



Pages 14-16



Jalal Al-Tabtabaei

KUNA photo

'Human resources basis of sustainable development'

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei affirmed developing the human being is the cornerstone for achieving sustainable development and a more stable and prosperous future, emphasizing that education, culture, and science are key tools for building societies capable of keeping pace with global

changes.

The Ministry of Education stated in a press release on Thursday that Al-Tabtabaei delivered a speech via online video at the 15th General Conference of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO).

Continued on Page 5

Amir congratulates UAE Pres. on 4 years in office

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Thursday to UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on the fourth anniversary of assuming power.

His Highness the Amir praised the UAE's continued development and achievements under Sheikh Mohammad's leadership, affirming the strong historic ties between Kuwait and the UAE and the shared commitment to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

His Highness wished Sheikh Mohammad continued good health and the UAE and its people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on the fourth anniversary of assuming power.

His Highness the Crown Prince praised the UAE's comprehensive development and progress under Sheikh Mohammad's leadership, wishing him continued good health and the UAE and its people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on the fourth anniversary of assuming power.

Kuwait role to maintain stability wins UN praise

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): Kuwait's foreign policy represents a unique model of "firm diplomatic principles" rooted in positive neutrality, a concept established by Kuwait's leadership over decades, said UN Resident Coordinator in Kuwait Ghada Al-Taher.



Al-Taher

Speaking to KUNA on the occasion of the 63rd anniversary of Kuwait's accession to the UN, Al-Taher said Kuwait has emerged as a key player in modern diplomacy through hosting peace negotiations, mediating disputes, and contributing to global humanitarian efforts.

She described Kuwait's admission to the UN on May 14, 1963, as a landmark event that affirmed the country's sovereign voice in international forums and strengthened the protection of its people under international law.

Al-Taher recalled Kuwait's liberation in 1991 as a historic multilateral achievement in which the international community affirmed that the annexation of states by force would not go unpunished, noting that the same principles continue to shape Kuwait's humanitarian positions and support for the Palestinian cause.

She also praised the role of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, representing His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, at the "Summit of the Future" and his address to the UN General Assembly in September 2025, in which he called for reforming the UN and strengthening justice and transparency away from double standards.

Continued on Page 6

Minister revokes licenses of 2 violating pharmacies

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi issued ministerial decrees revoking the licenses of two pharmacies and suspending a third for six months due to serious legal and regulatory violations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decision to revoke the licenses of the two pharmacies was based on their violation of Ministerial Resolution No. 237/2025 concerning the regulations and procedures for licensing private sector pharmacies and distributing medical products. The violations included misuse of the license and the cessation of operations for more than six months without obtaining the ministry's approval.

The decree also included the suspension of the third pharmacy for six months, with temporary administrative closure for selling medications without prescriptions and discrepancies between medication records and actual stock levels.

Continued on Page 5

Amir lauds Kuwait SC head for winning AFC trophy



Pictures taken after winning the trophy



Photos by Rizk Taufiq

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable to Chairman of Kuwait SC Khaled Al-Ghanem congratulating him on the club's AFC Challenge League trophy after beating Cambodia's PKR Svay Rieng 4-3 in the final held at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium.

His Highness the Amir lauded this sports achievement and distinguished performance by Kuwait SC, wishing further progresses for Kuwait's sports on both regional and international levels.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah congratulated Wednesday Chairman of Kuwait SC Khaled

Al-Ghanem on the club's AFC Challenge League trophy after beating Cambodia's PKR Svay Rieng 4-3 in the final held at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium.

In a cable, His Highness the Crown Prince extolled this sports progress and wonderful technical level of Kuwait SC, wishing further achievements for sports in Kuwait.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah congratulated Wednesday Chairman of Kuwait SC Khaled Al-Ghanem on the club's win in the final game of the AFC Challenge League.

PM: Intensify efforts to cut area tensions

'Restore waterways for smooth trade flow'

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Greece on Thursday to participate in the first EU-Gulf Geopolitical and Investment Summit.

His Highness the Prime Minister was received by Kuwait Ambassador to Greece Mohammad Al-Roumi, and members of the embassy.

In a press statement, His Highness the Prime Minister stressed the need to intensify joint diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions in the region, noting that the security of both the Gulf and Europe are closely intertwined.

He also pointed to the importance of coordination on international maritime issues and ensuring the smooth flow of global trade through vital waterways.

His Highness said the summit offers a chance to discuss regional and international challenges, reaffirming Kuwait's support for dialogue, diplomacy, security, stability, and international cooperation to strengthen peace and development.

He added that Kuwait's participation in the summit reflects its commitment to strengthening cooperation and strategic partnerships between GCC countries and the European Union in political, economic, investment, and development fields.



PM Diwan photo

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and his accompanying delegation arrive in Greece.

His Highness the Prime Minister stressed Kuwait's commitment to expanding cooperation with European countries to support mutual interests and sustainable development, highlighting the importance of boosting economic and trade integration, encouraging mutual investments, and exchanging expertise in key sectors, especially energy, technology, and artificial intelligence.



KUNA photo

Kuwait's (Aman) team holds virtual conference with their Omani counterparts.

Kuwait, Oman to bolster crisis & disaster control cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): The National Emergency Management team for establishing a national crisis and disaster management center (Aman) held a coordination meeting via video conference with the Omani National Committee

for Emergency Management.

The meeting comes as part of efforts to enhance cooperation and exchange expertise in crisis management, disaster response, and emergency preparedness.

Continued on Page 6

Kuwait rolls out strategy to fortify family stability, protect kids rights

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): Kuwait has launched its national family protection program 2026-2029, a comprehensive government strategy aimed at strengthening family stability, safeguarding children's rights, and modernizing family-related legislation in line with international standards.

The program envisions a society built on justice and family cohesion through updated laws, integrated digital services, and coordinated efforts among government institutions, civil society, and the

private sector to promote prevention, protection, rehabilitation, and social stability.

Through the program, the government aims to establish a comprehensive, multi-sector national family protection system based on legislative reform, digital justice, community prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration, governance, professional efficiency, and data-driven policy-making.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwaitization in co-op societies in full swing

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi announced the launching of the third phase of the Kuwaitization of supervisory positions in cooperative societies.

This is in compliance with the directives of the political leadership, the Council of Ministers, and Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah to support national talent and empower them to assume supervisory and leadership positions in the cooperative sector.

Al-Ajmi made the announcement in the recent meeting of the Committee for Kuwaitization of Supervisory Positions in Cooperative Societies, with Deputy Director General for Labor Affairs at the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Nasser Al-Humaidi Al-Mutairi, and representatives of the Kuwaitization Committee at the ministry, PAM and Union of Cooperative Societies in attendance.

In a press statement, Al-Ajmi confirmed that the new phase covers 70 vacant supervisory positions in different specializations and job titles in the cooperative societies.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait launches award for 'competent women'

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah announced the launch of the "Kuwait Award for Women's Excellence ... Status and Empowerment" under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister, coinciding with Kuwaiti Women's Day on May 16.



Dr Al-Huwailah

This came during a press conference held by Minister Al-Huwailah on Thursday to announce the award.

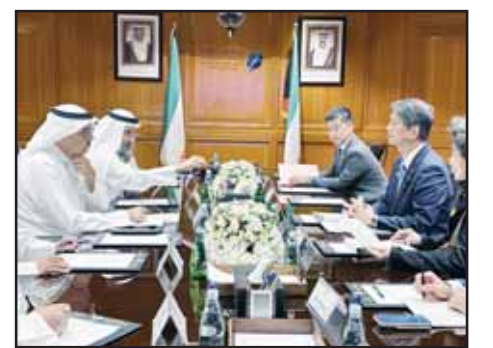
She stressed that this initiative falls within Kuwait's directives to support and empower women, enhancing their role as an active partner in achieving sustainable development in line with the goals of the New Kuwait Vision 2035.

Al-Huwailah noted that the award differs from its peers as it goes beyond well-deserved honoring to broader horizons.

It aims to benefit from the laureates' creativity and pass it on to the new generation to create a positive impact on society.

She noted that it complements national efforts, including the recent approval of the Kuwait Award for the Creativity of Persons with Disabilities.

Continued on Page 5



Japan Embassy photo

The meeting in progress.

Japan, Kuwait talks focus on stable petroleum flow

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: On May 7, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Mr. Yamada Kenji visited Kuwait and held meetings with Tareq Sulaiman Ahmad Al-Roumi, Minister of Oil, and Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

During his meeting with H.E. Minister of Oil, discussions centered on enhancing stable petroleum supplies, and fortifying resilient supply chains. Both sides agreed to further deepen cooperation in the fields of energy and security, particularly in light of the ongoing regional challenges.

In his meeting with the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem expressed appreciation for the long-standing contributions of Japanese expertise into power and water projects in Kuwait, as well as his anticipation for further cooperation under these exceptional circumstances.

The two ministers explored opportunities to further expand Japanese contributions and enhance collaboration in the sector.



2 Israel does not want a stable Middle East



10 Trojan Construction Holding eyes the future with innovation, integration and regional expansion



10 Bloom Holding champions future-ready communities in Abu Dhabi



Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:27 Asr 15:20
 Sunrise .. 04:56 Maghrib .. 18:33
 Zohr 11:44 Isha 20:00



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
 His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah
 His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

Crown Prince, PM extend wishes

Kuwait's HH Amir congratulates Paraguay on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations Thursday to Paraguayan President Santiago Pena on his country's Independence Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed his sincere congratulations and best wishes to the president for continued good health and happiness, and to Paraguay and its people for further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations

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Kuwait pushes for stronger EU partnerships

Amir sends letter to Spain King, Italian PM

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a written letter to the King of Spain Felipe VI, concerning the close historical ties between the two countries and their peoples, and ways to strengthen and develop these relations, in addition to current regional developments.

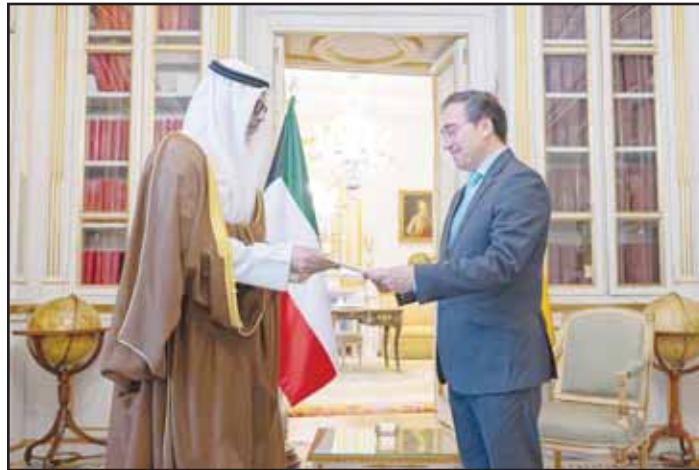
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a press release, said that Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah handed the letter to the Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares during their meeting on Thursday, as part of the Kuwaiti top diplomat's official visit to the Spanish capital, Madrid.

The meeting addressed ways to enhance cooperation between the two friendly countries in various fields, as well as the latest developments on the regional and international scenes.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a written letter to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, concerning the close historical ties between the two countries and their peoples, and ways to strengthen and develop these relations, in addition to current developments in the region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a press release, said that Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah handed the letter to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Antonio Tajani during their meeting on Wednesday, as part of the Kuwaiti top diplomat's official visit to the Italian capital, Rome.

The release added that the meeting addressed ways to enhance cooperation between the two friendly countries in various fields, as well as the latest developments on the regional and international scenes.



His Highness the Amir of the country sent a written message to the King of Spain, which was delivered to him by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir sends a written letter to the Prime Minister of Italy handed over by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Kuwait reaffirms UN commitment

Model of multilateral cooperation

GENEVA, May 14, (KUNA): Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen, affirmed the country's continued commitment to strengthening collective action to confront the existential challenges facing the world.

He emphasized that Kuwait will remain a pillar of humanitarian work, a beacon of peace, and a staunch defender of international law.

This came in a statement Ambassador Al-Hayen made to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Thursday, marking the 63rd anniversary of Kuwait's accession to the United Nations on May 14, 1963.

He said that anniversary is a reminder of an exceptional diplomatic journey through which, Kuwait has forged a unique model of multilateral international cooperation.

He added that joining the UUN was not merely a procedural formality, but rather

a clear declaration of the birth of an international actor that places global stability and human dignity at the forefront of its national priorities.

Ambassador Al-Hayen emphasized that Kuwait's prominent presence in international forums reflects the depth of the wise leadership's political vision in establishing dialogue as the only alternative to conflict and enshrining the concept of preventive diplomacy, which has become a distinctively Kuwaiti hallmark within the halls of the United Nations.

He pointed out that Geneva stands out in this context as a living testament to Kuwait's diplomatic weight, where the Permanent Mission has become a global platform for defending just causes and formulating humanitarian initiatives that transcend geographical boundaries.

Kuwait plays a pivotal and historic role within the Human Rights Council and all specialized organizations, striving to ensure justice and protect fundamental human rights, he pointed out, adding that Kuwaiti diplomacy in Geneva has also succeeded in "building bridges of trust" with specialized international agencies, making Kuwait an indispensable strategic partner in managing major crises and directing logistical and material support to the most affected areas around the world.

He reaffirmed commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations as an integral and inseparable part of Kuwait's national identity.



Al-Hayen

Tribute celebrates Al-Sari' and Al-Fahad

Night of Loyalty honors theater icons

By Fahel Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Bayt Al-Masrah (House of Theater) organized the 'Night of Loyalty' at the Dr. Suad Al-Sabah Theater in Kuwait Writers Association two days ago, in remembrance of those whose works are timeless despite their passing, specifically writer and playwright Abdulaziz Al-Sari' and artist Hayat Al-Fahad.

Friends, admirers and the public rushed to record words and recount memories about the careers of the two departed personalities and their huge contributions to the Kuwaiti cultural and artistic landscape. Speaking at the event, esteemed media personality Amal Abdullah stated that the late Al-Sari' and Al-Fahad were both significant figures. She described Al-Sari' as the 'spiritual father' of Gulf theater and Al-Fahad as his lifelong companion.

She said Al-Sari' was a wise and rational voice, a trusted advisor to all those involved in the arts, while Al-Fahad was the first leading lady in the first play written by the late Saqr Al-Rashoud, titled "Traditions".

Dr. Yousef Al-Sari' pointed out that the two deceased personalities are an important part of the history of art, literature and culture, leaving behind a beautiful legacy that will never be forgotten. He asserted that the late Al-Sari' was a towering figure in theater, literature and culture. He was known for his wisdom and his relationship with artists in and outside Kuwait, in addition to his numerous contributions to radio, television, theater and cinema, as well as his profound vision that accompanied his long career.

Young playwright Othman Al-Shatti stressed that the event is a token of love and loyalty from Bayt Al-Masrah to the pillars of Kuwaiti theater. He affirmed that the organizers were keen on commemorating the most valuable moments and works presented by the two departed figures.

