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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Mr. President of Lebanon, do as Sadat did, and you will succeed

THE third round of negotiations between Lebanon and Israel will be held tomorrow in Washington, D.C. This courageous decision by the Lebanese President Joseph Aoun is regarded as a significant step in Lebanon's favor, based on an assessment of the balance of power between the two sides. Any alternative approach could lead to further destruction of this small country and weaken its state institutions.

President Aoun, as a military commander, knows all the intricacies of his country and understands better than anyone that liberating the homeland through peace is far more beneficial than continuing the wars of others on his land. Those wars brought no benefit and have instead reinforced occupation realities.

Today, 68 villages and towns are under Israel-

li control, while Hezbollah continues to tie its decisions to the regime in Tehran, that rogue state.

According to strategic calculations, Egypt was significantly stronger than Lebanon during the October War of 1973, when Sinai and the Suez Canal were liberated. However, the then-Egyptian President Anwar Sadat chose the path of peace, understanding as a military leader that continuing the war would lead to further losses for his country.

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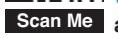
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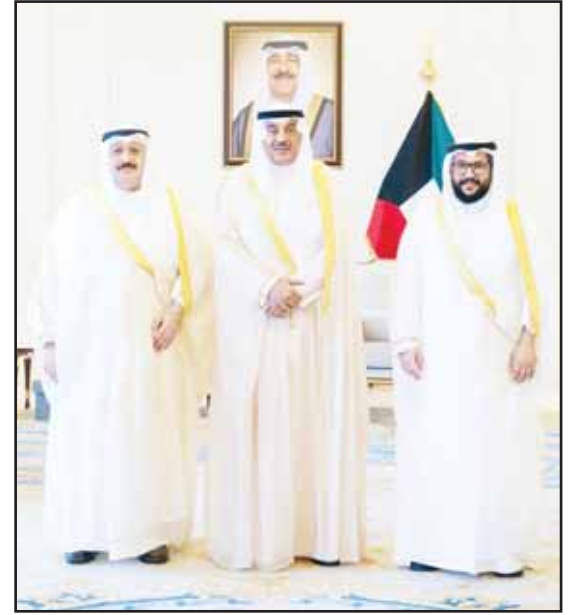
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Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, and the newly appointed Health Ministry Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifah Al-Sabah.



Crown Prince Diwan photo
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, who presented His Highness with the newly appointed Health Ministry Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifah Al-Sabah.

Amir, Crown Prince meet Health Minister, new Undersecretary

KUWAIT CITY, May 12, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, who presented His Highness with the newly appointed Health Ministry Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifah Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, who presented His Highness with the newly appointed Health Ministry Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifah Al-Sabah.



Amiri Diwan photos
Top and above: Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah receives the Egyptian and Tajikistan ambassadors to Kuwait.

Amiri Diwan receives Tajik and Egyptian ambassadors

KUWAIT CITY, May 12, (KUNA): Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah received Tuesday, Ambassador of Tajikistan and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Dr. Zubaydullo Zubaydzoda on the occasion of the end of his tenure in the country.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed bilateral relations between Kuwait and Tajikistan and discussed means of enhancing cooperation in various fields to serve the interests of

the two friendly countries and peoples.

The minister praised the ambassador's efforts during his tenure in Kuwait and his role in strengthening bilateral relations and communication among accredited diplomatic missions in his capacity as Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, wishing him continued success in future assignments.

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Photo by Samer Shaqair
Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem addressing the launch ceremony.

Gov't, public role eyed in preserving water, power

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem affirmed that the implementation of projects for increasing electricity production and water desalination continued throughout the past period despite the war in the region and the attacks on Kuwait.

Speaking at the launching of the national campaign to conserve electricity and water titled, "Save 2026," at the Government Communication Center

on Tuesday, Al-Mukhaizeem pointed out that the current phase requires everyone to join forces and work with a shared sense of national responsibility to preserve the lifeblood of the country (electricity and water).

He explained that the campaign is of paramount importance this year, indicating that it is under the slogan "Save... and Make a Difference." He stated that it is not a traditional awareness program, but a sincere and open invitation to establish a genuine national partnership between the

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Kuwait irate as intruders confess ties to Iran IRGC

One soldier hurt in clash on Bubiyan Island

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: Kuwait on Tuesday strongly condemned an act of an armed group belonging to the Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), who sneaked to Bubiyan Island to carry out hostile actions against the State of Kuwait, the Foreign Ministry said.

The group also clashed with Kuwait armed forces before being arrested.

ed. One soldier was injured.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Hamad Al-Mashaan, on Tuesday summoned Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Toutonchi, giving him a memo of protest over Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) members' infiltration into Bubiyan Island and their gunfight with Kuwaiti army personnel.

The Kuwaiti official restated emphatic condemnation and denunciation of this hostile act, calling on Iran to stop such acts immediately and unconditionally, said the Foreign Ministry in a press release.

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Municipal Council allocates land for Kuwait-S.Arabia railway link

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: The Technical Committee at the Municipal Council, chaired by Munira Al-Amir, held its 32nd meeting for the fourth session on Tuesday, during which it approved the following:

- Request of the Ministry of Public Works to allocate the right-of-way for the railway link project between Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh line), from the southwestern border to Al-Shadadiya,
- Request of the Ministry of Interior to amend the decision of the Municipal Council regarding the sites of driving schools previously operated by Kuwait Driving School Company,
- Request of the Ministry of Defense to reorganize some of the plots in Block One in Al-Siddiq and allocate part of the park in Block Eight in Shaab as the site for secondary substation no. 2.

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Kuwait Radio honest voice, stage for culture, intellect and creativity

KUWAIT CITY, May 12, (KUNA): Kuwait Radio has established itself over 75 years as a pioneering media institution in the Gulf and Arab region through continuous innovation, earning numerous awards for programs that remain deeply rooted in listeners' memories.

Since its launch on May 12, 1951, Kuwait Radio has served as a leading media and cultural platform in the Gulf

region and a national voice accompanying Kuwait's modern development across various historical stages.

Official broadcasting began on the evening of May 12, 1951, from a small room at a Public Security and Police Department, when reporter Mubarak Al-Mayal first declared the phrase "Huna Al Kuwait" which means This is Kuwait.

In its early years, the station broadcast for only two hours daily through a single transmitter before gradually expanding broadcasting hours and program diversity to become one of the leading Gulf and Arab radio stations.

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FM lauds diplomats for diligent service in safeguarding Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 12, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs congratulated its staff, Tuesday, on Kuwaiti Diplomats Day, observed annually on May 12, praising diplomats for their distinguished service in protecting Kuwait's interests at home and abroad.

In a statement, the ministry com-

mended Kuwaiti diplomats for strengthening the country's regional and international standing through fostering cooperation with allied and friendly nations, defending national interests, and representing Kuwait effectively in global forums.

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Airfares from Manila double

Filipino workers headed for Kuwait

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: Head of the Union of Domestic Labor Offices, Khaled Al-Dakhan, has revealed an upcoming visit by the Philippine Minister of Labor to Kuwait, with expectations that Filipino workers will begin arriving as early as next week.

Al-Dakhan explained that domestic workers from the Philippines must complete specific

procedures and receive official instructions before traveling to Kuwait. The workers must also visit the Philippine Ministry of Labor to be briefed on requirements and sign a pledge to comply with travel regulations prior to departure.

Meanwhile, he stressed that some Gulf embassies previously required Sri Lankan domestic workers to receive certain vaccinations before travel, but several Gulf countries

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Day by Day



8 Zain Kuwait champions employee wellbeing as a core driver of strong, resilient leadership



9 National Investments Company Launched "Ascend" to Support High-Potential Talent

DECISIONS have been issued regarding agricultural land holdings. Some are understandable and perhaps even appreciated, while others are difficult to comprehend.

A beneficiary acquired an agricultural plot 30 or 40 years ago, and invested time, money, and effort until reaching old age, only to later realize he cannot sell or bequeath the plot. After his death, the heirs are also not entitled to receive or sell the plot.

What kind of unjust decision is this? It would be more appropriate for the heirs to be monitored. If they dispose of the plot illegally, they should be held accountable. ... Yet tomorrow is another day

Zahed Matar



KUNA photo
Volunteers cooking food in the IICO launched 'Feeding Kitchen' in Gaza.

IICO launches 'Feeding Kitchen' in Gaza

KUWAIT CITY, May 12, (KUNA): The International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) announced on Tuesday the launch of its "Feeding Kitchen" project in the Gaza Strip as part of efforts to support affected families and displaced people amid the worsening humanitarian conditions there.

Director of Social Programs Depart-

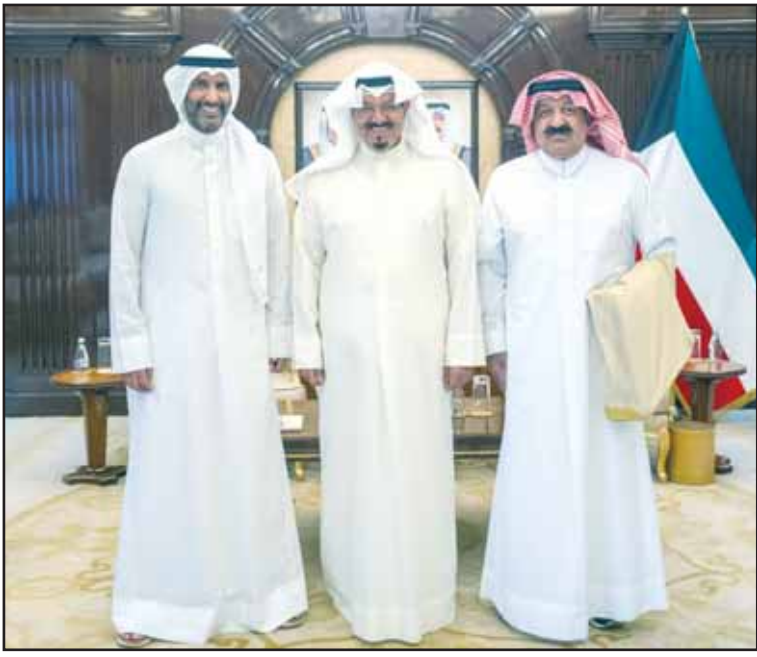
ment at the organization Ali Al-Fadhli told KUNA the project responds to severe shortages of basic food supplies, inadequate cooking facilities among displaced families and heavy reliance on emergency aid, making it an urgent humanitarian necessity to address the growing food gap in Gaza.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:28 Asr 15:20
 Sunrise .. 04:57 Maghrib .. 18:31
 Zohr 11:44 Isha 19:58



PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives an invitation to attend the final of the Asian Challenge Cup.

Kuwait PM receives invitation to attend AFC Challenge Cup Final

KUWAIT CITY, May 12, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Tuesday an invitation to attend the AFC Challenge Cup final.

The invitation was presented during his reception of Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr.

Tareq Al-Jalhama, Kuwait Football Association Chairman Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yusuf Al-Sabah, and Kuwait Club Chairman Khaled Ali Al-Ghanem.

The final will be held between Kuwait Club and Cambodia's Svay Rieng at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium.

Kuwait Amir receives letter from Mauritania pres

KUWAIT CITY, May 12, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Tuesday a written letter from President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania Mohammad Ould Cheikh Ghazouani regarding close relations between both sisterly countries and means to promote and develop them.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was handed the letter while welcoming Mauritanian Presidential Envoy

and Minister of Foreign Affairs and African Cooperation and Mauritians Abroad Dr. Mohammad Salem Ould Merzoug, said the Foreign Ministry in a press release.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations between both countries and the latest regional and international developments, and exchanged views on issues of mutual interest, according to the release.

Gulf achievements highlights progress, shared identity: Al-Budaiwi

GCC marks 45 years with progress forum

RIYADH, May 12, (KUNA): Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi said on Monday that the Gulf Achievements Forum reflects a comprehensive regional system aimed at raising awareness of the accomplishments made through decades of joint Gulf cooperation.

Speaking at the forum hosted by the GCC General Secretariat in cooperation with the Gulf Radio and Television Organization in Riyadh, Al-Budaiwi said Gulf achievements are the result of sustained efforts by GCC leaders to transform challenges into opportunities and strengthen integration across political, economic, security, and development sectors.

He noted that the event comes as GCC states prepare to mark the 45th anniversary of the council's founding on May 25, emphasizing that



KUNA photo
 Adnan Al-Rashed, Chairman of the Kuwait Journalists Association.

regional and global developments have reinforced the strategic importance of Gulf unity and cooperation.

Al-Budaiwi highlighted major achievements in infrastructure, digital transformation, education,

healthcare, energy connectivity, and economic integration, stressing that these gains have directly improved the quality of life for Gulf citizens through employment, investment, and social benefits.

He added that the forum aims to document these achievements, strengthen Gulf identity, and promote future collaboration to ensure sustainable development and enhance the GCC's role as an influential regional and global force.

Chairman of the Kuwait Journalists Association Adnan Al-Rashed stressed on Monday the importance of the GCC Achievements Forum as key event reflecting Gulf states' commitment to advancing joint Gulf action despite current challenges.

Speaking to KUNA after the forum, which was organized by Gulf Cooperation Council General Sec-

retariat in cooperation with the Gulf Radio and Television, Al-Rashed said holding the event at this time carries special significance as the region is experiencing a period of truce while challenges remain.

He stated that the forum, held under the patronage of GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi, allows Gulf officials and media to unite and promote regional achievements.

He reemphasized the vital role of media and social media platforms in highlighting the GCC's joint achievements and humanitarian efforts.

Director General of the Gulf Radio and Television Organization Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Hazzaa emphasized Monday the importance of the Gulf Achievements Forum in highlighting the accomplishments of Gulf Cooperation Council countries and raising awareness among citizens.

Justice Ministry pledges major reform of Experts Department

Full Kuwaitization set for August 1 deadline

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: The Ministry of Justice affirmed on Monday its commitment to developing procedures and enhancing the efficiency of the General Department of Experts, in order to achieve higher standards of quality and improve service performance, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry said this in an official statement issued after an open meeting organized by the Kuwait Lawyers Society in which the acting Head of the General Department of Experts, Dr. Fawaz Boudi, participated along with deputy heads.

The meeting aimed to directly hear lawyers' feedback and observations on technical expert procedures and case-handling mechanisms.

According to the statement, such meetings serve as an important channel for improving work processes and addressing feedback. It noted that the proposals raised will be taken into consideration within the plan to develop the department and improve service efficiency.

The meeting also covered practical issues, including the speed of completing assignments, the quality of technical reports, and communication mechanisms with experts.

The most prominent observations and proposals raised by lawyers were reviewed.

It is worth noting that Minister of Justice Coun-



Ministry of Justice photo

Officials during a meeting where a commemorative plaque was exchanged, reflecting cooperation and coordination between the concerned parties.

selor Nasser Al-Sumait announced last Saturday the launch of a comprehensive plan to develop the General Department of Experts.

An important component of the plan is the full Kuwaitization of the department, set to take effect on August 1, 2026, through the termination of all non-Kuwaiti employees in engineering, accounting, and legal research positions.

In a press statement issued at the time, Counselor Al-Sumait stressed that the plan also includes activating the fingerprint attendance system starting June 1, in addition to designating weekly open days for the acting Head of the General Department of Experts and his deputies in governorates to directly receive feedback from citizens and lawyers.

Envoy hails EU Commission initiative

Kuwait reaffirms support to Syrian sovereignty and territorial integrity

BRUSSELS, May 12, (KUNA): Kuwait expressed Monday appreciation to the European Commission for hosting the Syria Partnership Coordination Forum, reflecting a shared determination to accompany Syria through the most sensitive phase of transformation in its modern history.

This came in a statement delivered by Kuwait's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and Head of its Missions to the European Union and NATO, Nawaf Al-Enezi, within the framework of the first-ever high-level political dialogue between the European Union (EU) and Syria, held in Brussels under the joint chairmanship of the EU and the Syrian government.

He confirmed the international community's readiness to support recovery and reconstruction efforts in Syria.

The ambassador also praised the EU for its continued and constructive efforts in supporting Syria during this delicate and sensitive phase, stressing the importance of maintaining and deepening this approach in a way that contributes to strengthening stability.

He underlined that Syria's stability constitutes a fundamental pillar of regional and international peace and security, warning that any setback in the stabilization process would have repercussions extending beyond its borders to neighboring states and the wider region, considering that supporting Syria in overcoming its political, security, and economic



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and Head of its Missions to the European Union and NATO, Nawaf Al-Enezi, during the Partnership Coordination Forum on Syria.

challenges is a shared collective responsibility.

Al-Enezi reaffirmed Kuwait's firm and principled position rejecting all forms of interference in Syria's internal affairs, stressing that Syria's sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity are non-negotiable foundations for building its future.

He also affirmed Kuwait's condemnation of repeated attacks on Syrian territory, describing them as a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and international law, in addition to the continued illegal occupation of the Golan Heights.

He noted Kuwait's continued support for the Syrian people through hosting three major donor conferences, as well as its co-chairing with the European Union of the "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region" conference, reflecting its strong commitment to regional stability.

Tanmia Charity showcases humanitarian role

Kuwait joins non-profit sector exhibition IENA 2026 in Riyadh

RIYADH, May 12, (KUNA): International Exhibition for Non-profit and Awqaf (IENA) kicked off its fourth edition in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, on Monday, with the participation of around 100 local and international entities, including Kuwait's Tanmia Charity Association.

Chairman of Tanmia Charity Association Dr. Nasser Al-Ajmi said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the association's participation in the exhibition represents an important milestone to showcase Kuwait's pioneering experience in charitable and humanitarian work, reflecting the active presence of Kuwaiti institutions in development and humanitarian impact worldwide.

Al-Ajmi added that the association is presenting a range of its humanitarian and development projects and programs in relief, healthcare, education, orphan sponsorship, and sustainable development, alongside its efforts in building partnerships and promoting institutional charitable work.

He then noted that the participation aims to convey the bright image of Kuwaiti charitable work and highlight its humanitarian message that has transcended borders and reached various communities worldwide.

Furthermore, Dr. Al-Ajmi commended the significant efforts exerted by Saudi Arabia in supporting and empowering the non-profit sector, expressing his appreciation to the organizers for the excel-



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Tanmia Charity Association showcases its humanitarian and development initiatives at the IENA exhibition in Riyadh, featuring a multimedia display highlighting relief, education, and community projects.

lent preparation and organization, as well as for providing a distinguished platform that brought together humanitarian and charitable institutions to exchange expertise and showcase best practices and inspiring experiences.

The exhibition, held at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center and running until next Wednesday, features a specialized scientific program, including panel discussions and high-level meetings with the participation of more than 40 speakers comprising experts, specialists, and international and regional figures to dis-

cuss the future of the non-profit sector, investment opportunities, sustainability, and key development practices.

(IENA 2026) also highlights opportunities for integration with non-profit entities in areas such as neighborhood centers, public health, recycling, and community initiatives linked to the municipal and housing sectors, enhancing the role of the third sector as an active development partner in urban environment, improving the urban environment, and supporting the ministry's goals of building more vibrant, sustainable, and human-centered cities.



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Sabah joins health officials to recognize national medical talent.

Sheikh Athbi reaffirms support for health sector

Farwaniya Governor honors nursing professionals at Farwaniya Hospital

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah attended the International Nurses Day celebration held at Farwaniya Hospital on Tuesday.

Also present at the event were Director of Farwaniya Health District Dr. Mohammad Al-Rashidi, Director of Farwaniya Hospital Dr. Ali Al-Mutairi, Head of the Nursing Department Dr. Aida Al-Mutairi, and a number of health officials and medical and nursing staff in Farwaniya Health District.

Sheikh Athbi Nasser confirmed his unwavering support for the health sector through his attendance in the event. He appreciates the vital role that nurses play in

improving healthcare, and their professional and humanitarian efforts in serving patients and the community.

He praised the dedication of healthcare professionals, while emphasizing the importance of appreciating national talent in the health sector and recognizing their sincere efforts that support the health system and improve its services.

At the conclusion of the event, the health sector officials expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Governor for supporting and attending the event. They affirmed that his participation proves his commitment to support the medical and nursing staff and his interest in the health sector.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Political, military unity vital to counter threats

"THE Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was launched in the early 1980s on a Kuwaiti initiative, with strong regional and international promise, and with direct support from the leaders of the member states," columnist **Khaled Ahmad Al-Tarrah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"That period represented a shift toward building a unified Gulf front and a regional framework for cooperation among the Gulf states. However, a major turning point in the history of the region came during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, when GCC exerted its political weight on both the regional and international stages. This was due to the decisive positions taken by GCC leaders, their support for Kuwait, and the formation of a genuine solidarity front in response to the invasion.

"King Fahad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud (May God have mercy on him) played a leading role at the Gulf, Arab, and international levels, reflecting the strategic depth that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represents for the countries of the region.

"After the liberation of Kuwait, a degree of stagnation and routine emerged in work, planning, and thinking. This weakened the role of the GCC Secretariat and led to a decline in its performance compared to the period of its establishment and the Iraqi invasion.

"However, Kuwait has stepped in from time to time



Dr. Khaled Al-Tarrah

whenever disagreements or tensions arose between some member states, most notably the Qatari-Saudi dispute, which was resolved through wise Kuwaiti mediation led by the late Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad.

"Recently, we witnessed a Gulf dispute between two sisterly countries that escalated to an unacceptable level, with interference from some individuals and parties through social media platforms and even certain media outlets.

"What can Kuwait do in light of this discord between two sisterly nations, and amid unprecedented regional challenges - military, political, and security-related - resulting from escalating tensions in the Gulf region?

"Kuwait can lead a new initiative for neutrality and mediation by tasking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with organizing a discussion forum and brainstorming session involving political and intellectual figures from Kuwait and other Gulf states.

"This should be preceded by the formation of a preparatory committee to develop a clear framework and methodology for the discussions. To further refine the idea and strengthen the proposal, the expertise and political experience of prominent Kuwaiti figures, such as Nasser Al-Roudhan, could be drawn upon, to ensure that bureaucratic obstacles do not hinder progress.

"It would also be beneficial to invite and include the GCC Secretary-General in the session to gain a clearer understanding of the Secretariat's role and its influence on decisions and policies.

"It is crucial to identify the obstacles that have prevented the Secretariat from easing tensions and resolving disputes, which at times have escalated into overt media rhetoric by parties involved in such conflicts. These parties have distorted facts and exerted both direct and indirect influence to fuel the disputes.

"We are facing a huge challenge and a critical juncture in the GCC's trajectory.

"Either the spirit of Gulf unity will prevail, allowing the experience to evolve into a union or confederation that reflects the aspirations and interests of the Gulf states, or alternative paths will need to be considered.

"The GCC requires a more cohesive political and military entity capable of confronting Iranian threats and other challenges, or else the current state of disunity will persist, opening the door to even greater risks.

"In Kuwait, we are not seeking the victory of one side or the defeat of another, but rather working to strengthen and develop the foundations of the GCC in a way that serves the interests of the Gulf system and its member states.

"Last but not least, we have full confidence in the wisdom of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (May God protect and preserve him), and in his directives to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and whomever he deems appropriate, to achieve Gulf unity that does not falter or retreat under any circumstances."

Also:

"A person communicates with others through speech and conversation, and the way they choose to communicate greatly influences how others respond to them," Kuwaiti writer **Dr. Khaled Al-Janfawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"In many cases, individuals shape

how others interact with them through their own behavioral approach. Some effective communication principles include:

■ **Controlling one's words** - A person's tongue can be like a horse ridden in life's battles. A rider must train their horse for all kinds of military maneuvers, and the more skillfully the rider controls it and guides its movements, the safer they will emerge from the battlefield.

