "international education hub."

In March, the institution quietly achieved a milestone that extended far beyond its Wan Chai campus: the QS World University Rankings placed its performing arts program at 10th globally and 1st in Asia. For Anna CY Chan, director of HKAPA, this is not just about prestige; it is a validation of a pedagogical philosophy that emphasizes both "deep roots" and "wide horizons."



This undated file photo shows the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. (China Daily)

Weight of tradition

While the global arts scene often pursues the "new" with great enthusiasm, the HKAPA operates on a principle of groundedness. "Students must first learn traditional skills to strike deep roots," Chan insisted. "Only with sufficient artistic heritage can innovation have a soul."

This is not mere rhetoric. For Kelly Or, a fourth-year student in the School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts, the journey to the cutting edge began with the humble "mortise and tenon" joint and the manual crafting of coconut husk rope. These are the ancient foundations of stagecraft, taught with the same rigor as modern digital engineering.

The Academy's curriculum is a deliberate integration of diverse cultures. In a recent crossover concert titled *Anime in Viaggio*, the piercing, melodic heights of Cantonese opera were paired with the rhythmic, improvisational vitality of jazz. It was a performance that served as a vivid metaphor for the city itself: two distinct musical languages not merely co-existing, but complementing one another.

In March, the HKAPA threw

open its doors to the public, offering over 100 free performances and exhibitions that showcased this duality. In the main foyer, the classic opera *Divine Maiden* *Strewing Flowers* came to life; with a flick of her "water sleeves," a performer's graceful turns and subtle smiles captured the essence of traditional Eastern aesthetics.

Yet, only a few steps away in the School of Film and Television, crowds queued to experiment with AI-generative tools and virtual filming techniques. Here, technology translated touch into imagery in an instant, a moment where tradition and modernity did not just coexist, but quietly merged.

Hardcore virtual production

However, in the School of Film and Television, the "traditional" gives way to what the faculty calls "hardcore" art. Here, a hyper-realistic virtual simulation of the Yee Wo Street footbridge, a Causeway Bay landmark, comes to life. This is not just a student project; it is a collaborative platform for virtual production that allows filmmakers to move seamlessly from the neon-soaked streets of Hong Kong to a sci-fi dystopia in a single frame.

"We want students to master traditional filmmaking while simultaneously designing for the era of the mini-series and new media," explained Terry Lam, dean of the School of Film and Television.

Crucially, the Academy is addressing a key concern of the 21st century: artificial intelligence. Lam proposes a "human-in-the-loop" philosophy. In a world of algorithmic generation, the HKAPA argues that empathy remains the unique trait that cannot be replicated by technology. "Work is for people," Lam noted. "Only humans can endow a piece of art with the empathy it requires."

Museum

New book revives suspect list

Inside the world's largest art heist: \$500m stolen from Boston museum

BOSTON, April 27, (AP) — For decades, the 1990 theft of 13 artworks from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum — now valued at more than \$500 million — has remained unsolved.

It remains the largest art theft in history — far surpassing more recent museum thefts, including a daylight heist at the Louvre involving far fewer works that was resolved more quickly. In 2013, the FBI said it knew who was responsible for the Boston museum heist but declined to name them, fueling speculation that persists today.

A former FBI agent who led the investigation for more than two decades is now offering the first detailed account of how investigators reached that conclusion — and publicly identifying the men he believes were involved. In a new book, "Thirteen Perfect Fugitives," Geoffrey Kelly traces how the artworks moved through criminal networks, where violence took the lives of key suspects and witnesses, and challenges long-circulating theories by re-visiting key details.

The irony at the center is Gardner's intention for the museum to remain frozen in time, stipulating in her will that nothing in the Venetian palazzo-inspired building would be changed after her death. Gardner, who lived in the museum and died there in 1924, intended for the paintings, sculptures and architectural fragments to remain exactly as she had arranged.

The empty gilded frames of the missing paintings still hang in the museum today — silent witnesses to what was taken.

Early on March 18, 1990, as Boston wound down from St. Patrick's Day celebrations, two men dressed as police officers arrived at the museum and persuaded a security guard to let them in, violating protocol.

The men handcuffed the guards in the basement and made their way to the museum's Dutch Room, where they cut Vermeer's "The Concert" and Rembrandt's "Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee" from their frames, also taking works by Degas and Manet.

They also took a Napoleonic eagle finial — a decorative metal piece of comparatively little value that investigators later found puzzling — and the museum's security videotapes.

The museum offered a \$5 million reward that they then doubled a decade later for information leading to the recovery of the works.

Some tips pointed to the Irish Republican Army and to Boston mob figures, including notorious crime boss Whitey Bulger.

Kelly followed one lead to France, where he watched through binoculars as FBI agents, posing as wealthy intermediaries, lounged on a yacht drinking Champagne and eating strawberries — in an effort to draw out suspected Corsican mob figures.

Closer to home, agents searched houses across New England, relying heavily on informants. A triple murderer known as "Meatball" who was terminally ill secretly recorded conversations with suspected associates in hopes of earning money for his family. But none of the tips led to the paint-



Empty frames from which thieves took 'Storm on the Sea of Galilee,' left background, by Rembrandt and 'The Concert,' right foreground, by Vermeer, remain on display at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, on March 11, 2010. (AP)



Geoff Kelly, a former FBI agent who spent decades investigating the 1990 art heist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, stands outside the museum on April 6, 2026, in Boston. (AP)

ings.

In the decades since the robbery, several people believed to have ties to the heist were killed, and another died under suspicious circumstances.

Robert "Bobby" Donati, a Boston mob associate long suspected in the case, was found stabbed to death in 1991, his body left in the trunk of a car after his home had been ransacked.

Years earlier, Donati visited the Gardner with another known art thief, Myles Connor, to scope it out for a robbery and said that if he ever took the museum's Napoleonic finial, it would be his "calling card." Years later, a jeweler told investigators Donati tried to sell a finial but the jeweler declined, saying it was "too hot."

A separate line of evidence centered on George Reissfelder, who investigators believe owned the getaway car.

Kelly tracked down Reissfelder's brother, a retired military officer who had initially not believed his brother was involved. He broke down after being shown Manet's "Chez Tortoni," saying he recognized it as a painting he himself hung above his brother's bed.

Reissfelder later died under suspicious circumstances. When investigators searched his home, the painting

was gone.

Both men had ties to TRC Auto Electric, a Dorchester shop linked to Charles "Chuck" Merlino's crew.

Though investigators believed they knew who was responsible, they had a difficult time finding definitive proof.

In the investigation's early stages, the FBI assigned a single agent to the case, which Kelly said slowed progress.

"You have to keep in mind when you're talking about investigations, they come down to dollars and cents," Kelly said. It was "like pulling teeth" to secure resources. At the time, federal investigators in Boston were heavily focused on violent crime, drug trafficking and organized crime cases.

Kelly said a decision to release surveillance footage despite investigators' objections became a lasting distraction. With no usable video from the night of the robbery, prosecutors released footage from the night before that showed a museum employee entering the building after his car broke down. Kelly said he objected to the theory that the employee was casing the museum, since that possibility had already been reviewed and dismissed. The footage fueled years of misplaced suspicion; the man was later determined not to have been involved.