Abdullah Safar presented a sculpture depicting the late writer Al-Sari' and one of his famous plays, "The Rooster is Lost," while Suhaila Al-Attiyah presented works inspired by the famous works of Al-Fahad.



Top & above: Photos during the "Night of Loyalty" event hosted by Bayt Al-Masrah at the Dr. Suad Al-Sabah Theater.

members of its Board of Directors.

Artist Jassim Al-Nabhan stressed that Al-Sari' made fruitful contributions to the Arabian Gulf theater, and his other literary activities made him a luminary in Arab theatrical culture, while the head of Gulf Arab Theater Troupe, artist Maitham Bader, indicated that the two departed figures "remind us of the value of those who leave a lasting legacy after their passing."

Head of the Kuwaiti Union for Artistic and Theatrical Production, Content Creators and Entertainment, media personality and lawyer Khaled Al-Rashed expressed his gratitude to the Kuwaiti Writers Association, headed by Secretary General Abdullah Al-Basis and the

Awqaf Minister, Tajikistan envoy discuss co-op expertise exchange

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi received on Wednesday Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Kuwait and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Dr. Zubaydullo Zubaydzoda.

Both officials discussed ways to enhance cooperation and exchange expertise in a manner that serves mutual interests.

In a statement to KUNA, the Ministry said that the meeting, held on the occasion of the end of the Ambassador's tenure, reviewed aspects of cooperation between the two friendly countries and the ongoing development and collaboration in Islamic affairs and religious work.

According to the statement, Al-Wasmi commended Zubaydzoda's role during his term in supporting and strengthening ties of cooperation between Kuwait and Tajikistan, wishing him continued success in his future endeavors.



Dr. Mohammed Al-Wasmi, discusses with the Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to the country, Dr. Zubaydzoda Zubaydov.

Dar AlMuhama Law Firm strengthens Kuwaiti legal presence at the largest International Intellectual Property gathering in London

LONDON, May 14: In a step reflecting the commitment of Kuwaiti law firms to keeping pace with global developments, Dar AlMuhama Law Firm participated in the 2026 Annual Meeting of the International Trademark Association (INTA), held in London from May 2 to 6. The firm was represented by its Founder and Managing Partner, Attorney Abdulrahman Alhouti. The event brought together more than 10,000 professionals and experts from over 140 countries.

Advancing Intellectual Property Frameworks in the Middle East

Attorney Abdulrahman Al-Houti took an active role in the strategic sessions, most notably a high-level panel held on May 5 titled:

"Advancing Intellectual Property Frameworks in the Middle East: Challenges and Solutions."

The session, moderated by legal consultant Huda Barakat (UAE), examined regional efforts to develop integrated intellectual property protection systems. It featured prominent speakers and decision-makers from across the region, including:

- H.E. Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Muaini – Assistant Undersecretary for the Intellectual Property Sector, UAE Ministry of Economy
- H.E. Prof. Dr. Hisham Azmi – Chairman of the Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority (EIPA)



Al-Houti

■ Mr. Turki M. Bin Salamah – Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP)

Keeping Pace with the Era of Artificial Intelligence

On the sidelines of the conference, Attorney Abdulrahman Alhouti stated that participation in this international forum aims to transfer global best practices to the Kuwaiti legal market, particularly in light of the region's ongoing legislative advancements.

He noted that this year's conference focused on key issues, including the impact of artificial intelligence on intellectual property rights, trademark protection in the digital age, and arbitration in IP disputes – areas that lie at the core of modern legal practice and align with Kuwait's forward-looking development vision.

International Partnerships

The conference also provided Dar AlMuhama Law Firm with the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with leading international law firms and global organizations. These engagements serve the firm's clients and contribute to the development of the intellectual property sector in Kuwait and the wider region.

This participation reflects the firm's commitment to building a strong international network and exchanging expertise with leading professionals in the field, ultimately enhancing the quality of services provided to clients in matters related to trademarks, patents, copyright, and other areas of intellectual property.

Other Voices

Israel does not want a stable Middle East

By Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri

The region's turmoil is not only about Iran's nuclear program, nor merely about sabotaged Omani mediation efforts by Israeli calculations. That is a far simpler interpretation. The real issue is the kind of Middle East Israel wants to reshape.

Despite its public narrative, Israel is not pursuing a genuinely stable regional order. It is creating an environment that guarantees overwhelming Israeli military, technological, economic, and political superiority at the expense of Gulf stability and long-term regional development.

I do not write this to provoke, nor to indulge in conspiracy or ideological hostility. I write it because Gulf security requires intellectual honesty. Criticizing Israel's regional conduct is not hostility toward the United States, nor is it a rejection of diplomacy. It is a refusal to ignore a pattern that is becoming increasingly costly for the region. Some may find this argument uncomfortable. But serious policy analysis cannot be built around avoiding discomfort.

Anyone observing Israeli behavior across Gaza, Lebanon,

Syria, Iran, and even toward states that normalized relations with it, will struggle to honestly describe this as a project built around regional stability. Whenever the region seems to move toward de-escalation, economic openness, or strategic independence, new tensions suddenly emerge that drag it back toward fear, militarization, and dependency.

This matters because countries consumed by war, threats, and perpetual escalation do not become independent economic powers. They do not develop strategic autonomy. They do not emerge as global centers for logistics, tourism, finance, technology, or political influence. Such a stalled transition aligns with Israeli strategic interests.

This is why Gulf states must approach inflammatory narratives, rushed accusations, suspicious incidents, and manufactured psychological pressure campaigns with extreme caution. Modern wars begin by shaping public psychology until escalation appears inevitable.

And perhaps the clearest lesson of recent years is this: proximity to Israel has not guaranteed protection for anyone, not for those who normalized relations openly, nor for those who quietly opened doors behind the scenes. Some truths are uncomfortable. That does not make them any less true.



Al-Anjeri

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Gulf Arabs know well how to protect their interests

“THERE has been a surge of commentary and criticism from some Arabs directed at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, accompanied by a flood of interpretations and analyses. It seems as though these critics believe the Gulf states are incapable of independent thought, lack intellectual elites of their own and need others to think on their behalf,” columnist Eng. Adel Al-Kharafi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.



Adel Al-Kharafi

“There are always those who accuse the Gulf states of acting in Israel’s interest, citing the fact that several Arab countries have signed agreements with Tel Aviv. What they conveniently overlook is that the Gulf peoples, and some Gulf states in particular, have long upheld the principle of support for the Palestinian cause and were among the first to mobilize assistance for the Palestinian people.

“In response to these accusations, it must first be emphasized that the Gulf region is home to many intellectuals, academic elites, and political figures with deep experience in local, regional, and international affairs. Gulf intellectuals understand their countries’ interests better than anyone else and are fully aware of how to advance Arab and Islamic interests with wisdom and discretion.

“Secondly, these critics failed to understand the Gulf states’ right to defend their land and safeguard their very existence when Iran targeted them from the very first moments of the recent war.

“They focused only on the slogans behind which Tehran concealed its ambitions to undermine the security and stability of the GCC states, while disregarding Arab interests. In doing so, they became a Trojan horse for Iran’s efforts to weaken the Arab world, and what a damaging role they played.

“Thirdly, when faced with a choice between existential national interests and positions driven by demagoguery, wisdom demands that national security take precedence above all else.

“Wisdom has long been a defining characteristic of the Gulf leadership, which adopted a policy of neutrality from the very first moment of the American-Israeli attack on Iran. In fact, Gulf governments refused to allow their territories to be used as bases for American military operations. Yet the Iranian response was one of further escalation and aggression.

“No Arab state stood with the Gulf countries. On the contrary, we were subjected to campaigns of accusation and treason. Is this what solidarity is supposed to look like?

“Fourthly, the Gulf states expected to stand idly by while facing Iranian aggression that targets their infrastructure and national achievements?

“The Gulf leadership has acted with responsibility and wisdom, which is why it has consistently exercised restraint despite repeated provocations and challenges. This should be counted to its credit, not held against it.

“As for the argument regarding the American military bases, it must be remembered that these bases were established after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, at a time when some Arabs failed to support Kuwait’s right to sovereignty and self-determination, with some even siding with the invaders.

“Were we expected to applaud those who occupied our land? And who was it that claimed the road to Jerusalem passes through Kuwait?

“The flimsy arguments used by some Arabs, particularly those who appear on television merely to boast, are easily exposed. Many Gulf citizens have repeatedly explained our position, but some choose only to hear themselves while ignoring the terrorist cells created and supported by Iran that continue to be uncovered throughout the Arabian Gulf states.

“How does this serve either Arab or Islamic interests? We have every right to defend ourselves by all necessary means, especially as Iranian aggression continues on a daily basis.

“The discordant voices emerging from some Arab countries in support of Iran should cease. We know our interests and our societies better than anyone else. Let them focus on resolving their own national crises instead of interfering in ours.”

Also:

“The Strait of Hormuz is one of the most important maritime passages in the world, linking the Arabian Gulf to the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. About one-third of global oil trade passes through it,” Kuwaiti writer Lawyer Abdullah Falah Al-Hajri wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“This unique geographic position has made the Strait of Hormuz a key point in international politics and a strategic asset for the countries bordering it, especially during periods of tension and crisis.

“Its importance is not limited to

being an energy corridor, but also extends to its impact on the global economy. Any threat to close it or disrupt navigation immediately leads to rising oil prices, market instability, and increased concern among oil-importing nations.

“Thus, geography becomes more than a natural location; it turns into a tool of political and economic pressure in regional and international conflicts.

“Over the years, the Strait has witnessed repeated tensions, most notably during periods of escalation between Iran and the United States or amid regional conflicts in the Gulf.

“Each time, the Strait of Hormuz emerges as a major news headline and an important factor in the calculations of major powers, which seek to ensure the flow of energy and protect supply lines.

“The presence of international military bases near the Strait of Hormuz reflects its strategic importance, where multiple global interests intersect, including those of the United States, China, and Europe.

“The Strait of Hormuz is a clear example of how geography can become an active element in international politics and even a bargaining chip used in the game of states. It is not merely a waterway, but a global economic artery and a strategic tool that can influence the course of crises or contribute to their resolution.”

“On Saturday, May 9, Bahrain announced the dismantling of a network composed of dozens of individuals linked to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), who were operating on its behalf inside Bahrain with the aim of undermining national security and destabilizing the country,” columnist Ahmad Al-Dawas wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“This is not the first time Iran has engaged in such activities against Bahrain. Bahrain’s King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa previously ordered the revocation of citizenship from individuals who supported Iranian aggression against the kingdom. Authorities announced the withdrawal of citizenship from 69 individuals, along with members of their families, on charges related to sympathizing with and glorifying hostile Iranian actions.

“The King sharply criticized members of parliament who objected to the citizenship revocations, declaring, “These legislators have only two choices - either offer a sincere apology to the people of Bahrain, or join those with whom they have chosen to align themselves.”

“For years, Iran has attempted to destabilize Bahrain by instigating local opposition movements and the establishment of terrorist cells, not only in Bahrain but also in Kuwait.

“Iran has not stopped there, as it also deploys its terrorist cells throughout the Gulf states. In recent days and weeks, missiles and drones have targeted Gulf countries, resulting in both material damage and human casualties. Despite this, the Gulf states have demonstrated remarkable restraint.

“Had similar attacks occurred against other countries, retaliation would likely have followed immediately. Yet the Gulf states have shown the world that they are peaceful, responsible, and mature nations.

“Iran has undeniably pursued a confrontational regional policy while neglecting its internal conditions and economic challenges, which is a reckless strategy.

“For years, Iran lacked wise advisors capable of offering sound guidance to its leadership, as well as lacked competent economic ministers.

“Look at the dire state of the Iranian people. They have even begun to long for the Shah’s era. Iranians are suffering from poverty, and street crime has risen amid the sharp decline of the Iranian rial against the dollar. Inflation and unemployment have surged, fueling unrest and violence.

“In an article published in the American newspaper “Herald Tribune”, writer Oriza Nader states that Iran’s rulers are less fearful of a military strike from the West than of internal unrest.

“Iran’s Supreme Leader once boasted that, unlike many Arab countries, Iran was strong and stable. However, on June 7, 2017, a suicide attack at the Khomeini shrine, near the tomb of former President Rafanjani, left at least eight people dead. At the same time, gunmen stormed the parliament building, killing seven people, injuring others, and taking hostages.

“This attack represented a strong message, placing immense pressure on the government and challenging its authority. Iran had spent vast sums on interventions in Syria and Yemen, as well as on funding Hezbollah, Hamas, and other armed groups in the Middle East, which fueled public discontent.

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



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

Focus on streamlining co-ops sector, food security system

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah had a meeting with Assistant Undersecretary for Financial, Administrative and Cooperative Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Sayed Issa and Director of the Public Relations and Citizen Services Department at the ministry and Farwaniya Governorate Council member Hanan Al-Gharib in his office on Wednesday.

They discussed several topics of mutual interest, particularly regulat-

ing the cooperative sector, developing the food security system, supporting family affairs, and other matters related to institutional work and ways to better serve the residents in the governorate.

At the end of the meeting, Issa expressed his gratitude to Sheikh Athbi Nasser for the warm reception, and his commitment to strengthen cooperation between government entities and intensify joint efforts to improve social and public services for those residing in the governorate.

2 bids to smuggle drugs foiled

Narcotics sent via mail parcels

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Customs inspectors thwarted two attempts to smuggle narcotics into Kuwait through incoming mail shipments, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Inspectors became suspicious of two packages arriving from the United Kingdom via a shipping company after noticing that the declared contents had been falsified to conceal their true nature.

The General Administration of Customs (GAC) explained in a statement that one of the shipments was labeled as “wax,” but inspection revealed it contained four contain-

ers of a clear, viscous liquid. A sample was taken and sent to the General Department of Criminal Evidence for analysis.

The results confirmed that the liquid contained derivatives of a narcotic substance referred to as “chemical liquid.” The total weight of the seized items was approximately 2,400 grams.

Coordination was made with the Investigation and Search Office to take the necessary legal measures, a seizure report was prepared, and the confiscated items were impounded.

Meanwhile, customs inspectors suspected

a shipment arriving from the United Kingdom that was labeled as washing liquid.

Upon inspection, two containers of a clear liquid were found inside. A sample of the seized material was sent to the forensic department, which confirmed that the substance contained derivatives of “chemical liquid,” weighing approximately 2,200 grams.

Coordination was made with the Customs Investigation and Research Office to carry out investigations to identify the suspects involved. A seizure report was filed and the seized items were impounded.

Worker uses right to appeal MEW order

Court overrules penalty to deduct 7-day salary

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: The Administrative First Instance Court has overturned a decision issued by the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy that penalized an employee by deducting seven days’ pay, along with all associated consequences, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The court affirmed that administrative investigations and their findings do not constitute a final judicial ruling, and that employees have the full right to appeal disciplinary decisions before the Administrative Court if they are flawed or lack a sound legal basis.

According to the case file, the employee was referred to an administrative investigation after being accused of using his personal username to complete a transaction at the Shuwaikh Residential Center, which resulted in the alteration of electricity and water meter data without payment of outstanding dues. The ministry penalized him by deducting seven days’ pay and referred the matter to the Public Prosecution.