■ **Not revealing one's weaknesses or exposing vulnerabilities** - In interactions with others, a person inevitably reveals aspects of their strengths, weaknesses, and personality traits. A wise individual should be mindful of what they disclose and what they conceal, as well as how they perceive others.

■ **Minimizing flattery and overly ornate language** - Excessive embellishment in public communication is often ineffective, as it does not contribute to achieving practical goals. At times, others may interpret flattery as a sign of hypocrisy or weakness.

■ **Choose appropriate words for each person** - It is not helpful to use the same communication style with everyone. Some people require direct and practical communication, while others are better approached with minimal interaction. There are also individuals with whom communication should be limited or avoided altogether, or addressed in a restrained manner due to their lack of respect or propriety.

■ **Speak less** - It is generally advisable for a wise person to speak less, particularly in public settings. Excessive speech in such contexts can be counterproductive and may diminish one's standing in the eyes of others."

□ □ □

"Believing that the Kuwaiti family is the cornerstone of society, any legislation concerning this institution must be drafted with precision and wisdom, ensuring a careful balance between protecting family members from actual abuse and preserving the family's stability and cohesion," columnist **Bassam Fahad Thunayan Al-Ghanim** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"From this perspective, the recent amendment to the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence raises several legal and social concerns, given its potential adverse effects that may extend beyond the law's stated objectives.

"One of the most notable observations regarding the amendment is the expansion of the definition of domestic violence to include ambiguous concepts such as psychological and financial abuse, without establishing clear standards to distinguish between actual abuse and ordinary day-to-day disagreements, which are almost inevitable within any family.

"Discussions, reproaches, differences of opinion, or even financial decisions within the family could be interpreted in ways that open the door to unwarranted complaints.

"The law has also facilitated the filing of reports through electronic platforms and a dedicated hotline, which may lead to a surge in complaints and transform many minor disputes into cases before the Public Prosecution and the courts, despite the fact that most of these matters could be resolved through reconciliation and family mediation.

"The concern is further compounded by the difficulty of proving malicious intent behind false complaints, even when such reports are ultimately dismissed. Merely initiating an investigation and summoning a family member may inflict significant psychological and social harm, potentially straining marital and family relationships.

"Justice requires that the affected party be entitled to seek meaningful compensation if it is proven that the law has been misused. Such legislative expansions may also give rise to undesirable social consequences, including increased divorce rates, reluctance to marry, a rise in family disputes, and a weakening of the parental role in upbringing and guidance.

"The proposed law further grants investigative authorities and courts broad powers to issue protection orders, such as prohibiting contact or removing an individual from the family home. These measures may be imposed before a final judgment is rendered on the complaint, potentially creating conflicts with personal status laws, particularly with respect to custody and visitation rights.

"A legitimate concern also arises regarding the impact of vague provisions on the role of the father and husband in guardianship, care, and guidance, as recognized under Islamic law, which permits non-violent discipline within the framework of proper upbringing, provided it is not arbitrary or harmful.

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Lebanese duo held with drugs, peddling intended

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: Security teams from the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) apprehended two Lebanese nationals following investigations confirming their possession of quantities of narcotics and psychotropic substances intended for trafficking and personal use, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily. The suspects were found in possession of

two kilograms of marijuana, 400 grams of hashish, half a kilogram of synthetic cannabinoids, 6,000 capsules of Lyrica, three precision scales, and several nylon bags used for preparation and packaging. The necessary legal procedures were taken against the suspects, and they were referred, along with the seized items, to the competent authorities.

The Ministry of Interior affirmed the continuation of its intensive security campaigns to combat the scourge of drugs and to pursue drug dealers and smugglers, emphasizing that it will not tolerate any violation of the law and will take decisive action against anyone who attempts to harm the security of society and the safety of its members.

Juniors banned to go on media

Over 36,000 appeals heard: SJC

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: The Supreme Judicial Council has decided to prohibit applicants and those accepted for the position of Junior Legal Researcher, which qualifies them for appointment as Public Prosecutor (C), from appearing in any media outlets, including newspapers, television channels, and social media platforms, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The Council has tasked the Director of the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies with taking the necessary steps to circulate and implement the decision.

The Supreme Judicial Council, headed by Counselor Dr. Adel Boursli, issued two new decisions as part of its efforts to enhance the prestige of the judiciary and protect the privacy of litigants, as well as for security considerations.

The council issued a circular to the President of the Court of Appeals, Counselor Mohammed Al-Rifai, instructing him to inform members of the judiciary and the Public Prosecution of the prohibition on making any press statements, expressing opinions on social media, or appearing in the media in any other form.

The decision is based on Article 25 of the Law Regulating the Judiciary and reaffirms earlier decisions issued in 1994, 1998, and 2015.

It clarified that any activity outside the scope of judicial work requires prior authorization from the Supreme Judicial Council, with the possibility of disciplinary action against violators, ranging from a warning to the filing of a disciplinary lawsuit, in accordance with legal provisions.

The council also decided to strictly prohibit photography and videography inside courtrooms and the corridors of judicial buildings in all governorates, except with prior written permission from the head of the relevant court.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) announced that the Misdemeanor Appeals Chambers of the Court of First Instance have adjudicated 36,093 appeals during the current judicial year of 2025/2026, representing a 203 percent increase compared to the previous year, based on data collected since October 2025, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In an official statement, the council explained that it expects this percentage to continue rising until the end of the current judicial year in September 2026.

The reforms have significantly reduced the timeframe for scheduling appeal hearings to no more than two months from the date an appeal is filed with the Court of First Instance registry, compared to more than two years previously.

'Fishing is strictly prohibited in Al-Hayshan & Al-Rashdan'

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: The Environment Public Authority (EPA) has confirmed that fishing is strictly prohibited in the Al-Hayshan and Al-Rashdan areas, as marked in red on official maps, in accordance with environmental regulations and bylaws. This information contradicts claims circulating on some social media platforms, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

EPA referred to Resolution No. 1079/2009 on the prohibition of recreational fishing, which stipulates that pleasure boats are not permitted to engage in fishing within three nautical

miles of Kuwait's coastline.

The resolution also states that shore fishing is prohibited unless authorized through a permit or official notification issued by the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR).

EPA urged the public to comply with environmental laws and regulations, and to verify information before sharing or publishing unofficial reports.

It also emphasized that legal action will be taken against those who circulate false information.

Partial closure of 5th Ring Road for five days – MPW

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) announced that statistics from the Asphalt Department indicated that a total of 657 tests were completed in the laboratories in April.

The ministry stated that the number of factory visits reached 162, in addition to 477 sample collections from asphalt paving sites, 192 sample collections from factories, one certificate was issued, one calibration was performed, and one gap analysis was conducted.

On the other hand, the ministry announced the temporary partial closure of the Fifth Ring Road towards Salmiya, specifically three lanes on the left, opposite Al-Salam.

Three lanes will remain open to traffic on the Fifth Ring Road towards King Fahad Bin Abdulaziz Road (Route 40). This closure takes effect from dawn Tuesday until Sunday to pave the way for the completion of asphalt work in the area, in cooperation with the General Traffic Department.

KFF shuts 64 buildings in violation of 'safety' rules

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) announced the administrative closure and issuance of warnings to 64 buildings for violating regulations and failing to meet safety requirements, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

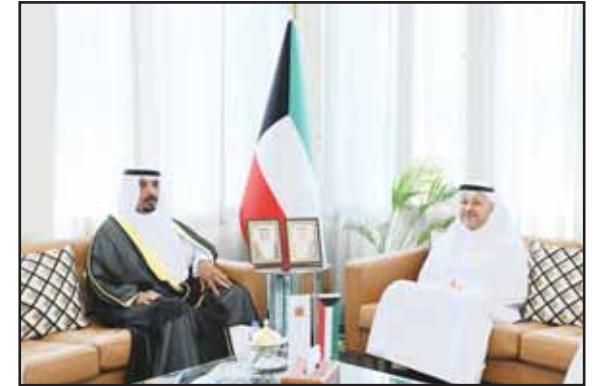
This came during an inspection campaign conducted in the West Abu Futaira Industrial Area to identify buildings that do not comply with safety and fire prevention standards.

Worker survives fall: A worker sustained serious injuries after he fell from a height into a light well at a house in Bayan on Tuesday morning, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

After receiving information about the incident, firefighters from Al-Bida'a and Technical Rescue centers rushed to the location and handed over the injured worker to paramedics for treatment.

5 injured in fire: Fire broke out in a house located in Sabah Al-Ahmad residential city on Monday evening, resulting in five casualties, two of them in critical condition, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) stated in a press release that firefighters from the Al-Kout and Arifjan fire stations rushed to the location and extinguished the fire. The injured were transferred to emergency medical services for necessary treatment.



Farwaniya Governorate photo

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives Salem Hamoud Al-Musailim at the headquarters of the governorate on Monday.

Community issues on top in governor talks

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah met with Salem Hamoud Al-Musailim at the headquarters of the governorate on Monday.

This is in line with the commitment of Sheikh Athbi Nasser to continue community engagement, which includes meeting with prominent figures and residents in the governorate in order to ensure continuous communication and solidify community partnerships.

They discussed various topics of mutual interest, thus, proving their commitment to support initiatives and ideas that better serve those residing in the governorate.

It is a manifestation of the dedication of the Governor to maintain communication with citizens and address community issues.

Toward the end of the meeting, Al-Musailim expressed his gratitude to Sheikh Athbi Nasser for the warm reception and his unremitting dedication to connect with the residents in the governorate and listen to their opinions and suggestions that are beneficial for everyone.

Ski-riders 'harassing' beach-goers nabbed

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: The General Directorate of Coast Guard apprehended seven individuals for reckless and irresponsible behavior, including disturbing and harassing other beach-goers while operating jet skis, in violation of regulations and instructions, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a press statement, the General Directorate of Coast Guard affirmed that field campaigns are ongoing to monitor and apprehend anyone committing violations or endangering the safety of others.

In this regard, the Ministry of Interior urged all beachgoers to adhere to maritime regulations and instructions and to act responsibly while using jet skis, in order to protect lives and property and avoid legal repercussions.

□ □ □

7 years jail upheld: The Court of Cassation upheld a seven-year prison sentence against a citizen convicted of violating the State Security Crimes Law, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The defendant was referred to trial on charges of offending the Amir position, planning to join ISIS in an African country (Nigeria), and promoting the organization's ideology through social media platforms.



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KCCI, Uzbek firms explore food security partnerships

Talks promote investment and diversified supply chains

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) on Monday held a virtual meeting with Uzbek companies specializing in the food sector in a bid to strengthen economic and trade cooperation between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Uzbek Ambassador to Kuwait Ayub Khan Yunusov attended the meeting, which tackled partnership opportunities in food security and the supply of agricultural and food products.

KCCI focuses on diversifying import sources, particularly in the food sector, taking into consideration the global economic and geopolitical changes and increasing challenges in international supply chains.

It explained that this approach is part of its efforts to boost the Kuwaiti economy's resilience and ensure the availability of essential local goods.

It confirmed that Uzbekistan is a promising partner for Kuwait, thanks to its growing production capacities in



KCCI photo
Officials from the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry participate in a virtual meeting with Uzbek food sector companies to discuss food security, trade diversification and investment cooperation between Kuwait and Uzbekistan.

the fruit and vegetable, grain, flour, nut and edible oil sectors, which cover the needs of the Kuwaiti market and the long-term food security requirements.

It revealed that trade relations between the two countries remarkably improved in recent years, indicating this growth presents valuable opportunities for stronger economic cooperation.

It stated that the meeting is an important platform for improving communication between businesspeople and companies in the two countries, building more organized and sustainable trade partnerships, and opening new channels for diverse and flexible cooperation and investment.

On the other hand, Ambassador

Yunusov expressed his gratitude to KCCI for organizing the meeting, because ensuring food security and diversifying import sources are vital for Middle Eastern countries.

He disclosed that during the visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the State of Kuwait in February 2015, food security and agriculture were identified as the most important areas of future cooperation between the two countries.

He said that while results have been achieved in these areas, they have yet to reach their full potential. "Uzbekistan has all the qualifications to be a major trading partner for Kuwait, particularly in the field of food security, given its extensive experience in cultivating and processing food products, thanks to its favorable climatic and natural conditions," he added. He urged both sides to increase communication and exchange visits between Tashkent and Kuwait, while confirming the readiness of the embassy to provide support and facilities to both parties.

The meeting included presentations by several Uzbek companies operating in the fresh fruit and vegetable, dried fruit, ice cream, packaged snack products, confectionery, nuts, mineral water, grains and spices sectors.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo
The Minister of Foreign Affairs receives the Special Envoy of the Mauritanian President on the occasion of his visit to the country.

Minister meets Mauritanian envoy

Kuwait's FM holds talks with Qatar PM on security efforts

KUWAIT CITY, May 12, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Monday conducted a phone call with Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman.

During the phone conversation, both sides tackled the current regional developments and efforts exerted to address them as well as ways to pro-

mote regional and global security and stability, said the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry in a press release.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah welcomed on Monday visiting Mauritanian Presidential Envoy and Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Mauritians Abroad Dr. Mohammad Salem Ould Merzoug.

SACGC to lead Kuwait in Cybersecurity Olympiad '26

KUWAIT CITY, May 12, (KUNA): Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) affiliated with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), announced Monday its designation as Kuwait's exclusive representative in the International Cybersecurity Olympiad 2026.

The center said in a statement to KUNA that it will be responsible for selecting, training and supervising Kuwait's national teams participating in the global cybersecurity competition.

It added that the Olympiad brings together talented students from more than 45 countries

to compete in information security, cyber threat response and data protection skills.

The center affirmed that the designation reflects international confidence in its role supporting national talents and promoting cybersecurity culture and advanced technological capabilities in Kuwait.

Continued from Page 1

Filipino workers

were later exempted from these requirements, allowing the continued recruitment of Sri Lankan workers, including to Kuwait.

Al-Dakhnan said airfare from the Philippines has doubled, while ticket prices from Sri Lanka have seen a slight increase.

He indicated that the arrival of Sri Lankan workers to Kuwait has already been ongoing for over a month.

Kuwait Radio

Director General of Kuwait Radio Dr. Yousef Al-Saree told KUNA on Tuesday that the 75th anniversary represents an important national and media occasion reflecting a long history of distinguished broadcasting achievements.

Al-Saree said that Kuwait Radio has remained the honest voice of Kuwait and a platform for culture, intellect, art and creativity throughout its history.

The station has played a prominent role since its establishment in conveying Kuwait's cultural and media message worldwide while accompanying the country's national and developmental journey across successive stages, he remarked.

Al-Saree added that the anniversary reflects decades of pioneering media work through cultural, artistic, national and social programs, alongside contributions to developing generations of media professionals, artists and intellectuals in the Arab world.

He praised the significant support provided to Kuwait Radio by the political leadership and government over past decades, describing it as the foundation behind the institution's continued success and development.

Al-Saree expressed appreciation to the political leadership for its continued support of national media and Kuwait's Ministry of Information, strengthening Kuwait's cultural, humanitarian and media message.

He stressed that Kuwait Radio would continue developing its media, technical and digital capabilities while preserving the national identity and professional values associated with the station for 75 years.

Al-Saree affirmed that Kuwait Radio would remain a unified national platform preserving Kuwait's history while promoting awareness, culture and national belonging.

He stated that the anniversary celebrates generations of dedicated national personnel who contributed to building the prominent media institution while looking forward to a more advanced future for Kuwaiti radio broadcasting.

Over past decades, Kuwait Radio witnessed rapid development in news, cultural and artistic content, playing a central role in covering local and regional developments and highlighting Kuwait's artistic and literary movement.

The station also contributed to discovering and developing prominent media and artistic figures who left a clear mark on the Gulf and Arab media, while expanding through launching several specialized stations and programs.

The station played a notable national role during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, continuing broadcasts from Cairo through the Sawt Al-Arab network beginning January 1, 1991.

Through those broadcasts, Kuwait Radio maintained communication with the Kuwaiti people and conveyed Kuwait's voice to the world during a defining chapter in the history of Kuwaiti media.

Over 75 years, Kuwait Radio has become a comprehensive media outlet contributing to consolidating national identity and preserving Kuwaiti and Gulf heritage while keeping pace with political, social and cultural transformations.

The station continues enhancing its digital presence and modernizing its platforms and programs while preserving its longstanding legacy and the historic phrase "This is Kuwait," which remains engraved in the memory of Kuwaiti and Arab generations.

Gov't, public

State and society, with the ultimate goal of protecting and maintaining electricity and water security.

He added "the effects of the brutal attacks on the ministry are not lost on you. The targeting of power generation and water desalination plants resulted in enormous damages, leading to the shutdown of some electricity production units and fuel tanks at the stations and delaying maintenance work. Despite all these exceptional challenges, the willpower of the employees at the ministry has not and will not waver. The ministry teams are working tirelessly round the clock in spite of the risks and challenges in order to ensure the continuous provision of essential services."

He stressed that energy conservation is the first line of defense in the coming years and a national necessity imposed by the exceptional challenges.

He disclosed that the rising consumption rate is putting pressure on the infrastructure. "Addressing this issue today requires societal awakening that translates awareness into tangible practical behavior in every sector. Establishing sustainability as a comprehensive concept confirms that every drop of water and every kilowatt saved today is an investment in the future of our children and a sure protection of the resources of our generous nation. I extend my sincere invitation and heartfelt message to all citizens and residents, government and private entities, and civil society organizations to respond positively to the messages and programs included in the campaign," he elaborated.

He reiterated that conservation at this critical juncture is a profound expression of the sense of belonging and responsibility, such that the campaign truly makes a difference and brings about the desired change.

He asserted that electricity and water are considered the lifeblood of the nation. "Our success in preserving these resources depends on our collective efforts."

The ministry is proceeding with unwavering determination to implement plans that guarantee service sustainability in the near future, but you remain, always and forever, the primary and essential partners in achieving this success," he concluded.

On the other hand, official spokesperson of the ministry Eng. Fatima Hayat stated that the campaign is in line with the ongoing efforts of the ministry to promote rationalization of electricity and water consumption and to raise public awareness on the importance of judicious use of resources to guarantee the sustainability of the electricity and water systems and the preservation of national resources.

Hayat stressed that through the campaign, the ministry is keen on promoting the concept of shared national responsibility towards conserving electricity and water. She added that commitment to conservation raises the efficiency of use, reduces waste, and maintains the sustainability of electricity and water resources.

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LOCAL

Jordan's King receives Kuwaiti envoy

AMMAN, May 12, (KUNA): King Abdullah II of Jordan received Tuesday the Ambassador of Kuwait to Jordan Hamad Al-Marri, on the occasion of the nearing end of his term of office.

In a statement to KUNA following the meeting, Al-Marri said he conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, to King Abdullah II, along with their best wishes for continued progress and prosperity for Jordan, its leadership, government, and people.

He emphasized that Kuwaiti-Jordanian relations are a leading model to be emulated across various fields, including political, economic, military, and cultural cooperation.



The Royal Hashemite Court of Jordan photo Jordanian King Abdullah II receives Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan, Ambassador Hamad Al-Marri.

He said that the fraternal ties are strong and continue to grow under the wise political leadership of the two brotherly countries, and are founded on unity, close bonds, and aligned positions.

Ambassador Al-Marri noted that throughout his tenure in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, he was keen to strengthen joint cooperation and the close and solid relations between the two brotherly countries in a manner that serves the interests of their peoples.

He also expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to Jordan, its leadership, government, and people for the support and assistance he received throughout his service as Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the sisterly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.



PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

Continued from Page 1

Mr. President

Sadat believed that Israel, in its pursuit of regional dominance through force and occupation, was not seeking peace at the time. He had turned a deaf ear to the media noise, did not align himself with the positions of some Arab states, and remained unaffected by internal media campaigns in Egypt.

He took a historic and difficult step by visiting Tel Aviv and addressing the Israeli Knesset. In doing so, Sadat was able to liberate the remaining parts of his land and redirect military expenditure towards development.

As a result, Sadat secured gains for Egypt while temporarily losing some Arab support, which however returned to Cairo years later, admitting they had been wrong.

Today, Lebanon is facing a complex crisis marked by three years of war, with daily casualties, destruction of infrastructure, and towns razed to the ground, similar to Gaza, along with a widespread displacement so severe that 30 percent of the population is now homeless.

Lebanon is suffering from a severe economic and living crisis as a result of Iran's control over Lebanese decision-making. Iran is waging its wars using the people of some countries to achieve local gains.

Lebanon's local situation and the deep divisions caused by Hezbollah from the time it initiated the war in 2013 have placed the country on the brink of a "ticking time bomb" of civil war. This time there may be no savior, as the entire world is preoccupied with more pressing matters.

This highlights the importance of Saudi advice calling for a return to the Taif Agreement, full implementation of its provisions, and renewed negotiations in Washington. This seems to be the only cure for Lebanon's chronic illness.

The Arab option has always been in Beirut's best interest. Ending the war and pursuing peace would serve Lebanon and its people.

I have repeatedly stated that peace is deadly for Israel, while war is its lifeblood, because it fears the surrounding Arab world.

Thus, Israel reluctantly pursued peace agreements with Egypt, Jordan, and other Arab states.

On the other hand, Israel exploited Hamas's adventure on October 7,

2013, to eliminate Gaza, and even the West Bank and Lebanon. Israel seeks further expansion in Lebanon, which is teeming with Iranian proxies.

The decision by both Presidents Joseph Aoun and Nawaf Salam to engage in direct negotiations and refrain from taking any serious steps toward peace prior to an Israeli withdrawal, cessation of hostilities, disarmament of Hezbollah, and implementation of relevant resolutions will restore stability in Lebanon.

Therefore, both presidents should follow the example of President Anwar Sadat and ignore internal media noise, which is controlled by Iran.

It is noteworthy that many Lebanese citizens are weary of the wars that have continued since 1969, wars that have served the interests of others and further weakened their country.

Kuwait irate

He also held Iran fully responsible for this blatant violation of Kuwait's sovereignty and serious breach of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2817/2026.

He underlined that the State of Kuwait has the full right to defend itself pursuant to Article 51 of the UN Charter and to take any measure to safeguard its sovereignty and the safety of its people and residents.

A Foreign Ministry statement urged Iran to "stop immediately and unconditionally its illegitimate hostile acts which threaten security of the region and its stability, undermine regional and international efforts aimed at de-escalation." Kuwait, it added, has been historically firmly committed principles of good neighborliness, refusing to use its territories and airspace to launch hostile actions against any country. It reaffirmed "hostile acts launched by the Islamic Republic of Iran is a blatant violation of the State of Kuwait sovereignty, the international law, UN Charter and a clear challenge to international will and UN Security Council resolution 2817 (2026)."

The Foreign Minister held Iran fully responsible for these hostile acts, affirming Kuwait's right to defend itself in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

It said it has the right to take all necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and protect the public in line with international law.

The Ministry of Interior announced that the four individuals, who tried to infiltrate the country by sea, confessed to belonging to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran during investigations conducted by the concerned authorities.

This development is in light of the official statement released by the Ministry of Defense on May 3 regarding the arrest of the infiltrators.

In a press statement on Tuesday, the Ministry of Interior identified the detainees as Naval Colonel Amir Hossein Abd Mohammad Zaraei, Naval Colonel Abdolmasad Yedeleh Qanavati, Naval Captain Ahmad Jamshid Gholam Reza Zolfaghari, and Land Forces First Lieutenant Mohammad Hossein Sohrab Foroughi Rad.