'Al-Mutlaa residential area is a model for expanding health services in new areas'

Specialized emergency centers vital in medical response system, says Dr Khaja

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Jahra Hospital Director Dr. Ahmed Khaja said the specialized emergency centers are vital in the medical response system, particularly in areas far from major hospitals.

In a televised statement, Khaja pointed out that these centers raise the efficiency of the healthcare system and lessen pressure on central emergency departments by providing immediate initial medical intervention and managing cases according to medical protocols before transferring them to the hospitals when necessary.

He revealed that Al-Mutlaa residential area is a model for expanding health services in new areas, indicating the Ministry of Health was keen on providing comprehensive services to residents by



Dr Ahmed Khaja

opening three primary healthcare centers. "Under the guidance of the Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, one of these centers was converted into a specialized emergency center due to the distance of Al-Mutlaa from Jahra Hospital.



Dr Anfal Al-Taher

He pointed out that this approach eased the burden of the Emergency Department at Jahra Hospital as many patients are treated at the center, eliminating the need to transfer them to the hospital, except in cases requiring specialized intervention or

close monitoring.

He said "the emergency center in Al-Mutlaa consists of various units like general emergency, orthopedics, ENT (ear, nose, throat), ophthalmology and dental services, along with a fully equipped labora-



Dr Ali Jawad Al-Abdullah

tory that operates round the clock to handle various cases, including road accidents and emergency internal medicine cases."

Meanwhile, Dr. Ali Jawad Al-Abdullah, head of Al-Mutlaa Emergency Center and head of the

Emergency Department at Jahra Hospital, stated that the center applies the same medical protocols as the hospital, under the supervision of highly qualified medical teams.

"This ensures comprehensive healthcare provision according to the highest standards, with a clear mechanism in place for transferring cases requiring continuous treatment to the hospital," Al-Abdullah explained.

Regarding pediatric care, Dr. Anfal Al-Taher, head of the Pediatric Emergency Unit at Al-Mutlaa Emergency Center, affirmed that the center provides emergency services for critical cases. He said "the condition is assessed immediately and the necessary care is provided. A permanent ambulance team, accompanied by specialized medical staff, is available to transport patients requiring transfer to Jahra Hospital."

Moderate engagement linked to better well-being

Australian study finds 'sweet spot' in teens' social media use

CANBERRA, April 27, (Xinhua): An Australian study has identified a "sweet spot" in teenagers' social media use, finding that moderate engagement is linked to better well-being than either excessive use or complete avoidance.

Researchers found that teenagers using social media for up to 12.5 hours per week were more likely to report positive well-being outcomes. In contrast, both excessive use and no use were associated with poorer well-being, said a statement of Australia's Adelaide University released Friday.

The research, published in JAMA Pediatrics, analyzed data from more than 100,000 Australian students in grades 4 to 12 between 2019 and 2022, examining how time spent on social media relates to happiness, life satisfaction, emotional regulation and other key indicators of well-being.

Social media's relationship with teen wellbeing is complex, varies by age and sex, and should not be viewed in black-and-white terms, said lead author Ben Singh from Adelaide University.

"Public debate often frames social media as being harmful to teenagers' wellbeing, but our findings suggest the reality is far more nuanced," Singh said.

He said that social media has little impact on well-being in younger children, whose social needs are largely met offline, but becomes more important in middle adolescence as a space for peer connections, identity expression and belonging.

The study also reinforced concerns about high levels of use, consistently associated with increased sadness, anxiety and difficulties managing emotions, underscoring the importance of balanced use, Singh said.

"Helping teenagers find a healthy middle ground may be more effective

than a blanket ban or total avoidance," he added.

Australia's world-first social media ban on under-16s took effect last December, requiring major platforms including Facebook, YouTube, TikTok and X to prevent minors from holding accounts.

Also:

MELBOURNE: Researchers in Australia is looking to scale up biomethane made from organic waste as part of efforts to ease energy pressures and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The study led by Australia's University of Melbourne (UniMelb) has shown how energy companies and waste management firms can safely turn organic waste, such as food scraps, sewage and animal waste, into clean gas for homes and businesses, said a UniMelb statement on Friday.

The team identified the critical specifications for optimal biomethane quality, making it more cost-effective to produce and informing the latest update of Australian Standards for use by energy producers.

The revised standard now recognizes biomethane as a natural gas equivalent, introduces new contaminant limits, and clears the path for biomethane to enter Australia's gas networks safely and at scale.

Biomethane, or renewable natural gas, comes from organic waste broken down by microbes in oxygen-free tanks. It is seen as a low-emissions alternative to fossil gas using existing infrastructure, according to the study published in the International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer.

The current fuel crisis has strained Australia's energy system, with electric vehicle sales rising 42 percent in March, but electrification alone cannot replace fossil fuels in heavy transport and industry, researchers said.



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, (left), and Australian Communications Minister Anika Wells speak to the media during a visit to St John Paul II College in Canberra, Australia, on Dec 11, 2025. (AP)



A man takes photos of his hand and a robotic hand at the Hannover Messe 2026 in Hannover, Germany, April 21, 2026. Hannover Messe 2026, Germany's flagship industrial trade fair, opened on Monday with industrial artificial intelligence (AI) and humanoid robots taking center stage for the first time. (Xinhua)

Why can't AI serve as qualified doctors despite high test scores?

BERLIN, April 27, (Xinhua): Is a headache a warning sign of stroke? Does a cough require an X-ray? What do abnormal test results really mean?

With just a few taps to describe symptoms and upload medical reports, people can receive a polished, seemingly professional assessment from artificial intelligence (AI) in seconds. More and more people have begun to turn to it for medical advice before seeing a doctor.

But does that mean AI can truly diagnose and treat patients?

Straight-a student in standardized tests

A study published in early April by researchers at Germany's Marburg University and University Hospital Giessen and Marburg found that in a standardized knowledge test on acute kidney injury (AKI), several large language models (LLMs) outperformed the medical professionals who took part in the assessment.

Researchers compared 13 publicly available LLMs with 123 volunteer participants at the 131st Annual Congress of the German Society of Internal Medicine, including medical students and physicians in internal medicine. Both groups completed the same AKI knowledge assessment, which consisted of two case vignettes and 15 single-best-answer multiple-choice questions.

The LLMs achieved a mean score of 13.5 out of 15, or 90 percent, with several models reaching a perfect score, while the human participants averaged 7.3 out of 15, or 48.7 percent. The models also completed the test far more quickly.

"These findings show that LLMs can provide factual medical knowledge very quickly. That creates oppor-

tunities for everyday clinical practice," said Philipp Russ, the study's corresponding author.

Weak link in clinical reasoning

High scores on standardized tests, however, do not necessarily mean AI has the judgment required for real-world clinical care.

A study published in JAMA Network Open on April 13 found that LLMs still fall short in clinical reasoning, especially in the early stages of a case, when limited information often prevents them from generating an appropriate differential diagnosis.