Lawyer Omar Al-Hammadi filed the case on behalf of the employee, arguing that the disciplinary decision was invalid due to a

lack of conclusive evidence.

He insisted that there were fundamental deficiencies in the administrative investigation and that his client was not present at the location of the incident when it occurred.

The court, in its reasoning, highlighted that the case file lacked conclusive evidence proving that the employee had committed the violation, and that the administrative investigation did not fulfill its essential requirements and failed to address basic questions related to the incident.

Jordanian expires in hit and run accident

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: A Jordanian, in his 60s, died in a hit-and-run accident in Hawally.

A security source revealed that the Operations Unit at the Ministry of Interior received information about the accident, which happened on Musa bin Nusair Street in Hawally.

Security patrols and medical emergency teams rushed to the accident site, where they discovered that the victim already succumbed to his injuries.

Legal measures were taken and the body of the victim was transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department.

A case was registered and the concerned authorities have started investigations to establish the circumstances that led to the fatal accident.

Fahaheel Road two lanes closed temporarily – GTD

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: The General Traffic Department announced on Wednesday the closure of the main right lane, the emergency lane, and the entrance leading to Masayel on King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al-Saud Road (Fahaheel Road), opposite Masayel, heading towards Fahaheel, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The closure will be in effect from dawn on May 13 to Saturday, May 16 to allow for necessary road maintenance.

KFF conducts raids: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, carried out an inspection campaign in Shuwaikh Industrial on Wednesday evening to identify buildings violating safety and fire prevention regulations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign resulted in the administrative closure of 44 establishments and the issuance of warnings to 44 businesses for failing to comply with the applicable regulations and safety requirements set by the KFF.

Fake text messages: Text messages received by several citizens and residents on their mobile phones regarding traffic violations requiring payment within three hours are fake and may expose recipients to fraud and scams, reports Al-Anba daily quoting a source from the General Traffic Department.

The source explained that the Ministry of Interior does not send text messages, but rather sends notifications to violators through the Sahel system.

Local banks tighten personal loan rules

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Local banks have begun tightening their credit policies towards residents and non-Kuwaitis by reducing personal loan limits and linking them to end-of-service benefits, reports Al-Rai daily.

Some banks have stopped financing employees in jobs most vulnerable to Kuwaitization or layoffs, particularly in the private sector.

According to informed sources, some banks now stipulate that the loan amount cannot exceed the end-of-service benefit, while others have reduced financing even further. The banks have become more conservative in financing residents, focusing on stable jobs, large companies, and high salaries.

Some banks have raised the minimum acceptable salary to more than KD 500, after some institutions previously financed salaries starting from KD 250 or KD 300.

Exceptions to these conditions may include those in specialized and rare professions, such as medical, engineering, education, and oil sector jobs, which are not affected by Kuwaitization plans in the medium term, in addition to clients with high financial standing and strong credit ratings.

Selling used tires: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, represented by the emergency teams of the Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Department and in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, apprehended an individual who violated the provisions of Ministerial Resolution No. 216/2014 concerning the display, sale, and possession of used or expired tires, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement, the ministry explained that the violator had been displaying, selling, and promoting used car tires, some of which were manufactured more than 24 months ago, through a social media platform. A total of 60 tires were confiscated, a report was filed against the violator, and the necessary legal measures were taken.



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MoFA photo
Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with Italian Defense Minister Guido Crosetto.

FM Sheikh Jarrah meets Italian defense chief

Kuwait, Pakistan hold regional talks

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah discussed with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, over the phone on Wednesday, latest regional developments and ongoing efforts in this regard.

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met on Wednesday with Italian Defense Minister Guido Crosetto during his ongoing official visit to Rome. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral defensive relations and cooperation between both friendly countries and ways to promote and develop them in a way that serves mutual in-

terests, said the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry in a press release.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan received a phone call on Wednesday from Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs at the European External Action Service (EEAS) Olof Skoog.

During the phone conversation, they tackled bilateral relations between the State of Kuwait and the European Union (EU) and ways to promote them across various fields, said the Foreign Ministry in a press release.

Both sides also discussed the EU's support for and solidarity with the State of Kuwait amid ongoing regional developments.

MEW appoints Hayat acting PR, Citizen Services director

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem issued a decision on the appointment of Director of the Maintenance Department in the Control and Monitoring Centers Sector Eng. Fatima Hayat as acting Director of the Public Relations and Citizen Services Department in the Undersecretary Sector in addition to her current duties, effective immediately and until further notice.



Hayat

The newspaper obtained a copy of the decision, whose Article Two stipulates that it takes effect immediately and supersedes conflicting decisions issued earlier.

All the relevant departments at the ministry must implement this decision and notify all concerned parties.

MoSA launches 'new vision' for Jahra popular cafés redevelopment project

Sadu House partnership preserves Kuwaiti identity

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Social Fund for Popular Cafés, announced the launching of a comprehensive project to redevelop the Jahra Popular Café, in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Sadu House Association.

In a press statement, Al-Ajmi disclosed that the main objective of the project is to revitalize popular cafés through a modern approach, which preserves the Kuwaiti iden-

tity and heritage. He said this is part of the development vision to transform these establishments into social, recreational and cultural destinations for diverse segments of society.



Dr. Al-Ajmi

He confirmed the reopening of Al-Shamimari Popular Café within this month, upon completion of extensive renovation works carried out at an accelerated pace

to welcome citizens and residents who frequent popular cafés.

He stated that the development plan includes the renovation and upgrading of public facilities, modernizing infrastructure, and developing

and equipping play areas with modern designs that cater to the needs of families and children.

He also revealed that Sulaibikhat Café underwent major renovation, which was completed in record time -- less than two months, and now continues to welcome visitors.

He said the fund established a new approach based on transparency, fairness and equal opportunity in all investment bids. He explained this is achieved by offering cafés through public auction and officially announcing them in newspapers and on social media. He added the bid box was set up in the building of the fund in Farwaniya and it is monitored by cameras -- a first for the fund.

He confirmed that contracts are awarded based on the criteria that consider the best prices and the quality of services provided to citizens.

He indicated that participation in

the auction requires a valid license and an approved employee file with the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) to ensure seriousness and full compliance with the regulations.

He pointed out that the fund uses a continuous monitoring and oversight system once the contracts are awarded to ensure that investors provide the best services and maintain operational quality in popular cafés.

He added the Board of Directors laid down short and long-term plans to develop the sector, such as carrying out urgent maintenance of public facilities, organizing events without resorting to complete closure, development of Al-Shamimari Café in cooperation with Professor Dawoud Al-Shamimari -- an expert in Kuwaiti heritage, and various maintenance works at Salmiya Café in preparation for its more comprehensive development in the next phase.



KUNA photo
Participants in the training program 'Advanced News Writing' in English.

KUNA ends news writing program

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Media Training Center concluded Thursday its advanced English news writing training program, with the participation of employees from KUNA, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, and the UAE National Media Authority.

The program is part of the center's ongoing efforts to develop media competencies and enhance specialized professional skills across participating institutions.

In a statement, program instructor and Deputy Editor-in-Chief for Foreign Language Bulletins at KUNA, Bader Al-Sharhan, emphasized the importance of English-language news bulletins in conveying official messages to a wide segment of non-Arabic-speaking residents in Kuwait.

He said official media plays a key role in delivering accurate and reliable information related to laws, regulations, and public guidance that individuals need in their daily lives in the country.

Performance evaluations advances

MEW resumes employee transfers, bonuses and GIS system upgrades

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: The Administrative Affairs Department at the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy contacted various sectors at the ministry about the resumption of transfer procedures for employees, say reliable sources from the ministry.

Sources also indicated that the Administrative Affairs Department is continuing its work with various sectors to upload the annual job performance evaluations in preparation for disbursing the outstanding performance bonus to eligible employees.

In another development, Undersecretary of the ministry Dr. Adel Al-Zamel issued a circular for the Planning, Training and Information Systems Sector to review the technical specifications of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for ministry projects.

The circular mandates ministry sectors with access to the GIS systems to update existing assets linked to these systems. It urged the sectors to coordinate with the Planning, Training and Information Systems Sector and to review and adopt the

technical specifications of GIS systems when preparing tender documents and technical studies for projects.

It emphasized the need to include a representative from the Planning, Training and Information Systems Sector, specifically from among those involved in the GIS systems in the initial and final project handover committees.

It also called for the inventory of existing GIS systems, provide the sector with data related to these systems, and coordinate with the sector when setting specifications for equipment used in field surveys during contract preparation and signing. These specifications must be approved by the Planning, Training and Information Systems Sector before a purchase or supply process takes place.

It added that ministry departments must provide the sector with the names and contact information of surveyors and technical draftsmen assigned to field survey projects under their supervision. These individuals must undergo technical competency assessment tests before being appointed under the signed contracts.

It requires the completion of all missing data related to electricity and water networks and assets connected to the GIS, ensuring their operational readiness and integration with the Distribution Management System (DMS), as per the conditions approved by the Planning, Training and Information Systems Sector.



Dr. Al-Zamel



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KUNA photo
Part of the discussion of the association's financial report.

Direct Aid sets KD 74.1 million '26 budget, OKs strategic plan

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): Direct Aid announced Wednesday the approval of its 2026 estimated budget of KD 74.1 million (USD 240 million) during its 26th Ordinary General Assembly meeting for 2025, attended by representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and the external auditor.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Chairman of Board of Directors of Direct Aid Abdulrahman Al-Muhailan affirmed the organization's continued commitment to humanitarian work by implementing sustainable development projects that improve the lives of the most vulnerable communities.

The organization approved its new strategy for 2026-30 under the slogan "Building Empowerment and Benevolence" aimed at strengthening institutional standards, improving service quality, and maximizing the impact of its humanitarian and development programs, he added.

Al-Muhailan noted that Direct Aid has helped more than 13 million beneficiaries across 31 countries, reflecting the trust of donors and the strong support for Kuwaiti charitable work.

He highlighted that the organization achieved a governance score of 99.13 percent, demonstrating its commitment to transparency, accountability, and best practices in charitable work.

Continued from Page 1

'Human resources

The conference, which began yesterday, Wednesday, and concludes today in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation, is being attended by ministers, heads of delegations, and representatives of member states and international organizations.

In his speech, Al-Tabtabaei expressed Kuwait's commitment to active participation in the conference despite current regional challenges, stressing the importance of continued cooperation and coordination among member states.

The world is witnessing rapid transformations and intertwined challenges that impose greater responsibilities on international organizations to develop education, promote innovation, instill values of dialogue and tolerance, and build societies that can adapt to global changes and contribute to a more sustainable and stable future, he stated.

These developments highlight the vital role of specialized international organizations in enhancing knowledge and cultural cooperation, building effective partnerships, supporting stability and development, and promoting dialogue and understanding among people, Al-Tabtabaei added.

He reaffirmed Kuwait's support for ICESCO's strategic directions for 2026-29, which focus on developing education, digital transformation, innovation, institutional governance, international partnerships, and building knowledge societies in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The minister commended ICESCO's growing attention to artificial intelligence (AI), scientific research, youth and women empowerment, preserving cultural and civilizational identity, and promoting peace and social cohesion as essential pillars for a more balanced and sustainable future for the Islamic world.

He underlined the importance of developing joint institutional mechanisms, improving program efficiency, and ensuring financial sustainability to enhance performance and achieve shared objectives of member states.

Al-Tabtabaei confirmed Kuwait's support for efforts to develop the organization's future plans, enhance transparency and governance, expand cooperation and international partnerships, and promote integration among member states to elevate initiatives serving education, sci-

ence, and culture.

Kuwait's MoE continues to develop its educational system and advance digital transformation and innovation in line with Kuwait Vision 2035, which places investment in human capital and building a knowledge economy at the forefront of its development priorities, he noted.

The minister highlighted that, with the support of wise political leadership, the ministry has implemented qualitative initiatives focused on curriculum development, strengthening national identity, capacity building, empowering teachers and learners with future skills, expanding the use of AI and educational technology, and enhancing partnerships with specialized international organizations.

He concluded by expressing his hope that the conference outcomes and recommendations will support development and cooperation among Islamic countries, helping their people achieve a more prosperous and stable future.

Kuwait launches

She added that the award serves as a strategic tool to bolster Kuwait's presence in international forums by highlighting national and regional experiences.

It presents successful, applicable models for international reports, thereby documenting the state's efforts in fulfilling its commitments and enhancing its global standing.

The Minister mentioned that the award will be held every two years on May 16. It will be launched in its first phase at the regional Gulf level as a pilot experience subject to evaluation, paving the way for global expansion.

She indicated that the award aims to achieve two main goals: First, honoring excellence and presenting honorable models of Gulf women's achievements (Status).

Second, empowering the winners by requiring them to present realistic programs and initiatives that enhance the positive impact of their success stories (Empowerment), to include leading change in the new generation.

She pointed out that the award's sub-objectives include improving women's empowerment indicators in Kuwait, launching an electronic platform to present women's initiatives and link them with support entities, as well as establishing a data bank for female competencies to support decision-makers.

Al-Huwailah stated that the award

categories cover excellence in the government, private, and civil society sectors, in addition to individual excellence. She revealed plans to build strategic partnerships with specialized entities to achieve the desired goals.

She also announced the formation of a supreme committee in the coming days to oversee the organization and implementation, with the participation of several concerned bodies.

The committee will set the regulatory frameworks and approve the evaluation criteria, while the Ministry of Social Affairs will handle the coordination and executive supervision.

Concluding the press conference, Al-Huwailah affirmed that the generous patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister for this award is clear evidence of the wise leadership's belief in the role of women as an active partner in leading societal change for the better.

Kuwait rolls

The initiative focuses on legislative reform, digital justice, early prevention of family disintegration, child welfare, domestic violence response, and institutional governance. It includes 83 initiatives implemented by 12 government entities, reflecting Kuwait's shift toward a unified national framework for family protection.

The Supreme Council for Family Affairs contributes five initiatives, including a comprehensive strategy to unify state institutions' family-related efforts, a centralized electronic complaints and referral platform, a national data monitoring center, family-supportive workplace measures, and public awareness campaigns through social media influencers.

The Ministry of Social Affairs is implementing nine initiatives focused on juvenile rehabilitation, social reintegration, support for divorced women and widows, foster care improvements, elderly care services, family and community integration, and professional development for social and psychological specialists.

The Public Authority for Disability Affairs is contributing five initiatives, including expanding employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, priority service offices across state institutions, family support programs, adoption of sign language as an official supportive language, and broader disability rights awareness.

The Ministry of Justice leads with 24 initiatives, including reforms to family laws, expanded e-litigation services, and enhanced family counseling systems, while other agencies contribute programs focused on social care, disability rights, youth rehabilitation, and family support services.

The Ministry of Justice's initiatives include mandatory premarital training, specialized marital guidance systems, professional standards for family counseling, staff training, upgrading visitation centers, constructing model facilities for children and families, establishing an integrated family court complex, and launching national digital surveys to support family policy evaluation and youth awareness regarding marital rights and responsibilities.