According to the ministry, these men also admitted that the IRGC instructed them to infiltrate Bubiyan Island on May 1, aboard a fishing boat chartered specifically to carry out hostile acts against Kuwait.

The ministry disclosed that the Kuwait Armed Forces officers stationed on Bubiyan Island dealt with the infiltrators and one of the officers was injured in the exchange of fire.

Two of the infiltrators -- Naval Captain Mansour Qambari and Abdulali Kazem Siamri (the commander of the vessel) -- fled during the clash.

The ministry affirmed that it has taken the necessary legal measures in accordance with the established procedures.

It emphasized the readiness of all its sectors and personnel, in cooperation with relevant security agencies and Kuwait Armed Forces, to counter all hostile plots targeting the security and stability of Kuwait.

On May 3, official spokesperson of the Defense Ministry Colonel Saud Abdulaziz Al-Atwan announced that the Kuwait Armed Forces thwarted a maritime infiltration attempt in Kuwait territorial waters.

Four infiltrators attempting to enter the country by sea were apprehended and referred to the concerned authorities.

In view of the above, Kuwait

strongly denounced the infiltration of an armed group of IRGC members into Bubiyan Island with the aim of carrying out hostile acts against the State of Kuwait.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that Kuwait is demanding that the Islamic Republic of Iran should immediately and unconditionally cease its illegal and hostile actions, which threaten the security and stability of the region and undermine regional and international efforts to de-escalate tensions.

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received a phone call Tuesday, from his Bahrain counterpart Dr. Abdullah Al Zayani, condemning Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)-affiliated armed group members' infiltration into Bubiyan Island.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that during the call, both sides condemned the infiltration of IRGC-affiliated armed group members into Bubiyan Island with the aim of carrying out hostile acts against the State of Kuwait, and their engagement with the Kuwaiti Armed Forces.

The Ministers described the incident as a flagrant violation of Kuwait's sovereignty and a serious breach of international law and the United Nations Charter.

The two sides also affirmed Kuwait's full right to take all necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty, preserve its security and stability, and protect its citizens and residents on its territory.

UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed condemned in the strongest terms the infiltration by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) members into Kuwait's Bubiyan Island to carry out hostile acts, which injured a Kuwaiti army member.

The minister expressed the UAE's solidarity with the State of Kuwait and its full support for all measures taken by its security authorities to counter these terrorist actions, the UAE's official news agency (WAM) reported, citing a Foreign Ministry release.

He underlined the UAE's full support for all measures taken by the State of Kuwait to safeguard its

security and sovereignty, and to preserve the stability and wellbeing of its society.

He also commended the efficiency and vigilance of the Kuwaiti security authorities in successfully uncovering this terrorist plot, reiterating the UAE's categorical rejection of all forms of terrorism, and emphasizing the importance of strengthening regional and international cooperation to counter such threats.

The minister reaffirmed that the security of the State of Kuwait is an integral part of the security of the UAE and the Arab Gulf states, and reiterated the UAE's full support for all actions taken by Kuwait to maintain its security and stability and protect its national achievements.

Jordan condemned an infiltration attempt by an armed group linked to the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) into Kuwait's Bubiyan Island to carry out hostile acts against the Gulf state.

In a press release, the Jordanian Foreign Ministry termed the attempt as a flagrant violation of Kuwait's sovereignty and a serious threat to its security and stability.

The ministry denounced the attack as a clear breach of international law and the Charter of the United Nations (UN), reiterating Jordan's full solidarity with Kuwait and support for all measures it takes to safeguard its security, stability and the safety of its citizens.

Municipal Council

Request of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to allocate a route for overhead power lines connecting the 3Z main electricity substation in Sabah Al-Ahmad residential area to the Mohammad Al-Ahmad Naval Base in Zour and Salwa, and allocate a route for cables starting from the main electricity substation in Block One in Wafra residential area up to Abu Kharjin and Al-Subaihiya in the North.

Meanwhile, the committee returned the request of a real estate company to add two floors to an extended parking garage in the eastern part of Block Eight to the executive body for updating the technical study and to respond to the request.

It also returned the distribution schedule for a plot in the development project for Block 45 in the eastern part of Hawally (Plot 11), which is currently located in Salmiya, Plot 46, as shown in the zoning plan for the transaction.

IICO launches

He said the project aims to provide hot, balanced daily meals for needy families in shelters, camps and gathering areas, helping ease hunger and strengthen food security amid continued dependence on humanitarian assistance due to the ongoing crisis in Gaza.

Al-Fadhli added around 36,000 people would benefit from daily meal distributions over one month, noting the project supports vulnerable families' resilience and dignity, while costing more than KD 48,000 to ensure continued food services throughout the implementation period.

FM lauds

The ministry emphasized the importance of diplomacy amid regional challenges, highlighting its role in promoting dialogue, cooperation, and stability.

It added that Kuwait's diplomatic achievements reflect a longstanding national legacy built on moderation, openness, and constructive international engagement, while reaffirming appreciation for diplomats' dedication and patriotic service.

Amiri Diwan

Sheikh Hamad also received Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Aboulwafa, with both sides reviewing the historic relations between the two countries and their close cooperation across various fields while discussing means of further strengthening bilateral ties.

The two sides also discussed the latest regional and international developments and issues of common interest, affirming the importance of continuing coordination and supporting efforts aimed at enhancing regional security and stability while serving the mutual interests of both countries.

COMCEC monitoring committee meets in Ankara

ISTANBUL, May 12, (KUNA): The 42nd meeting of the monitoring committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) opened Tuesday in Ankara.

Turkiye's Presidency of Strategy and Budget said the meeting included representatives from Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Kuwait, Azerbaijan, Gambia, Pakistan, Qatar, Brunei Darussalam and Senegal.

Participants stressed the importance of supporting Palestine and

called on Islamic countries to continue providing humanitarian and economic assistance.

The meeting is discussing projects in Palestine under the IC-ESCO Jerusalem program, support for Syria's reconstruction and the preferential trade system among OIC member states.

COMCEC, established in 1981, serves as a platform for finance and economy ministers of OIC member states to discuss regional and international economic and trade issues.

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*Tenders are invited from Contractors mentioned as follows:				
1. Kuwaiti Contractor Registered Under Class A for Roads Works for Contractor Classification in the State of Kuwait.				
2. Kuwaiti Contractor Registered Under Class A for Roads Works for Contractor Classification in the State of Kuwait JV Bahraini Contractors Registered Under Category AA for Road Works as per Ministry of Works, in the Kingdom of Bahrain.				
3. Bahraini Contractors Registered Under Category AA for Road Works as per Ministry of Works in the Kingdom of Bahrain.				
*Tenderers who are willing to participate in this tender shall download the tender documents online from the Bahrain Tender Board E-Tendering System through the website: https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.bh				
*Interested Tenderers should comply with the Legislative Decree No. 36 and 37 of 2002 with respect to Regulating Government Tenders and Purchases and also according to the provision of the Law Regulations of The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.				
*The scope of works includes The project Phase 1 Immediate scheme is part of Sh Jaber AlAhmed Al Sabah highway upgrade which starts after the Nuwaidrat Intersection and ends near Applied Science University. The total length of the road is about 2kms with four lane dual carriageway and service roads on both sides. The works include but not limited to, removal of all unsuitable material, construction of earthworks, drainage networks, pumping station, laying of duct crossings, protection / diversion of underground utilities, construction of roadworks, and street lighting system etc. as mentioned in tender documents.				
*Tenderers shall submit their bids electronically as per the Tender Board E-Tendering Supplier Guideline on or before the above-mentioned date				
*Tenders shall be submitted in Two (2) separate file envelopes i.e. Technical Response (File Envelope A) & Financial Response (File Envelope B). The Technical Response shall not contain any financial information related to the Tender.				
*Tenderers are to supply copies of the following:				
1.Tenderers shall deliver the Original Bid Bond (hard copy) to the office of the Tender Board, located at Arcapita Building 551, Ground Floor, Road 4612, Block 346, Bahrain Bay, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain before the closing date, and shall upload a copy of the same along with the bid in the system.				
2.Or as alternative on Bid Bond Submission, tenderers shall submit via Direct Transfer as mentioned in Tender Advertisement				
3.Any other items listed in the Instructions to Tenderers.				
4.All submitted documents should be marked with company stamp.				
*Tenders shall remain valid for 180 days from the closing date and Initial Bond should be enclosed for the above mentioned value in the form of certified cheque, bank/insurance company guarantee or Direct Bank Transfer, valid for the duration specified in the tender documents.				
*Tenders not complying with the above conditions and requirements as well as terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents will be rejected.				
*This advertisement should form part of the Tender Documents.				



KUNA photo

Arab-China Media Forum in Cairo.

Kuwait joins Arab-China Media Forum in Cairo

CAIRO, May 12, (KUNA): The Global South Media and Think Tank Forum - Arab-Chinese Partnership Conference opened Tuesday in Cairo with participation from Arab and Chinese officials, media representatives and researchers.

The opening ceremony at the Arab League headquarters was attended by Arab League Secretary-General Ahmad Abulgehit, Xinhua News Agency President Fu Hua and Chinese Ambassador to Egypt Liao Liqiang.

The forum featured an exhibition titled "Convergence of Arts: Reviving the Silk Road Cultural Heritage" and two panel discussions on media cooperation and international communication.

Participants discussed opportunities and challenges facing Arab-Chinese media cooperation, digital transformation and the role of media and think tanks in promoting peace, development and cultural understanding.

Kuwait participated through its permanent delegation to the Arab League and KUNA Cairo Office Director Mohammad Al-Mutairi.

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Democrats pledge to fight

US Senate Republicans move ahead with \$1 billion for Trump's ballroom security

WASHINGTON, May 12, (AP) — Senate Republicans say they will move forward with a proposal to give the Secret Service up to \$1 billion for security upgrades to Donald Trump's White House ballroom project, arguing that more security is needed for the president after a man was charged with trying to assassinate him last month.

Republican senators returning to Washington on Monday faced questions about the plan, which would spend taxpayer dollars to secure the East Wing project after Trump had said it would only be paid for with private donations. He has said the construction would cost around \$400 million, but the White House had not previously proposed a number for security costs.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said the total is "what it costs to protect the President of the United States in a very dangerous time and a dangerous world."

"Keeping the leader of the free world safe is an expensive proposition," Thune said. "The Secret Service has a job to defend and protect

the president, and we need to make sure they have the tools to do it."

Democrats say they will try and defeat the plan, which Republicans added to a partisan spending bill that would restore funding for immigration enforcement agencies that the Democrats have blocked since February.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said in a letter to colleagues Monday that they will push Republicans to strip the security money, noting that Trump said a few months ago not one penny of taxpayer money would be used for the ballroom.

"Well, give me a break. He's put a billion dollars in the budget for it. This staggering waste of taxpayer dollars has nothing, nothing to do with security and everything to do with Trump's ego," Schumer said.

Republicans are using a partisan budget maneuver to push the spending legislation through Congress without any Democratic votes. But it is still unclear if the security money will have enough backing among Republicans to advance, as some have said they are not yet ready to support it.



Construction on the new White House ballroom is seen from the Washington Monument on May 5, in Washington. (AP)

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she wants clarification on how the funding would be used from the Secret Service Director Sean Curran, who is expected to attend a closed-door lunch with GOP senators Tuesday. Collins

said the ballroom should be paid for with private donations, "as the president had indicated."

Senate Homeland Security Committee Chairman Rand Paul, R-Ky., also said the funding should be private. "That's still my preference," he

said, adding that Congress had also increased the Secret Service budget after the attempted assassination attempt on Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania, during the 2024 campaign.

"Was it spent wisely? Do they really need more at this time?" Paul asked. "And a lot of people think this might be papering over for the, you know, the ballroom."

Other Senate Republicans said they would support the request. Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley said he had "no problem" with it. Wyoming Sen. Cynthia Lummis said the private funding would go for construction of the ballroom, but "the security part, there's a role for the taxpayers."

Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., was also expected to attend the Republican lunch Tuesday as some House Republicans were already questioning whether they could support the Senate plan. The House has not yet released its own bill.

Republican Rep. Rob Wittman of Virginia said last week that he would look at the Senate security proposal "very carefully and make sure those things are in the national interest."

Rep. Mike Haridopolos, R-Fla., also said he wanted to hear more details. He asked colleagues to recognize the "volatile times" and the need to ensure the president, members of Congress and guests can gather in a safe location.

"If Republican and Democratic members can take a step back and say this is a real security issue, then maybe it will get done. But if Democrats dig in, it'll be really challenging to pass that, as you can only imagine," Haridopolos said.

Schumer said Democrats will push the Senate parliamentarian to strike the ballroom security money from the budget bill and offer amendments that force Republicans to vote on it if it remains in the legislation when voting is expected to begin next week.

Lawmakers in both parties were looking for more detail about how the money would be spent. The Senate bill would designate the money for the U.S. Secret Service, including for "security adjustments and upgrades" related to the ballroom project, but there was little additional detail.

Crews battle South Florida wildfires

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., May 12, (AP) — A pair of South Florida wildfires that torched thousands of acres in the Everglades over the weekend spread Monday as fire crews worked to contain them.

The Florida Forest Service posted on Facebook that the growing fires were producing smoky conditions with reduced visibility, but containment operations were increasing. No serious injuries or property damage has been reported.

The larger of the two fires has spread to about 5,600 acres (2,300 hectares) with 30% containment in the undeveloped area southwest of Fort Lauderdale, officials said. The National Guard is assisting state and local firefighters.

Fire rescue crews were also fighting a 300-acre (120-hectare) blaze in southern Miami-Dade County, near Homestead, officials said. That fire is also 30% contained.

Dry conditions have led to other wildfires in other parts of the country. Fires destroyed dozens of homes in southern Georgia last month.



This May 10, 2026 image provided by Pembroke Pines Police Department shows smoke from wildfires burning across thousands of acres in the Florida Everglades. (AP)

Trump gets another medical checkup at end of May, says White House

WASHINGTON, May 12, (AP) — US President Donald Trump is scheduled to see doctors for a medical and dental checkup this month - his fourth publicized visit to medical experts since returning to office - in what the White House describes as an annual physical and regular preventive care.

Trump, who turns 80 next month and was the oldest person elected US president, will see his doctors at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on May 26, the White House said in a brief statement Monday evening.

The president's health has been the subject of tremendous scrutiny, so much so that Trump said he regretted getting imaging on his heart and abdomen last year because it raised public questions about his health.

Trump - who has been frequently critical of former President Joe Biden for age-related health and fitness issues - has recently remarked how good he feels despite his years. Earlier Monday, Trump said he feels the same as he did 50 years ago. "I feel literally the same," he said at an Oval Office event. "I don't know why. It's not because I eat the best foods."



US President Donald Trump speaks to reporters at an event about maternal healthcare on May 11, in the Oval Office of the White House, in Washington. (AP)

Last week, he joked about his exercise regimen, saying that he works out "like about one minute a day, max."

Presidents have wide discretion over what health information they choose to release to the public. Trump's doctor reported after an annual physical exam in April 2025 that the president was "fully fit" to serve as commander in chief.

His physician, Navy Capt. Sean Barbabella, said Trump was 20 pounds lighter since a 2020 checkup that showed him bordering on obesity.

Zelensky's former chief of staff a suspect in money-laundering probe, say officials

KYIV, Ukraine, May 12, (AP) — Two national agencies fighting corruption in Ukraine have named Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's former chief of staff as an official suspect in a major graft investigation.

Andriy Yermak is suspected in an alleged 460-million-hryvnia (\$10.5 million) money-laundering scheme, the agencies announced late Monday.

Meanwhile, Zelensky met with the CEO of Palantir Technologies, part of Ukraine's growing cooperation with the US defense sector, as a three-day US-brokered ceasefire that decreased the fighting but failed to stop it altogether ended Monday.

Russia's invasion of its neighbor is now in its fifth year, with no sign of a peace settlement within reach.

Ukraine's National Anti-Corruption Bureau and the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office said in a Telegram announcement that the investigation into Yermak is ongoing.

The move is a step short of formally charging Yermak, who resigned in November. He was the country's



Ukraine's Head of the Office of the President Andriy Yermak speaks at a news conference in Davos, Switzerland on Jan 14, 2024. (AP)

lead negotiator in talks with the US and left during the scandal that brought the biggest threat to Zelensky's government since Russia's full-scale invasion.

The investigation is deeply embarrassing for the Ukrainian leader as he pushes for his country's admission to

the European Union, a process that will likely take years. Endemic corruption is one of the obstacles slowing Ukraine's admission.

Yermak was a trusted confidant of Zelensky, who resisted persistent pressure to replace him, and a powerful figure in the government.

UK's PM Starmer defiant as calls for resignation grow, two ministers quit

LONDON, May 12, (AP) — UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer told members of his Cabinet on Tuesday that he has no intention of resigning as calls within his Labour Party for him to step down grew louder.

Starmer is trying to shore up support within his Cabinet following a febrile few days in the wake of hefty losses for the Labour Party in local elections last week, which if repeated in a national election would see it overwhelmingly ejected from power.

Two junior ministers resigned from the government on Tuesday and called for a change in leadership, but no candidate has yet come forward to challenge Starmer directly.

Around 80 Labour backbenchers have now said Starmer should stand down or at least set out a timetable for his departure, but that's not enough to trigger a leadership contest. Under Labour party rules, a fifth of its lawmakers in the House of Commons, or 81 members, must publicly give their backing to a single candidate, and that hasn't happened yet.

On Tuesday, Miatta Fahnbulleh, minister of housing, communities and local government, became the first member of his government to step down, urging Starmer "to do the right thing for the country" and set a timetable for his departure.

She was followed by Jess Phillips, the safeguarding minister, whose resignation letter called Starmer a "good man fundamentally" but vented about his inability to make bold changes.

"I know you care deeply, but deeds, not words are what matter," Phillips said. "I'm not sure we are grasping this rare opportunity with the gusto that's needed and I cannot keep waiting around for a crisis to push for faster progress."

Despite winning a landslide election victory in July 2024, Labour's popularity has sunk and Starmer is getting much of the blame.

The reasons are varied, including a series of policy missteps, a perceived lack of vision, a struggling British economy and questions over his judgment - especially over his appointment of Peter Mandelson as UK ambassador to Washington despite the envoy's ties to the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.



Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero Ed Miliband and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Hilary Benn leave 10 Downing Street after a cabinet meeting in London, May 12, 2026. (AP)



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer speaks to members of the media in Rome, Sept. 16, 2024. (AP)

At the start of the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Starmer said he took responsibility for the losses in last week's local elections across the UK but that he would fight on. Labour was squeezed from right and left, losing votes to both the anti-immigrant Reform UK and the "eco-populist" Green Party, as well as nationalist parties in Scotland and Wales. The result reflects the increasing fragmentation of UK politics, long dominated by Labour and the Conservatives.

Starmer said that there's a process to oust a leader and that it hadn't been triggered.

Under Labour's rules, candidates must have the support of a fifth of the party's House of Commons lawmakers - a number that currently stands at 81.

"The country expects us to get

on with governing," Starmer said. "The past 48 hours have been destabilizing for government and that has a real economic cost for our country and for families."

That cost was evident in financial markets on Tuesday, with the interest rate charged on British government bonds up by more than those of comparable nations - that shows that investors are putting a higher price on taking on government debt.

As Cabinet ministers left 10 Downing Street, some voiced their support for the embattled prime minister.

Works and Pensions Secretary Pat McFadden said nobody publicly challenged Starmer at the meeting, while Business Secretary Peter Kyle said the prime minister was showing "really steadfast leadership."

Europe

2 killed, six injured in France shooting: At least two people were killed and six others injured in a shooting in the Moulins district of the southern French city of Nice on Monday, Nice Mayor **Eric Ciotti** said.

Two people have died, and among the injured, three are in critical condition, during the shooting at Place des Amaryllis in Nice, Ciotti said on social platform X. According to French news channel BFM TV, a vehicle carrying two people drove through the neighborhood before one of them opened fire several times near Place des Amaryllis and fled the scene.

Following the shooting, all schools in the district were temporarily placed under lockdown, the report said, adding that the area was quickly secured, and the lockdown measures were later lifted.

The investigation of the shooting incident is still ongoing, the report said. (Xinhua)

Germany arrests 17-year-old over terror plot: A 17-year-old Syrian national has been arrested in the northern German city of Hamburg on suspicion of planning a terrorist attack, German broadcaster NDR said on Monday.

The suspect allegedly planned to carry out an at-

tack in a shopping mall, a bar, or a police station.

According to the NDR report, the suspect was arrested last Thursday. During a search of the suspect's apartment, investigators seized materials believed to be intended for the attack.

Investigations suggest the youth was inspired by the Islamic State (IS) extremist group, said NDR. (Xinhua)

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Latvian PM sacks defense minister: Latvian Prime Minister Evika Silina dismissed Defense Minister Andris Spruds after the Baltic country's defense sector faced strong criticism over its handling of recent drone incidents.

Silina said Spruds had lost her confidence following the drone incidents in Latgale, the eastern Latvian region bordering Russia and Belarus.

The prime minister announced the replacement on X shortly before Spruds was expected to announce his resignation at a news conference on Sunday evening.

Silina wrote on X that the defense sector should henceforth be led by a professional and offered the post of defense minister to Colonel Raivis Melnis, who accepted the position.

Melnis has served in Latvia's National Armed Forces since 1998 and is currently performing the duties of the Ministry of Defence's representative in Ukraine.

Following this week's drone incidents in Latgale, opposition parties Latvia First, National Alliance, and United List submitted a motion of no confidence against Spruds, demanding his resignation. (Xinhua)



Ciotti

Asia

Malaysia searches for 14 missing after boat sinks: Malaysian authorities searched Tuesday for 14 missing Indonesians after a boat carrying over 30 people sank.

The maritime office in central Perak state said that 23 people were rescued Monday by a local fishing vessel after the boat capsized off the island of Pangkor in Perak, adding it was believed to be carrying "undocumented migrants."

Perak maritime chief Capt. Mohamad Shukri Khotob said the fishing vessel called for help after finding the people floating at sea before dawn. The search and rescue operation, which began Monday, would continue until all missing individuals were located, the statement said. A total of 37 people were believed to be on board, he said.

Mohamad Shukri said the victims were believed to have departed from Kisanan, Indonesia, on May 9 and were headed to multiple territories in Malaysia, including Penang, Selangor, and Kuala Lumpur. (AP)

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4 dead, 9 injured in Indonesia road accident: Four people were killed and nine others injured when a passenger bus collided with a pickup truck on a toll road in Indonesia's North Sumatra on Monday, local police said.

The crash occurred in Serdang Bedagai Regency on Monday morning, police told local media, noting that the bus driver fled the scene and remains at large. (Xinhua)

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S.Korean special counsel seeks 4-year prison term for Yoon: South Korean special counsel sought a four-year prison sentence for former President Yoon Suk-yeol over allegations that he received polling services from



This photo provided by Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency shows migrant workers seated after being rescued from a boat that sank near waters of Pangkor island, at an undisclosed location, Malaysia on May 11. (AP)

the political broker Myung Tae-kyun. (Xinhua)

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ICC unseals arrest warrant for Philippine senator: The International Criminal Court unsealed Monday an arrest warrant for a prominent Philippine senator

linked to the deadly "war on drugs" overseen by ex-President Rodrigo Duterte, which allegedly involved the extrajudicial killings of suspects.

The warrant, originally issued confidentially in November, charges Ronald Maranon dela Rosa, a former Philippine national police chief and a Duterte ally, with the crime against humanity of murder of "no less than 32 persons" allegedly committed between July 2016 and the end of April 2018.