To better reflect how diagnosis unfolds in practice, the researchers at Mass General Brigham and other institutions evaluated 21 frontier LLMs using 29 standardized clinical vignettes. The models were fed information step by step, beginning with basic details such as a patient's age, gender and symptoms, and followed by physical examination findings and laboratory results. Their performance at each stage was assessed by medical student evaluators.

The result showed that all the models failed to produce an appropriate differential diagnosis more than 80 percent of the time. That means they often could not reliably determine the most likely cause, rule out serious disease or offer sound guidance on what should be investigated next.

"Differential diagnoses are central to clinical reasoning and underlie the 'art of medicine' that AI cannot currently replicate," said corresponding author Marc Succi, adding that the promise of AI in clinical medicine continues to lie in its potential to augment, not replace, physician reasoning.

Doctor-led collaboration

If AI is not ready to practice medicine on its own, what role should it play in healthcare?

Jens Kleesiek, director of the Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine at Essen University Hospital and the University of Duisburg-Essen said that thanks to AI, the collaboration between doctors and computers is constantly improving.

"We are at a point where digital systems no longer just provide support, but actively intervene in processes. For example, by taking over documentation or coordinating procedures," Kleesiek said at the opening of the 2026 Annual Congress of the German Society of Internal Medicine on April 18. "This will fundamentally change medical care."

Even so, the doctor's primary responsibility remains unchanged. Kleesiek emphasized that the human factor is still crucial and that AI must be deployed under the guidance of physicians with the expertise to understand the technology and use it properly.

Marc Succi made a similar point, saying that "LLMs in healthcare continue to require a 'human in the loop' and very close oversight."

As AI is pushed further into clinical practice, the risks that come with it also require close attention. Fares Alahdab, an associate professor at the University of Missouri School of Medicine, warned that experienced clinicians are often better able to spot flawed AI-generated suggestions, while medical students may lack the judgment needed to detect subtle but potentially dangerous errors.

Remote Lake Superior island's wolves thriving as packs prey on moose: experts

WASHINGTON, April 27, (AP): Wolves on a remote island in Lake Superior appear to be thriving, but they're making deep dents in the moose population that they rely on as a leading food source, according to a report released Monday.

Isle Royale is a 134,000-acre (54,200-hectare) national park in far western Lake Superior between Grand Marais, Minnesota, and Thunder Bay, Canada. The island is a natural laboratory, offering scientists a rare opportunity to observe wolves and moose largely free from human influence.

Researchers have conducted wolf and moose population surveys on the island since 1958. The surveys had been an annual winter event when the roadless island is closed to visitors, but researchers have run into obstacles in recent years.

The pandemic in 2021 forced scientists to cancel the survey for the first time. The National Park Service ordered researchers to evacuate the island during their 2024 winter survey after weeks of unusually warm weather left the ice surrounding the island unsafe for ski-plane landings. Researchers rely on the planes for easier wildlife tracking but the island has no runway, forcing them to land on ice-covered Lake Superior. Things didn't go much better last year when researchers were forced to scrap the effort after their pilot suffered a last-minute medical issue.

But this year a team of researchers led by scientists from Michigan Tech University were able to conduct a sur-



This Sept 26, 2018, photo provided by the National Park Service shows a 4-year-old female gray wolf emerging from her cage as she is released at Isle Royale National Park in Michigan. (AP)

vey from Jan. 22 through March 3. Findings from the survey led them to estimate the island's wolf population at 37 animals. Data scientists gathered before they evacuated in 2024 survey showed the population at 30.

The 2026 estimates are the highest since the late 1970s and represent a marked improvement since the population dwindled to just two wolves a decade ago. Researchers believe inbreeding led to depressed survival rates in pups.

The island's moose population, though, is declining dramatically. This year's survey put the population at

524 moose, down 75% from a high of 2,000 in 2019. Wolves likely killed almost a quarter of the moose population over the last year, scientists estimated. For the first time in almost 70 years, researchers observed no moose calves during the winter survey.

Sarah Hoy, a Michigan Tech researcher who specializes in predator-prey interactions and one of the survey's co-leaders, said scientists had to brave wind chills that dipped to minus 50 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 45.5 Celsius) and it was difficult to keep warm with the woodstoves in their cabins.

Over 12M Afghan children receive polio vaccine in past year, says UN

KABUL, April 27, (Xinhua): More than 12 million children in Afghanistan have been vaccinated against polio over the past year, achieving a coverage rate of 98 percent, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said, according to local media Tolonews on Saturday.

In addition to polio vaccination efforts, 16.6 million doses of measles vaccines and 1.6 million doses of Penta-3 vaccines were administered during the same period, the report said.

Afghanistan remains one of the few countries where polio is still endemic, and nationwide vaccination drives continue with support from international organizations despite ongoing challenges such as limited healthcare access and economic difficulties.

Also:

KABUL: In a concerted humanitarian effort, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in partnership with the Chinese government, has begun distributing essential Mama and Baby Kits to health facilities across Afghanistan, the UN agency reported late Sunday.



Shabana Maani, gives a polio vaccination to a child in the old part of Kabul, Afghanistan on March 29, 2021. (AP)

Over the past year, China has collaborated with UNFPA on the ground in Afghanistan to deliver indispensable reproductive health services for women and girls, said the agency. This vital support is primarily channeled through the procurement of emergency supplies and commodities, including the Mama and Baby Kits, ensuring timely, high-quality care for the most

vulnerable populations in humanitarian settings.

Designed to support mothers and newborns during the postpartum period, the kits help alleviate the physical, financial, and emotional burdens borne by crisis-affected families who struggle to afford even the most basic hygiene essentials following childbirth, the report added.

'The biggest dream I've ever thought of'

Hocevar earns maiden NASCAR Cup victory with last-lap pass

TALLADEGA, Ala., April 27, (AP): Carson Hocevar ensured the Talladega Superspeedway fans who witnessed his first NASCAR Cup Series win would remember it.

After outdueling Chris Buescher with a last-lap pass Sunday, Hocevar celebrated with one of NASCAR's most unconventional victory laps. While sitting on the windowsill of his No. 77 Chevrolet to salute the crowd with fist pumps and waves, the lanky Hocevar managed to keep his left hand on the wheel while driving down the frontstretch.

He steered the car nose-first into the outside wall to perform a burnout before climbing onto the roof.

"He looked like Shamu hanging out the window," said Jeff Dickerson, a co-owner of Hocevar's Spire Motorsports car.

The unique revelry was appropriate for the rising star who has made headlines by angering veterans with aggressive moves.

"I've had this thought up for a while," Hocevar said after becoming the 13th driver to earn his first Cup win at Talladega. "I've messed it up every which way to not be able to do it. I was going to figure out how to do it. It took me a while.

"I'm so thankful. This is the biggest dream I've

ever thought of. Thank you, everybody. I couldn't have done it any better way."

Hocevar joined Ty Gibbs (who won two weeks ago at Bristol Motor Speedway), as the second first-time winner this season by winning his 91st start in NASCAR's premier series.