The Ministry of Education introduced seven initiatives, including updating K-12 curriculum with family-focused content, monitoring student behavior indicators, and empowering school counselors to provide better preventive and therapeutic care.

The Ministry also introduced school-based behavioral prevention programs, early abuse and neglect referral systems, a national anti-bullying program, and annual student awareness meetings.

The Ministry of Higher Education introduced four initiatives, adding mandatory family courses at Kuwait University, directing community programs toward family awareness, supporting family-focused research, and using university consultation offices to design family protection programs.

The Ministry of Information launched four initiatives, running a national introductory campaign, producing family-focused multimedia content, supporting premarital training media, and partnering with licensed e-news accounts to spread awareness.

Ministry of State for Youth Affairs introduced six initiatives, partnering on behavioral prevention programs, reactivating youth centers, hosting workshops on family values, and launching leadership and community skill programs.

The Ministry of Islamic Affairs launched five initiatives, dedicating a monthly Friday sermon (Khutba) to family topics, hosting lectures on Islamic family upbringing and reconciliation, and running school awareness programs to strengthen family values.

The ministry also added fam-

ily values to Quran and Sunnah memorization circles (Halaqa) and coordinated with Awqaf and Zakat House to fund program projects and assist needy families.

Ministry of Health introduced five initiatives, establishing mental health clinics, offering family counseling, adding family health services to its digital platform, and launching online psychological support and health awareness campaigns.

It also adopted unified child abuse reporting protocols across all facilities and integrated approved complementary medicine into domestic violence treatment plans.

The Ministry of Interior launched five initiatives, exploring the merger of juvenile and community police into a specialized Family Protection Police body, and training security personnel on professional, humanitarian handling of child and domestic violence cases.

The ministry also sought to develop institutional mechanisms for handling family reports and strengthen cross-ministerial coordination for complex family cases.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs introduced four initiatives, aligning the program with international agreements, including its outcomes in Kuwait's periodic international reports, promoting it globally as a national model, and tracking international observations on family issues.

The program emphasized private sector partnerships to develop digital platforms, cybersecurity, AI solutions, and support for childcare, nurseries, disability services, and family centers.

It also highlighted civil society partnerships to conduct field studies, join legislative committees, train volunteers, monitor service quality, publish educational content, and provide psycho-social support.

The Cabinet approved the national family protection program late Tuesday, tasking the Supreme Council for Family Affairs with implementation oversight and submitting progress reports every three months.

Kuwaitization in

He said the online application will be on June 10-24 through the 'Fakhruna' platform of PAM, indicating that this move aims to boost government integration and development employment mechanisms.

He revealed that the available

positions include 17 general managers, 27 deputy managers and 26 department heads, in line with the goal of the ministry to Kuwaitize leadership and supervisory positions and intensify the presence of qualified nationals in decision-making positions in the cooperative sector.

He said the applicants will take online tests at a private university, stressing this is a crucial step prior to the personal interview. He pointed out that this mechanism was proven successful in the previous two phases by providing accurate and fair evaluation criteria that led to the selection of the most qualified and deserving applicants.

He stated that the ministry is implementing a comprehensive plan to nationalize supervisory positions in the cooperative sector based on modern professional standards in digital transformation and administrative governance. He added this will enhance the principles of transparency, integrity and equal opportunity in the selection and appointment procedures.

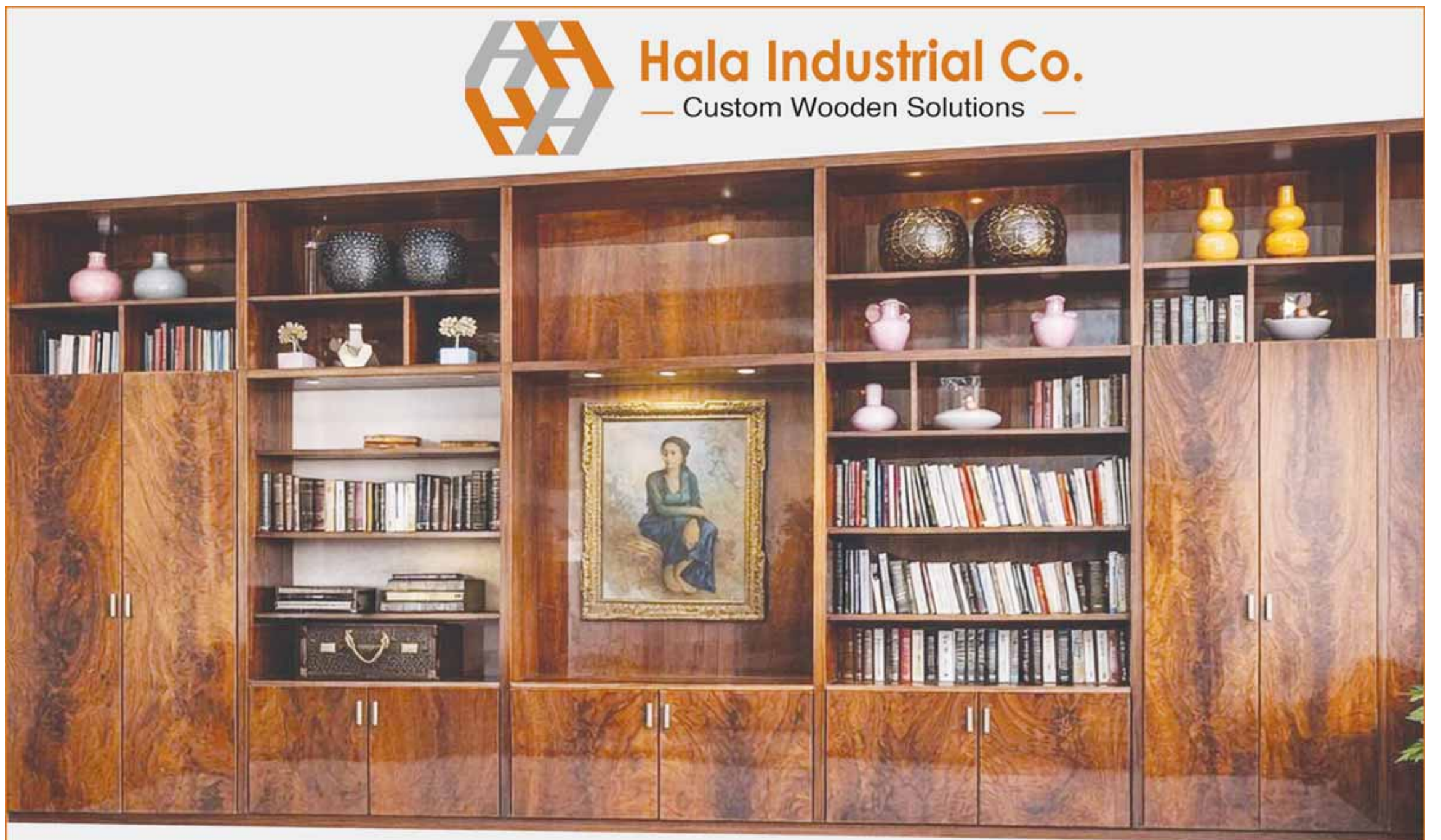
He commended the efforts of the Kuwaitization Committee at the ministry, in cooperation with PAM, particularly in performing their regulatory and supervisory duties to guarantee the integrity of the online application, review and evaluation procedures.

He affirmed that the ministry is working in line with an integrated system aimed at raising the level of administrative efficiency and strengthening the presence of national talent in the cooperative sector, in accordance with the direction of the State toward administrative reform and job nationalization.

He considers the third phase a new step in the development of cooperative work and a manifestation of the commitment of the ministry to continue the implementation of Kuwaitization policies according to modern mechanisms, which ensure equal employment opportunities for citizens and open the way for national talent to be active in the management of cooperative societies.

Minister revokes

The Ministry of Health affirmed its commitment to continuing monitoring and inspection campaigns in various health and pharmaceutical facilities in the private sector and to taking legal action against violators.



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Group photo during the diwaniya gathering in Salwa, bringing together senior sheikhs, dignitaries, and guests in a warm atmosphere that reflects Kuwait's traditions of hospitality, unity, and social cohesion.

Gathering highlights strong tradition of Kuwaiti social cohesion and dialogue

Sheikh Hamad hosts Sheikhs and dignitaries in Salwa Diwaniya



His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nawaf, and Sheikh Hamad Al-Khaled

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed and His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf, along with a number of sheikhs, dignitaries, friends, and regular attendees of the diwan, at his diwaniya in Salwa, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The meeting was characterized by a warm and friendly atmosphere, reflecting the spirit of camaraderie and communication that distinguishes Kuwaiti diwanis.

Sheikh Hamad welcomed the attendees, emphasizing the importance of these social gatherings in strengthening bonds among members of Kuwaiti society and the need to continue the role diwanis play in improving relationships and exchanging views on various public issues.

The large turnout and friendly conversations, marked by affection and respect, reaffirmed the esteemed social position of Kuwaiti diwanis as meeting places for family and friends, reinforcing the spirit of the unified Kuwaiti family.



His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed and Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali



Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf and Sheikh Nawaf Ahmed Al-Nawaf



Sheikh Athbi Al-Athbi, Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber, and Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Al-Nasser



Sheikh Khalid Badr Al-Muhammad and Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali



Sheikh Hamad welcomes Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah



Sheikh Hamad welcomes Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al-Jaber



Sheikh Hamad welcomes Sheikh Fahad Al Jaber

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait role

Al-Taheer noted that a 2026 study described Kuwait's mediation strategy as a unique blend of traditional Arab reconciliation practices and modern diplomacy, enabling the country to exercise influence beyond its geographical size, citing Kuwait's role in restoring Gulf unity during the GCC crisis.

On regional developments, she said the UN Secretary-General had appointed a special envoy to follow negotiations aimed at ending the ongoing war in the Middle East, expressing hope that the current truce would evolve into a lasting peace agreement.

She warned that continued geopolitical crises could undermine years of development gains across the region, adding that closure of the Strait of Hormuz could push more than 30 million people worldwide below the poverty line and disrupt humanitarian aid flows.

Regarding development cooperation, Al-Taheer said Kuwait's "New Kuwait 2035" vision aligns fully with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, revealing that a strategic development agreement between Kuwait and the UN is close to being signed to support state institutions and investment in human capital.

She concluded by expressing deep appreciation to Kuwait's leadership and frontline personnel in the

security, diplomatic, civilian, and humanitarian sectors, saying Kuwait today stands among the UN's most reliable and influential partners and represents a genuine model of multilateralism rooted in international law and shared human values.

Kuwait, Oman

In a statement on Thursday, the team said the discussions focused on developing coordination mechanisms and improving information-sharing between the two sides, as well as reviewing best practices in emergency management and assessing readiness to respond to various types of crises and disasters.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation, exchanging visits and expertise, and further developing crisis and emergency management systems in both countries.

The meeting also explored future joint initiatives aimed at enhancing institutional capabilities in disaster and crisis management in line with rapidly evolving challenges.

The Kuwaiti side was represented by members of the National Emergency Management Center (Aman) team under the Cabinet, while the Omani side was led by the head of the National Emergency Management Centre, Colonel Zayed Al-Jabini, along with his deputy Lieutenant Colonel Mukhtar Al-Alawi.

Honor recognizes his role in promoting Arab culture and dialogue

Oman's Sultan receives ALECSO Arab Cultural Medal

TUNIS, May 14, (KUNA): The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) awarded Tuesday, the Supreme Class of the Arab Cultural Excellence Medal to Haitham bin Tariq, Sultan of Oman.

The medal was received on his behalf by Oman's ambassador to Tunisia, Hilal Al-Sinani, during an official ceremony attended by a representative of the Arab League, heads of Arab and regional organizations, Arab ambassadors, including Kuwait's ambassador to Tunisia, Mansour Al-Omar as well as a number of academics.

In his speech at the ceremony, ALECSO Director-General Mohammad Ould Amar affirmed that granting the ALECSO Arab Cultural Excellence Medal to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq represents a moment of Arab loyalty to a leader who made culture a state project and knowledge a civilizational vision.

Ould Amar praised what the Sultanate of Oman has achieved under the wise leadership of Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, describing it as a civilizational model that combines authenticity and modernity while strengthening the status of culture as a soft power for development and a tool for promoting the values of peace, tolerance, and dialogue.

He noted that this honor is not



Oman's ambassador to Tunisia, Hilal Al-Sinani, received the prestigious Arab Cultural Excellence Medal, which was awarded to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, Sultan of Oman.

limited to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq personally, but rather reflects appreciation for a national and civilizational journey that has reinforced the role of culture in building the future of the Arab people. It also highlights Oman's role in supporting joint cultural efforts, preserving heritage, and promoting dialogue and understanding among people.

He also expressed the organization's appreciation for the support it receives from Oman and its pride in the cooperative relations between the two sides in serving Arab culture

and enhancing its global presence. For his part, Ambassador Al-Sinani stated that awarding the Supreme Arab Cultural Excellence Medal to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq reflects ALECSO's appreciation for the pioneering role he plays in supporting culture and strengthening its position as a pillar of sustainable development and scientific progress.

Al-Sinani added that Oman Vision 2040 has given special attention to the Omani people and their cultural identity, while reinforcing the values of tolerance and civilizational

dialogue. He emphasized that this honor reflects the harmony between Oman's cultural vision and the organization's goals of protecting Arab identity, supporting knowledge and innovation, preserving heritage, and promoting the Arabic language.

During the ceremony, a film was screened highlighting the intellectual and cultural vision of the Sultan of Oman, as well as the achievements realized across Oman and its rich tangible and intangible historical heritage deeply rooted in human history.

KUNA photo

I will fight this with everything I have: Warnock

Louisiana advances plan for House districts as Georgia joins redistricting effort for '28

BATON ROUGE, La., May 14, (AP): Republican senators in Louisiana advanced a plan Wednesday to eliminate one of two majority-Black congressional seats before the November midterm elections while Georgia's governor announced that he will call lawmakers back to work to redraw legislative voting districts for the 2028 elections.

The developments showed the far-reaching ripples of a recent US Supreme Court ruling that struck down Louisiana's congressional map as an illegal racial gerrymander, weakening the protections of the federal Voting Rights Act. The decision has prompted various Republican-led states to try to dismantle districts with large minority populations that have elected Democrats.

Since the court's ruling, Tennessee and Alabama already have acted to implement different House maps that could help Republicans win an additional seat in the November elections, where control of the closely divided chamber is at stake. A similar effort fizzled Tuesday in the South Carolina Senate but may not be over.

The redistricting efforts to undo

minority districts are the latest in a 10-month-long national redistricting battle that already has involved about one-third of the states. It gained steam when President Donald Trump urged Texas Republicans last year to redraw House districts in an attempt to win more seats in the midterm elections. Democrats in California responded with their own new districts. Numerous Republican states have redistricted since then.

Republicans think they could gain as many as 15 seats so far from new House maps in Texas, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Florida, Tennessee and Alabama. Democrats, meanwhile, think they could gain six seats from new maps in California and Utah. The Virginia Supreme Court last week struck down a redistricting effort that could have yielded four more winnable seats for Democrats.