Duterte, dela Rosa and other police officials have denied authorizing the killings of drug suspects, who, they said, were shot dead after allegedly threatening law enforcers. Duterte openly and repeatedly threatened drug suspects with death while in office. (AP)

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China, US crack drug trafficking case, arrest 5: China's Ministry of Public Security (MPS) announced on Monday that anti-drug agencies of China and the United States have worked together and successfully cracked a drug trafficking and smuggling case, arresting five suspects.

The suspects -- two Chinese nationals and three US nationals -- were arrested in coordinated operations launched simultaneously in both countries in early April by the MPS's narcotics control bureau and the US Drug Enforcement Administration, according to a statement released by the MPS.

Raids in China's Liaoning and Guangdong provinces, as well as in the US states including Florida and Nevada, also led to the seizure of drugs such as protonitazene and bromazepam, the statement said.

The MPS said the operations successfully dismantled a narcotics trafficking and smuggling channel spanning the two countries.

It described the successful cracking of this case as another major outcome of deepening practical cooperation between Chinese and US anti-drug enforcement agencies, underscoring the two countries' shared determination to combat drug-related crimes. (Xinhua)

Xi holds talks with Rahmon

Tajikistan-China relations continue reaching new heights, says Tajik president

DUSHANBE, May 12, (Xinhua): Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon in Beijing on Tuesday.

Tajikistan and China have steadily expanded cooperation across various fields in recent years, with bilateral relations scaling new historical heights, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon has said.

Rahmon made the remarks in an interview with Xinhua in Dushanbe on Saturday ahead of his state visit to China at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

China is not only a close neighbor of Tajikistan, but also a strategic partner, he said, noting that over the more than 30 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, the two countries have built a relationship of profound friendship and mutual trust.

The two sides have consistently strengthened mutual political trust and mutually beneficial cooperation in order to effectively respond to challenges and threats facing regional security and sustainable development, he added.

Bilateral relations have flourished in recent years, with the two countries maintaining close exchanges at all lev-

els, particularly the highest, Rahmon said, adding that the Tajik side highly values the important outcomes of President Xi's state visit to Tajikistan in July 2024, which has ushered in a new chapter for bilateral friendship.

Bilateral ties have been elevated to a new historical level with the signing of the joint statement announcing the establishment of China-Tajikistan comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership in the new era, he said.

Expressing satisfaction with the high degree of mutual trust and the constructive dialogue mechanism between the two states, Rahmon hailed the positive results achieved in bilateral cooperation in political, diplomatic, economic, trade and people-to-people sectors.

He said that both sides are committed to further deepening cooperation in all fields, consolidating good-neighborly and friendly relations, and promoting common development and prosperity.

Regarding the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Rahmon said the initiative has enhanced mutual trust and deepened mutually beneficial cooperation.

The Belt and Road cooperation has opened a brand-new chapter in



Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon lays a wreath at the Monument to the People's Heroes on Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, capital of China on May 12. (Xinhua)

the history of Tajikistan-China relations, enriched bilateral cooperation and delivered numerous practical results, he said.

Within this framework, a series of major infrastructure projects are being steadily advanced across Tajikistan, he said.

Modern highways, tunnels and energy facilities have been built, not only strengthening connectivity among different regions of Tajiki-

stan, but also laying the foundation for the country to become a regional transport hub and logistics center, said the Tajik president.

Cooperation under the BRI will further boost investment growth, generate jobs, drive industrial development and bring in advanced technologies, helping Tajikistan achieve its strategic goals of improving people's well-being and raising their living standards, said Rahmon.

He said the Tajik side is willing to continue actively participating in the Belt and Road cooperation to contribute to regional stability, deeper economic ties and shared prosperity.

Regarding the current international situation, Rahmon noted that the world today is confronted with a complex landscape marked by increasing global conflicts, escalating geopolitical tensions, and intertwined traditional and non-traditional security challenges.

Against this backdrop, instability and uncertainty continue to mount across the globe, with countries worldwide facing multiple threats spanning security, socioeconomic and other fields, he said.

To address common challenges, it has become increasingly important to strengthen coordinated action, enhance mutual trust and conduct constructive dialogue aimed at ensuring peace, stability and sustainable development, he added. And the concept of building a community with a shared future for humanity, proposed by China, is of important practical significance in the context, he said.

Rahmon stressed that the Tajik side has always called for peacefully resolving all disputes and conflicts in accordance with international law,

while prioritizing peace, stability and sustainable development.

Having experienced civil war, the Tajik people attach even greater value to peace and stability, he said.

Rahmon said under the current international circumstances, dialogue among civilizations based on tolerance, mutual respect and the preservation of national values carries special significance.

The Tajik side highly values cultural and people-to-people exchanges with China, viewing them as an important cornerstone for consolidating traditional friendship and promoting mutual understanding between the peoples, Rahmon said.

In recent years, more and more young people in Tajikistan have been learning Chinese, while Confucius Institutes have played a positive role in promoting people-to-people connectivity and enhancing mutual understanding, he said.

At the same time, cooperation projects such as Luban Workshops have helped Tajikistan cultivate highly qualified talent and promote the dissemination of advanced knowledge and technology, becoming successful examples of bilateral people-to-people cooperation, he said.

Venezuela's acting leader defends country's territory, rejects Trump's 51st state remarks

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, May 12, (AP): Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodríguez told journalists Monday that her country had no plans to become the 51st US state after President Donald Trump said he was "seriously considering" the move.

Rodríguez was speaking at the International Court of Justice in The Hague on the final day of hearings in a dispute between her country and neighboring Guyana over the massive mineral- and oil-rich Essequibo region.

"We will continue to defend our integrity, our sovereignty, our independence, our history," said Rodríguez, who assumed power in January following a US military operation that ousted then-President Nicolás Maduro. Venezuela is "not a colony, but a free country," she added.

Speaking to Fox News earlier on Monday, Trump said he was "seriously considering making Venezuela the 51st US state," according to a post by Fox News' co-anchor John Roberts on social media. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the matter.

Trump has made similar comments about Canada.

White House spokesperson Anna



Presiding Judge Yuji Iwasawa (left) opens the court session of the International Court of Justice for a week of hearings in a border dispute dating back to the end of the 19th century between Guyana and Venezuela, in The Hague, Netherlands on May 4. (AP)

Kelly later declined to comment on Trump's plans in an interview of her own with Roberts on Fox News. Kelly said the president is "famous for never accepting the status quo," and praised Rodríguez for "working incredibly co-

operatively" with the US.

Rodríguez went on to say that Venezuelan and US officials have been in touch and are working on "cooperation and understanding."

Before addressing Trump's comments, Rodríguez defended her country's claim to Essequibo at the United Nations' highest court, telling judges that political negotiations - not a judicial ruling - will resolve the century-old territorial dispute.

The 62,000-square-mile territory, which makes up two-thirds of Guyana, is rich in gold, diamonds, timber and other natural resources. It also sits near massive offshore oil deposits currently producing an average 900,000 barrels a day.

That output is close to Venezuela's daily production of about 1 million barrels a day and has transformed one of the smallest countries in South America into a significant energy producer.

Venezuela has considered Essequibo its own since the Spanish colonial period, when the jungle region fell within its boundaries. But an 1899 decision by arbitrators from Britain, Russia and the United States drew the border along the Essequibo River largely in favor of Guyana.



A police officer, (left), and local residents examine damage at the site of a bomb explosion at a market in Sarai Norag in Lakki Marwat, a district in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on May 12. (AP)

Bomb rigged to rickshaw explodes in Pakistan bazaar, killing at least nine

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, May 12, (AP): A bomb rigged to a rickshaw exploded in a bazaar in northwest Pakistan on Tuesday, killing at least nine people and wounding more than two dozen others, police said, in the latest sign of escalating violence in the region bordering Afghanistan.

The attack took place in Lakki Marwat, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, local police chief Azmat Ullah said. He said that two traffic police officers and a woman were among those killed.

Ullah provided no further details but said traffic police officers were apparently the target of the attack. The bombing also damaged nearby shops. Most of the dead and wound-

ed were passersby, he said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Suspicion in such attacks often falls on the Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taleban Pakistan, which has intensified its campaign against Pakistani security forces in recent years. The group is separate from but allied with Afghanistan's Taliban government.

However, the Pakistani Taliban denied involvement in Tuesday's attack, saying in a statement that it had learned about the bombing but was not behind it.

The latest attack came days after 15 police officers were killed in a suicide bombing and gun assault on a secu-

urity post in the nearby Bannu district on Saturday, prompting Islamabad to summon a senior Afghan diplomat to lodge a formal complaint.

Pakistan blamed that attack on the Pakistani Taliban.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned Tuesday's attack and conveyed his condolences to the families of the victims.

In a statement, he said the government and all relevant institutions were committed to eliminating terrorism and would not allow militants to obstruct peace and development in the country. He directed authorities to swiftly complete the investigation, identify those responsible and ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice.

Lat/Am

2 killed, 12 injured in Peru bus crash: At least two people were killed and 12 others injured Monday in a bus crash on the Pan-American highway in Lima, local media reported.

The accident occurred around 5:25 am local time near kilometer 17 of the highway in the district of Villa El Salvador, according to state news agency Andina.

Reports said a minibus traveling from Villa El Salvador to Plaza Norte struck the rear of a bus that had apparently slowed down to pick up passengers at an informal stop. Two people died at the scene, including a 20-year-old man.

The injured were taken to health centers in Lima for treatment. (Xinhua)

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Haiti gang violence displaces hundreds: A new wave of gang violence in Haiti's capital forced hundreds to flee their homes over the weekend, leaving families scattered along the road to the country's main airport on Monday.

Monique Verdieu, 56, fled to the highway after watching armed men burning houses in her neighborhood. Her family scattered in different directions and she said she's not sure where they are.

"I am now sleeping in the street," Verdieu said, noting it was unsafe to return.

Gangs have overtaken more than 90% of Port-au-Prince since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021 at his home. Police say they have expanded their activities - including looting, kidnapping, sexual assaults and rape - into the countryside. (AP)

Over 70 suspected terrorists killed, says Nigeria military

ABUJA, May 12, (Xinhua): More than 70 suspected terrorists were killed in a series of drone strikes in Nigeria's central Niger State early Sunday, the military said on Monday, rejecting reports of civilian casualties.



Onoja

In a statement made available to Xinhua in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, military spokesperson Michael Onoja said the air operations in Shiroro Local Government Area, Niger State, were carried out based on intelligence reports.

According to the military, the strikes targeted locations believed to be used by armed groups across five villages in the area.

Post-strike intelligence and local accounts indicated that the bodies of over 70 suspected terrorists were being prepared for burial in one of the villages on Sunday, Onoja said.

Also:

ABUJA: All 11 occupants of a vehicle were killed after it fell off a bridge along the Lagos-Abeokuta expressway in Nigeria's southwestern Ogun State late Sunday, traffic police said on Monday.

According to a statement by Oludare Ogunjobi, commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps in Ogun State, the occupants were trapped inside the vehicle following the crash, and rescue workers had to cut open the vehicle to recover the bodies.

A preliminary investigation attributed the accident to driving under the influence of alcohol and overloading, he added.



Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni attends the state funeral of Kenya's former president Daniel Arap Moi in Nairobi, Kenya on Feb 11, 2020. (AP)

Uganda prez sworn in for another term

KAMPALA, Uganda, May 12, (AP): Forty years. That's how long Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has been in power. The 81-year-old was sworn in Tuesday to extend his presidency over a further five-year term that may well be his last - although not necessarily the last for the Museveni family.

The president's son and presumptive heir, army chief Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, oversaw dayslong rehearsals of the military parade that will animate the eighth inauguration of Museveni, with Russian-made Sukhoi fighter jets flying noisily over official ceremonial grounds in Kampala, the Ugandan capital.

Kuwait oil price surges to \$118.06 pb

KUWAIT CITY, May 12, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil price rose by USD 3.83 to reach USD 118.06 per barrel (pb) on Monday's trading, compared to USD 114.23 pb Friday, Kuwait Petroleum

Corporation (KPC) said Tuesday. In global markets, Brent crude increased by USD 2.92 to settle at USD 104.21 pb, while West Texas Intermediate rose by USD 2.65 to reach USD 98.07 pb.

Business

Employees participated in Knowledge Club seminar by Dr. Louise Lambert

Zain Kuwait champions employee wellbeing as a core driver of strong, resilient leadership



Dr. Louise Lambert with the Zain team.



From the session.

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: Zain Kuwait continues to reinforce its focus on employee wellbeing as a core driver of resilient, future-ready leadership through its support for Leading with Wellbeing in Uncertain Times, a seminar held as part of its continued partnership with the Knowledge Club 2025/2026 series, organized by ALGAS Events.

The session was delivered by Dr. Louise Lambert, a leading expert in wellbeing, resilience, and human functioning under pressure, and came in line with Zain's ongoing efforts to empower leadership and innovation capabilities within its workforce.

The seminar brought together Zain talents alongside professionals from across Kuwait's private sector, creating a shared learning platform focused on strengthening leadership capabilities, exchanging perspectives, and exploring practical approaches to leading teams with clarity, stability, and human connection in uncertain times.

Dr. Lambert focused on the growing importance of leading with clarity, stability, and strong human connection in today's fast-changing environment. She also highlighted the role of social capital in strengthening workplace re-

silience, emphasizing how trust, belonging, and meaningful relationships help leaders build more connected teams and sustain performance during periods of uncertainty. The session offered participants practical, science-based tools to navigate uncertainty, strengthen decision-making, support team dynamics, and position wellbeing as a core leadership capability.

Grounded in psychological science and real-world application, the program also addressed key themes such as managing internal state to improve performance, communicating effectively in complex and changing environments, building connected and resilient teams, and creating a positive and sustainable team culture.

Dr. Lambert is a Canadian-registered psychologist specializing in wellbeing, resilience, and human performance under pressure. She is also a clinical supervisor, professor, researcher, and Editor-in-Chief of the Middle East Journal of Positive Psychology, with more than 20 years of experience in positive psychology and evidence-based wellbeing strategies.

This step builds on Zain's commitment to specialized leadership development and capability-building initiatives that help prepare today and tomor-

row's leaders. This also aligns with Zain Group's BE WELL vision, which strengthens the employee wellbeing agenda by focusing on mental health, physical wellbeing, and resilience through a sustainable, data-driven approach.

Through its collaboration with ALGAS and the Knowledge Club series, Zain continues to support access to world-class learning experiences that bring global expertise to Kuwait and translate the latest thinking in leadership, management, and human development into practical tools that can be applied by its workforce.

Investing in people remains central to sustaining Zain's organizational success, enhancing workplace culture, and empowering leaders with the capabilities needed to navigate change, inspire teams, and deliver meaningful impact.

The Knowledge Club series is a leading platform for executive and professional development. Since its launch, it has brought together an elite roster of international speakers and authors to deliver conferences, advanced workshops, and executive seminars that turn the latest thinking in leadership and management into practical tools that can be applied inside organizations.

Haitham Al-Ghais, Fatih Birol discuss energy markets

OPEC stresses global energy cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, May 12, (KUNA): Secretary General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Haitham Al-Ghais, stressed on Monday the importance of maintaining communication and cooperation among international energy organizations, particularly in light of recent developments in global markets.

Al-Ghais made these remarks during a meeting with Executive Director of the International Energy Agency Dr. Fatih Birol, at OPEC's General Secretariat headquarters in the Austrian capital, Vienna.

He said the meeting discussed all developments in global energy markets, energy security, investment requirements, and the outlook for the global economy and energy demand.

The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on the current state of the global energy market, he added.

Notably, the cooperation between OPEC and the International Energy Agency focuses on coordinating policies to ensure the stability of global energy markets and enhance security of supply.

Hormuz closure triggers global bunker fuel crunch

Shipping costs set to rise

BANGKOK, May 12, (AP): Ship operators rely on a sludgelike substance known as bunker fuel to keep vessels running. The Iran war's closure of the Strait of Hormuz has choked off the supply of this fuel that powers the global maritime industry and its largest refueling hub in Asia.

Bunker fuel is a literal bottom of the barrel product: heavier and dirtier than the more expensive kinds of refined crude oil used by other vehicles like cars and airplanes, it sinks to the bottom of storage containers.

But it helps move the 80% of globally traded goods that are transported by sea, and experts say that means a shortage of bunker fuel will translate to higher shipping costs, increase consumer prices and hurt the bottom lines of businesses worldwide.

That will be an issue first in Asia, which relies heavily on Middle Eastern oil. In Singapore, the world's biggest refueling hub for bunker fuel, reserves are dwindling and prices are spiking.

Shipping companies are trying to adapt to the energy shock, reducing vessel speeds and revising schedules to cut costs in the short term while making plans to acquire ships that can run on alternative fuels.

But some companies won't survive this triage for long, according to Henning Gloystein of the Eurasia Group consultancy firm, who warned that the pain will spread beyond Asia through global supply chains.

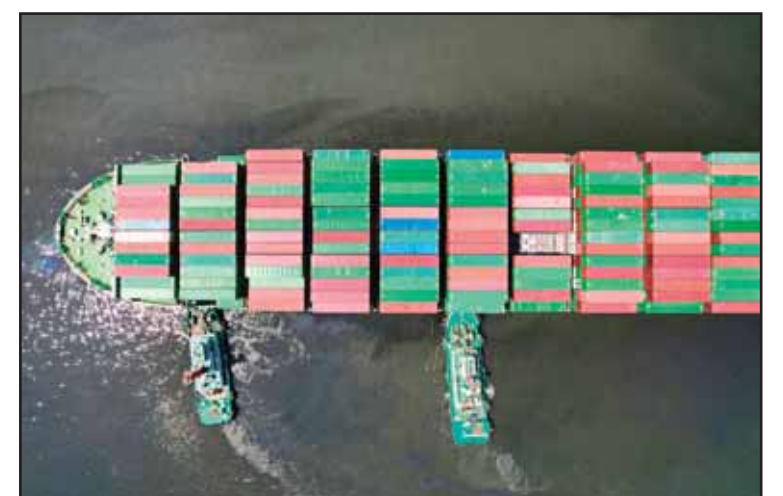
Asia, which was hit first and hardest by the energy shock, has adopted various forms of "energy triage" to cope, increasing its use of coal, buying more crude oil from Russia and reviving plans to develop nuclear power.

But Asia is bracing for further impacts as energy reserves dwindle and government subsidies dry up.

More than half of global seaborne trade moved through Asian ports in 2024, according to United Nations data, so what happens there will have global consequences.

For now, Singapore's supplies of bunker fuel have held up even as the price races up.

But the prolonged cutoff from major sources of the heavier crude



Tugboats assist a container ship as it prepares to dock at the Manila International Container Terminal at the Philippine capital April 8, 2025. (AP)

oil needed for bunker fuel, like Iraq and Kuwait, will cause shortages, said Natalia Katona of the commodity site OilPrice.

"We just see the price in Singapore going up, up, up," Katona said.

Before the war, bunker fuel in Singapore cost about \$500 per metric ton (\$450 per U.S. ton). That went up to more than \$800 (\$725 per U.S. ton) as of early May.

Shipping companies are absorbing the brunt of the costs for now, said June Goh, an oil analyst for market intelligence firm Sparta Commodities, but this may soon "pass on to the customers."

The daily cost of the Iran war for the global shipping industry is 340 million euros (nearly \$400 million), according to the European Federation for Transport and Environment.

"Bunker fuel shortages tend to feed through to shipping costs more quickly than many other cost pressures," said Oliver Miloschewsky of risk consultancy firm Aon.

Individual product impact may appear incremental but the cumulative effect of higher shipping costs "can ripple across supply chains and ultimately influence consumer prices across a broad range of sectors," he said.

Singaporean consumers are also feeling the pinch in other ways as local ferries increase fares and luxury cruise liners tack on fuel surcharges.

Shippers have limited choices to deal with the situation, Miloschewsky said. They can pay more for fuel or implement fuel-saving measures like slowing shipping or suspending voyages.

The average speed of bulk carriers and container ships has slowed globally by around 2% since the war began on Feb. 28, industry group Clarksons Research reported.

High prices are also driving more interest in green fuels, said

Håkan Agnevall of marine and energy technology manufacturer Wärtsilä.

The good news is the technology to create lower-emitting fuels exists, he said. The bad news is production isn't yet at scale and greener fuels are often more expensive.

Though U.S. President Donald Trump derailed efforts to shift global shipping away from fossil fuels in 2025, Agnevall said the current conflict could prompt strategically minded companies and countries to renew their push toward greener alternatives.

Rising fossil fuel prices are narrowing the cost gap. "That improves the business case for green fuels," he said.

The Caravel Group owns one of the world's largest ship management companies, Fleet Management Limited, which oversees more than 120 shipbuilding projects.

About a third of ships that the company is managing the construction of will be "dual fuel capable," meaning they can run on both conventional bunker fuel and alternatives such as liquefied natural gas, CEO Angad Banga told The Associated Press.

Ship owners are willing to pay a premium to have vessels that can switch between fuels because "in a volatile environment optionality has a measurable economic value," he said.

Alternative fuels are not yet as flexible as conventional bunker fuel, Banga said. While there are more than 890 LNG-fueled vessels in operation globally, a lack of supporting infrastructure has created bottlenecks for them.

But the industry is catching up and limits on bunker fuel are driving even more interest in LNG-capable ships, he said. "That progress is real."

Warba inks MoU with Eco Incubator to support green entrepreneurship

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: Warba Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Eco Business Incubator to support environmental sustainability and green entrepreneurship in Kuwait. The partnership establishes a collaborative framework to empower Kuwaiti youth, helping transform innovative environmental concepts into commercially viable projects that align with the national vision for a green economy.

Supporting Sustainable Entrepreneurship: Hamad Fouzan Al-Fouzan, Chief Strategic Planning Officer at Warba Bank, stated: "Sustainability is no longer an option; it is a corporate and national responsibility. Our partnership with Eco Incubator serves as a practical platform to nurture promising environmental initiatives and empower entrepreneurs to develop solutions that protect the environment and enhance resource efficiency."

Al-Fouzan added that the MoU aims to support sustainability initiatives with measurable impact through social responsibility and by exploring future financing opportunities for promising projects. He also noted that the bank is working to foster environmentally sustainable workplace practices by adopting environmentally sustainable measures across its buildings, facilities, and equipment.

Empowering Youth in Green Innovation: Jassim Mohammed Al-Abouh, Founder of Eco Incubator for Environment and Renewable Energy, noted that the MoU is a significant step toward building an integrated ecosystem for environmental innovation.

"We are proud to collaborate with Warba Bank

in a partnership that combines economic development with environmental sustainability," Al-Abouh said. "At Eco Incubator, we focus on stimulating economic growth and skill development through green entrepreneurship. This agreement opens new opportunities for promoting environmental awareness and launching initiatives with a tangible impact on society and the environment."

Joint Awareness and Environmental Initiatives:

Under the MoU, both parties will implement joint programs, including seminars and specialized workshops linking urban planning with environmental sustainability. The partnership will also promote the use of eco-friendly materials and encourage their adoption nationwide.

Furthermore, the MoU includes launching environmental initiatives linked to the Global Environmental Performance Index (Yale EPI) and developing mechanisms to align workplace environments with modern environmental standards.

Monitoring and Implementation:

The two parties have agreed to form a joint committee to oversee the implementation of approved initiatives and continuously evaluate their progress. This aims to ensure that the MoU's objectives are achieved while maximizing the initiative's environmental and social impact.

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 continues to deliver innovative financial products and services, reinforcing its position as a digital-focused institution.



Part of the partnership.