The 23-year-old from Portage, Michigan, used a drafting push from Alex Bowman's No. 48 Chevrolet to edge past Buescher's No. 17 Ford by 0.114 seconds.

Buescher had been getting drafting help from Erik Jones, who spun after contact from Hocevar while battling for second with seven laps remaining. Jones' No. 43 Toyota stalled to bring out the final yellow and set up a three-lap shootout in which Buescher and Hocevar ran side by side virtually all the way to the checkered flag.

"That was a fun race," Buescher said. "I felt really good where we were at coming off Turn 4. Felt like we were in a spot to take this Ford Mustang into victory lane. Man, it was close."

Bowman finished third (his best finish since missing four races with vertigo), followed by Chase Elliott and Zane Smith.

"To be blunt, it just feels good to get out of here without crashing," Bowman said. "I'm getting old and don't have much of that left in me. Glad to get out of

here clean."

With tight packs at nearly 200 mph, Talladega is known for massive wrecks, and some contact at the front involved 26 of the 40 cars in the field.

Bubba Wallace was leading on Lap 115 when he lost control of his No. 23 Toyota on a push by the No. 1 Chevrolet of Ross Chastain. Ryan Blaney, Joey Logano, Brad Keselowski and Kyle Larson were among those eliminated from contention in the crash, along with Wallace, who finished outside the top 30 for the third time in five races.

"It's a bummer," said the 23XI Racing driver, who was making his 300th Cup start. "But we've got to figure out how to be pushed better, so I take responsibility on that. And we'll have a good debrief and figure out what we can do to make our Toyotas a little bit better at being pushed and maybe not have that happen."

In an attempt to blunt the fuel conservation strategies that have become prevalent at superspeedways, NASCAR instituted a 98-lap first stage that covered more than half the race distance (which is typically the length of the final stage). The change resulted in an opening segment that ran for 85 minutes under green as drivers cautiously raced well below their maximum speeds to achieve optimum mileage.



Carson Hocevar (77) leads the pack to the finish line as Ryan Preece (60), Austin Dillon (3), Christopher Bell (20), and Shane Van Gisbergen (97) wreck during a NASCAR Cup Series auto race in Talladega, Ala. (AP)

Inter one win away from Serie A title despite blowing 2-goal lead at Torino



AC Milan's Davide Bertesaghi, left, and Juventus' Francisco Conceicao vie for the ball during a Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Juventus, in Milan, Italy. (AP)

Milan settles for draw against Juventus

MILAN, April 27, (AP): Inter Milan moved a step closer to the Serie A title on Sunday but the Nerazzurri made it slightly more difficult for themselves by letting slip a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 at Torino.

That left Inter 10 points ahead of second-placed Napoli, with four rounds remaining.

A win would have left Inter simply needing to avoid defeat against Parma next weekend to mathematically clinch the Serie A title irrespective of how Napoli and AC Milan fared.

AC Milan was 12 points behind city rival Inter after being held to a 0-0 draw by Juventus.

Marcus Thuram headed Inter ahead against Torino in the 23rd minute following a trademark, pinpoint cross from Federico Dimarco.

That was Dimarco's 17th assist of the season, breaking the record for assists in a single Serie A season.

The 28-year-old extended his mark in the second half, with a corner from



Inter Milan's Marcus Thuram celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal during a Serie A soccer match between Torino and Inter Milan, in Turin, Italy. (AP)

the left that Yann Bisseck headed in off the inside of the far post.

Inter seemed to be coasting toward the win but Giovanni Simeone pulled one back for Torino in the 70th minute with a sumptuous goal. He backheeled a throughball into the path of Emirhan

Ilkhan and then raced forward to collect a return pass and dink it over Inter goalkeeper Yann Sommer.

And Torino was level in the 79th when Nikola Vlasic smashed a penalty into the top left corner after Duvan Zapata's header came off the arm of

Inter defender Carlos Augusto.

Christian Pulisic has equaled his worst goalless streak.

The match against Juventus was his 16th for Milan without scoring. The United States forward, who has also gone scoreless in eight games for his country, last found the back of the net on Dec. 28.

There were few chances in the match at San Siro, although Juventus midfielder Khéphren Thuram had a goal ruled out for offside and Alexis Saelemaekers hit the crossbar early in the second half for Milan.

Pulisic also went 16 matches without scoring for Chelsea in the 2022-23 Premier League season.

Como moved to within three points of fourth-placed Juventus and the final Champions League berth with a 2-0 win at Genoa.

Roma, which won 2-0 at Bologna on Saturday, was also level with Como in a tight battle for the Champions League qualifying spots.

Tasos Douvikas and Assane Diao scored with headers for Como.

Elsewhere, Fiorentina and Sassuolo drew 0-0.

Sevilla loses again

VAR turns goal for Rayo into penalty kick for Sociedad

MADRID, April 27, (AP): Rayo Vallecano rallied late to draw 3-3 with Real Sociedad in a Spanish league match marked by a sudden turn of events after VAR erased a Rayo goal and awarded a penalty kick to Sociedad instead.

Rayo thought it had equalized 2-2 through Pedro Díaz in the 69th minute at Vallecas Stadium, but the goal was called back after the referee went to video review and awarded a penalty kick to Sociedad earlier in the buildup.

Mikel Oyarzabal converted the 76th-minute penalty to make it 3-1 to the visitors.

"If you decide not to call a penalty, the VAR calls you and your decision is delayed minute by minute, you are essentially telling the public that you don't think it's a penalty because you are not convinced," Rayo coach Iñigo Pérez said. He added that "if you have doubts over 10 minutes, it's

because it isn't (a penalty). I think he still doesn't know if it was a penalty."

Rayo found a way to even the match with goals from Florian Lejeune in the 84th and Alemão in the ninth minute of stoppage time.

Sociedad, winless in three league games, stayed in eighth place while Rayo moved to 11th.

In the fight against relegation, Sevilla's struggles continued as it conceded two late goals in a 2-1 loss at Osasuna.

Neal Maupay put the visitors ahead in the 69th but ninth-placed Osasuna rallied with goals from Raúl García in the 80th and Alejandro Catena deep into stoppage time.

It was the fifth loss in six matches for Sevilla.

"We had the chance of winning at a tough place," Sevilla coach Luis García Plaza said. "The team played well but again it was for nothing."

The coach loudly complained about the nine minutes of stoppage time.

Osasuna had won only one of its last seven matches.

Earlier, Elche moved further away from the drop zone with a 2-1 win at last-placed Oviedo.

It was the fourth win in five matches for Elche, which reached 38 points, four more than 18th-placed Sevilla. Sevilla was one point behind Mallorca, the first team outside the drop zone.

Oviedo stayed seven points from safety.

Barcelona increased its league lead to 11 points by winning 2-0 at Getafe . Second-place Real Madrid drew 1-1 at Real Betis .

Third-place Villarreal had a 2-1 win over Celta Vigo, giving American defender Alex Freeman, son of former Super Bowl winner Antonio Freeman, a victory in his first La Liga start.