Republican Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp called a special legislative session on redistricting to begin June 17, the day after runoff will settle party nominees for the November elections. Kemp has said he doesn't want to change Georgia's voting districts for this year's elections,



US State troopers remove people from the House gallery during a special session of the state legislature to redraw U.S. Congressional voting maps on May 7, in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

because some ballots already have been cast for Tuesday's first round of primaries.

The governor's proclamation is the first to focus on the 2028 elections since the Supreme Court's

ruling in the Louisiana case. Other states could follow, including Democratic states such as New York that were already looking at ways to enact new legislative districts by the next presidential election.

Dems debate in Iowa Senate primary shaped by big-name endorsements

DES MOINES, Iowa, May 14, (AP): Two Democrats vying to be Iowa's next US senator were scheduled to debate Thursday, as each seeks to convince voters he's better positioned to flip the Republican-held seat in a contest that has seen heavy outside spending and high-profile endorsements.

State lawmakers Zach Wahls and Josh Turek are competing in a June 2 primary. It is one of a few remaining competitive Democratic Senate primaries this year, as the party looks to find the best approach to reclaim the US Senate this fall.

Iowa's Republican Sen. Joni Ernst opted out of a reelection bid, leaving the seat open for the first time since she replaced retiring Democratic Sen. Tom Harkin in 2014. Republican Senate leaders have backed Ashley Hinson, a congresswoman representing northeast Iowa, committing \$29 million for her to help keep their thin majority.

Democrats see an opportunity to flip seats in the once-competitive state, despite President Donald Trump's double-digit win in the last



This combination of file photos shows Iowa State Sen and candidate for the Democratic nomination for US Senate Zach Wahls speaking in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Sept. 11, 2025, left, and Iowa state Rep Josh Turek speaking in Des Moines, Iowa, April 8, 2026, right. (AP)

presidential election and an all-Republican federal delegation. But first they need to settle which federal candidate will be at the top of the ticket. Early voting began Wednesday.

While Wahls and Turek have raised and spent similar amounts, a Democratic political organization, VoteVets, has spent about \$7 million to support Turek in the final stretch of the cam-

aign. That's more than the two candidates have spent combined.

Turek, who is not a veteran, was born with spina bifida after his father's exposure to chemicals while serving in the Vietnam War. The group has said Turek is uniquely positioned to advocate for veterans' services, especially health care and military families.

UK health secretary resigns and expected to challenge Premier Starmer's leadership

LONDON, May 14, (AP): Efforts to unseat British Prime Minister Keir Starmer broke out into open rebellion Thursday, with one potential rival resigning from the Cabinet and another clearing the way for her to enter any future leadership contest.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting became the first senior minister to quit Starmer's Cabinet on Thursday in what is expected to be a precursor to challenging his leadership.

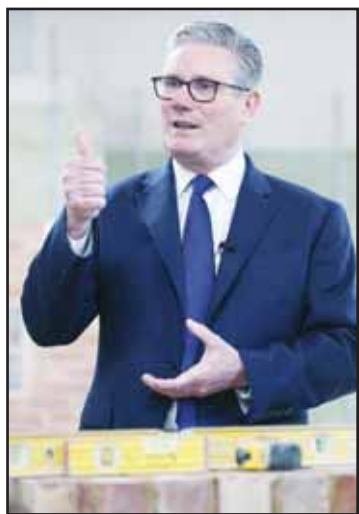
Starmer is facing growing pressure to step down after his Labour Party's disastrous results last week in local and regional elections.

"You have shown courage and statesmanship on the world stage - not least in keeping Britain out of the war in Iran," Streeting wrote in a letter. "But where we need vision, we have a vacuum. Where we need direction, we have drift."

"It is now clear that you will not lead the Labour Party into the next general election," he added.

Streeting, whose political ambitions have long been known, is considered one of a handful of people who could try to unseat Starmer.

Another likely challenger, for-



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer gestures as he meets construction apprentices during a visit to London South Bank Technical College in London on May 12. (AP)

mer Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner, said Thursday that she had reached an agreement with tax authorities to clear up questions about her taxes that forced her to leave the

Cabinet last September. Rayner told the Guardian newspaper that Starmer should "reflect on" his position, adding that she was ready to "play my part" in any leadership election if Streeting were to trigger a contest.

Pressure for Starmer to step aside has intensified since Labour suffered disastrous losses in local and regional elections last week, underscoring voter frustration with a government that has failed to deliver on pledges to boost economic growth and improve living standards for working people.

A stagnant economy and stubbornly high consumer price inflation have made it difficult for Starmer's government to deliver on its promises after winning a landslide election victory less than two years ago.

Starmer has vowed to remain in office, warning lawmakers that any leadership contest would plunge the government into "chaos" at a time it should be focused on issues like the cost of living crisis and war in the Middle East.

His effort to fight off a leadership challenge was bolstered Thursday morning by a rare bit of positive economic news.

French prosecutors push to return Sarkozy to jail for 7 yrs

PARIS, May 14, (AP): French prosecutors on Wednesday asked judges to send former President Nicolas Sarkozy to prison - again - this time for seven years and fine him 300,000 euros (\$330,000) over allegations that the late Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi secretly funded his successful 2007 presidential campaign.

Sarkozy, 71, was sentenced in September 2025 to five years for criminal conspiracy, becoming the first former French president in modern history to be imprisoned.

He served 20 days in Paris' La Santé prison before being released in November under court supervision. He appealed; prosecutors followed, seeking to revive the charges he beat at trial and impose a longer sentence. The appeal runs until early June, with a verdict expected Nov. 30.

The former president has faced multiple corruption cases in recent years, but the Libya case carries by far the heaviest political and symbolic weight, alleging that a foreign dictatorship helped bring a French president to power.

The prosecution Wednesday asked the three judges hearing the appeal to find Sarkozy guilty of corruption, illegal campaign financing and concealing the embezzlement of Libyan public funds - three charges of which he was cleared at his first trial. A separate request would ban him from holding public office for five years.

Sarkozy's lawyer Christophe Ingrain told reporters after the hearing that the prosecution's request was "strictly identical" to what financial prosecutors had unsuccessfully sought at the first trial.



Latvia's Prime Minister Evika Silina arrives for the EU Summit in Ayia Napa, Cyprus, on April 23. (AP)

Latvian PM resigns

Latvian center-right Prime Minister Evika Silina announced her resignation on Thursday, after the Progressives Party, her left-leaning coalition partner, pulled support from the government and left her without a majority.

Her resignation came after Latvia's Defense Minister Andris Spruds, from the Progressives Party, was forced to resign last week over the government's handling of multiple incidents involving stray drones suspected to be from Ukraine crossing into Latvian territory. Silina said at the time Spruds had lost her trust and that of the public.

The drones incidents "clearly demonstrated that the political leadership of the defense sector has failed to fulfill its promise of safe skies over our country," Silina said on Sunday, explaining Spruds' resignation. (AP)

America

Giuliani returns to show: Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani returned to his regularly scheduled show on Wednesday evening for the first time after being hospitalized for viral pneumonia earlier this month.

The 81-year-old opened his conservative talk show, "The Rudy Giuliani Show," with assurances to his audience that he was on the mend - though not yet fully recovered. In early May, Giuliani was in critical condition and placed on a ventilator at a hospital in Palm Beach, Florida.

Reports of his illness were met with an outpouring of support and well-wishes from a range of high profile politicians across the political spectrum.

"I have to thank everyone who sent me prayers and good will," he said. He specifically mentioned his gratitude to his family, the medical staff that tended to him and U.S. President Donald Trump, who Giuliani said called him after he became sick.

"It feels good to be back," Giuliani said before cutting to his first break.

Giuliani was previously hospitalized last September after suffering a fractured vertebra and other injuries in a car crash in New Hampshire.

After Giuliani's eight-year tenure as mayor, which was punctuated by the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001, the longtime Republican politician ran unsuccessfully for president in 2008 and eventually became a personal attorney and adviser to Trump. (AP)



Giuliani

Trump and DeSantis sued: Miami residents sued President Donald Trump, Miami Dade College and Florida state officials on Wednesday, alleging that the decision to donate an iconic stretch of downtown Mi-

ami property for Trump's future presidential library - which might also house a hotel - is unconstitutional.

The lawsuit argues that the president, his presidential library foundation and state officials - including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis - violated the Domestic Emoluments Clause of the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits states from giving a financial benefit to a sitting president.

The White House didn't respond to an emailed request for comment on Wednesday night.

DeSantis moved last September to transfer a 2.63-acre (1.06-hectare) parcel of land to Trump's presidential library foundation. Since then, the president and his son Eric Trump shared extravagant plans for a skyscraper to house the library. An artificial intelligence video unveiled in March includes panning shots of the tower's exterior and interior, with a presidential jet parked in the lobby alongside a gold escalator like the one Trump rode while launching his presidential campaign in 2015. (AP)

Other shots show a giant ballroom like the one he's planning for the White House, a replica Oval Office, rooftop gardens and a large, gold statue of Trump.

The president also suggested that there could be for-profit entities in the building.

"This concept could be an office, but it's most likely going to be a hotel with a beautiful building underneath," Trump said to reporters in March. (AP)

Prosecutors to retry Murdaugh: Alex Murdaugh's murder convictions and life sentence for the deaths of his wife and son were overturned Wednesday by the South Carolina Supreme Court because the court clerk at his trial suggested he was guilty.

But the disgraced lawyer won't be leaving prison anytime soon.

Prosecutors say they plan to retry Murdaugh, which likely means there will be another lengthy trial for the case that because of the combination of money, power, Southern accents and treachery has become a true crime sensation with several streaming miniseries, best selling books and dozens of true crime podcasts. (AP)



Rescue workers clear the rubble of a house heavily damaged after a Russian strike on a residential neighborhood in Kyiv, Ukraine, on May 14. (AP)

Russia hammers Ukraine, flattening apartment block and killing 7: officials

KYIV, Ukraine, May 14, (AP): Russia on Thursday unleashed a third straight day of massive drone and missile attacks on Ukraine, demolishing an apartment building in Kyiv where seven people were killed and dozens injured, authorities said. More strikes elsewhere in the country wounded more than two dozen civilians.

As dawn broke on a clear day in Kyiv, a scene of devastation came into focus in the capital's leafy Darnytsia neighborhood, located between a suburban forest and the Dnieper River. Wisps of smoke rose from the collapsed nine-story apartment block, where emergency workers dug under concrete slabs and took people away on stretchers. The building's entrance was smashed in the strike, preventing residents from escaping.

All 18 apartments in the building were destroyed, officials said. Among the dead was a 12-year-old girl, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. At least 20 people were believed to be missing.



Rescue workers carry an injured woman on a stretcher from a house heavily damaged after a Russian strike on residential neighbourhood in Kyiv, Ukraine, on May 14. (AP)

Ukrainian officials noted that the attack coincided with US President Donald Trump's trip to China. Foreign Minister Andrii Sybha said Trump and Chinese leader Xi

Jinping have sufficient leverage to compel Russian President Vladimir Putin to end his 4-year-old invasion of Ukraine.

"At the very time when leaders of the most powerful countries are meeting in Beijing, and the world hopes for peace, predictability and cooperation, Putin launched hundreds of drones, ballistic and cruise missiles at the capital of Ukraine," Sybha wrote on X.

"Only pressure on Moscow can make him stop," Sybha said of Putin.

Russia fired ballistic and cruise missiles in the attack, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, adding that Moscow had launched more than 1,560 drones against Ukrainian population centers since Wednesday. In all, some 180 sites across the country were damaged, including more than 50 residential buildings, he said.

British Defense Secretary John Healey called Thursday's attack "shocking" and said he had accelerated UK deliveries of air defenses.

Trainer aircraft crash-lands in Maharashtra

India's dust storms and lightning kill 96

LUCKNOW, India, May 14, (Agencies): Dust storms, heavy rain, and lightning damaged homes and other structures and killed at least 96 people in northern India, officials said Thursday.

The storms also injured more than 50 people as they swept across several districts late Wednesday in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

Officials said some deaths were caused by falling trees, collapsing structures and lightning. Police and disaster response teams used chainsaws and cranes to clear fallen trees from roads and railway tracks in several districts.

Storms are common in northern India during the hot season from March to June, before the annual monsoon rains arrive.

Narendra N. Srivastava, an administrative official, said emergency teams were deployed across the affected areas and that homes, crops and power infrastructure were widely damaged, particularly in rural districts.

In Prayagraj district, residents described panic as strong winds tore through neighborhoods.

"The storm came suddenly and the sky turned completely dark within minutes," Ram Kishore said. "Tin roofs were flying and people ran indoors. We could hear trees falling throughout the evening."

In neighboring Bhadohi district,



Relatives and others gather around the body of Summit Yadav, 24, who died after the under-construction roof of his house collapsed following dust storms and heavy rain in Prayagraj, India on May 14. (AP)

Savitri Devi said her family narrowly escaped after strong winds damaged their mud house.

"We rushed outside when the walls started shaking because of the wind. Our roof collapsed moments later. We spent the night at a relative's house," she said.

Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered officials to complete relief operations within 24 hours and directed authorities to provide

compensation and emergency aid to affected families.

Also:

NEW DELHI: A trainer aircraft belonging to a private training academy made a crash landing on Wednesday in the western Indian state of Maharashtra following a technical snag, police said.

A trainee pilot, who was on the aircraft, escaped safely.

Philippine Senator Dela Rosa wanted by ICC flees from Senate, say officials

MANILA, Philippines, May 14, (AP): A Philippine senator wanted by the International Criminal Court for an alleged crime against humanity has fled from the Senate, where he sought refuge to evade arrest, officials said Thursday.

Sen. Ronald dela Rosa's exit from the heavily guarded Senate came after volleys of gunshots were fired Wednesday night by the building's security personnel during an argument with a government agent, sparking chaos that apparently helped the senator to slip out.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. made a late-night TV statement to ask the public to remain calm. A police investigation was underway, including into suspicions that the incident was instigated to provide dela Rosa a cover to escape.

"There is no obstruction of justice," Senate President Alan Cayetano said of dela Rosa's escape while in the Senate's protective custody.

He told a news briefing that he did not see any ICC warrant of arrest against dela Rosa and the senator was free to leave the premises.

Critics, however, said Cayetano and the Senate's security chief should be held responsible for dela Rosa's escape.

Dela Rosa, 64, served as the former national police chief of Rodrigo Duterte, who was president from 2016



Philippine Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano shows the media the cordoned-off corridor at the Senate of the Philippines in Pasay City on May 14 where gunshots were fired, in connection with a senator who was issued a warrant of arrest by the International Criminal Court. (AP)

to 2022. Duterte was arrested in March last year on an ICC warrant for alleged crimes against humanity in connection with deadly anti-drugs crackdowns he launched and for which he is now facing a trial in The Hague.

A warrant unsealed Monday by the ICC charges dela Rosa with the crime against humanity of murder of "no less than 32 persons" between July 2016 and the end of April 2018, when

he led the national police force under Duterte and enforced his bloody crackdowns.

Dela Rosa and Duterte have separately denied authorizing extrajudicial killings although the former president has openly threatened drug suspects with death while he was in office.