National Investments Company Launched "Ascend" to Support High-Potential Talent



Mariam Saif
Managing Director
of the Human Capital Division

National Investments Company (NIC) announced the launch of Ascend, a new applicant readiness initiative designed to support high-potential candidates from its recruitment programs, including SHIFT and Bidaya. The initiative reflected NIC's continued commitment to investing in human capital beyond traditional hiring frameworks.

With over 600 applications received in just two months, Ascend aimed to engage and develop high-potential candidates who may not have been selected for current roles due to the highly limited and competitive intake, ensuring they continued to grow professionally and benefit from their engagement with NIC.

The program offered a series of targeted development sessions, including CV preparation, public speaking training, LinkedIn optimization, interview role-play, and mentor-led engagements with NIC professionals.

Commenting on the launch, Maryam Saif, Managing Director of Human Capital at NIC, said: "Ascend reflects our belief that talent development extends beyond hiring. Every applicant deserves the opportunity to grow, and every interaction with NIC should add meaningful value to their journey."

The Ascend session took place at NIC's headquarters, bringing together candidates from the existing applicant pool. Participants received certifications upon completion, while NIC employees had the opportunity to contribute as mentors.

National Investments Company (NIC) is a leading investment firm in Kuwait, offering a comprehensive range of financial and investment services across asset management, investment banking and advisory services and brokerage. With a strong track record and a forward-looking strategy, NIC is committed to delivering sustainable value to its clients and stakeholders while contributing to the development of the financial sector and the broader community.

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Alshayee: The certificate reflects sustainable, high-efficiency work standards

Kuwait Finance House bolsters regulatory compliance excellence with ISO certification

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Head of Group Compliance and Governance, Meshal Alshayee, said that the Bank has achieved significant progress in business performance quality management system by obtaining the ISO 9001:2015 certification. This achievement reflects a dedication to quality, discipline, and alignment with international benchmarks and the strategy of KFH.

Alshayee explained that KFH's Compliance has successfully concluded a comprehensive external audit, culminating in the ISO 9001:2015 Certification. This milestone underscores the resilience of the Bank's compliance framework and serves as an independent validation of its adherence to rigorous, documented, and adaptive operational controls.

He emphasized the consistency of performance in accordance with quality standards, stating: "Looking ahead, the Compliance remains deeply committed to maintaining and further enhancing our Quality Management System. We will continue to drive its effectiveness, fostering a strong alignment between our regulatory requirements and our strategic business objectives."

The Executive Manager Regulatory Compliance at KFH, Ahmad Alobaid said: "This certification confirms our adherence to clear procedures, robust performance monitoring, and highly efficient management systems. It further underscores our unwavering commitment to systematic control and the continuous improvement of our operations."

Alobaid expressed pride in KFH's distinction as the first Kuwaiti bank to secure this certification within its Regulatory Compliance framework. He noted it sets a benchmark for excellence in a vital field characterized by extensive engagement with key entities central to the Bank's operations.

He attributed this success to management's



Kuwait Finance House earns ISO recognition for compliance excellence.

steadfast support, the team's dedication, and effective collaboration, proving that collective commitment is the key to achieving milestones.

The Head of Certification at Bureau Veritas, Egemen Belet, expressed her delight in collaborating with KFH in certifying a bank's Regulatory Compliance department for the first time in

Kuwait. She praised the high level of coordination and support from KFH's teams that guaranteed this successful outcome. Bureau Veritas commends the management and the team for their commitment and looks forward to supporting KFH's continued journey towards excellence and sustainable growth.

Markets retreat as oil tops \$100

Global shares fall amid oil surge, AI concerns

TOKYO, May 12, (AP) Global shares traded mostly lower Tuesday as optimism encouraged by a record rally on Wall Street clashed with anxiety about surging oil prices and a possible AI bubble.

France's CAC 40 slipped 0.6% in early trading to 8,006.60, while the German DAX dipped 0.8% to 24,148.77. Britain's FTSE 100 shed 0.5% to 10,219.65. U.S. shares were set to drift lower, with Dow futures down nearly 0.1% at 49,763.00. S&P 500 futures slipped 0.4% to 7,409.25.

In Asia, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 0.5% to finish at 62,742.57. South Korea's Kospi dropped 2.3% to 7,643.15, in what analysts are categorizing as fallout from overreliance on fraying AI hopes.

"Global equities remain dangerously dependent on a tiny cluster of AI leaders, creating a rally structure that looks powerful on the surface but increasingly fragile underneath," said Stephen Innes, analyst with SPI Asset Management.

He believes South Korea may be among the first major economies that will undergo what he called "the political redistribution phase of the AI boom."

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dipped 0.4% to 8,670.70. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost earlier

gains and fell 0.2% to 26,347.91, while the Shanghai Composite lost nearly 0.3% to 4,214.49.

Oil prices continued to rise, as the war with Iran threatened to drag on. Benchmark U.S. crude rose \$2.90 to \$100.97 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, climbed \$2.61 to \$106.82 a barrel.

U.S. President Donald Trump described the U.S.-Iran ceasefire as "life support" after rejecting Iran's latest proposal to end the war. That raises the stakes for Trump's trip this week to China. China is the biggest buyer of Iran's sanctioned crude oil.

The war has already sent the price for a barrel of Brent racing up from prewar levels of roughly \$70 and delivered inflation through the global economy. The war has shut the Strait of Hormuz and kept oil tankers stuck in the Persian Gulf instead of delivering crude to customers worldwide.

Still, some companies are reporting bigger profit than analysts expected, which means the U.S. economy is holding up even though households are feeling discouraged by expensive gasoline and tariffs.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar rose to 157.62 Japanese yen from 157.12 yen. The euro cost \$1.1747, down from \$1.1787.

Fuel prices spike to \$4.52 as tax relief proposed

Trump proposes gas tax suspension amid price surge

WASHINGTON, May 12, (AP) President Donald Trump said Monday he will move to suspend the federal tax on gasoline to help Americans shoulder surging fuel prices caused by the Iran war.

The president cannot suspend the federal tax on his own. Congress would have to approve the move.

Lawmakers from both parties have pushed for a gas-tax suspension, saying it would provide much-needed relief for families and businesses that rely on their cars and trucks to get to work and school and run everyday errands.

As of Monday, the average national gas price was \$4.52 a gallon, according to the AAA motor club, 50% higher than the average price of just under \$3 a gallon before Trump began the war against Iran.

The federal tax is currently set at 18.4 cents per gallon on gasoline and 24.4 cents per gallon on diesel fuel, an amount that does not include state taxes, which often are higher. The tax provides more than \$23 billion per year in revenue for federal highway and public transit programs.

Asked by reporters at the White House how long the tax should be suspended, Trump said, "Until it's appropriate." While the tax is only a small percentage of the price of gas, "it's still money," Trump said.

As gas prices have spiked, the Trump administration has released millions of barrels of oil from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve and temporarily lifted sanctions on some Russian and Iranian oil shipments already at sea. The U.S. is negotiating with countries reliant on Middle East crude to join a coalition to police the Strait of Hormuz, where about one-fifth of the world's traded oil normally flows.

Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri said on social media Monday that he will in-

roduce legislation to suspend the gas tax. Democrats have previously sponsored similar legislation. Rep. Anna Paulina Luna, R-Fla., also said in a post on X that she will introduce a bill "to suspend the federal gas tax in light of Trump's recent remarks."

Senate Majority Leader John Thune said Monday he has not "been a fan" of a gas tax suspension, but added: "You know, I've got some colleagues out there who think it's a good idea. So, we'll hear them out."

Thune, a Republican from South Dakota, said he'd prefer to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to "normalize gas prices" without legislation. "Obviously, any time you suspend the gas tax, that leaves a big hole in the highway trust fund, which also has implications down the road," he said.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said that "instead of suspending the tax, we should suspend the war."

The ongoing spike in gas prices has set off alarms among some Republicans that it could hurt the party's chances in the midterm elections.

Sen. John Cornyn, who is in a tough runoff race later this month to keep his seat, said he wants to know how roads and bridges would be paid for if the tax is lifted. But he said there's a "difference between a temporary suspension and a permanent suspension."

"A temporary suspension to get through this sort of bumpy time because of the uncertainty about energy prices, I could live with that," he said.

Trump has previously said higher fuel prices are worth paying to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. That headline message appeared to soften Sunday as Energy Secretary Chris Wright said the Trump administration was "open to all ideas," including a suspension of the gas tax, during an interview on

NBC's "Meet the Press."

A bill sponsored by Democratic Sens. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Mark Kelly of Arizona would suspend the federal tax through Oct. 1. A similar measure was sponsored in the House by Democratic Rep. Chris Pappas of New Hampshire.

"Trump's war of choice with Iran is driving up gas prices across the country - and Americans shouldn't have to bear the additional economic burden of Trump's reckless decision making," Blumenthal said in introducing the bill.

Kelly told reporters Monday he still prefers his legislation but would take "whatever we can get at this point."

"People need relief," he said. Several states, including Indiana and Georgia, have recently suspended their taxes to alleviate high prices amid the war. Kentucky and Utah have reduced their state tax. Other states are weighing similar suspensions or tax reductions.

The gasoline tax is the single largest source of revenue for federal highway and public transit programs.

While proposed bills would offset any lost Highway Trust Fund revenue with general funds, the tax suspension could raise the federal deficit and jeopardize the long-term sustainability of investments for highway and public transit programs, according to the American Road & Transportation Builders Association, which represents the transportation construction industry.

The group cites studies showing that many retailers do not pass on the full amount of the gas tax reduction to consumers. Research also suggests that state and federal gas taxes are just one component of a complex pricing scheme that includes the global price of oil and other factors.

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Economic cooperation masks growing US-China competition

Trump and Xi dialed down the trade war, but challenges lurk at their China summit

WASHINGTON, May 12, (AP): President Donald Trump claims that America has increasingly profited from trade with China, largely playing down the tensions over rare earth minerals, tariffs and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence that could rupture relations between the world's two largest economies.

Trump departs Tuesday for a summit in Beijing with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, in what could potentially be the first of four meetings this year.

"We're doing a lot of business with China and making a lot of money," Trump said last week. "We're making a lot of money - it's different than it used to be."

The summit is primarily about keeping the economic relationship stable, with only modest policy announcements expected. A trade truce reached last October likely will be extended, while China may announce plans to buy American soybeans, beef and Boeing airplanes. U.S. officials also have teased the creation of a Board of Trade to keep the sides talking on economic issues.

Some in the Trump administration believe "the outcome that matters more than any set of deliverables is stability and space for continued engagement, both to build domestic resilience and to facilitate future deal-making," said Brett Fetterly, a managing principal at the consultancy The Asia Group who focuses on China.

Engagement would only be the first step toward addressing the competition between the U.S. and China, as tit-for-tat tariffs, the AI and electric vehicle buildout, and the Iran war could upend relations.

Despite Trump's claims about making money, China bought nearly \$50 billion less in American products last year than it did in 2022, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

Some of that decrease reflects Beijing stopping soybean purchases during last year's trade war. The Trump administration has made clear that it wants to support American farmers and factories by having China import more from the U.S., with the goal of further narrowing a trade imbalance that totaled \$202 billion last year.

The United States also now imports more goods from Taiwan than China, a change provoked in part by the AI race that has U.S. firms buying computer chips and servers from the self-governing island.

But going back to Trump's first term, China also began to route its U.S.-bound products through other Asian countries, while American companies

shifted supply chains for computers and other electronics to Vietnam and India.

China's share of goods imported to the U.S. has fallen from 22% at the start of Trump's first term in 2017 to just 7.5% in the first three months of this year, according to government data analyzed by Chad Bown, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and co-author of the book "How to Win a Trade War."

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer has said he "highlighted" in an April 30 call with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng the value of a "new government-to-government Board of Trade."

Greer indicated the board could improve trade in goods without national security concerns. That could mean agricultural products, for instance, but not computer chips or other sensitive technology.

The initiative could make it easier to resolve trade disputes and help American efforts to sell more to China. It might help prevent a repeat of last year when Trump hiked tariff rates on Chinese goods by 145%, before finalizing a truce in an October meeting with Xi in South Korea.

The board also would give the Trump administration an alternative to severe tariff hikes, which have become a logistical and legal problem. The Supreme Court ruled that Trump lacked the authority to unilaterally impose many of last year's tariffs, while his temporary replacement tariffs that followed were deemed illegal by a federal court last week.

The Trump administration says the U.S. and China would need to get sign-off at home to create the board that could manage tens of billions of dollars in trade. Administration officials also would like to create an investment forum to discuss financing of operations in each country.

Traveling to China as part of the U.S. delegation are some 17 CEOs, including Tesla's Elon Musk, Apple's Tim Cook and Boeing's Kelly Ortberg, the White House says.

In some ways, Trump's and Xi's governments have been talking past each other. Trump assumes America can keep its edge on AI, so he judges the trade imbalance as the big issue to solve. But Xi sees a world disrupted by climate change and the Iran war, shifts that could give a boost to Chinese technologies such as solar panels and EVs.

"Washington and Beijing are competing at different levels and different domains, with different theories of victory," said Michael Sobolik, a senior fellow specializing in U.S.-China relations at the Hudson Institute, a conser-

vative think tank. "President Trump leveraged tariffs not as a weapon against China but as leverage to secure a trade deal. Xi Jinping is angling to win a cold war with the United States."

The U.S.-Israel war against Iran also is leading to an inflection point on energy, said Ali Wyne, a senior research and advocacy adviser on U.S.-China relations at the International Crisis Group.

The Trump administration is banking on the world continuing to rely on oil and natural gas, whereas China sees the price spikes following the disruption to energy shipments in the Strait of Hormuz as supporting a green energy transition that favors its industrial strategy.

"The structural frictions between the United States and China, they are growing in number and severity," Wyne said.

Several potential strains could easily upset the cheery talk of friendship - raising questions about whether any meaningful progress can be made at the summit on issues like:

- China's control of the majority of rare earth mining and almost all of the processing for those minerals widely needed for electronics. The Trump administration is trying to develop its own rare earths production with new partnerships and investments in companies, a strategy that would unfold over several years.

- The U.S. push to limit China's access to the most advanced computer chips. These chips, designed by companies such as Nvidia and AMD, have the processing power to further develop AI.

- China's dominance as an automaker. Its worldwide exports of vehicles increased 21% last year, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. China can sell EVs at a much cheaper price than automakers in the U.S., Germany, Italy, Japan and South Korea.

- Tariffs. After the Supreme Court struck down Trump's tariffs, the administration launched national security investigations under a provision of the Trade Act of 1974 to impose new tariffs based on excess industrial capacity and efforts to prevent slave labor that could potentially withstand legal scrutiny.

- U.S. sanctions on a Chinese oil refinery and dozens of tankers and shippers for involvement in transporting Iranian oil. Beijing responded to the action earlier this month by demanding that no one abide by the U.S. penalties against Chinese businesses. The countries also are jousting over management of the Panama Canal.

US consumer prices rise as Iran war drives energy costs higher

Fed holds cautious stance as inflation rebounds

WASHINGTON, May 12, (AP): U.S. consumer prices climbed sharply again last month as the 10-week war with Iran pushed energy prices higher.

The Labor Department's consumer price index rose 3.8% from April 2025, according to data released Tuesday. On a month-to-month basis, April prices rose 0.6% from March as gasoline prices rose 5.4% during the month; the month-over-month gain was down from 0.9% increase from February to March.

Labor Department figures showed that gasoline prices are up more than 28% compared with a year ago. However, the AAA motor club listed the average regular gallon of gasoline above \$4.50 on Tuesday, about 44% more than it cost last year at this time.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called consumer core prices rose 0.4% last month from March and 2.8% from April 2025, relatively modest readings that suggest the energy price burst has yet to spill over more broadly into other prices.

Grocery prices rose 0.7% from March to April as meat prices rose. Those prices had retreated slightly the month before.

"Inflation is the key drag on the U.S. economy now," Heather Long, chief economist at Navy Federal Credit Union wrote. "There is a real



A motorist pumps fuel at a Shell station Wednesday, July 5, 2023, in Englewood, Colo. (AP)

financial squeeze underway. For the first time in three years, inflation is eating up all wage gains. This is a setback for middle-class and lower-income households and they know it. They are having to cut back on spending and stretch every dollar."

In April, average hourly wages fell 0.3% from a year earlier after accounting for inflation - the first year-over-year drop in three years.

Inflation had been dropping more or less steadily since peaking with a 9.1% year-over-year spike in prices in June 2022, a surge caused by supply chain bottlenecks at the end of COVID-19 lockdowns and an energy price shock following the Russian

invasion of Ukraine. But inflation remained above the Federal Reserve's 2% target.

Then, the United States and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28, and Tehran responded by shutting off access to the Gulf of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas passes. Energy prices rocketed in response.

The Fed, which had been expected to cut its benchmark interest rates in 2026, has turned cautious as it waits to see how long conflict lasts and whether higher energy prices spill over into other products and cause a broader inflationary outbreak.

President Donald Trump has

lambasted the Fed and its outgoing chair, Jerome Powell, for refusing to slash rates to boost the economy. Kevin Warsh, the president's hand-picked choice to succeed Powell, is expected to be confirmed by the Senate this week; but it's unclear whether Warsh would pursue lower rates given the uncertainties arising from the war - or whether he could persuade his colleagues on the Fed's rate-setting committee to go along if he tried.

Some companies are also starting to feel the pain. For example, Whirlpool, which makes KitchenAid and Maytag appliances, reported last week that revenue dropped nearly 10% in its most recent quarter and said that the war has caused a "recession-level industry decline that has undermined consumer confidence."

Grace King, 31 of Ames, Iowa, said that higher prices in the food aisle and at the pump are making her cut back on spending for things like clothing. The administrative assistant used to spend \$200 per month on clothing, mostly on Amazon, but not anymore.

"There's pressure basically everywhere from the groceries that I buy to the gas to fill up the tank," she said.

"I've severely cut back on my frill spending."

For example, King noted that while it's only a five minute drive to work, she makes the trip twice a day. And if she needs to do any big shopping, that's a 40-minute drive to malls in Des Moines, Iowa.

Economists warned that the energy shock was increasingly feeding through into broader consumer prices. Destatis data indicated that goods prices rose 2.9 percent in April from a year earlier, up from 0.8 percent in February and 2.3 percent in March.

A survey published by the Munich-based Ifo Institute also pointed to further price increases ahead. Its price expectations index climbed to 31.6 points in April from 25.5 in March, the highest level since January 2023.

The institute noted that the conflict was increasingly weighing on the German economy, with companies passing rising energy costs on to consumers more frequently, particularly in sectors like manufacturing, hospitality and retail.

Iran war fuels rise in Germany consumer prices

German inflation hits 2-year high on energy shock

BERLIN, May 12, (Xinhua): Germany's inflation stood at 2.9 percent in April, the highest since January 2024, as surging energy prices continued to drive up consumer costs in Europe's largest economy, official data showed Tuesday.

The reading followed a 2.7-percent rise in March. Inflation in Germany had hovered near the 2-percent mark for several months before Middle East tensions escalated in late February and pushed up energy prices.

According to the Federal Statistical Office, Destatis, energy prices jumped 10.1 percent year on year in April, the sharpest increase in more than three years.

"Overall inflation increased for the second consecutive month as a result of another rise in energy

prices linked to the (Iran) war," said Ruth Brand, president of Destatis. "Consumers are particularly feeling the persistent price pressure regarding motor fuels."

Concerns over conflict-related disruptions to energy shipments through the Strait of Hormuz have pushed fuel prices higher in Germany in recent months. Energy prices had already risen 7.2 percent year on year in March, after falling 1.9 percent in February.

To cushion the impact of higher fuel costs, the German government cut fuel taxes temporarily for two months, lowering levies on petrol and diesel by around 17 euro cents (about 0.2 U.S. dollars) per liter. Brand said the measure was not yet reflected in the April inflation as it only took effect at the beginning of May.

China car exports surge as domestic sales slump

HONG KONG, May 12, (AP): China's exports of passenger cars surged in April, an industry group said Monday, as its carmakers push to expand in overseas markets as domestic sales continue to fall.

Exports of passenger cars from China last month jumped almost 85% from a year ago to around 796,000 vehicles, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. That's up from the 748,000 vehicles exported in March.

Among them, exports of new energy passenger vehicles, including battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids, jumped more than 120% last month from the year before, to about 420,000 units.

At home, however, sales of passenger cars dropped 25.5% from the year before to 1.3 million vehicles, marking its sixth straight month of year-over-year declines, CAAM data showed.

Domestic car demand in China has weakened due to dialed-back government support this year for drivers to switch to new energy vehicles, auto

analysts said, while the country's uncertain economic outlook, triggered by a prolonged property sector downturn, has also been holding some consumers off from purchasing new cars in the world's largest auto market.

Competition among Chinese carmakers has also been fierce. At the Beijing auto show last month, more than 1,450 vehicles were showcased as companies displayed their latest models and technologies, from artificial intelligence-infused cars to advanced ultrafast-charging batteries.

Some analysts believe that domestic car sales momentum could improve later this year as more new models are rolled out. More Chinese consumers will also probably start buying new cars again as they increasingly adjust to the government subsidy changes this year, Yichao Zhang, an automotive practice partner at consultancy AlixPartners, added.

Overseas, leading Chinese car brands such as BYD and Geely Auto are making inroads. In addi-

tion to export growth, some automakers, including BYD, have also been expanding production capacity abroad by building factories in regions such as Europe and Latin America.

As the war in Iran drives up petrol prices, there are also growing expectations that more drivers globally will switch to EVs. One in six new vehicles sold in Australia in April were EVs, according to the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, and BYD was the second-highest-selling brand behind Toyota.

With oil and fuel prices likely to stay elevated for a longer period, Claire Yuan, an auto analyst at S&P Global Ratings, said it would likely "incentivize consumers to buy EVs and this will benefit Chinese EV exports."

China's overall passenger car exports could still rise by around 20% in 2026, according to estimates by AlixPartners, with Chinese carmakers expanding in key markets such as Southeast Asia.

OpenAI rift exposed in Musk lawsuit showdown

OAKLAND, May 12, (AP): In a trial featuring a clash between Elon Musk and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, neither of the tech titans has emerged as an overly sympathetic character. But nobody has more to lose than Altman, who is expected to take the stand this week to defend himself.

Already, testimony about Altman's turbulent tenure at the ChatGPT maker has become prime fodder for internet jokes. One piece of evidence that has inspired countless memes was a text exchange between Altman and a company officer, Mira Murati, in 2023 during his short-lived ouster as CEO, when Altman asked if things were moving "directionally good or bad" and she wrote back: "Sam this is very bad."

Musk, the world's richest man, is seeking Altman's second ouster from the company leadership as part of a civil lawsuit accusing him of betraying their shared vision for OpenAI. Since its start as a nonprofit funded primarily by Musk, Open AI has evolved into a capitalistic venture now valued at \$852 billion.

Even if Musk loses, the trial has invited further scrutiny of Altman's leadership at a pivotal time for the company and its competition with Musk's own AI firm and another rival, Anthropic, formed by a group of seven ex-OpenAI leaders. All three firms are moving toward planned initial public offerings that are expected to be some of the largest ever.

A jury that's already heard about Altman's character from a parade of his former allies and adversaries will ultimately decide the verdict. But the repercussions could reverberate widely.

"This is not looking good for any of them and I think that that's a little bit unfortunate for the AI industry at a time when the public perception of AI is quite negative and seems to be getting worse," said Sarah Kreps, director of Cornell University's Tech Policy Institute.

The lawsuit accuses Altman and his top lieutenant, Greg Brockman, of double-crossing Musk by straying from the San Francisco company's founding mission to be an altruistic steward of a revolutionary technology. The lawsuit alleges they shifted into a moneymaking mode behind his back.