Knight Riders rise to 8th

Singh steals the show as Kolkata outlasts Lucknow in Super Over

LUCKNOW, India, April 27, (AP): Rinku Singh smashed four straight sixes in his 83 not out and went on to hit the winning runs in the Super Over after his Kolkata Knight Riders and Lucknow Super Giants had finished with the same score in the Indian Premier League.

Singh, who also took four catches, helped Kolkata score 155-7 in 20 overs after it was down to 93-7 in 15 overs.

In reply, Rishabh Pant's 42 went in vain as Lucknow faltered to finish with 155-8 in 20 overs, and then ultimately lost the Super Over.

Lucknow could only manage one run for two wickets in the tie-breaker, which Kolkata overcame with ease as Singh hit a first-ball four.

It was Kolkata's second win of the season, with the team rising to eighth after eight games, while Lucknow dropped to 10th with its sixth loss in eight games.

Put into bat, Kolkata came undone against Mohsin Khan - the left-arm pacer took 5-23 in the second-best bowling performance for Lucknow in IPL history after Mark Wood's 5-14 against Delhi Capitals in 2023.

Kolkata was 31-4 after the powerplay, with Ajinkya Rahane (10), Tim Seifert (0), Angkrish Raghuvanshi (9) and Rovman Powell (1) all dismissed.

Raghuvanshi was out obstructing the field - trying to avoid a run-out. Cameron Green scored 34 runs, adding 42 off 28 balls with Rinku.

Kolkata kept losing wickets and was 129-7 at the start of the final over. Rinku then smashed four consecutive sixes off wrist spinner Digvesh Rathi.

Lucknow lost Mitchell Marsh (2) early, but Aiden Markram scored 31 and added 57 off 55 with skipper Pant. The hosts were cruising on 65-1 at the halfway stage, when things turned around.

Kolkata spinners Varun Chakravarthy (2-33) and Sunil Narine (1-23) choked the scoring, while pacers Vaibhav Arora (2-24) and Kartik Tyagi (1-41) also inflicted damage.

Lucknow crashed to 129-7 in 18.2 overs, but impact player Himmat Singh scored 19 off 10 balls to bring them close. Mohammed Shami hit a last-ball six to tie the scores.



Kolkata Knight Riders' Rinku Singh plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Lucknow Super Giants in Lucknow, India. (AP)

Lille stays level with Lyon in race for CL spot, Nice frustrates Marseille

PARIS, April 27, (AP): Matias Fernandez-Pardo's first-half penalty was enough for Lille to stay neck-and-neck with Lyon in Ligue 1's race for a direct Champions League spot.

Pardo swept the spot kick inside the left post for Lille to beat Paris FC 1-0 away and end Antoine Kombouaré's unbeaten start as coach since taking over at the Stade Jean-Bouin in February.

Kombouaré's team pushed hard for an equalizer but had team captain Pierre Lees-Melou sent off late with his second yellow card after reacting badly to his first.

Paris FC was languishing in 15th place with 11 rounds remaining when Kombouaré took over but the experienced 62-year-old steered the team to survival last weekend with a 3-1 win at Metz that put it 13 points above the relegation zone with four rounds to play.

Paris FC was taken over in 2024 by France's richest family, the Arnaults of luxury empire LVMH.

With three rounds remaining, both third-placed Lyon and fourth-placed Lille have 57 points. Only the top three qualify directly for Europe's premier club competition.

Elye Wahi scored late with a perfectly taken "Panenka" penalty for Nice to thwart Marseille with a 1-1 draw for a point in its battle for survival.

Wahi, who scored two goals including a penalty in Nice's French Cup semifinal win over Strasbourg on Wednesday, faced a hostile chorus of whistles from Marseille fans as he prepared to take the spot kick against his former side.

Marseille goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli was booked for delaying the penalty be-

fore Wahi calmly chipped the ball in under the crossbar in the center of the goal for Nice's equalizer in the 88th minute.

Nice goalkeeper Yehvann Diouf preserved the draw as Marseille pushed for the winner in a furious finale that ended with a futile penalty shout for the home side.

Pierre-Emile Højbjerg had scored Marseille's goal with a diving header in the 66th.

The draw is another disappointment for Marseille after its loss at Lorient last weekend. Marseille stayed sixth, four points off the Champions League spots.

Nice moved five points above Auxerre in the relegation zone.

Rennes defeated local rival Nantes 2-1 thanks to a stoppage-time strike from team captain Valentin Rongier.

Rongier muted his celebrations out of respect for the club where he developed as a youth player before graduating to the senior team.

The win kept Rennes fifth, just a point behind Lille and Lyon, while Nantes is second from last in a direct relegation place.

Strasbourg fought back from two goals down and scored twice in stoppage time with Andrew Omobamidele getting the winner to stun Lorient with a 3-2 victory.

Strasbourg next faces Spanish side Rayo Vallecano away in the first leg of their Conference League semifinal.

Last-placed Metz staved off relegation for another week at least with a 4-4 draw at Le Havre. Metz was heading toward the second tier until Gauthier Hein headed the visitors' fourth equalizer of the match in the 85th minute.

Korda wins Chevron Championship for third major

Fitzpatrick brothers take Zurich Classic

HOUSTON, April 27, (AP): Nelly Korda won The Chevron Championship with a performance worthy of her return to No. 1 in women's golf.

Staked to a five-shot lead at the start, Korda was efficient as ever and no one could get closer than four shots all afternoon at Memorial Park. She closed with a 2-under 70 for a five-shot victory to capture the third major of her career.

The victory was her 17th on the LPGA and 21st worldwide, and it was enough for the 27-year-old American star to move back to the top of the women's world ranking for the first time since August.

Korda not only won wire-to-wire, it was never really a contest. She hit 5-iron to 5 feet for birdie on her 16th hole of the opening round Thursday to take the lead and never trailed again.

She celebrated in the best manner possible - a cannon ball into the 4 1/2-foot pool built to the right of the 18th green to keep with the tradition at this major that dates to 1988 when the winner jumped into Poppie's Pond at Mission Hills in the California desert.

Korda finished at 18-under 270, one short of Dottie Pepper's 1999 tournament record at Mission Hills. Ruoning Yin (69) and Patty Tavatanakit (70) tied for second.

Matt Fitzpatrick and younger brother Alex combined for a 1-under 71 in



Nelly Korda holds the trophy after winning the Chevron Championship LPGA golf tournament in Houston. (AP)

alternate-shot play, to pull out a drama-filled, single-stroke victory in the Zurich Classic and usher the younger Fitzpatrick onto the PGA Tour through 2028.

After the Englishmen had lost a four-stroke lead on the back nine, Matt

Fitzpatrick, the third-ranked player in the world, stuck a bunker shot on the par-5 18th a foot from the hole.

The 27-year-old Alex Fitzpatrick, a European tour regular, smiled and put his hand on his head as he went to mark the ball, knowing a chance to al-

ter the course of his golf career would be in his own hand.

He made the putt, crouched and put one hand over his face, and then rose to embrace his older brother.