Dela Rosa's legal predicament came as political disputes escalated between the Duterte family and Marcos.

Summit focuses on business links

Trump invites Chinese President Xi Jinping for Sept 24 visit at White House

BEIJING, May 14, (AP): China's Xi Jinping warned President Donald Trump on Thursday that the two countries could clash over Taiwan if the issue was not handled properly, an unusually harsh admonition that stood in contrast to the American leader's praise for his counterpart.

The exchange at a highly anticipated summit in Beijing underscored just how far apart Trump and Xi remain on thorny issues, including the war in Iran, trade disputes and Washington's relations with Taiwan, which is self-ruled but which China claims as part of its territory.

It also suggested that Trump's three-day visit to China is likely to be longer on pageantry and symbolism than substantive political or economic breakthroughs.

The pair met for about two hours behind closed doors at the Great Hall of the People after an elaborate welcome ceremony featuring booming cannons, a band playing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and China's

national anthem, and hundreds of school children waving flowers and American and Chinese flags.

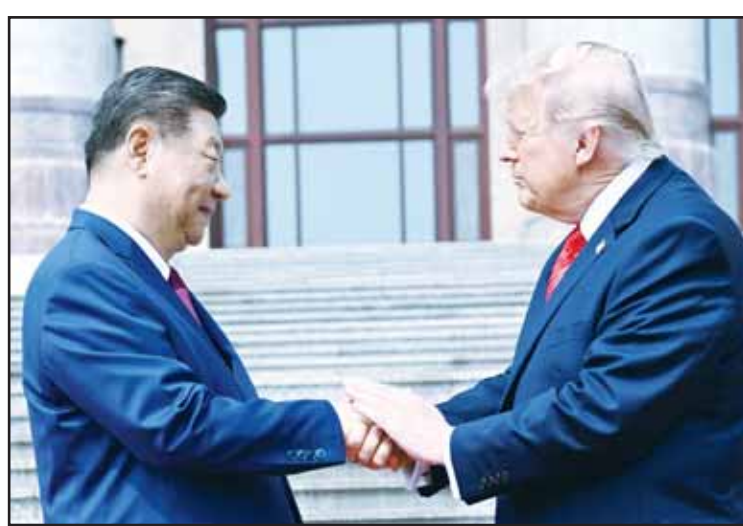
According to a post on X by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning, Xi told Trump that "the Taiwan question is the most important issue in China-US relations."

"If it is handled properly, the bilateral relationship will enjoy overall stability. Otherwise, the two countries will have clashes and even conflicts, putting the entire relationship in great jeopardy," she wrote.

That came after a brief public exchange before the meeting began in which Trump offered platitudes, telling Xi: "You're a great leader. Sometimes people don't like me saying it, but I say it anyway, because it's true."

"It's an honor to be your friend," Trump said before promising that "the relationship between China and the USA is going to be better than ever before."

Xi was far more stark than Trump



Chinese President Xi Jinping, (left), shakes hands with US President Donald Trump at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on May 14. (AP)

in his opening remarks, expressing hope that the US and China could avoid conflict and asking "whether the two countries can transcend the

'Thucydides Trap' and forge a new model for relations between major powers."

That's a term, popular in foreign

policy studies, that refers to the idea that when a rising power threatens to displace an established power, the result is often war. Xi's use of the term as Trump offered optimism was noteworthy and foreshadowed his closed-door comments about Taiwan.

Xi nonetheless struck a more conciliatory tone when describing the overall relationship. "Cooperation benefits both sides, while confrontation harms both," Xi said. "The two countries should be partners rather than rivals."

After their meeting, Xi took Trump on a Tour of Beijing Temple of Heaven, and the pair were planning to attend a state banquet in the evening.

In its summary of what said privately, the White House said the meeting touched on ways to enhance economic cooperation, including expanding market access for American businesses into China and increasing Chinese investment into US indus-

tries. That assessment didn't mention Taiwan directly, but, in relation to Iran, said both sides had agreed that the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial waterway for oil and natural gas, must remain open. The strait's closure has stranded tankers and caused energy prices to spike, threatening global economic growth.

The war and its effects are dominating Trump's domestic agenda and stoking fears about the prospect of a weakening US economy as November's midterm elections - when Republicans will be looking to maintain control of Congress - approach.

Trump also announced that Xi would be making a reciprocal visit to the White House on Sept. 24 - a date not previously announced. Xi's warning about Taiwan reflects China's displeasure with a US plan to sell weapons to the island. The Trump administration has approved an \$11 billion arms package for Taiwan, but has yet to begin fulfilling it.

United States deportations to El Salvador double as Bukele aligns himself with Trump agenda

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, May 14, (AP): The number of people deported to El Salvador from the U.S. nearly doubled in the first months of 2026, according to official figures, coming as Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele has positioned himself as an ally willing to help the Trump administration accelerate deportations, a central priority.

The US deported 5,033 Salvadorans back to their country in the first three months of 2026 compared with 2,547 deportees in the same period in 2025, according to El Salvador migration authority figures obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

That marks nearly a 98% increase at the same time that the Trump administration has boosted deportation flights across the world. Globally, deportation flights from the US jumped around 61% between 2024 and 2025, according to data compiled by the Asociación Agenda Migrante El Salvador, or AAMES, and other organizations.



El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele waves as he departs following a meeting at the White House with US President Donald Trump on April 14, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

The US has stopped regularly releasing deportation data, so experts instead are relying on other informa-

tion from countries like El Salvador, deportation flights and other num-

The sharp increase in deportations "confirms a real hardening of the US immigration system toward the region," said César Ríos of AAMES.

The jump comes as Bukele, a tough-on-crime politician, has sought to align himself with US President Donald Trump, and the US government has lined up allies across Latin America to help him carry out his agenda. While Mexico and other Central American nations have quietly accepted deportees from third countries, Bukele has boldly embraced Trump's efforts in Latin America.

In March 2025, Bukele most notably accepted 238 Venezuelan deportees accused of being members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua and locked them up in a mega-prison built for accused gang members in Bukele's ongoing offensive on El Salvador's gangs. The incident fueled widespread accusations of human rights abuses.

Lat/Am

Sheinbaum denies reports of CIA operations: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum on Wednesday denied a CNN report that the CIA was carrying out deadly operations in Mexican territory, accusing the U.S.-based news organization of attempting to "hurt the government and the people of Mexico."



Sheinbaum

CNN reported Tuesday that the CIA facilitated a targeted assassination of a member of the Sinaloa cartel on a highway outside Mexico City, fueling a firestorm in Mexico. The New York Times later reported that Mexican forces carried out the attack and the CIA provided planning and support.

Sheinbaum called the CNN report a "lie." Asked about the New York Times report during her morning press briefing, she called it "a fiction the size of the universe." (AP)

Brazil Senator Bolsonaro denies wrongdoing: Brazilian Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro denied any wrongdoing Wednesday in his reported request for millions from jailed banker Daniel Vercaro, a revelation that could harm the lawmaker's expected run for the country's presidency in October against Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Earlier, The Intercept Brazil published voice messages of Bolsonaro asking Vercaro, who is at the center of a major corruption scandal, for 61 million reais (\$12 million) to produce "The Dark Horse," a movie that Sen. Bolsonaro says he is making on the life of his father, jailed former President Jair Bolsonaro.

The website said the senator asked for more after the initial amount was paid. (AP)



African Union Commission Chairperson Mahmoud Ali Youssouf and France's President Emmanuel Macron, left, speak during a joint press conference at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on May 13. (AP)

Macron ends Africa trip

French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday concluded his Africa visit with talks in Ethiopia that covered, among other issues, the longstanding question of Africa's representation on the UN Security Council.

Macron held talks with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and later met with African Union Commission Chairperson Mahamoud Ali Youssouf and UN Secretary-General António Guterres, and together they discussed inclusive international governance.

The leaders "recognized the

need for African representation," according to a readout shared from the meeting.

Macron, who visited Egypt, Kenya and Ethiopia during his Africa trip, had called for better representation of Africa in international institutions such as the UN Security Council.

During his opening remarks at the Africa Forward Summit, co-hosted by France and Kenya and held for the first time in an English-speaking country, Macron recognized the need for permanent seats for Africa on the council. (AP)

Bahamas PM declares victory for party in snap election

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, May 14, (AP): Incumbent Bahamian Prime Minister Philip Davis has declared victory for his Progressive Liberal Party, securing a second term in office in a snap election.

A dressing a victory rally in Nassau late Tuesday, Davis said it wasn't just a win for the political party he leads, but also for the entire country.

"To Bahamians who voted today, but did not vote for us, I want you to know I've listened to you, I've heard you and I want you to know that I will continue to work hard for all Bahamians," Davis said, while flanked on stage by his wife, Ann Marie, and senior party officials.

According to local media, the PLP was projected to win more than 30 of the 41 parliamentary



Davis

seats in the Bahamas general election held on Tuesday. Official results were not immediately released.

It is the first time a party has won two straight general elections in that country since 1997.

Earlier, Davis had received a concession phone call from Michael Pintard, who leads the main opposition party, the Free National Movement, or FNM.

Addressing supporters at the FNM's headquarters on election night, Pintard said the voters had spoken and the opposition party had accepted their decision.

"The Bahamian people made their choice, in a democracy that is the only voice that ultimately matters," Pintard said.

Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness and Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley - both less than a year into their new terms in office after being reelected in their respective countries - were among the regional leaders to congratulate Davis on his reelection. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio also congratulated Davis on his win.



Smoke billows after drone strikes by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) targeted the northern port in the Red Sea city of Port Sudan, Sudan on May 6, 2025. (AP)

2 weeks of Sudan clashes kill dozens

Two weeks of intense clashes in southern Sudan have killed over 61 people, including nine children, a local medical group said Wednesday, fighting that is part of the larger war that has gripped the African country since 2023.

According to the Sudan Doctors Network, which monitors casualty tolls in the conflict, the fighting erupted earlier this month between forces linked to the rebel group Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North and the Otoro tribe in the town of Kauda, in South Kordofan. Rebel leader Abdel Aziz al-Hilu,

who commands the SPLM-N, has aligned his fighters with the Sudanese paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, a group that is fighting the Sudanese military.

Sudan's war, now in its fourth year, has left the military in control over the north, east and central regions, including Sudan's Red Sea ports and its oil refineries and pipelines. The paramilitary RSF and its allies control the western Darfur region and areas in the Kordofan region along the border with South Sudan - both regions rich in oil fields and gold mines. (AP)

Kuwaiti oil falls to \$121.77 pb

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by five cents to reach 121.77 per barrel on Wednesday, compared to USD 121.82 pb the previous day, according to the Kuwait Petroleum Cor-

poration (KPC) on Thursday.

In global markets, Brent crude dropped USD 2.14 to reach USD 105.63 pb, and US West Texas Intermediate decreased USD 1.16 to reach USD 101.02 pb.

Business

Despite challenges posed by regional geopolitical conflict

Kamco Invest reports growth in fee income in Q1 and retains its investment grade rating with stable outlook

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced its financial results for the first quarter ended 31 March 2026, impacted by the regional geopolitical conflict. The Company reported growth in fee and commission income and achieved positive total income despite losses recorded in its proprietary investment portfolio.

Furthermore, in its rating review issued today, Capital Intelligence Ratings maintained its Long- and Short-Term Corporate Ratings of Kamco Invest at 'BBB' and 'A3', respectively. The outlook on the ratings remains 'Stable' primarily due to Kamco Invest's leading position in the asset management industry that generates large and normally stable revenue stream and investment banking, closer ownership and cross-selling linkages with Burgan Bank, as well as the Company's strong financial position through its funding and liquidity base.

The first quarter of the year was marked by a sharp deterioration in the macro environment, as escalating regional tensions disrupted global trade flows and investor sentiment. The temporary closure of the Strait of Hormuz, alongside broader supply chain and logistics constraints, created significant uncertainty around energy exports and global growth.

Across the GCC, markets were directly impacted given the region's central role in global energy supply. Disruptions to oil exports, rising input costs, and limited visibility on economic activity weighed on investor confidence and liquidity. Most GCC equity markets declined during the quarter, led by Dubai (10.1%), followed by Bahrain (8.1%) and Kuwait (5.5%), reflecting broadly weaker sentiment across the region.

Despite ongoing geopolitical uncertainty, subdued market sentiment, and a slowdown in business activity, the Company generated KWD3.4mn in fee and commission income, reflecting a slight increase compared to Q1 2025. However, total revenue declined to KWD1.7mn (Q1 2025: KWD6.1mn), primarily driven by unrealized losses on the Company's proprietary investment portfolio, particularly within Boursa Kuwait that dropped by 5.5%. The Company reported net loss of KWD3.3mn (EPS: -9.56 fils) compared to a net profit of KWD1.2mn during the same period in 2025 (EPS: 3.44 fils).

During the quarter, Kamco Invest signed a memorandum of understanding with PGIM, a leading global investment manager, to pursue a strategic partnership that leverages their complementary capabilities and expertise across wealth and asset management.

Kamco Invest continued to strengthen its strategic relationship with Burgan Bank, enhancing client access to a broader and more integrated suite of financial services. Building on this collaboration, both institutions hosted the third edition of their Investment Conference, which has evolved into a flagship thought leadership platform in Kuwait, bringing together prominent stakeholders from across Kuwait and the region to explore global trends and emerging investment opportunities.

Assets under management stood at USD15.9bn as of 31 March 2026. Kamco Invest maintained its ranking amongst the largest asset managers in the MENA region. Furthermore, the Company was recognized by Forbes Middle East among top asset managers in the Middle East for 2026, thanks to its



Sheikh Talal Ali Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah



Faisal Mansour Sarkhou

Talal Al-Ali:

- Our core business fundamentals continued to demonstrate resilience and stability

Sarkhou:

- The strategic partnerships, many already translating into tangible progress, will further strengthen our platform



strong track record and deep expertise in delivering diverse investment solutions to its clients.

Managed equity and fixed income portfolios continued to outperform their respective benchmarks, while the Company's equity funds maintained their

positions amongst the top performing funds in Kuwait and Saudi.

As for Alternative Investments, which covers real estate, private equity and structured products, the team continued to expand and diversify its range of offerings to provide clients with added value. During the quarter, Kamco Invest signed a EUR300mn partnership agreement with Santander Alternative Investments to offer sharia compliant, income generating investment opportunities in the European real estate private debt space to the investment community in the Arabian Gulf region.

The team also initiated capital call activity for the leasing strategy co-managed by Flexam Invest, a New York Life Investment Management company, and successfully completed the third income distribution to clients.

The Investment Banking team continued to advise clients on several transactions across equity capital markets, debt capital markets, and M&A, with deals expected to close during the year. The team played a prominent role in the financial restructuring of Digitus Group, and during the quarter acted as Issuance Manager and Subscription Agent for the capital increase, which was successfully completed with demand exceeding 21 times the shares offered, with an aggregate value exceeding KWD127mn.

First Securities Brokerage Company, Kamco Invest's brokerage arm, continued to strengthen its competitive position and attracted new clients through its online trading platforms.