Shortly before the trial began, Musk abandoned a bid for damages for himself and instead is seeking an unspecified amount of money to be paid to fund the altruistic efforts of OpenAI's charitable arm. In a text exchange with Brockman proposing a possible settlement, Musk warned that Brockman and Altman "will be the most hated men in America" as a result of the trial.

While Musk, the head of SpaceX, Tesla and a slew of other companies, was well known by the San Francisco Bay Area jury pool, fewer knew who Altman was before the start of the trial, even if they were familiar with ChatGPT.

As the trial has played out in a federal courtroom in Oakland, California over the last two weeks, jurors have heard from witnesses including OpenAI ex-

board members Helen Toner and Tasha McCauley, who spoke about the decision to fire Altman in 2023 before they were themselves ousted from the board of directors when Altman returned to his role.

In video testimony last week, Toner said a starting point for the decision to oust Altman was when OpenAI co-founder Ilya Sutskever, a respected AI scientist, reached out to confide some of his own concerns.

"A phrase we used was 'a pattern of behavior,' so no one single cause," Toner said. "The pattern of behavior related to his honesty and candor, his resistance of board oversight."

Sutskever was instrumental in the unsuccessful attempt to oust Altman but later said he regretted his role in the shakeup. In his own testimony Monday, Sutskever confirmed that he wrote a 2023 memo to OpenAI's board that characterized Altman as pitting his executives against one another and exhibiting a "consistent pattern of lying" that was causing a loss of trust and productivity.

Sutskever said Altman's behavior contributed to an environment that was "not conducive" to the company's goals, including its mission to safely build artificial general intelligence. He said he later backtracked and supported Altman's reinstatement because he was concerned about what would happen to a company he worked hard to create and "cared very much about."

"I felt that, had I not done this, the company would have been destroyed, and I felt that this was a Hail Mary," he testified.

The trial has carried risks also for Musk, who is pursuing an initial public offering this summer for his rocket ship maker, SpaceX, which could make him the world's first trillionaire. Among the witnesses has been Shimon Zilis, a former OpenAI board member who served as a conduit between Musk and OpenAI's leaders and also didn't disclose that Musk was the father of her two young twins, according to trial testimony.

Not until midday Monday, on the third week of the trial, did OpenAI begin calling its own witnesses, starting with Bret Taylor, the current chair of OpenAI's board who painted a more positive portrait of Altman's leadership.

"I think Sam has done a great job as CEO," Taylor said. "He's been forthright with me and the other board members."

Syracuse University professor Shubha Ghosh, an expert in business and technology law, said regardless of the outcome of the case, he has doubts about Altman staying on as CEO of OpenAI in the long run.

"A lot of this might depend upon a testimony," he said. "And I don't know what he's going to say or how he's gonna say it. But even like the best case, movie theater type performance, with all the music playing and the angels descending or whatnot, I don't see him coming off as a fairly strong leader, especially (since) this case has gone this far."

Variety



Matt Damon, left, and Ben Affleck attend the world premiere of 'The Rip' at Alice Tully Hall, on Jan. 13, 2026, in New York. (AP)

MIAMI: Two South Florida police officers claim Ben Affleck and Matt Damon's recent action thriller "The Rip" used too many real-life details in its fictionalized narrative, causing harm to the officers' personal and professional reputations, according to a defamation lawsuit.

Jason Smith and Jonathan Santana, sergeants in the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office, filed the lawsuit in Miami federal court earlier this month against Artists Equity, a film production company owned by Affleck and Damon. Court filings don't say how much the officers are suing for, but the civil complaint says they're seeking compensatory damages, punitive damages and attorney fees, as well as a public retraction and correction.

"The Rip" features Affleck and Damon as South Florida police officers who find millions of dollars inside a house. Parts of the movie were inspired by a real 2016 case, where police found over \$21 million linked to a suspected marijuana trafficker in a Miami Lakes home.

Affleck and Damon have said while promoting the film that the story is loosely based on accounts from Miami-Dade Police Capt. Chris Casiano, who served as a technical advisor on the film. Damon told The Associated Press during a January interview that he and Affleck spent time with Casiano and other narcotics officers in preparation for the film. (AP)

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LOS ANGELES: Rappers 50 Cent and Nelly along with electronic music duo The Chainsmokers will headline a new four-city World Cup concert series launched by Sports Illustrated this summer.

The event series announced Monday is called "SI Beyond the Pitch," which will bring concerts and VIP fan experiences to Los Angeles, Dallas, Miami and New York during the global soccer tournament. Additional performances will include Diplo and Gordo.

The Los Angeles kickoff event is scheduled for June 12 at the Hollywood Palladium with Nelly headlining. Dallas will host a June 20 event at SILO featuring Gordo, while Miami's June 26 stop at DAER will feature The Chainsmokers. The series concludes July 18 at Cipriani Wall Street with performances from 50 Cent and Diplo.

The series marks one of Sports Illustrated's biggest pushes yet into live entertainment and experiential events surrounding major sports moments.

"This isn't just a tournament; it's the most significant sporting event of a generation to hit American soil," Joe Silberzweig, founder and CEO of Medium Rare, said in a statement. The series is an expansion of the brand's growing presence in premium live events tied to major sports weekends and cultural moments. (AP)



Tom Morello, left, and Bruce Springsteen perform during the 'Land of Hope and Dreams' tour at Madison Square Garden on May 11, 2026, in New York. (AP)

Film

Michael, Billie Eilish film also draw strong crowds

Prada 2 tops box office over Mortal Kombat II

LOS ANGELES, May 12. (AP) In a box office battle of the sequels, "The Devil Wears Prada 2" had the slight edge over "Mortal Kombat II" in North American theaters this weekend. According to studio estimates Sunday, "The Devil Wears Prada 2" earned a chart-topping \$43 million in its second weekend, while "Mortal Kombat II" took in \$40 million in its first.

This weekend had wide variety of newcomers playing in wide release, including the family-friendly whodunnit "The Sheep Detectives" and a James Cameron co-directed Billie Eilish concert film.

But it was the holdover that triumphed. "The Devil Wears Prada 2," which has grossed \$433.2 million worldwide in its first 12 days in release, helped push The Walt Disney Studios over \$2 billion globally for the year. It's also surpassed the total grosses of the first film, which earned \$327 million globally in 2006, not accounting for inflation.

Paul Dergarabedian, the head of marketplace trends for Comscore, said Mother's Day might have helped "Prada" get the advantage over the newcomer and have such a modest 44% dip in weekend two.

"The release date was perfect," Dergarabedian said. "This may be the new blueprint for how to start a summer."

"Mortal Kombat II" provided some gendered counterprogramming in the second weekend of Hollywood's summer movie season. Warner Bros. opened the movie in 3,503 locations where it drew a heavily male audience. According to PostTrak, 75% of the ticket buyers were men. "The Devil Wears Prada 2" had



This image released by 20th Century Studios shows Meryl Streep in a scene from 'The Devil Wears Prada 2.' (AP)

almost the exact opposite gender breakdown on its first weekend.

The first movie in this series, "Mortal Kombat," was released simultaneously in theaters and on HBO Max in April 2021 as a part of Warner Bros.' pandemic-era day-and-date strategy. Reviews have been mixed for the sequel, as was its B CinemaScore. It also earned \$23 million from 78 markets internationally, adding up to a \$63 million global debut.

"Michael" landed in third place in its third weekend with another \$36.5 million over the weekend, down only 33% from last weekend. The Michael Jackson biopic has now earned \$240.5 million in North America, surpassing the total domestic grosses of "Bohemian Rhapsody," and \$577.4 million globally.

Fourth place went to Amazon MGM Studios' "The Sheep Detectives" which brought in \$15.9 million in its first weekend in 3,457 theaters. The quirky, all-ages murder

mystery features a starry ensemble including Hugh Jackman, Emma Thompson and Nicholas Braun, as well as the voices of Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Bryan Cranston, Regina Hall and Patrick Stewart as the sheep who try to figure out who murdered their shepherd. Audiences gave it an A- CinemaScore. The movie cost a reported \$75 million to produce.

Rounding out the top five was "Billie Eilish-Hit Me Hard & Soft: The Tour (Live in 3D)" an immer-

sive concert experience which Cameron shared co-directing credits on with Eilish. Paramount released the movie in 2,613 theaters, where it earned \$7.5 million in North America and \$12.6 million internationally. The movie was very well reviewed by critics (93% on Rotten Tomatoes) and audiences, who gave it an A CinemaScore.

"Project Hail Mary," in its eighth weekend, and "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie," in its sixth weekend, are still going strong as well - adding up to a weekend that is up significantly from the same weekend last year. Dergarabedian said the films that seem to be doing well and drawing new and repeat audiences week after week are the ones offering "pure, escapist entertainment."

"This is playing out very well for movie theaters right now," he said. 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. "The Devil Wears Prada 2," \$43 million.
2. "Mortal Kombat II," \$40 million.
3. "Michael," \$36.5 million.
4. "The Sheep Detectives," \$15.9 million.
5. "Billie Eilish-Hit Me Hard and Soft: The Tour," \$7.5 million.
6. "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie," \$6.6 million.
7. "Project Hail Mary," \$6.1 million.
8. "Hokum," \$3.3 million.
9. "Deep Water," \$780,274.
10. "Animal Farm," \$663,624.

Music

Organizers tighten voting rules after past controversies

Eurovision song competition starts with the first semifinal after boycott



Artist Look Mum No Computer from the United Kingdom walks on the signature turquoise carpet during the official start of the Eurovision Song Contest week at the town hall in Vienna, Austria, on May 10, 2026. (AP)

VIENNA, May 12. (AP) Competition starts Tuesday at the Eurovision Song Contest, with divisions over Israel's participation hanging over the 70th birthday of the over-the-top pop music extravaganza.

Host city Vienna has been bedecked in hearts and the contest's "United by Music" motto for a week in which singers and bands from 35 countries will compete onstage for the continent's musical crown. But five countries - Spain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Iceland - are boycotting to protest Israel's inclusion.

Several pro-Palestinian demonstrations are planned in Vienna during Eurovision week, and security is tight, with police officers from across Austria deployed in the capi-

tal, and support from forces in neighboring Germany.

Last month a 21-year-old Austrian man accused of pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group pleaded guilty to plotting to attack a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna in 2024, and the head of Austria's DSN intelligence service, Sylvia Mayer, said "the terror threat posed by Islamist terror groups, as well as Iran-affiliated groups, is still at a high level."

Israeli singer Noam Bettan is among 15 acts competing for votes from viewers and national juries in Tuesday's semifinal at the Wiener Stadthalle arena. The top 10 will go through to Saturday's grand final, along with 10 from Thursday's second semifinal. The U.K., France, Germany and Italy automatically

qualify because they are among the contest's biggest funders. Austria, last year's winner, goes through to the final as host country.

Bettan is seeking to get Israel, which came second in 2025, into Saturday's final with the ballad "Michelle." Like last year's Israeli competitor, Yuval Raphael, he has practiced singing while being booed.

Hoping to cement its status as bookmakers' favorite is Finland, with the intense "Liekinheitin" ("Flamethrower") by violinist Linda Lampenius and pop singer Pete Parkkonen.

Other competitors in Tuesday's semifinal include Greece's Akylas with fan-favorite party-rap track "Ferto" ("Bring It"); Portuguese quintet Bandidos do Cante with the

soulful "Rosa"; and singer Senhit, representing tiny San Marino with "Superstar," a party anthem featuring a guest appearance by Boy George.

Long a forum for good-natured - and sometimes more pointed - national rivalries, Eurovision has found it hard to separate pop and politics in recent years. Russia was expelled in 2022 after its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The 2024 contest in Malmo, Sweden, and last year's event in Basel, Switzerland, saw pro-Palestinian protests that called for Israel to be expelled over its conduct of its war against Hamas in Gaza and allegations it ran a rule-breaking marketing campaign to get votes for its contestant.

Tech

From space success to deep-tech future

Bharat Innovates 2026: Deep-Tech in India and an Invitation to Kuwait

By Paramita Tripathi

Ambassador of India to Kuwait
 KUWAIT CITY, May 12: "The question is no longer if India innovates, but who will innovate with India."

Emmanuel Macron, President of France (Mumbai, February 2026)

India made history on 23 August 2023 as the first nation to successfully land a spacecraft near the unexplored lunar south pole. The success of ambitious projects such as the Chandrayaan lunar mission, the Mangalyaan Mars mission, and the Aditya L1 solar mission, the 2024-2025 SpaDeX docking experiments, and cost-effective satellite launches has established India as a major player in the space sector.

India's success in space programmes and in consumer technology and digital landscape is now expanding into its thriving deep tech ecosystem, a key driver of the future. A new generation of Deep Tech startups constitutes a substantial share of India's 10,000+ startup ecosystem. These startups are tackling challenges in areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, clean energy, space and defence technologies, advanced materials, healthcare, medtech, and biotechnology.

India's Deep-Tech Ecosystem

With one of the world's largest pools of STEM graduates, strong institutions, and an active research culture, India is strongly positioned to translate cutting-edge research into commercially viable solutions. India's deep-tech landscape may be best understood through a few concrete examples of companies that have moved beyond the lab and into markets:

1. AI & Enterprise Automation – GreyOrange deploys AI-driven robotic systems for warehouse automation and supply chains; solutions are used by major global retailers in the US, Europe, and Asia; demonstrating India's ability to build industrial-grade AI platforms for global deployment.

2. Space Technology – Skyroot Aerospace successfully launched Vikram-S, India's first privately developed rocket, while Agnikul



High-tech urban complex glowing in purple hues at night.

Cosmos is developing customizable small satellite launch vehicles using 3D-printed engines; regulatory reform in India by opening up the space sector has unlocked private innovation.

3. Semiconductors – Saankhya Labs develops software-defined radio and semiconductor solutions in communications, defence, and broadcasting, representing India's growing capability in chip design and strategic electronics.

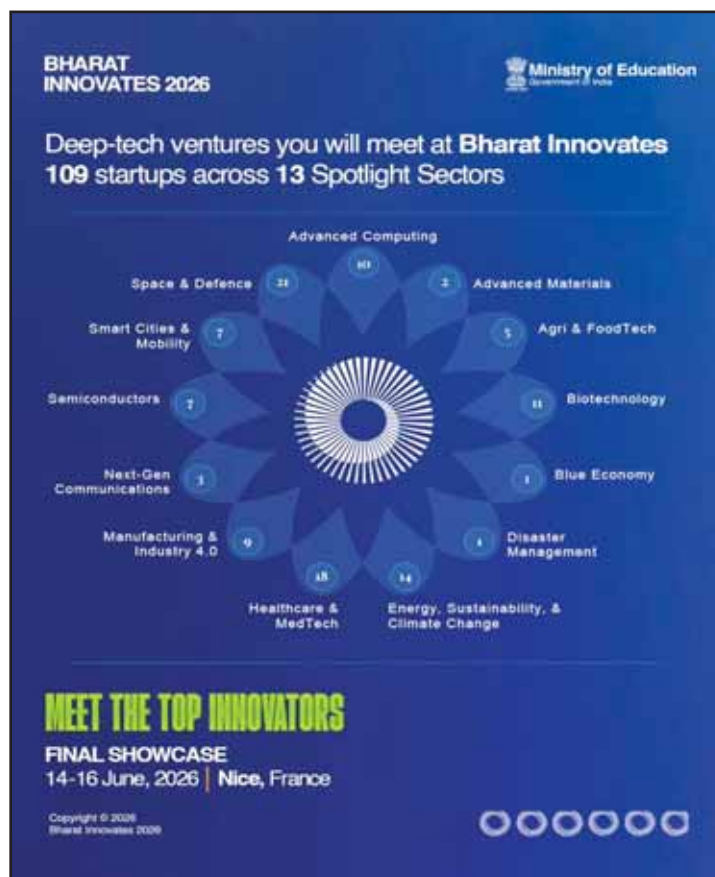
4. Climate Tech – Ather Energy designs and manufactures electric scooters and proprietary battery and charging infrastructure; tackling clean mobility at scale.

5. Biotechnology – String Bio uses methane to produce high-value proteins and chemicals through biotechnology, offering sustainable alternatives for agriculture and industry.

6. Quantum & Advanced Computing – QNu Labs is working on quantum-safe cybersecurity solutions, addressing future risks to data security.

India's Incubation Ecosystem: Catalysts of Transformation

The role of deep-tech accelera-



Bharat Innovates 2026 will spotlight 109 Startups across 13 Sectors in Nice, showcasing cutting-edge deep-tech innovation.

tors and incubators, which bridge laboratory research and market deployment, is important for nurturing startups. Some examples of these are:

1. T-Hub (Hyderabad): One of India's largest innovation hubs, a partnership between the Government of Telangana, three academic institutes in Hyderabad and the private sector, T-Hub has supported startups in AI, robotics, and mobility.

2. IIT Madras Research Park (Chennai): India's first university-based Research Park, partnering with IIT Madras is a leading example of academia-industry collaboration, incubating deep-tech startups in automotive engineering, energy systems, and robotics.

3. Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) (Bengaluru): A premier biotech incubator set up by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, in 2009 forming the Bangalore Life Sciences Cluster (BLISC) with the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) and the Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem),

supporting startups in healthcare, diagnostics, and life sciences.

4. NASSCOM CoE for IoT & AI: Announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2015 as part of the Digital India Initiative, it is focused on AI and IoT startups.

Bharat Innovates 2026: An Opportunity for Kuwait

Bharat Innovates 2026, to be held in Nice, France, on 14-16 June 2026, will showcase India's technological innovation prowess emerging from the research and innovation ecosystem of higher education. It will curate and present more than 100 promising and path-breaking technological innovations at various stages of development to a global audience comprising industry representatives, investors, policymakers, potential collaborators, and technology partners.

Bharat Innovates 2026 signifies India's shift from a leading digital economy to a global hub for deep-tech innovation, shaped by strategic initiatives such as the India Semiconductor Mission 2.0, space sector liberalisation, National Green Hydrogen Mission, and IndiaAI Mission. In addition, regulatory reforms and public-private partnerships are accelerating commercialisation pathways, making India a source of innovation and a scalable market.

For Kuwait, which is diversifying its economy under Vision 2035, this is a strong opportunity to partner with India's rapidly maturing deep-tech ecosystem by investing in deep-tech startups, particularly those aligned with Kuwait's priorities in energy, cybersecurity, fintech, healthcare and medtech, agritech, sustainability, and advanced industries. Bharat Innovates 2026 invites investors in Kuwait to join India's deep-tech journey, shape solutions that will define the next decades, and co-create values that transcend borders.

Bharat Innovates 2026 | 14 – 16 June, 2026 | Nice, France | <https://bharatinnovates.in/>
 Register to participate: <https://bharatinnovates.acubate.app/ext/survey/17742/apply>

For queries/information, e-mail at amb.kuwait@mea.gov.in

'Making music is good for the soul'

Nostalgic adult band camps revive school music spirit

CONCORD, N.H., May 12, (AP): As a high school student in the 1970s, Lori Guess looked forward to packing up her oboe for a summer music camp in Sidney, Maine. The lakeside location and loon calls appealed to her, and it was a chance to connect with kindred spirits.

Decades later, she's still going to camp there. A separate band program was created for adults in 2013, where she felt encouraged to take up another instrument: trumpet.

"I was thrilled because I love this place," said Guess, 71, of Baltimore, a retired lawyer for the U.S. Department of Defense who plans to return to the New England Adult Music Camp in August. "It is serene, beautiful, a perfect setting. And it's not all that different from what it was 50-some years ago."

Whether they are looking to make friends, improve their skills or just take some time out for themselves after sending their own kids to camp and college, adults can find a variety of summer music programs across the United States, ranging from electronic, folk, rock 'n' roll and jazz to chamber and opera.

For many campers, it offers a way to relive the nostalgic musical experiences of their youth and make new social connections.

"Emotionally, making music is good for the soul," said Carole Lieberman, a California-based forensic psychiatrist who has played multiple instruments herself. "It makes you feel creative, allows you to provide the music you like for yourself and can boost your spirits."

"Cognitively, research demonstrates that learning to play a musical instrument and playing it helps your brain make better neurological connections," she added. "It can help to ward off dementia."

For Guess, playing music is about being "in that zone" with other musicians.

"When you're playing music together, you rise above all the pettiness of life," she said. "And it's just the most spiritual thing I can think of."

The camps cover a range of play-



This photo provided by Russ Grazier shows a brass ensemble performing at the New England Adult Music Camp in Sidney, Maine. (AP)

ing abilities. Some listings specifying beginner, intermediate and advanced levels can be found in camp guides put out by organizations such as Musical America Worldwide and The Instrumentalist.

The Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan, where Guess attended band camp in middle school, branched out to offer a variety of summer musical programs for adults, including a weeklong Symphonic Band Camp for experienced players in August.

In Walla Walla, Washington, the Midsummer Musical Retreat has grown to include multiple performance groups, large and small, for varying levels since it began in 1983.

Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, hosts the Band Camp for Adult Musicians, where players at an intermediate level and beyond are coached by retired military members and college professors.

The camp's founder was inspired by his kids' experience at band camp, director Leigh Hertz said.

Now in its 37th season, many players are retired and have attended the camp together for years. Some have come with their children and grandchildren.

"They were lawyers or doctors, or working full-time, mothers," Hertz said. "There are also people

who sold their tuba for a couch in college so they could have a couch, and 20 years later, it's like, 'I need a tuba again!'"

In addition to putting on concerts, the camps have their own traditions. At the one in Pennsylvania, everyone gets together on the first night for a family dinner. Walla Walla has a camper-created sketch comedy night. New England has campfire gatherings and a lobster dinner. Campers often have access to other activities such as kayaking, yoga or cocktail hours, or in open-mics solo or with a small ensemble of fellow campers.

Camps also can offer special sessions covering certain genres or instruments such as jazz, drum circles, klezmer, German band and ukulele, and host talks about topics like performance anxiety and music theory.

Linda Haller, 70, of Laconia, New Hampshire, had retired as an obstetrician-gynecologist a few years ago when she learned about a community band for adults promoting "music for life" nearby. She felt motivated to try the clarinet again after last playing it in high school. So she joined.

"It hasn't all come back, but I'm getting to the point where I think I'm playing almost as good as I did back then," she said. Haller, who also plays piano, said the rhythms

and counting came right back to her.

She attended the camp in Sidney, Maine, for two years, where she progressed from a beginner's band to intermediate. She said she enjoyed the camaraderie.

"Returning to an instrument learned in childhood is powerful because it combines memory, discipline and renewed growth," said Jonathan Alpert, a psychotherapist based in New York.

"It strengthens attention, fine motor coordination, and memory pathways while reducing stress and improving mood," Alpert said. "But equally important is the emotional experience of reengaging with something that once required patience and repetition."

The community band Haller plays with is affiliated with the New Horizons International Music Association, a nonprofit that provides entry points for adults to create music, including those who have no musical experience. The organization counts over 200 bands, orchestras and choruses worldwide for 10,000 adult musicians since 1991.

Its philosophy, also adopted by other programs for adult musicians, is "Your best is good enough."

New Horizons also sponsors its own camps, including an "American Music Abroad" trip to the Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary in June, and one near Cincinnati, Ohio, in July.

The programs are popular, said Russ Grazier of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, who has taught at New Horizons camps and is the artistic director of the New England Adult Music Camp.

He notes that the ensemble participation rate for adults over age 60 has doubled from about 150 to 300 people at a local music and arts center he leads. He said he thinks the social connection is key.

"And that's something missing from a lot of people's lives these days," Grazier said. "So any time we have an opportunity to have a space outside of the home where we're connecting with new people and sharing a common interest, it has remarkable benefits for our health and our aging."