Watching from the clubhouse were the teams tied at 30-under: Alex Smal-

ley and Hayden Springer; and Kristoffer Reitan and Kris Ventura. As the Fitzpatricks celebrated, their bids for a first PGA Tour victory ended.

Bernd Wiesberger of Austria played bogey-free Sunday and closed with a 4-under 67 to overcome Adrian Otaegui of Spain and win the China Open, his first victory since returning two years ago from Saudi-backed LIV Golf.

Wiesberger, who qualified for the 2021 Ryder Cup, avoided the mistakes that cost Otaegui. The Spaniard had a three-shot lead on the back nine only to drop shots on both par 3s at Shanghai Enhance Anting Golf Club.

Otaegui came to the par-5 18th needing birdie to force a playoff and hit his tee shot into a bush to the right. He wound up with a double bogey for a 71 to finish three shots behind.

Wiesberger finished on 19-under 265 for his ninth career European title, and first since winning in Denmark in 2021 that helped him make the Ryder Cup team that year. He was among the first players to join Saudi-backed LIV Golf in 2022 and played two seasons before his contract ended.

Retief Goosen won the PGA Tour Champion's Mitsubishi Electric Classic on Sunday at TPC Sugarloaf, 24 years after he took the PGA Tour's BellSouth Classic on the course.

Goosen closed with a 14-point round under the modified Stableford scoring system to beat Stephen Ames by two points. The 57-year-old South African won for the fifth time in 150 starts on the senior tour.

Goosen birdied the par-5 18th to finish with 39 points. Players received eight points for an albatross, five for eagle and two for birdie. They lost a point for bogey and three for double bogey or worse.

Ames had 19 points in the final round. Second-round leader Zach Johnson was third at 36 after an eight-point day.

Local favorite Stewart Cink, the Senior PGA winner last week for his third victory of the year, was fourth at 35 after a 19-point round.

Jeongwoo Ham closed with a 3-under 68 for a two-shot victory over Cameron John of Australia in the Singapore Open on the Asian Tour. Both earned a spot in the British Open this summer at Royal Birkdale.

Ren Yonezawa closed with a 5-under 67 and birdied the first playoff hole to defeat Younghan Song in the Maezawa Cup on the Japan Golf Tour.

Esme Hamilton of England played bogey-free on the back nine for a 2-under 71 to win the Investec South African Women's Open by two shots over Cara Gainer on the Ladies European Tour.

Patrick Flavin closed with a 4-under 67 for a two-shot victory in the 94 Abierto del Centro Zurich on the PGA Tour Americas.

Amari Avery made only two birdies but was bogey-free in the final round for a 2-under 70. She won the IOA Classic in Beaumont, California, for her first Epson Tour victory when Nika Ito had two bogeys and two double bogeys over the final five holes.

Shao, Hu call on fans to look beyond appearances

China sweeps three titles in open water swimming

SANYA, April 27, (Xinhua): China claimed its third gold medal in open-water swimming at the 6th Asian Beach Games after winning the mixed 4x1.5km relay.

The Chinese quartet of Li Xinxuan, Chen Yijing, Zhang Ziyang and Liu Peixin delivered a dominant performance, finishing in one hour, five minutes and 26.8 seconds. Vietnam and South Korea took silver and bronze, respectively.

Unlike most teams, which placed male swimmers on the opening and anchor legs, China sent two 18-year-old women out first. Li, who had already won the women's 5km title, admitted she felt some pressure racing alongside men.

"I thought the male swimmers might surge ahead, but I managed to stay with the leading group," she said. Li finished the opening leg 50.2 seconds behind Vietnam.

Chen then narrowed the gap, moving China from sixth to second place. Liu overtook rivals in the third leg before Zhang anchored the team to victory.

"Our two female teammates did a fantastic job, which really boosted our confidence," said Zhang. "We trained together in Beijing for two weeks before the Games. We are a happy team, and that helps relieve pressure." Zhang, who won the men's 5km gold a day earlier, said the tight schedule had been physically demanding. "I was extremely tired yesterday. I've never felt that exhausted before," he said. "But the desire to win outweighed the fatigue." China's clean sweep of all three open-water events brought smiles across the squad. Head coach Cheng Zhang said the team had met its targets.

"Our goal before the Games was to strive for three gold medals," he said. "All teams are strong, but we performed better this time." Looking ahead, Zhang said the team



Gold medalist team China poses for photos during the awarding ceremony of the open water swimming mixed 4x1.5km Relay at the 6th Asian Beach Games in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province. (Xinhua)



Players of team India celebrate victory after the Beach Kabaddi Women's Final Match between India and Sri Lanka at the 6th Asian Beach Games in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province. (Xinhua)

still has room for improvement on the world stage. "We may be competitive in Asia, but globally we still need to improve," he said.

"Our ultimate goal is to qualify for the 2028 Olympics." He added with a smile that he also had a personal wish: "Next time I come

to Sanya, I'd love to try the local coconut chicken."

In the women's high jump at the 6th Asian Beach Games on Sunday, China's Shao Yuqi and Hu Linpeng shared silver with a clearance of 1.83 meters and used the occasion to ask fans to look beyond their appearance.

Shao, champion at China's 15th National Games, and Hu both have large followings on Chinese social media platform Douyin. They say the attention is welcome, but can also be a double-edged sword.

"Having so many followers is good for Chinese athletics, and I'm happy about that," Shao said. "But when people focus only on our faces and our figures, I really hope they can also see our fighting spirit. We give everything to stand on the podium, even if sometimes things don't go our way." Hu echoed the sentiment, saying that posting on social media is simply part of modern life for athletes and a way to relax. "It's a normal way to reduce pressure and enjoy our spare time. It doesn't affect our performance - we know what our main job is," she said.

Competing on sand was a new challenge. Hu said she began adapting to the beach venue on April 22 by watching other events and taking advice from teammates.

"It was a strange environment, but when I stepped onto the runway I tried to focus only on each jump," she said. "Even though we didn't win the title, I'm proud that we Chinese women tied for silver." Hu, 31, admitted she was disappointed to miss out on the Chinese delegation for the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023, but said the silver medal in Sanya had restored her confidence.

Looking ahead to the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya later this year, she added: "If I get the chance to compete at the next Asian Games, I believe I can deliver a better performance."

Dutch midfielder to undergo surgery

'Heartbroken' Simons ruled out of World Cup and Tottenham run-in



Tottenham Hotspur's Xavi Simons before stretched off during the English Premier League soccer match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Tottenham Hotspur in Wolverhampton, England. (AP)

LONDON, April 27, (AP): Netherlands Xavi Simons will miss the World Cup as well as relegation-threatened Tottenham's final Premier League games of the season after rupturing the ACL in his right knee.

In an emotional post on Instagram, the 23-year-old Simons - one of the best Dutch players at the European Championship in 2024 - said he is "heartbroken" and that "none of it makes sense."

Simons screamed in pain and grabbed his knee following a challenge by Wolverhampton defender Hugo Bueno in the second half of Tottenham's 1-0 win on Saturday that renewed the team's hopes of staying in the top flight. He was carried off on a stretcher.

On Monday, Tottenham confirmed Simons ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament and will undergo surgery "in the coming weeks."