Kamco Invest - Saudi and Kamco Invest - DIFC continued to strengthen their presence in their respective markets by improving their services and contributing more to the company's core businesses, particularly in asset management. Kamco Invest - Saudi signed a strategic partnership with Badie Investment to establish SAR500mn real estate fund to develop iconic tower along Riyadh's Sports Boulevard.

The Company enjoys a strong financial position, with shareholders' equity attributable to the parent Company of KWD66.0mn as of 31 March 2026.

Commenting on the results, Sheikh Talal Ali Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah, Chairman, said, "Despite the challenging regional geopolitical environment and its impact on market sentiment during the first quarter of 2026, which affected the performance of our proprietary investment portfolio and overall results, our core business fundamentals continued to demonstrate resilience and stability. The reaffirmation of our investment grade credit rating with stable outlook further reflects the strength of our financial position, prudent risk management framework, liquidity profile, and long-term growth prospects."

Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, Chief Executive Officer, commented, "We are encouraged by the continued growth in our fee and commission-based income despite the slowdown in business activity and the challenging operating environment during the quarter. This performance reflects the strength and resilience of our diversified business model, the recurring nature of several of our revenue streams, and the continued trust our clients place in our investment capabilities. The strategic partnerships, many already translating into tangible progress, will further strengthen our platform, expand our access to differentiated opportunities, and enhance the value we deliver to our clients."

EPS at 0.3 fils

KIPCO reports net profit of KD 3.5 million for Q1

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - announced a net profit of KD 3.5 million for the first three months of 2026. Earnings per share for the first quarter were 0.3 fils.

The decrease in KIPCO's overall net profit from KD 5.1 million reported in the first quarter of 2025 is due to the reduced contributions mainly from the banking, industrial and logistic businesses, partially offset by enhanced performance of the oil field services and education sectors.

In the first three months of 2026, operating profit decreased to KD 36.2 million from KD 50.3 million reported for the same period last year.

In the first quarter of the year, KIPCO's total revenue from operations came to KD 375.9 million, down from KD 383.6 million reported in the corresponding 2025 period. Shareholders equity stood at KD 643.9 million compared to KD 644.9 million at the end of 2025.

KIPCO's consolidated assets increased 3.0% to KD 14.2 billion at the end of the first three months of 2026, up from KD 13.8 billion reported at the end of 2025.

Commenting on the results, Sheikh Dana Naser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, KIPCO's Group Chief Executive Officer, said:

"In our recent Annual General Meeting, we noted that in a changing business environment, KIPCO remains focused on re-



Sheikha Dana Naser Al Sabah

- 'KIPCO's disciplined approach has enabled it to maintain stable portfolio performance, while continuing to navigate the implications of regional geopolitical developments'

silience, disciplined execution and long-term value creation for the shareholders across its diversified portfolio. While the quarter was characterized by elevated regional uncertainty, KIPCO's diversified portfolio and disciplined approach enabled it to maintain stable underlying performance, while continuing to navigate the implications of geopolitical developments and their impact on our businesses."

Premier market holds steady

Market dips as Boursa Kuwait closes negative

KUWAIT CITY, May 14, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Thursday's session lower, with the general index slipping 17.61 points, or 0.20%, to close at 8,764.47. Trading involved 543.4 million shares across 28,671 cash transactions, worth KD 108.4 million (about USD 390.2 million).

The main market weakened sharply, falling 82.17 points, or 0.96%, to finish at 8,485.33, on turnover of 414 million shares in 18,068 cash trades valued at KD

60 million (around USD 183.6 million). The premier market eased slightly, down 4.79 points, or 0.05%, to 9,278.67, on 129.3 million shares traded in 10,603 transactions valued at KD 48.4 million (about USD 174.2 million).

In contrast, another index rose 104.98 points, or 1.09%, to close at 9,567.05, with activity of 351.4 million shares across 15,298 cash transactions valued at KD 50.9 million (roughly USD 155.7 million).

Welcome gift of up to KD 1,200 upon salary transfer

Gulf Bank promotes salary packages at Assima Mall

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Over the course of three days, from 14 to 16 May, Gulf Bank organized a special activation at Assima Mall to introduce the benefits of its Salary Packages for Kuwaitis working in the government sector. Customers who transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank can receive a welcome gift of up to KD 1,200, along with a range of exclusive benefits designed to meet their needs and exceed their expectations.

The Bank's booth witnessed strong engagement from visitors, who inquired about the Salary Account benefits and enjoyed the accompanying entertainment activities and competitions. Gulf Bank also took the opportunity to raise public awareness about the risks of financial fraud, as part of its ongoing support for

the "Let's Be Aware" campaign.

The Salary Account provides customers with automatic enrollment in Kuwait's fastest rewards program, enabling them to redeem Gulf Points for cash, or use them to book flights, hotels, and car rentals, in addition to shopping through a first of its kind banking online store.

The benefits also include a personal loan of up to KD 25,000 with a flexible repayment period of up to five years, and a housing loan of up to KD 70,000 with a repayment period of up to 15 years, along with a grace period of up to 24 months. Customers can also benefit from a free safety deposit box for one year and a lifetime credit card. In addition, they can enjoy exclusive discounts at leading car dealerships, with

the option to obtain 0% interest loans at selected dealerships.

These benefits are available to Kuwaitis working in the government, semi government, and oil sectors, as well as newly employed Kuwaitis or employees who transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank, provided that their salary exceeds KD 600. The Bank also offers a special promotion for retirees, with a cash gift of up to KD 500 upon transferring their pension account.

Gulf Bank reaffirmed its commitment to keeping pace with the aspirations of salaried customers and meeting their evolving financial needs by offering some of the most competitive benefits in the banking sector, in line with its ongoing efforts to reward customers and support them in achieving their aspirations.



Group photo of the Gulf Bank team in Assima Mall.

CEO: Bahrain ideal for short breaks, family outings

BTEA launches 'We Are With You' GCC campaign

MANAMA, May 14: The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) has launched a promotional campaign under the slogan, "We Are With You," to solidify the position of the Kingdom of Bahrain as a preferred tourist destination for visitors from other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

The campaign features entertainment, cultural, sporting and family-oriented events and activities. It coincides with various events being hosted by Bahrain like concerts, musical performances, and theatrical productions in collaboration with Bayoun Al Dana Theatre, as well as festivals and entertainment events, such as the Bahrain Summer Festival at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre.



Sara Ahmed Buheji

This is in addition to family and sporting events, and shopping festivals held in major shop-

ping malls, all of which offer a comprehensive tourism experience that combines entertainment, culture and shopping in one destination throughout the campaign period.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BTEA Sara Ahmed Buheji affirmed that the campaign highlights the Kingdom of Bahrain as a destination known for its accessibility and variety of options, making it an ideal choice, especially during weekends and short breaks.

She disclosed that the program includes events suitable for different groups and ages, showcasing the Gulf hospitality for which the Kingdom is known.

She added "we look forward to welcoming our brothers and sis-

ters from other GCC countries to the Kingdom of Bahrain to enjoy a season full of events that bring families and friends together in a vibrant and entertaining atmosphere within a safe environment and advanced tourism infrastructure that provides a comfortable and integrated experience for visitors."

The campaign includes travel packages and accommodation offers in collaboration with hotels and tourism sector partners, along with diverse shopping and entertainment activities.

The aim is to improve services for the visitors and meet the aspirations of Gulf tourists looking for a nearby destination that combines familiarity with innovative experience.

Arab Times interview with Ziad Abdallah

Trojan Construction Holding eyes the future with innovation, integration and regional expansion

By Marlon Aquino Malinao
Managing Editor, Arab Times

ABU DHABI, May 14: From a local contractor founded in 2009 to one of the UAE's fastest-growing construction companies, Trojan Construction Holding has become a major force shaping the region's infrastructure landscape.

In an interview with Arab Times, Ziad Abdallah, CEO of Trojan Property Investment, shared insights into the company's growth journey, the future of Gulf construction, and how technology and sustainability are reshaping the sector.

"What distinguishes Trojan Construction Holding from other major construction firms in the region is our ability to deliver turnkey projects under one roof," Ziad said.

"Trojan Construction Group was established in 2009 as a small construction company. In a short period, we have grown into one of the leading construction companies in the UAE and are now recognized as one of the fastest-growing firms in the region."

Abdallah explained that Trojan's key advantage lies in its integrated business model. "Trojan is essentially a one-stop shop for

construction solutions. We have around nine subsidiaries that allow us to deliver various construction packages in-house, including infrastructure, MEP services, and other major components."

The company also operates its own factories producing key construction materials, strengthening efficiency and quality control.

"This gives us a competitive edge in pricing, project delivery timelines, and quality. Together, these strengths position Trojan as a fully integrated construction company."

Landmark projects across the UAE

Trojan has contributed to several major developments across the UAE, including the Zayed National Museum, Abu Dhabi airport developments, the upcoming Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, and major drainage and bridge infrastructure projects.

Abdallah credited the company's rapid expansion to its leadership and workforce.

"We have built the company on a strong foundation supported by a highly experienced and dedicated team."

He also highlighted the role of Chairman Engineer Mohammad Al Amri, Group CEO Ahmed Al Shamsi, and Deputy Group CEO



Ziad Abdallah, CEO of Trojan Property Investment

Hamad Khan.

"We take great pride in our staff because they are the backbone of our success."

According to Ziad, Trojan has expanded beyond the UAE into Saudi Arabia and parts of Europe, further strengthening its regional

footprint.

Gulf construction boom far from over

Looking ahead, Ziad believes the Gulf construction sector is entering a new phase driven by infrastructure demand, sustainability goals, and advanced technologies.

"There will always be opportunities in this region because demand for infrastructure continues to grow. Today, there is a stronger focus on sustainability and advanced infrastructure development, with many large-scale projects underway."

He added that the next five years could bring even greater expansion across the GCC.

"I believe the construction industry will continue to expand significantly over the next five years, and there is still enormous potential for growth. At Trojan, we want to be part of that growth story."

Embracing AI and robotics

As construction companies worldwide adapt to digital transformation, Trojan is investing in technology-driven solutions to improve productivity and efficiency.

"We are focused on becoming more efficient and enhancing quality standards. At the same time, we are exploring robotics, arti-

ficial intelligence, and other advanced technologies to improve operations."

Ziad believes technology will reshape how projects are delivered across the region.

"Bringing technology into construction will help accelerate project delivery and better support the region's future development."

A family culture driving success

Despite its rapid growth, Ziad said Trojan continues to maintain a strong people-first culture.

"Within Trojan, we work as one family, and I believe that culture is a major part of our success."

As the UAE continues positioning itself as a global hub for infrastructure innovation and smart urban development, Trojan Construction Holding aims to remain at the center of that transformation.

"Our aspiration is to contribute not only to the growth of the UAE economy, but also to the progress of other countries across the region," Ziad said.

Tiny edits, fewer repeated "growth," "region," and "construction" mentions. Humans really do write like they're being paid per adjective sometimes.

Arab Times exclusive interview with Carlos Wakim

Bloom Holding champions future-ready communities in Abu Dhabi

By Marlon Aquino Malinao
Managing Editor, Arab Times

ABU DHABI, May 14: As Abu Dhabi accelerates its transformation into a global model for sustainable urban development, Bloom Holding is positioning itself at the forefront of the emirate's future growth ambitions through the creation of integrated, human-centric communities.

In an exclusive interview with Arab Times, Carlos Wakim, CEO of Bloom Holding, said the company's long-term vision is closely aligned with Abu Dhabi's strategy of building future-ready cities that combine infrastructure, sustainability, and quality of life.

"Abu Dhabi's long-term growth strategy is increasingly focused on creating future-ready, liveable cities that combine infrastructure, quality of life, and sustainable economic growth," Wakim said. "At Bloom Holding, our vision is closely aligned with this direction through the development of integrated, human-centric communities that are designed around how people live today and how cities will evolve in the future."

Wakim noted that the real estate sector is witnessing a clear shift toward mixed-use communities that seamlessly integrate residential, education, wellness, retail, hospitality, and essential community services within a connected environment.

"This is the foundation of our Curated Community Living approach and is reflected in developments such as Bloom Living and Al Metlaa," he said.

According to Wakim, Bloom Holding's focus extends beyond simply delivering real estate projects.

"We are committed to creating environments that enhance the standard of life for residents, support long-term value for investors, and contribute meaningfully to Abu Dhabi's broader urban development agenda," he explained. "We see ourselves as long-term contributors to the emirate's vision for more connected, resilient, and future-ready communities."

Discussing what distinguishes Bloom Holding from other developers in the region, Wakim emphasized the company's commitment to "Curated Community Living," which he described as a holistic approach to community development.

"We do not approach development as the delivery of standalone projects, but as the creation of integrated environ-



Carlos Wakim, CEO of Bloom Holding

ments that support every aspect of daily life," he said.

He explained that Bloom Holding's developments combine residential, educational, hospitality, wellness, retail, landscaping, facilities management, and community services into a unified ecosystem aimed at enhancing convenience, wellbeing, and community interaction.

"This allows us to create destinations that are not only functional and high-quality, but also connected, liveable, and designed for long-term relevance," Wakim added.

He further noted that buyer expectations across the UAE have evolved significantly in recent years, with residents placing greater emphasis on lifestyle, convenience, and overall quality of life rather than simply purchasing a home.

"People are looking beyond the home itself and placing greater importance on convenience, wellbeing, community interaction, and overall quality of life," he said. "Bloom Living is a strong example of this philosophy, designed as a fully integrated destination where people can truly live, connect, and thrive."

Wakim also highlighted the company's long-term operational commitment as a key differentiator.

"Our role does not end at handover; we remain focused on operational quality, service delivery, and maintaining long-term community value," he said. "Our goal is to create communities that enhance the standard of life for residents while delivering lasting value for investors alike."

Leaders preview ADIS 2026 agenda and partnerships

ADPIC brings together Abu Dhabi's infrastructure elite to set the stage for landmark edition of Abu Dhabi Infrastructure Summit

ABU DHABI, May 14: The Abu Dhabi Projects and Infrastructure Centre (ADPIC) held a high-level press conference to unveil the programme for the second edition of the Abu Dhabi Infrastructure Summit (ADIS), bringing together senior government leaders and chief executives from across Abu Dhabi's infrastructure ecosystem to preview a three-day agenda designed to examine the systems, partnerships, and investments shaping the next generation of cities. Taking place from 12 to 14 May 2026 at the International Convention Centre, ADNEC, Abu Dhabi, ADIS 2026 arrives with greater scale, broader reach, and a clear mandate: to move beyond dialogue and deliver.

The briefing was addressed by H.E. Mohamed Ali Al Shorafa, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport, and H.E. Eng. Maysarah Mahmoud Eid, Director General of ADPIC, alongside Bill O'Regan, Group CEO of Modon Holding; Adel Albreiki, CEO of Aldar Projects; Carlos Wakim, CEO of Bloom Holding; and Eid Alobeidli, Director of Musataha and PPP of Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), collectively representing the breadth of Abu Dhabi's infrastructure planning and delivery landscape.