Creating lasting memories

Australia's largest tourism B2B event gets underway in Adelaide

CANBERRA, May 12, (Xinhua): The 46th edition of the Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE), the Australian tourism industry's largest annual business-to-business (B2B) event, kicked off on Monday in Adelaide, South Australia.

Running from Sunday to Thursday at the Adelaide Convention Centre, this year's ATE marks the fourth time the city has hosted the event.

"We have more organizations here for buyers and sellers than ever before, and that just gives us a search opportunity and hope for the future sustainable growth of tourism in Australia," said Robin Mack, managing director of Tourism Australia (TA), at the opening ceremony on Monday.

About 730 international buyers and travel agents converged here to meet with 1,400 Australian industry representatives from 674 tourism organizations over the next four days, according to the media release on Monday.

"We are all about giving our Chinese travelers a wonderful experience that they'll remember for a lifetime," Nick Henderson, regional general manager of Greater China at TA, said, adding that for the buyers, based on the needs of the Chinese market, to be able to meet and speak to companies to provide experiences and products that meet the needs of the Chinese market is really important.

The tourism industry contributes significantly to Australia's economy, supporting more than 700,000 jobs and sustaining around 300,000 businesses across the country, said the release.



Delegates explore Australia's showcase at a busy B2B tourism exchange. (Xinhua).

China goes global with AI learning

HANGZHOU, May 12, (Xinhua): China on Tuesday announced the launch of a global AI education service platform during the 2026 World Digital Education Conference in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, aiming to promote cross-border sharing of high-quality educational resources and further integrate AI into education.

The launch comes as part of a broader upgrade to the Smart Education of China, a digital education platform now accessible in around 220 countries and regions. The upgraded platform expands its international services with new features, including a lifelong learning hub and a Chinese language learning community.

The conference, which runs from May 11 to 13, also saw the release of a report outlining China's policy progress and innovative practices in smart education.

CAN completes training program on breast self-examination for high school students

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) campaign, affiliated with the Kuwait Anti-Smoking and Cancer Society, announced the completion of a training program on breast self-examination and the importance of early detection for high school seniors.

Launched in October 2025, the program trained 120 physical education teachers, qualifying them to serve as trainers who will, in turn, educate students throughout the academic year on breast self-examination and early detection. The initiative was implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Dr Al-Saleh explained that since the inception of the program in 2010, CAN has trained more than 1,000 physical education teachers, who have gone on to become certified trainers. For the 2025/2026 academic year, the program aims

to reach over 15,000 high school students, focusing on breast self-examination and the importance of early detection of breast cancer.

The total number of female students trained since 2010 has reached 197,000. The trained students go on to share this knowledge with their families and the wider community, helping to expand awareness beyond the classroom.

He affirmed that the program aims to build a community of women who are aware of cancer diseases, particularly breast cancer.

Dr Al-Saleh expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Education and the Minister of Education for their support and commitment to the continuation of the program.

He also thanked the Girls' Physical Education Technical Guidance Department for its active participation.

Dr Al-Saleh stressed that the training program has contributed to raising recovery rates to over 90 percent.

He also extended his appreciation to all trainers who conducted the courses for teachers, as well as to the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for its support of the program.

MoH launches home IV antibiotic treatment program after discharge

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi issued a ministerial decree establishing and implementing an Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) program for patients after hospital discharge, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The initiative aims to enhance the quality of healthcare and enable stable patients to complete their treatment outside hospital wards.

The Ministry of Health stated that the program allows clinically stable patients to continue their intravenous antimicrobial therapy outside hospitals, within a safe and organized treatment environment.

It stressed that the service will be provided through equipped clinics within hospitals and specialized centers, in addition to home visits carried out according to approved medical protocols, ensuring continuous care and monitoring of patients' health.

The ministry indicated that the program will be supervised by a multidisciplinary medical team comprising specialists in infectious diseases, clinical microbiology, clinical pharmacy, and specialized nursing.

It affirmed that the program supports efforts to rationalize the use of antimicrobials and reduce bacterial resistance to antibiotics, in line with the national strategy.

China builds robust nursing workforce amid healthcare push

BEIJING, May 12, (Xinhua): China reported a 29 percent increase in registered nurses from 2020 to 2025, with the total surpassing 6.06 million by the end of last year, the National Health Commission (NHC) said on Monday.

The number of registered nurses per 1,000 people rose from 3.34 in 2020 to 4.32 in 2025. More than 80 percent hold qualifications at or above college level, according to NHC data.

Over 90 percent of nurses in high-demand and understaffed fields, including rehabilitation, geriatric care, pediatrics, intensive care and infectious disease care, have received specialized training, the commission said.

Nearly 6,000 medical institutions across the country provide more than 60 types of home-based nursing ser-

vices in seven categories, including maternal and infant care, geriatric care, chronic disease management, rehabilitation guidance and hospice care, the commission added.

Looking ahead, the commission said it will continue to strengthen the nursing workforce, improve incentive and support measures for nurses, expand coverage of assisted care services, and enhance access to elderly care services.

In its 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), China aims to accelerate progress toward its goal of building a Healthy China by 2035. The plan calls for providing fairer and more systemic healthcare services to the public and improving overall public health.

Expert urges calm, supportive environment

'Balanced support crucial to student exam success'

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: Psychological and educational consultant Ali Al-Sultan said dealing with students during exam period should be in the form of balanced and realistic psychological support, while avoiding excessive pressure or intimidation.

In a televised interview, Al-Sultan revealed "we are doing this based on two approaches. The first is according to the premise that pressuring students leads to better results and productivity, while the second aims to provide a suitable and supportive environment for students to better perform in exams."

He pointed out that the current academic year came under exceptional circumstances that led to numerous changes.

He said the Ministry of Education dealt with these circumstances in a flexible manner by reducing the curriculum by 30 percent in some subjects, canceling some practical exams like laboratory, computer science and other subjects, while maintaining in-person exams for secondary school students due to their connection to cumulative achievement and the academic future of the students.

He stated that the family is the most important factor in ensuring psychological balance among students during exams. He explained that the family is the real balancing force at this stage. "It is crucial that families stay informed about the plans, exam dates and assessment methods so they can support their children effectively," he asserted.

He clarified that role of the family is not limited to academic monitoring, as it extends to providing psychological and moral support by adopting the policy of downplaying, rather than exaggerating, while avoiding sensationalizing exams in a way that increases the students' stress, especially those in Grade 12.

He stressed the importance of considering individual differences among students and avoiding comparing them to others or imposing expectations that exceed their abilities, warning that excessive pressure can negatively affect performance, concentration and self-confidence.

He added that although the secondary stage is pivotal, it is essential to deal with students in a calm and positive manner, supporting them in subjects they find difficult, whether through institutes or available supplementary resources, without neglecting their extracurricular activities and psychological well-being.

Health

Outbreak grows to 11

Spain reports new hantavirus case in passenger evacuated from cruise ship

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, May 12, (AP): A Spanish passenger evacuated from the cruise ship at the center of a hantavirus outbreak has tested positive for the virus, Spain's health ministry announced Tuesday as the World Health Organization said it has now confirmed 11 cases, including three people from the cruise who died.

The passenger with the new confirmed case of hantavirus was in quarantine in a military hospital in Madrid, where 13 other Spanish nationals evacuated Sunday - who all tested negative for the virus - also are staying.

With the evacuation of all passengers and many crew members completed, the MV Hondius is now sailing back to the the Netherlands, where it will be cleaned and disinfected.

The director of the World Health Organization, who was in Madrid, said all 11 confirmed cases are among passengers or crew of the MV Hondius cruise ship, including three people who died. Nine of the 11 cases have been confirmed as the Andes virus.

"These numbers have changed little over the past week thanks to the governments of multiple countries and partners," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO director general, said.

"At the moment, there is no sign that we are seeing the start of a larger outbreak," he added, "but of course the situation could change, and given the long incubation period of the virus, it's possible we might see more cases in the coming weeks."

Meanwhile, 12 staff members at a Dutch hospital where a hantavirus patient is being treated were told to quarantine after incorrectly handling bodily fluids.

In a Paris hospital, a French woman evacuated from the stricken ship remained in intensive care in stable condition. The French government was holding two new hantavirus emergency meetings Tuesday, the prime minister said.

Health authorities say it's the first hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship. While there is no cure or vaccine for hantavirus, the WHO says early detec-



Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, left, and Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus attend a press conference at the Moncloa Palace in Madrid on May 12. (AP)

tion and treatment improves survival rates.

A total of 87 passengers and 35 crew were escorted from the ship to shore in Tenerife by personnel in full-body protective gear and breathing masks in a carefully choreographed effort that ended Monday night. Remaining crew members then took on supplies and set course for the Dutch port city of Rotterdam, the ship's operator Oceanwide Expeditions said.

Two aircraft arrived in the southern Dutch city of Eindhoven overnight. The first was carrying 19 of the ship's crew and three medics. The Dutch nationals were taken home to quarantine and the others, including 17 crew members from the Philippines, were sent to a quarantine facility set up by Dutch health authorities.

A second plane landed later in Eindhoven chartered by Australian authorities and carrying six Hondius passengers - four Australians, one person from New Zealand and a British national who lives in Australia, according to the Dutch foreign ministry. It said the passengers will remain in quarantine near the airport and continue their journey toward Australia "as soon as possible." Australian authorities did not immediately respond to a request for more details.

Hantavirus usually spreads from rodent droppings and is not easily transmitted between people. But the Andes virus detected in the cruise ship outbreak may be able to spread between people in rare cases. Symptoms - which can include fever, chills and muscle aches - usually show between one and eight weeks after exposure.

WHO chief Tedros has advised that returning passengers should stay in quarantine, either in their homes or in other facilities, for 42 days. He added that WHO cannot enforce its guidance, and that different countries may handle the monitoring of passengers without symptoms in different ways.

Twelve employees at a Dutch hospital where a passenger from the Hondius is being treated have to quarantine for six weeks after improperly handling bodily fluids, Radboud University Medical Center said in a statement Monday night.

The "risk of infection is low" the hospital said, but was requiring the dozen employees to go into preventive quarantine as a "precaution."

The hospital in the eastern city of Nijmegen received a passenger last week from one of the evacuation flights that landed in the Netherlands and the person has since tested positive for hantavirus.

Blood and urine from the patient should have been handled "according to a stricter procedure," the hospital said.

Climate



Pieces of ice move through the sea in Qoornoq Island, near Nuuk, Greenland on Feb. 17, 2025. (AP)

Antarctic sea ice decline driven by ocean heat may speed warming

A rapid decline in Antarctic sea ice since 2015 has been driven by "a cascade of ocean and atmospheric changes" that could accelerate global warming, new research has revealed.

The study found a "triple whammy" of interacting climate processes tipped the Southern Ocean into a new state, which triggered a sudden and dramatic decline in Antarctic sea ice after 2015, said a statement from Australia's University of New South Wales (UNSW) released Monday.

Greenhouse gases and ozone depletion strengthened Antarctic winds, drawing warm, salty water to the surface and releasing heat, triggering a feedback loop that keeps sea ice in a prolonged low state, said Aditya Narayanan, a

visiting research fellow at UNSW Sydney.

Antarctica may now be shifting its state from a buffer against global warming to an amplifier of it, said Narayanan, lead author of the study published in *Science Advances*.

Antarctic sea ice helps "drive the planet's ocean overturning circulation," moving warm surface water poleward and sinking cold, dense water that regulates Earth's climate, he said, adding that sea ice supports a highly productive ecosystem, from algae to krill, whales and penguins.

"What started as a slow build-up of deep-sea heat under the Antarctic sea ice was followed by a strong mixing of water, ending in a vicious feedback cycle where it's too warm to let ice recover," Narayanan said. (Xinhua)

Environment

Venezuela warns of environmental impact from oil spill in Trinidad and Tobago

CARACAS, May 12, (AP): Venezuela says an oil spill that originated in Trinidad and Tobago, two islands just off its coast, had caused serious environmental damage along the coastlines of at least two of its states and in a gulf area near the Caribbean nation.

The extent of the spill was disputed Sunday by the government of Trinidad and Tobago, which said only 10 barrels were spilled and it was contained the same day it was detected May 1.

Venezuela's Foreign Ministry said late Saturday in a letter addressed to the international community that initial assessments found "severe risks" to ecosystems in the states of Sucre and Delta Amacuro and in the Gulf of Paria. It says the spill poses a threat to mangroves, wetlands and the environmental balance of the region.

The Venezuelan government requested information about the incident and the action plan for mitigating and containing the spill, and demanded reparations measures in accordance with international environmental law, the official statement added.

Venezuela didn't say when it first detected the spill or specify how much was spilled.

Trinidad and Tobago's government and the state oil company that detected the spill didn't disclose it until after the complaint by Venezuelan authorities. They said there was initial concern that the "hydrocarbon material could cross the Trinidad/Venezuelan border in the Gulf of Paria." But they added that the spill was quickly contained.



Acting President Delcy Rodríguez smiles, next to US Charge D'affaires Laura Dogu, after signing an agreement to allow Chevron to expand its oil operations in Venezuela, at Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela on April 13. (AP)

Also:

LISBON: Portugal will activate a mechanism to provisionally register abandoned rural land as state-owned when no identifiable owner can be found, as part of the efforts to ensure proper maintenance and wildfire prevention, local media the *Jornal de Negócios* reported Monday.

The measure targets at plots registered in the tax authority's property database but lacking an owner.

Once registered, the management of the land will be handed to Florestal, a state-owned forestry management company operating across 27 municipalities, which may also lease or transfer use of the land to third

parties during the interim period.

Legitimate owners will have 15 years to come forward and reclaim their property before the state registration becomes permanent.

The procedure was created in 2019 following a series of devastating wildfires in Portugal, but was never implemented.

The move now addresses a longstanding challenge to land management in Portugal: a large part of small rural properties has changed hands over generations through inheritance, donations or unregistered sales, leaving many plots effectively abandoned with no traceable owner.

Bangladesh pace storm crushes Pakistan

Nahid unleashes career best five for in final innings

DHAKA, Bangladesh, May 12, (AP): Fast bowler Nahid Rana claimed a five-for as Bangladesh secured a 104-run victory in the first cricket test against Pakistan on Tuesday.

Chasing a target of 268, Pakistan was bowled out 163 for with Nahid registering career-best 5-40 in a stellar display of fast bowling.

In a three-over burst after tea, he dismissed Saud Shakeel, Mohammad Rizwan and Noman Ali in 18 balls, conceding just five runs.

Fellow fast bowler Taskin Ahmed, who took 2-40, gave Bangladesh the first breakthrough when Imam-ul-Haq edged behind for 2.

Two debutants - Azan Awaiz and Abdullah Fazal - stood firm in a repeat of their first innings resistance, sharing 54 runs.

Offspinner Mehidy Hasan, how-

ever, produced an arm-ball to baffle Awaiz, who made 15 following his 103 in the first innings.

Nahid was a bit erratic in his first spell but got into the act with the wicket of captain Shan Masood, leaving Pakistan on 68-3.

Fazal steadied the innings with Salman Agha, but Bangladesh bounced back after the tea break with two wickets in quick succession.

Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam broke through with the wicket of

Fazal who made 66, ending the 51-run partnership before Taskin claimed Salman (21) with a back-of-length delivery with Pakistan at 121-5.

Shakeel and Rizwan gave Pakistan hope again but Nahid returned for his fiery spell with three wickets in three overs. He then wrapped up the Pakistan innings and completed his second five-for by dismissing Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Earlier, skipper Najmul Hossain

Shanto hit 87 as Bangladesh set Pakistan 268 for victory on Day 5. Bangladesh declared its second innings at 240-9 after resuming the day at 152-3 and with an overall lead of 179 runs.

The hosts showed an aggressive intent to set a challenging target with Shanto leading from the front.

After losing Mushfiqur Rahim early to the bowling of Hasan Ali, Shanto struck seven boundaries in his knock before being trapped lbw by left-arm spinner Noman Ali (3-

76).

Mehidy Hasan scored 24 at almost a run-a-ball to take the lead past 250. Hasan Ali (3-52) had Taskin caught by Imam before Bangladesh declared the innings with 76 overs remaining.

Bangladesh was bowled out for 413 in its first innings, before taking a 27-run lead, dismissing Pakistan for 386 with offspinner Mehidy Hasan taking five wickets.

The second test is in Sylhet, starting on Saturday.

Shreyas and Arya hit half centuries

Punjab collapses at crucial stage as Delhi clinches narrow victory

DHARAMSHALA, India, May 12, (AP): Punjab Kings slumped to their fourth consecutive defeat as Delhi Capitals ran down a 211-run target in the Indian Premier League on Monday.

Captain Axar Patel, who didn't bowl in Punjab's innings of 210-5, top-scored for Delhi with 56. David Miller piled on with a 28-ball 51 and the tailenders finished it off to reach 216-7 and win by three wickets with an over to spare.

Former IPL leader Punjab stayed fourth in the standings in the lucrative Twenty20 cricket league. Delhi, which has played one more game, was seventh and still in the playoffs race.

"The cricket we are playing and the players we have, the future is strong," Patel said.

Half-centuries from skipper Shreyas Iyer (59 not out) and Priyansh Arya (56) led Punjab to a challenging total against an all-out Delhi pace attack. Iyer even felt they had 30 more runs than they needed.

Delhi's two premier overseas fast bowlers Mitchell Starc (2-57) and Lungi Ngidi (0-46) were expensive in the powerplay and Starc, who went for 22 in his first over, also leaked runs in his return spell against Cooper Connolly (38) and Suryansh Shedge (21).

It was the three Indian seamers who pulled back Punjab. Aqib Nabi bowled unchanged for his four overs, and Mukesh Kumar and Madhav Tiwari, in his second



Delhi Capitals' captain Axar Patel plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings in Dharamshala, India. (AP)

Twenty20 took three wickets.

Punjab, like Delhi, used only pace bowlers. Delhi's chase was in trouble at 74-4 in the ninth over.

Arsheep Singh bowled his four overs on the trot and claimed two wickets that included Delhi's lead-

ing run-scorer Lokesh Rahul for 9.

But Patel and Miller revived the chase in a 64-run stand and Patel scored his first fifty of the season after getting dropped early in his innings.

"(My) luck changed a little," Patel said. "I was trusting my process

and the runs came."

After Patel and Miller were dismissed, impact player Ashutosh Sharma (24 off 10 balls) and Tiwari (18 off 8), one of the five changes Delhi made, took the game away from Punjab in the death overs.

Sage wins best coach award

Dembélé named Ligue 1's best player again

PARIS, May 12, (AP): Paris Saint-Germain forward Ousmane Dembélé won Ligue 1's player of the season award for the second straight year, despite injuries limiting him to nine league starts.

Dembélé received the award late as a PSG player claimed it for the 10th straight time. Kylian Mbappé won five in a row before joining Real Madrid.

Alexandre Lacazette was the last non-PSG player to win it when playing for Lyon in 2015. The prize was not awarded during the pandemic-shortened 2019-20 campaign.

Dembélé was selected ahead of two PSG teammates: left back Nuno Mendes and tireless central midfielder Vitinha - who spent more than twice as long as Dembélé on the field. Lens winger Florian Thauvin and Marseille forward Mason Greenwood were the other two candidates.

Dembélé started in PSG's league title win last season with 21 goals - level with Greenwood - and went on to win the Ballon d'Or, but made less of an impact this time mainly because of nagging injuries in the first half of the season.



PSG's Ousmane Dembele runs for the ball during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint Germain and Brest in Paris, France. (AP)

But he still managed 10 goals and five assists in 20 league appearances overall as coach Luis Enrique used him and captain Marquinhos more sparingly in Ligue 1. Dembélé played 959 minutes in total compared to 2,369 for Thauvin, who finished with the same number of goals, assists and penalties (two) and 2,008 for Vitinha.

His performances have arguably been more impactful in the Champions League. PSG is aiming for a second straight title after beating Bayern Munich in the semifinals, with Dembélé's early goal in the return leg earning PSG a 1-1 draw and putting it through 6-5 on aggregate.

PSG plays Premier League lead-

ing Arsenal in the final on May 30.

PSG teammate Désiré Doué was voted the league's best young player for the second straight season. The 20-year-old forward's winning goal against Brest on Sunday put PSG on the verge of a record-extending 14th league title.

PSG is six points ahead of second-placed Lens with two games left and with a vastly superior goal difference. PSG only needs a draw at Lens on Wednesday in their rescheduled match to clinch the title.

Pierre Sage won the best coach award for turning Lens into a surprise title contender in his first season in charge and with far less resources than cash-rich PSG.

"Congratulations to Pierre Sage, he deserves to win this trophy because what he's done with Lens is incredible," Luis Enrique said. "It's the first time in my three seasons here that there's been a genuine rival. It's been motivating."

Robin Rissner won the best goalkeeper award for Lens.

Haiti playmaker Melchie Dumornay won best women's player for OL Lyonnes, which is chasing a quadruple this season.

Event unites sport & values

LOYAC Milan Academy Tourney gets underway

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: The second edition of the "AC Milan Kuwait Academy Tournament" gets underway today at 5:00 pm at Nazwa Fields in Bida'a.

LOYAC Sports Executive Director Salman Al-Rashoud said the annual tournament has become a key platform for highlighting successful partnerships and reinforcing a strong sense of community.

He added: "The tournament brings together sport and human values, offering a positive environment full of excitement and team spirit, while strengthening ties between strategic partners, parents, and academy staff in a distinctive sporting setting."

Meanwhile, LOYAC AC Milan Academy General Manager Faisal Al-Haroun said the event reflects the academy's vision of delivering a complete sporting experience.

He said: "We believe sport is a lifestyle, not just competition. This tournament embodies that philosophy by bringing together parents, partners, and staff in a professional and enjoyable environment that promotes communication and



Salman Al-Rashoud, LOYAC Sports Executive Director.

teamwork."

Board member and LOYAC Youth Council member Abdul Latif Al-Nasser also welcomed the continued growth of the tournament and rising participation, stressing its role in promoting a sense of belonging and positive engagement across different segments of society.

He added that the event is distinguished by its vibrant atmosphere and friendly competition, uniting participants in a spirit of fair play and cooperation, aligning with LOYAC's values of teamwork and strong community connections.

Building discipline in youth

Lochte dives into coaching career



In this file photo, Ryan Lochte competes in a men's 200-meter individual medley semifinal heat during wave 2 of the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials in Omaha, Neb. (AP)

NEW YORK, May 12, (AP): Six-time Olympic gold medalist Ryan Lochte has joined the swimming staff at Missouri State, where he will work with the men's and women's programs as an assistant to coach Dave Collins beginning later this summer.

The 41-year-old Lochte won 12 overall medals during four Summer Games, making him one of the most decorated Olympic swimmers in history. He swam competitively at Florida and won 18 long-course world championships and 21 short-course world titles.

"Swimming gave me structure, purpose and a platform to grow not just as an athlete but as a person," Lochte said in a statement. "To now step into a coaching role and pour that experience back into student-athletes is something I take seriously."

Lochte's brilliant swimming career was not without controversy.

In 2016, he claimed to be among four American swimmers who were robbed by armed men in Rio de Janeiro while competing at the Summer Olympics. Later, it emerged that the armed men were actually guards at a gas station where Lochte allegedly vandalized a poster, resulting in an apology from him and a 10-month suspension from USA Swimming

and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Two years later, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency suspended Lochte for 14 months for receiving a "prohibited intravenous infusion" of what he claimed to be vitamins. Lochte had posted a picture of the injection on social media before deleting it.