"Everyone at Tottenham Hotspur sends Xavi our love and support - we will be with him every step of the way," the club said.

In his Instagram post, Simons wrote "my season has come to an abrupt end and I'm

just trying to process it." "All I've wanted to do is fight for my team and now the ability to do that has been snatched away from me... along with the World Cup," he wrote. "Representing my country this summer... just gone."

"It'll take time to find peace with this, but I'll continue to be the best teammate I can be. I have no doubt that together we'll win this fight."

Tottenham remained in the relegation zone, in third-to-last place and two points from safety, despite its first league win in 2026, and is in big danger of losing its top-flight status for the first time since the late 1970s. Tottenham has four games left this season.

Simons, who joined from Leipzig for 60 million euros (\$70 million) in the offseason, hasn't been a regular starter for Spurs but has been in the lineup in recent matches under newly hired manager Roberto De Zerbi.

He helped the Dutch reach the semifinals at Euro 2024 and was expected to be key for the team at the World Cup, where they're in a group with Sweden, Tunisia and Japan.

Stuttgart's hopes hit a bump

Dortmund seals Champions League qualification

BERLIN, April 27, (AP): Borussia Dortmund sealed Champions League qualification with an easy 4-0 win over a distracted Freiburg team in the Bundesliga.

Maximilian Beier, Serhou Guirassy and Ramy Bensebaini effectively decided the result in the first half hour, before substitute Fabio Silva completed the scoring late.

Dortmund keeper Gregor Kobel denied Cyriaque Irié a consolation goal.



Dortmund's Nico Schlotterbeck, centre right, and Freiburg's Igor Matanovic challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and SC Freiburg in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

With three rounds remaining, Dortmund is assured of finishing among the top four to qualify for Europe's premier club competition.

Freiburg coach Julian Schuster had made a host of changes to the team that suffered a bitter defeat against Stuttgart in the German Cup semifinals on Thursday.

Freiburg next faces Sporting Braga away for the first leg of their Europa League semifinal match.

Dortmund coach Niko Kovač gave Samuele Inacio his first start and the 18-year-old Italian forward made the most of it, earning ovations when he went off in the 74th minute.

United States Under-17 forward Mathis Albert went on for the final minutes to make his Dortmund debut. The 16-year-old from Greenville, South Carolina, joined Dortmund's academy in 2025 from LA Galaxy's academy, and was part of the U.S. team at last year's Under-17 World Cup.

Another youngster, the 18-year-old midfielder Rouven Tarnutzer, had already gone on late for his Freiburg debut.

Stuttgart's hopes of Champions League qualification were tempered in a 1-1 draw with Werder Bremen.

Ermedin Demirović canceled Jens Stage's early goal for the visitors and just kept Stuttgart in fourth place on goal difference from Hoffenheim before they face each other for a high-stakes clash next weekend.

Stuttgart and Hoffenheim were on 57 points, two ahead of Bayer Leverkusen, which still harbors its own hopes of Champions League qualification.

Bremen's point from the draw in Stuttgart moved it six points above St. Pauli in the relegation zone.

Bayern Munich already sealed the title last weekend and will face Stuttgart in the German Cup final on May 23.

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OL Lyonnes' goalkeeper Christiane Endler, right, reacts as Arsenal's Stina Blackstenius, left, celebrates her side's first goal during the Women's Champions League semi-final, first leg soccer match between Arsenal and OL Lyonnes in London, England. Arsenal benefited from two defensive blunders to rally for a 2-1 win over Lyon and keeping the English club on course to defend its title. (AP)

Sports

Al-Mari hails Kuwait athletes performance at Asian Beach Games despite challenges

SANYA, China, April 27: Kuwait Olympic Committee Assistant Secretary-General Ali Al-Mari praised the strong performances of Kuwait's athletes at the 6th Asian Beach Games currently taking place in China, highlighting their determination despite challenging and exceptional circumstances in the region.

Al-Mari noted that the Kuwaiti delegation features 13 male and female athletes competing across five sports: jiu-jitsu, teqball, aquathlon, climbing, and sailing. He stressed that the team participated without full training camps or structured preparation programs due to recent regional conditions.

"Despite the lack of ideal preparation, our athletes have shown great effort and achieved notable personal bests, proudly representing Kuwait at this major continental event," he said, adding that this provides strong optimism for future competitions.

He also praised the high level of organization in China, describing the event as comparable to a full-scale Asian Games rather than a beach edition, with more than 1,600 athletes participating. He thanked the organizers and the Olympic Council of Asia for their professional efforts in ensuring the success of the event.

Al-Mari further revealed that the Kuwait Olympic Committee is exploring the possibility of hosting similar international sporting events in the future, based on recommendations from Minister of Youth and Sports Dr. Tareq Al-Jalal and Olympic Committee President Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser Al-Sabah. He emphasized that Kuwait's sporting workforce has repeatedly proven its ability to successfully organize major events at both logistical and technical levels.

In related action, national climbing athlete Nasser Abu Arjeeb will begin his competition at 6:30 a.m., aiming for a strong showing in the speed and difficulty disciplines. Abu Arjeeb, who had the honor of carrying Kuwait's flag during the Games' opening ceremony, said the event marks an important milestone in his career and vowed to deliver his best performance in Sanya.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's sailing team will wrap up its participation in the Optimist and ILCA4 events as races begin at 6:00 a.m., with final standings determined by total points accumulated across all races since the start of the competition.



Nasser Abu Arjeeb intensifies training for the opening event.

Rockets rout Lakers to stave off elimination

Raptors edge Cavaliers to tie series

HOUSTON, April 27, (AP): Amen Thompson scored 23 points, Tari Eason added 20 and Houston avoided elimination with a 115-96 rout of Los Angeles in Game 4 of the Western Conference playoff series.

Game 5 is Wednesday night in Los Angeles.

The Rockets got their first win in the series after falling into an 0-3 hole despite missing Kevin Durant for a third game thanks to a balanced scoring attack. Durant sat out a second straight game with a sprained left ankle after missing Game 1 with a bruised right knee.

Houston's entire starting lineup scored at least 16 points with Alperen Sengun adding 19, Reed Sheppard 17 and Jabari Smith Jr. 16.

The Lakers were led by Deandre Ayton, who had 19 points and 10 rebounds before being ejected with about 5½ minutes left in the third quarter for a flagrant foul 2 on a hit to Sengun's head. His output wasn't nearly enough to allow the Lakers to close the series out on a night when LeBron James didn't have his best game.

He had 10 points on 2-of-9 shooting with nine assists and eight turnovers before sitting with about 7½ minutes to go after scoring 19, 28 and 29 points in the first three games. But he wasn't the only Laker who struggled. Los Angeles made just five 3-pointers after combining for 35 through the first three games.

Raptors 93, Cavaliers 89

In Toronto, Scottie Barnes hit the go-ahead free throws in the final minute and scored 23 points, Brandon Ingram also added 23 points and the Toronto Raptors beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 93-89 on Sunday, tying the Eastern Conference

first-round playoff series at two games apiece.