"It's about more than times and results," Lochte said of his foray into coaching. "It's about helping young men and women build discipline, resilience and confidence that will carry them far beyond the pool. I've lived the highs and the challenges of this sport, and I want to use that perspective to guide them, support them and help them reach their full potential in and out of the water."

Missouri state has long been one of the nation's best mid-major swimming programs. Its men have won 21 conference championships and its women have won 18 of them, and Collins has been voted the conference's top coach on 13 occasions.

"We are very excited to welcome Ryan to the coaching staff," he said. "Beyond his lengthy list of accomplishments as an athlete, Ryan has a work ethic that will translate very well on deck as a coach. When you have the opportunity to bring in one of the best ever in our sport, you do everything you can to make it happen."

Guardiola urges Palace professionalism vs Arsenal

MANCHESTER, England, May 12, (AP): Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola expects Crystal Palace to be "professional" in its team selection against Arsenal on the final day of the Premier League season, when the destination of the title might be decided.

That May 24 match at Selhurst Park comes three days before Palace plays Rayo Vallecano in the Conference League final, leaving open the possibility that Palace manager Oliver Glasner might rest key players ahead of one of the biggest games in his club's 121-year history.

Second-place City is five points behind Arsenal in the Premier League with a game in hand - coincidentally against Palace on Wednesday.

To win the title, City will likely need Arsenal

to drop points against Palace, considering the leaders are heavy favorites to win their other remaining game - at home to already-relegated Burnley on Monday.

Asked Tuesday if he was concerned that Palace might play a weakened team, Guardiola said: "They are so professional, the teams. Crystal Palace will play top against us. We saw Leeds yesterday against Spurs even being out of the relegation battle and (staying) in the Premier League again how they compete."

"We have played here against Aston Villa in the past, or West Ham - (they had) nothing to play and we saw how difficult it was. So I'm pretty sure (Palace) will do their best."

West Ham's controversial loss to Arsenal on Sunday ensured Palace cannot be relegat-

ed.

Glasner said after beating Shakhtar Donetsk last week to reach the Conference League final that it would be "nonsense" for people to criticize him for fielding a weakened lineup against Arsenal.

"I'm not responsible for Arsenal, I'm not responsible for Manchester City, I'm responsible for Crystal Palace," he said, "and I get paid for doing the best things for Crystal Palace and not for City and not for Arsenal."

"Again, I don't know what we're doing yet. Maybe we'll be playing with the same lineup that we'll play against Vallecano ... maybe it feels like the league title is decided on the last day. But at the end, it's a result of 38 matchdays and everybody gets what they deserve."

Best of the Rest

Sanda World Cup opens in Macao: The 11th International Wushu Federation (IWUF) Sanda World Cup held its opening ceremony on Tuesday in China's Macao Special Administrative Region.

Hosted by the IWUF and organized by the Wushu General Association of Macao, the tournament will take place from Wednesday to Friday at the Tap Seac Multipurpose Pavilion in Macao.

According to organizers, the event is expected to draw nearly 60 athletes from 21 countries and regions to compete for a total of 17 gold medals. It features 17 weight categories, including 11 men's divisions and six women's divisions. (Xinhua)

The dream of Hunt family about to become a reality

Chiefs ready to turn over revamped Arrowhead Stadium to FIFA for World Cup

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 12, (AP) — More than three decades ago, Lamar Hunt and his son Clark stood on the field inside Arrowhead Stadium, trying to pitch FIFA on the prospect that their NFL stadium could play host to World Cup games hosted by the U.S. in the summer of 1994.

Their pitch back in 1990 didn't work. Or at the very least, the results took quite a while to come to fruition.

But now, after the Kansas City Chiefs poured millions of dollars into altering their 53-year-old stadium so that it could fit the field dimensions required by soccer's global governing body, the dream of the Hunt family is about to become a reality. Their stadium will host six pool-play games beginning next month, along with a round of 32 match and a World Cup quarterfinal.

"Clark has been keen on really living that legacy, finding a way for Kansas City and Arrowhead Stadium specifically to host World Cup matches," Matt Kenny, the Chiefs' executive vice president of operations and events, said Monday during a stadium tour.

The first match at Arrowhead Stadium will feature defending champion Argentina against Algeria on June 16. Ecuador and Curacao will play the following week, while Tunisia will play the Netherlands and Algeria will face Austria later in pool play.

The two knockout games are scheduled for July 3 and July 11, after which Arrowhead Stadium will revert to a football stadium.

The Chiefs expect to play their first preseason game about a month later. All of the games played in the U.S. will be played in the homes of NFL teams, from MetLife Stadium - the home of the New York Jets and Giants - to Levi's Stadium outside San Francisco and SoFi Stadium outside Los Angeles. But what makes Arrowhead Stadium unique is that it was built in 1972, in a much different era for professional sports, and the notion of hosting soccer



A general view of Arrowhead Stadium as it is rebranded as Kansas City Stadium ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup soccer matches in Kansas City, Mo. (AP)

matches was never a thought.

To accommodate the larger field, several rows of permanent seats were removed from the north sideline, which is where the visiting team is on NFL

game days, and replaced with modular seating for use during the football season. Those seats were then removed again when Arrowhead Stadium began to transition into a soccer venue.

For World Cup purposes, it will be known as Kansas City Stadium. Perhaps an even bigger upgrade came to the playing surface itself. The Chiefs installed an air system beneath the field to help with the quality of the Bermuda grass pitch, which was re-sodded with a different shape crown for the World Cup matches.

"FIFA has some basic requirements in respect to playability. They want consistency with the way the ball bounces. Obviously, the width and the size of the pitch across venues," Kenny said. "It's been the better part of 10 years from the bid to actually executing the matches here, and it's been a massive collaboration."

The work is not quite done. Even with teams due to arrive in only a few weeks - Argentina, England, the Netherlands and Algeria will be based in the area - cranes were still working Monday to remove signage to avoid sponsorship conflicts, and putting up the fanfest, pavilions and other infrastructure that will consume vast areas of Arrowhead Stadium's expansive parking lots.

Don't expect the kind of robust tailgating experience folks are accustomed to seeing in Kansas City, either. The majority of fans will be bussed into Arrowhead Stadiums from satellite parking areas, and only a few thousand parking spots will be made available.

"The challenges were really tied to us understanding exactly what FIFA needed, what we could do to balance our unique situation," Kenny said. "We're hosting a quarterfinal match, so that's a testament to our planning and the work that's been done."

Spurs keep survival hopes alive with gritty draw against Leeds



Leeds United's Joe Rodon, left, and Tottenham's Mathys Tel battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Leeds United in London. (AP)

Tels turns hero to villain

LONDON, May 12, (AP) — Tottenham Hotspur took a small and potentially crucial step toward retaining its Premier League status after drawing at home with Leeds United 1-1.

Spurs, just above the drop zone, moved two points clear of relegation rival West Ham.

Tottenham went ahead in the 50th minute on Mathys Tels' strike.

However, Tels' foul on Ethan Ampadu with 15 minutes left led to a Leeds penalty that was converted by Dominic Calvert-Lewin.

Spurs takes on Chelsea away and Everton at home in their last two games, while West Ham is away at Newcastle before facing Leeds at home on the final day of the season.

One of the two teams will join the already relegated Burnley and Wolves in next season's Championship.

Spurs went into the game on a high after two consecutive victories, but though they

dominated the first half in terms of possession and shots on goal, they didn't break the deadlock until five minutes into the second half.

Pedro Porro's corner kick was cleared to an unmarked Tels, who coolly struck into the far corner of the net from 20 meters out. It was the center forward's first goal since Jan. 7.

Tels turned villain 24 minutes later when his high foot was adjudged to have made contact with Ethan Ampadu's head.

The referee pointed to the spot and Calvert-Lewin, who was denied a first-half penalty after a video review, confidently dispatched the spot kick.

In an edgy last few moments and a remarkable 15 minutes of added time there were no more goals. Spurs will content themselves that their destiny remains in their hands.

"We played a good game but there was big pressure," Tottenham coach Roberto De Zerbi said. "We didn't play calmly. We wanted to win immediately without passes. When you are fighting for relegation you can't play every game calmly."

"Leeds played a good game and we hope they play like that against West Ham in the next game."

Spurs have taken eight out of a possible 12 points since De Zerbi's debut defeat at Sunderland on April 12.

"We deserve to stay up," he said. "We will fight until the end. . . . Even if we had won today it wouldn't have been finished yet."

Hull reached playoff final after second half goals from Mo Belloumi and Joe Gelhardt gave it a 2-0 win over Millwall in London.

Belloumi's 64th-minute strike with his left foot broke the deadlock in the second game of the two-leg affair and Gelhardt made sure with a low shot that squirmed past the Millwall goalkeeper.

The win means Hull have one match to secure a place in the Premier League for the first time since it was relegated in 2017.

Southampton and Middlesbrough drew the first leg 0-0 on Saturday and will play their return tie on Tuesday.

The playoff final is set for Wembley on May 23.

'I'll be ready to make Australia proud'

Sprint sensation Gout to lead Australia world juniors squad

BRISBANE, Australia, May 12 (AP) — Star sprinter Gout Gout has already set an international record faster than Usain Bolt could produce at the Under-20 level, and now he'll get a chance to lower it when he leads Australia's 75-strong squad for world juniors in Eugene, Oregon in August.

"I'm really excited to get out there at World Athletics Under 20s," Gout said in a statement Tuesday announcing Australia's squad for the Aug. 5-9 championships. "It's a great stadium and place to run fast, and I feel confident I'll be ready to step up and make Australia proud."

Gout will compete in the 200 meters - he already holds the under-20 world record in that event - and he'll also be part of Australia's 4x400 relay team.

The 18-year-old sprint sensation was aiming to break the 10-second barrier legally for the 100 meters at the Australian junior titles last month, but he finished just outside the mark. He said his sole reason for racing was just to confirm his spot for the world juniors.

"Obviously, I didn't have the best start, but I came out for the W (win) pretty much," Gout said at the time. "I was waving to my family, fans and a couple of friends . . . the more of a show, the more people who are going to come and watch."

The national junior championships

were held a week after Gout set the under-20 world record time in the 200 that was faster than Bolt's best at that age.

He won the Australian open title in 19.67 seconds on April 12, taking 0.02 off Erriyon Knighton's world under-20 mark of 19.69 set at Eugene, Oregon in 2022. Knighton also ran a 19.49 in 2022, which World Athletics lists as the fastest time ever by an under-20 athlete despite it not being ratified as a record.

It was the first time that Gout had gone under the 20-second mark officially, after a wind-assisted 19.84 last season. Gout previously had the quickest 200 time ever by a 16-year-old, setting an Australian record of 20.06 in 2024.

His time in Sydney last month was better than eight-time Olympic champion Bolt's time of 19.93 in 2004. Bolt was 17 when setting what was then a world junior record and never bettered that time as a teenager.

Gout, who was born in Queensland state to parents from South Sudan, is skipping the July 23-Aug. 2 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in order to compete at the world juniors and to continue his plan to make an Olympic debut at Los Angeles in 2028.

If his meteoric rise continues, Gout could be the face of his hometown Olympics at Brisbane in 2032.



In this file photo, Gout Gout, right, waves while winning the junior 100-meter race at the Australian Athletics Junior Championship in Brisbane. (AP)

Blow for US as Cardoso undergoes ankle surgery

World Cup debutant Curaçao parts with coach amid reports Advocaat could return

WILLEMSTAD, Curaçao, May 12, (AP) — World Cup debutant Curaçao parted company with coach Fred Ruten amid reports Dutch veteran Dick Advocaat is returning to the team he led through qualifying.

The uncertainty around the smallest nation by population ever to qualify for a men's World Cup comes less than five weeks before a testing opening game against Germany in Houston.

Ruten took the job in February after the 78-year-old Advocaat stepped down citing his daughter's health issues.

Under Ruten, the team lost two warmup games in March - against Australia and China, both in Australia - with players reportedly wanting Advocaat back.

"I regret how things unfolded but I wish everyone the best," Ruten said in a statement posted by the Curaçao soccer federation. He previously coached Dutch clubs Twente, PSV Eindhoven and Feyenoord, and Schalke in Germany.

Curaçao is joined by Ghana, Morocco and Saudi Arabia in changing coaches since the World Cup draw in December.

Curaçao is an autonomous territory of about 156,000 people in the Caribbean within the Netherlands kingdom. The team relies almost entirely on players born and raised in the Netherlands.

The team also will play Ecuador in Kansas City and Ivory Coast in Philadelphia at the first 48-team World Cup. The expanded format

gave three extra guaranteed entries to CONCACAF.

Advocaat took his native Netherlands to the quarterfinals at the previous World Cup in the United States, in 1994, and coached South Korea at the 2006 edition in Germany.



In this file photo, Curaçao's coach Fred Ruten watches during their international friendly soccer match against Australia in Melbourne, Australia. (AP)

United States midfielder Johnny Cardoso is set to miss the World Cup because of a right ankle injury that requires surgery.

His Spanish club Atletico Madrid announced the surgery on Monday. The procedure usually requires months of recovery time and the World Cup begins in one month.

Atletico didn't give a timetable for his return. It also didn't immediately say when or where the surgery will take place.

The 24-year-old Cardoso sprained his ankle during training last week.

Spain forward Nico Williams has been diagnosed with a moderate hamstring injury and is expected to be fit in time for the World Cup.

Williams underwent tests after he was substituted before halftime in Athletic Bilbao's 1-0 loss to Valencia in La Liga.

Athletic midfielder Oihan Sancet, who is also looking to be picked for Spain's World Cup squad, was also diagnosed with a moderate hamstring injury. He was replaced in the second half of Sunday's match.

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FC Barcelona player Lamine Yamal holds a Palestinian flag as he celebrates with his team atop a bus after winning the Spanish La Liga title in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait ready for defining night against Svay Rieng in final of Challenge League

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 12: Kuwait will look to make continental history when it meets Cambodia's Svay Rieng in the AFC Challenge League final today at 7:45 pm at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium.

Al "Abyad" is chasing a fourth Asian title, having previously won the AFC Cup three times, while Svay Rieng aim for its first-ever continental crown.

Kuwait reached the final in strong form, topping Group B with seven points after beating Bashundara Kings 2-0 and Al Ansar 3-2, and drawing 1-1 with Al Seeb. It continued its mo-

mentum in the knockout stage, defeating Al Shabab 5-3 in the quarter-finals before edging Murr United 2-1 in the semi-finals.

Under Montenegrin coach Nebojša Jovović, the team has shown consistency and strength, with key players including Mohammed Daham, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Youssef Nasser, Ali Hussein, Fahad Al-Hajeri, Mohsen Falah, Mohammed Marhoon, Mehdi Berrhama, Amr Abdel Fattah, and Yassin Khennissi.

Svay Rieng also impressed on its way to the final, topping Group D with seven points after 3-0 wins over Ezra of Laos and Falcons of Mongolia, and a 2-2 draw with Manila Digger.

In the quarter-finals, it came

from behind to defeat Phnom Penh Crown 2-1, before securing a 3-0 semi-final win over Manila Digger after a 1-1 draw in the first leg.

The Cambodian side is led by Irish coach Matthew MacConkey, who has guided it to a historic first appearance in a continental final.

An Omani refereeing team will officiate the match, led by Qasim Al-Hatmi, assisted by Nasser Al-Busaidi and Hamad Al-Ghafri, with Mahmoud Al-Majrafi as fourth official.

The final will also feature a musical performance by Kuwaiti band Miami, along with entertainment activities and competitions before kickoff, at halftime, and after the match.



In this file photo, Kuwait Club players celebrate after winning a match.

Kuwait at the heart of Gulf sporting unity as Games curtain rises in Doha



Kuwait athletes display the national flag during the opening ceremony of the Gulf Games in Doha.

KUNA photos

Sheikh Al-Nasser congratulates Qatar on successful opening ceremony

DOHA, May 12, (KUNA): The 4th Gulf Games officially opened in the Qatari capital Doha, with Kuwait among the participating nations.

The opening ceremony was declared by Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, President of the Olympic Council of Asia, President of the Qatar Olympic Committee, and Chairman of the Organizing Committee. The Games will run until May 22.

The event was attended by Kuwait Olympic Committee President Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Vice President Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al-Sabah, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sports Bashar Abdullah, and Kuwait Olympic Committee Director General Major General Mohammed Al-Khalifan.

In his address, Sheikh Khalifa bin Khalid Al Thani, head of the Organizing Committee, said that while the event appears to be a sporting occasion, it carries deeper meaning, reflecting the unity of the GCC, shared destiny, common history, and strong bonds among its people.

He highlighted that the Games emphasize the



Sheikh Fahad Al-Sabah attends the Gulf Games opening ceremony, joining regional sports leaders at the official launch of the multi-sport event.

role of sport in strengthening Gulf cooperation, enhancing communication among athletes, federations, and Olympic committees, and boosting the presence of Gulf youth in regional and international competitions. He also noted the ability of GCC countries to successfully host major sporting events.

Kuwait Olympic Committee President Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah congratulated Qatar on the success of the opening ceremony, praising Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad for the excellent organization and warm reception extended to participating delegations. He said the ceremony reflected Qatar's strong organizational capabilities in hosting major Gulf sporting events.

He added that Kuwait remains committed to active participation in Gulf sporting events, reflecting its belief in sport as a bridge for cultural and human connection. He also said Kuwait's participation continues a long tradition of Gulf sports cooperation.

The Games feature competition across 17 sports, including handball, table tennis, athletics, padel, fencing, boxing, taekwondo, karate, swimming, billiards, snooker, 3x3 basketball, shooting, archery, volleyball, equestrian events, and bowling.

Kuwait is taking part in 13 sports with a delegation of 123 male and female athletes.

The ceremony included artistic performances showcasing the heritage of GCC countries, highlighting maritime and desert traditions, as well as Gulf customs and culture, alongside musical segments celebrating unity and cooperation.

Mitchell ties mark as Cavs even series

OKC sweeps Lakers to seal West finals berth

LOS ANGELES, May 12, (AP): Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, Chet Holmgren made a tiebreaking dunk with 32.8 seconds to play, and the Oklahoma City Thunder swept the Los Angeles Lakers out of the second round of the NBA playoffs with a 115-110 victory in Game 4.

Ajay Mitchell scored 10 of his 28 points in the frantic final period as the Thunder overcame the Lakers' tenacious effort and improved to 8-0 in the playoffs with their toughest victory of the postseason.

LeBron James had 24 points and 14 rebounds in the final game of the unprecedented 23rd season for the top scorer in NBA history, but he missed a driving bank shot with 20 seconds left that would have put the Lakers ahead.

The 41-year-old James has repeatedly said he hasn't decided whether to play next season, so there was no ceremony or momentousness around this game. Instead, the Lakers desperately tried to extend their year, only to lose to Oklahoma City for the eighth time this season.

Austin Reaves scored 27 points before missing a tying 3-point attempt with eight seconds left for the Lakers, who advanced one round farther than almost anybody expected after losing NBA scoring champion Luka Doncic and Reaves to significant injuries a month ago.

Los Angeles still lost six of its final seven playoff games and fell well short of the conference finals for the third straight season.

Oklahoma City faced its first fourth-quarter deficits of the entire playoffs in Game 4 as the Lakers repeatedly refused to fold.

Oklahoma City went 8-0 against the Lakers this season, winning all four regular-season matchups as well - but this one was the toughest. The Lakers took the lead and kept it close down the stretch with big buckets from Reaves and Rui Hachimura, who scored nine of his 25 points in the fourth quarter.

Holmgren's dunk with 2:03 left put the Thunder up 109-103, but Hachimura coolly converted a four-point play. Marcus Smart then drove the lane and hit a layup while being fouled in the final minute, converting a three-point play for a 110-109 Lakers lead.

But Holmgren got the ball inside and triple-pumped for a dunk with 32.8 seconds left, and James missed on his drive. After Gilgeous-Alexander hit two free throws, Reaves missed again, and the Thunder hung on to secure their sixth berth in the Western Conference finals in the last 16 seasons.

The Thunder won the first two games of the series at home by 18 points apiece, and they routed the Lakers 131-108 in Game 3.

Cavaliers 112 Pistons 103

In Cleveland, The Cleveland Cavaliers are back on even footing in their second-round series after Donovan Mitchell's huge second half.

Mitchell tied an NBA playoff mark with 39 points in the final two quarters as he rallied the Cavaliers to victory.

"What a shift, right? Really struggled in the first half and then big-time, second-half performance by Don," Cavaliers coach Kenny Atkinson said.

The home team has won all four games in the series, which shifts to Detroit for Game 5 Wednesday night.

Mitchell matched the mark of Eric "Sleepy" Floyd on a free throw with 27.6 seconds remaining. He had a chance to break the record, set in 1987 when the Golden State Warriors faced the Los Angeles Lakers, but missed his second foul shot.

James Harden had his 40th playoff double-double with 24 points and 11 assists. Evan Mobley had 17 points as Cleveland remained unbeaten at home in six playoff games.

Caris LeVert had a season-high 24 points for Detroit. Cade Cunningham scored 19, the first time he has been held under 20 in 11 playoff games this season, and Tobias Harris added 16.

Pistons coach J.B. Bickerstaff, who takes pride in the physical style his team plays, was not pleased with the free throw disparity. Mitchell had more trips to the foul line (15) than Detroit (12).

Even though Mitchell struggled in the first half and the Cavaliers shot 15 of 38, with most of their shots being 3-pointers, the Cavaliers felt pretty fortunate to be down 56-52 at halftime.

Atkinson's message at halftime was to play with more pace and attack downhill, which opened things up.

Mitchell scored 15 during Cleveland's 24-0 run that went from the last 12 seconds of the first half to the first six minutes of the third quarter. Cleveland trailed 56-52 at halftime before taking control.

The Cavs were 10 of 12 from the field and made three 3-pointers. They also converted five turnovers by the Pistons into nine points.



Oklahoma City Thunder center Isaiah Hartenstein (55) shoots as Los Angeles Lakers center Deandre Ayton (5) defends prior to Game 4 in a second-round NBA basketball playoffs series in Los Angeles. (AP)

Iraq gets FIFA approval for 2 new players

ZURICH, May 12, (Agencies): World Cup-bound Iraq has two new players for possible selection after FIFA approved eligibility for Nashville SC midfielder Ahmed Qasem and Dundee United defender Dario Naamo.

Both comply with FIFA rules for a binding change of national eligibility because of family ties to Iraq. The national team qualified in March for its first World Cup in 40 years despite travel problems during the Middle East conflict.

It's in a tough World Cup group that includes France, Norway and Senegal, who all feature stellar forwards in Kylian Mbappé, Erling Haaland and Sadio Mané.

Iraq coach Graham Arnold previously led his native Australia at the 2022 World Cup and now can pick two more players nurtured in Europe.

The 22-year-old Qasem was born in Sweden and represented that country at youth level through the Under-21s.

He moved to Major League Soccer team Nashville last year from Elfsborg.

The 20-year-old Naamo was born in Finland and was still playing for its

Under-21 team in March.

□ □ □

Lionel Messi was among 55 players named in Argentina's preliminary squad on Monday for the FIFA World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

The 38-year-old leads an attack that also features Inter Milan striker Lautaro Martinez, Atletico Madrid forward Julian Alvarez and Bologna's Santiago Castro.

The list includes several uncapped players, including Boca Juniors defender Lautaro Di Lollo, Castro, Getafe center-back Zaid Romero and River Plate goalkeeper Santiago Beltran.

FIFA has set a June 2 deadline for final World Cup squads.

Argentina will begin its World Cup campaign against Algeria on June 16 before also facing Austria and Jordan in Group J.