The best-of-seven series shifts to Cleveland for Game 5 on Wednesday.

RJ Barrett scored 18 points and Collin Murray-Boyles had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors, who won despite shooting 4 for 30 from 3-point range.

Barnes added nine rebounds and six assists.

Donovan Mitchell scored 12 of his 20 in the fourth quarter and James Harden added 19, but the Cavaliers couldn't overcome an 18-turnover performance.

Mitchell missed two shots in the final 25 seconds, including a 3-pointer that would have tied the game. He finished 6 for 24 overall and made 4 of 12 shots from long range.

Sam Merrill scored 14 points and Jarrett Allen had 15 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who were outscored 10-2 in the final 1:54 of the fourth.

With NBA commissioner Adam Silver in attendance, both teams struggled from 3-point range. Cleveland finished 10 for 40 from distance, including 5 of 10 in the fourth.

Spurs 114, Trail Blazers 103

In Portland, Victor Wembanyama had 27 points, 11 rebounds and seven blocks in his return from a concussion, and San Antonio took a 3-1 lead in their first-round series against Portland Trail with a victory.

De'Aaron Fox added 28 points for the Spurs, who will return home to San Antonio for Game 5 on Tuesday night.

The Spurs announced about an hour before the game that Wembanyama, the 7-foot-4 Defensive Player of the Year, would play after clearing the league's concussion protocol.

The Spurs trailed the Blazers by 17 points at the half, but the game was knotted at 74 going into the fourth quarter. Fox and Keldon Johnson hit back-to-back 3-pointers to put the Spurs up 90-77 with 7:14



Cleveland Cavaliers center Jarrett Allen (31) battles Toronto Raptors guards Jamal Sheard (23) and Immanuel Quickley (5) for the ball during the first half of Game 4 in a first-round NBA basketball playoffs series in Toronto. (AP)

left. Johnson's dunk with 4:31 left made it 101-81 for San Antonio and all but sealed the win.

Deni Avdija led the Trail Blazers with 26 points. There was tense moment with 2:13 left when Avdija and Stephon Castle exchanged shoves. They were given offsetting

technical fouls.

Celtics 128, 76ers 96

In Philadelphia, Payton Pritchard hit six of Boston's 24 3-pointers and scored 32 points and Jayson Tatum had 30 points and 11 assists to help Boston spoil Joel Embiid's return from an appendectomy and beat Philadelphia for a 3-1 lead in their

first-round playoff series.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Boston.

Jaylen Brown scored 20 points for the Celtics, who thumped the Sixers by 20-plus points for the second time in the series.

Embiid scored 26 points in 34 minutes just 17 days after having an

appendectomy. Embiid wasted little time scoring in his first game since April 6. The two-time NBA scoring champion sank two free throws for the Sixers' first points of the game, added a monster two-handed jam and scored the team's first eight points.

Tyrese Maxey scored 22 points for the Sixers.

Bavarians must adapt with Kompany

Stopping Kvaratskhelia key to Bayern's chances against PSG

PARIS, April 27, (AP): Bayern Munich must find a way to stop Paris Saint-Germain winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia when the sides meet in the first leg of their Champions League semifinal on Tuesday.

Monaco, Chelsea and Liverpool could not.

Kvaratskhelia has scored eight goals so far - including another fine solo effort against Liverpool in the first leg of their quarterfinal. That's twice as many as teammate Ousmane Dembélé, the current men's Ballon d'Or holder.

"He is such an important player for us," PSG coach Luis Enrique said Tuesday. "Not just for his abilities but for what he transmits as a player."

Kvaratskhelia's performance against Liverpool, all darting runs and jinking feet, led the British press to compare the 25-year-old Georgia star's style of play to that of George Best, the late Manchester United great known for his extraordinary dribbling, amazing balance and spectacular goals.

His ability to cut in at speed from the left flank and bend a shot into the opposite corner is also reminiscent of Thierry Henry, the former France and Arsenal great.

"When I come inside and shoot it is down to hard work," Kvaratskhelia said. "It depends on our opponents as well. I also work on it with the national



team." Bayern Munich's coach Vincent Kompany attends a team training session ahead of a Champions League semi-final, first leg soccer match against Paris Saint-Germain, in Munich, Germany. (AP)

He scored with a brilliant curler against Chelsea in the first leg of the last 16, then followed up with another goal in the away leg as PSG routed the London side 8-2 on aggregate. Prior to that, it was goal midway through the second half that turned the tide PSG's way in a tough playoff against Monaco.

He has 16 goals overall this season for Ligue 1 leader PSG, beating his previous best of 14 when starring for Serie A winner Napoli in the 2022-23 season.

Napoli fans affectionately nicknamed him "Kvaradona" in reference to Diego Maradona, the club's greatest-ever player. He paid homage to Maradona in a farewell video posted to his fans when he left Napoli.

"Yes, people called me that (Kvaradona) in the street in Napoli. It's always a pleasure to be compared to one of the best in the game," Kvaratskhelia said. "It is also difficult to be compared to Maradona because you have to show it each time you are on the pitch."

Kvaratskhelia's goal celebration, where he slides on his knees and taps the inside of his arm with his fingers, signifies "ice in my veins" - which means showing great composure when shooting.

Vincent Kompany's influence as coach is a key reason Bayern Munich is in the Champions League semifinals. Now Bayern will have to manage without him.

Bayern is preparing for arguably its toughest game of the season so far with its head coach suspended and assistant Aaron Danks reportedly due to take over.

Kuwait Club trains with full squad ahead of Challenge League final

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 27: Kuwait Club resumed training at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium with a full squad, as the team stepped up preparations for the AFC Challenge League final against Cambodia's Svay Rieng on May 13.

The coaching staff, led by Montenegrin coach Nebojša Jovović, had previously granted the players a three-day break following their return from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, where Kuwait Club completed a successful run in the competition. The team defeated Oman's Al Shabab 5-3 in the quarter-finals before overcoming Muras United of Kyrgyzstan 2-1 in the semi-finals to secure its place in the final.

Before the start of the first training session, Jovović held a team meeting attended by his assistant coaches and the administrative staff. He stressed the importance of discipline and daily commitment, while also praising the players for their strong performances in Kyrgyzstan and their determination in reaching the final.

Kuwait Club was the first club to officially resume training following the decision of the joint committee formed by the Public Authority for



Kuwait Club resumes training at the Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium ahead of the final.

Sport to assess the impact of exceptional circumstances on the sports sector. The committee, chaired by Minister of Youth and Sports Dr. Tareq Al-Jalamah, approved the resumption of training sessions starting Sunday, with timings from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Jovović urged his players to maintain their high level of performance in the final and continue their push for more success, as the club targets a fourth Asian title after previously winning the AFC

Cup three times.

The club's strong showing in the AFC Challenge League has also secured Kuwait an additional direct slot in the competition, along with a place in the AFC Champions League 2 qualifying playoffs for next season, according to the Asian Football Confederation.

This season, Kuwait was represented by two clubs in the AFC Challenge League - Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi - with the latter exiting at the group stage last October.