ADIS 2026 is set to convene more than 7,000 industry professionals, 100+ speakers, and 75+ exhibitors spanning the full infrastructure value chain, supported by a broad coalition of public and private-sector partners. The summit comes as ADPIC manages a capital pipeline exceeding AED 200 billion across Abu Dhabi.

Speaking at the press conference, H.E. Mohamed Ali Al Shorafa said: "We are at a pivotal moment globally. Cities are being tested as never before: expanding populations, mounting climate pressures, and rising expectations on urban systems. The question is no longer whether to build. It is how to build well. How to build wisely. Abu Dhabi's answer is taking shape, day by day, through a long-horizon infrastructure commitment anchored in the leadership's vision for responsible, people-centred growth. In less than a year, ADIS has done something rare for a first-edition summit: it has changed how the world sees Abu Dhabi. Not as a city of future promise, but as one already delivering at scale. The platform has gone global, and the world has responded. ADIS is now a central pillar in Abu Dhabi's story on the international stage."

H.E. Eng. Maysarah Mahmoud Eid added: "The Abu Dhabi Infrastructure Summit was designed with a clear mandate: to move beyond dialogue and accelerate delivery. The global community is now not simply watching what Abu Dhabi is building. It is showing up to be part of it. This edition is stronger, broader, and more purposeful than the first, and it will deliver accordingly, with the formalisation of significant new agreements, fresh investment commitments, and delivery milestones, several announced publicly for the first time."

Under the theme "The Urban Evolution: Re-thinking Cities, Redefining How We Live," the three-day summit spans the full arc of urban development, from high-level government vision to the technical and commercial systems that underpin delivery at scale. Sessions cover project delivery, construction innovation, fu-



ADPIC unveils expanded ADIS 2026 agenda.

ture mobility, smart infrastructure, circular construction, and project financing, addressing the priorities defining how cities are planned, built, and sustained for generations.

The programme brings together an exceptional line-up of government and industry leaders. Senior government speakers include H.E. Suhail Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure; H.E. Abdulla Humaid Saif Al Jarwan, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Department of Energy; H.E. Eisa Mubarak Almazrouei Director General, of Infrastructure Development Directorate at DMT; H.E. Abdulla Alblooshi, Director General, Urban Planning & Permits Centre at DMT; H.E. Dr. Abdulla Hamad AlGhafari, Acting Director General, Integrated Transport Centre - Abu Dhabi; H.E. Adel Al Nuaimi, Executive Director of Capital Projects Contractual Affairs Sector at ADPIC; and H.E. Mohamed Al Hosani, Executive Director of Capital Projects Operations at ADPIC.

C-level and senior industry leaders taking to the stage include Mounir Haidar, Managing Director of Jubail Island Investment Company and Co-Founder of LEAD Development; Marc Milesevic CEO of Modon Infrastructure; Khadija Khalifa Mubarak Saif Al Rubaei Acting Executive Director of Capital Projects at ADPIC; Suwaidan Al Dhaheri; CEO of IMKAN Properties; Eng. Ahmed Al Shamsi, Group CEO of Trojan Construction Group; Abdulaziz A Bawazir CEO of Sdeira Group; Amel Chadli, President of Gulf Countries at Schneider Electric; Mulham Ghazi Kheriba, Chief Development Officer of Reportage Group; Hon. Steven Ciobo, Managing Director of Stonepeak; Roberto Avallone, Managing Director of Operating Partners at MGX; Michael Belton, CEO of MERED; Asma Aljassmi, Chief Operating Officer of Aldar Projects; Leonard Rodrigues, Vice President of Cargo Revenue at Etihad Airways; Gurminder, Sagoo, Chief Commercial Officer of Egis; Firas Al Sayegh, Chief Development Officer of LEAD Development; Ali Al Hashimi, Acting Head of Smart Autonomous Vehicle Industry (SAVI) Cluster at ADIO; amongst others

In a significant first for ADIS, the 2026 edition features dedicated sessions developed in partnership with the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), the world's leading representative body for the consulting engineering industry, representing one million professionals and 40,000 firms worldwide. The FIDIC programme addresses procurement,

contract management, and dispute avoidance, featuring a keynote by Prashant Kapila, FIDIC Board Member, and a specialist workshop on managing variations, claims, and risk within live projects.

The partner and exhibitor coalition behind ADIS 2026 reflects the full depth and breadth of Abu Dhabi's urban development landscape, bringing together master developers, contractors, investors, government authorities, energy providers, and technology firms under one roof. Confirmed exhibitors include Modon, Aldar, Bloom, Reportage, Abu Dhabi Housing Authority (ADHA), Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), LEAD Development, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi Mobility (ITC), Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT), Etihad Rail, Hydropower, Sobha Realty, Hassan Allam Holding, Orascom Construction, Bunya Enterprises, Khatib & Alami, Sichuan Transportation Construction Group, Speed House, Trojan Construction, SaaS Properties, Gulf Contractors, Doguş Construction, Concord Stars, China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC), Emirates Stallions Group (RDC Handover), Diamond Sword Commercial Engineers, Efficio International Limited, EXEED Industries, ICON Global Consultants Engineers, Innovo Roads Infrastructure & Marine Works, Collaboration, Management and Control Solutions (CMCS), Vistar FZCO, AKI Group (Gulf Contracting & Landscaping), Nael & Bin HarmalHydroexport (Inter Pipe Factory), Surbana Jurong, Unique Homes Worldwide Properties, representing the global supply chain, investment frameworks, and delivery expertise shaping Abu Dhabi's next generation of infrastructure.

The summit will also feature a dedicated Abu Dhabi Pavilion, showcasing the emirate's integrated approach to urban development and governance through the participation of Environment Agency, Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi Mobility (ITC), and the Department of Municipalities and Transport. The pavilion will present the authorities shaping how Abu Dhabi plans, moves, and sustains its cities in one unified space.

A defining feature of ADIS 2026 is its move beyond the traditional conference format. The summit will include Leadership Roundtables, a series of invite-only, closed-door sessions facilitated under the Chatham House Rule, with participation capped to ensure depth and candid exchange. It will also feature a dedicated B2B matchmaking, offering partners and sponsors pre-arranged one-to-one business meetings.

MoU signed with 14 entities to speed up project approvals and infrastructure delivery

ADPIC launches unified governance framework to accelerate infrastructure delivery across Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, May 14: The Abu Dhabi Projects and Infrastructure Centre (ADPIC) has announced a new infrastructure governance framework designed to accelerate approvals, strengthen coordination and enhance delivery across Abu Dhabi's capital project ecosystem.

Announced during the opening day of the Abu Dhabi Infrastructure Summit (ADIS) 2026, the framework brings together 14 government entities, including municipalities, utilities, energy providers, transport authorities, and telecommunications operators, under a unified mechanism to drive faster, more integrated infrastructure delivery across the emirate.

The MoU was signed in the presence of senior officials and strategic partners, including H.E. Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, H.E. Mohamed Ali Al Shorafa, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT), alongside leaders from across Abu Dhabi's infrastructure ecosystem gathered at ADIS 2026.

The framework establishes a coordinated governance mechanism to accelerate the issuance of No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) across Abu Dhabi's capital project portfolio, enabling a more streamlined and integrated approvals process among key infrastructure entities. It also introduces a new Joint Committee, chaired by ADPIC, and composed of senior representatives from participating entities, to identify, escalate, and resolve approval bottlenecks that can delay project delivery. The Committee will oversee the resolution of escalated NOC requests, identify root causes of delays, and implement corrective action plans against clear, measurable timelines, reinforcing Abu Dhabi's commitment to delivering infrastructure projects at pace, at scale and to the highest standards of efficiency.

H.E. Mohamed Ali Al Shorafa, Chairman of the Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT), said: "What we have formalised today is more than an administrative framework. It is a clear statement of intent that Abu Dhabi is aligning the



Abu Dhabi enhances infrastructure governance and efficiency.

governance of its infrastructure programme with the scale of its ambition. By bringing 14 entities together under a unified mandate, we are reinforcing Abu Dhabi's position as one of the world's most coordinated, agile, and future-focused infrastructure markets."

H. E. Eng. Maysarah Mahmoud Salim Eid, Director General of ADPIC, added: "As Abu Dhabi advances one of the region's most ambitious infrastructure agendas, effective coordination and governance are essential to delivering impact at scale. This framework establishes a more integrated model for infrastructure delivery, one that strengthens alignment across entities, accelerates decision-making, and improves efficiency throughout the project lifecycle. Through this collaboration, we are reinforcing the foundations required to deliver infrastructure that supports Abu Dhabi's long-term economic, social, and sustainability priorities."

H.E. Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Secretary General of

EAD, said: "The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi is committed to working alongside our government partners to ensure that the emirate's infrastructure ambitions are delivered efficiently and responsibly. This framework strengthens coordination across entities, enabling us to uphold the environmental standards that safeguard Abu Dhabi's natural heritage while supporting the pace of the emirate's development."

Mr. Obaid Abdulla Al Dhaheri, Chief Executive Officer, Dolphin Energy Limited, commented: "We are pleased to collaborate with other government entities participating in the new framework for Abu Dhabi. We look forward to contributing in a way that integrates efforts and help streamline infrastructure delivery across the emirate."

Saleem Alblooshi, Chief Technology Officer at du said: "We are proud to be part of this strategic committee that supports Abu Dhabi's vision to accelerate the development of world-class infrastructure and enable a more connected, sustainable,

and future-ready emirate. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment among key stakeholders to streamline infrastructure delivery, enhance operational efficiency, and support the emirate's ambitious growth agenda. At du, we remain committed to delivering advanced telecommunications infrastructure and innovative digital solutions that empower smart cities, drive economic development, and contribute to Abu Dhabi's long-term vision for sustainable progress and global competitiveness."

The participating entities include the Department of Municipalities and Transport, including its Infrastructure Development Directorate (IDD) and Urban Planning and Permit Centre (UPPC) divisions; Abu Dhabi City Municipality; Al Ain City Municipality; Al Dhafrah Region Municipality; the Department of Energy; the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi; Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority; the Monitoring and Control Centre; Abu Dhabi National Oil Company ADNOC; Etihad Rail Company; Dolphin Energy Company; TAQA Transmission Company; Abu Dhabi Distribution Company PJSC; "TAQA Distribution"; TAQA Water Solutions Company; Emirates Telecommunications Group Company (Etisalat Group) P.J.S.C.; and Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company "Du".

The framework also reinforces the emirate's commitment to transparent governance, integrated planning, and a stable investment environment for developers, contractors, and long-term infrastructure partners, reaffirming Abu Dhabi's position as a globally competitive, delivery-driven infrastructure hub.

The signing took place at ADIS, Abu Dhabi's flagship international platform for infrastructure and urban development, held from 12 to 14 May 2026 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. Returning for its second edition with expanded scale and international reach, the summit brings together 7,000+ industry leaders across a three-day programme featuring high-level conference sessions, a dedicated exhibition, and structured business matchmaking opportunities.

What's On

SPOTLIGHT

Got a birthday or event?



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Enhancing student confidence through financial awareness

Weyay Bank becomes exclusive banking sponsor of Derasti to support high school students



Weyay supports Kuwaiti youth at Derasti expo.

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Weyay Bank announces its participation as the exclusive banking sponsor of Derasti Exhibition, the first this year dedicated to supporting high school graduates. The event is taking place at 360 Mall and will run until tomorrow, attracting students from across Kuwait in an interactive environment that contributes to supporting students and guiding them toward their academic future.

The event was inaugurated by Maryam Al-Enzi, Director of the Educational Support Services Department at the Ministry of Education, in the presence of Amal Al-Duwaisan, Head of Weyay Bank, along with representatives from the Bank and from participating universities and educational institutions.

Derasti aims to empower students to make informed academic decisions by

giving them direct access to leading universities, introducing them to the latest fields of study and admission requirements, and providing valuable guidance to help shape their educational and career paths.

Weyay's participation reflects its ongoing commitment to supporting youth and accompanying them throughout their journey from early educational stages. As Kuwait's first digital bank, Weyay continues to deliver innovative financial solutions that align with the lifestyle of the new generation, helping empower them financially and prepare them for the future.

Commenting on the participation, Amal Al-Duwaisan, Head of Weyay Bank, said:

"At Weyay, we believe empowering youth begins with supporting them early in their educational journey and helping them make confident, in-

formed decisions about their future. Our participation in Derasti reflects our commitment to being part of that journey, not only through our digital banking solutions, but also by raising financial awareness and equipping students with the tools they need to build a more independent and confident future."

Through its presence at the exhibition, Weyay aims to deliver an engaging and interactive experience for students by showcasing its digital services tailored to their needs, while also promoting financial literacy in a simple, relevant, and accessible way.

This participation reinforces Weyay Bank's role as an active partner in supporting Kuwaiti youth and its belief that investing in young people is an investment in a more prosperous and forward-looking society.



Group photo of LuLu management team with the hospital staff.

LuLu Hypermarket marks International Nurses Day with visit to Adan Hospital

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: In honor of International Nurses Day, the top management team of LuLu hypermarket visited Adan Hospital to express heartfelt appreciation to the nursing community for their dedication, compassion, and invaluable contribution to healthcare services.

As part of the celebration, a special ceremony was organized at the hospital premises where the LuLu management team joined nurses and hospital staff in a cake-cutting event to commemorate the occasion. The event was filled with warmth and gratitude, recognizing the tireless efforts of nurses who continue to serve patients with commitment and care.

The initiative aimed to acknowledge and celebrate the extraordinary role nurses play in supporting the health and wellbeing of the community.

In addition to the hospital visit, LuLu Hypermarket is also organizing special in-store activities across its outlets to honor nurses and healthcare professionals.



LuLu Hypermarket management joined nurses and staff in a cake-cutting ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives from LuLu Hypermarket conveyed their sincere gratitude to all healthcare professionals, especially nurses, for their unwavering service and humanitarian spirit.

The hospital management appreciated the thoughtful gesture by LuLu Hypermarket and thanked the team

for recognizing the hard work and dedication of the nursing staff on this meaningful occasion.

The initiative reflects LuLu Hypermarket's continued commitment toward community engagement and recognizing frontline heroes who make a meaningful difference in society every day.

Over 200 dentists attend 20th Study Club

IDAK organizes 20th Scientific Study Club 'Edu.dontics – Elevating Dental Excellence'

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Continuing its two-decade legacy of professional excellence, the Indian Dentists' Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK) recently hosted its 20th Scientific Study Club, titled "Edu.dontics – Elevating Dental Excellence."

IDAK in collaboration with Kuwait Dental Association conducted the study club at the Dasman Ballroom, Radisson Blu Hotel, Al Bidaa and the event drew over 200 dental professionals from across Kuwait. The session was officially accredited with 5 CME credits by the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS).

The program was inaugurated by Dr. Shalin Anna Simon, President of IDAK, who spoke of the significant contributions made by IDAK in uplifting the scientific temper among the members. Dr. Vidya Thomas, Chair of the Scientific Committee, welcomed the attendees and highlighted the commitment of IDAK in the continued professional education of its members and the dental community practicing in Kuwait.

The study club featured distinguished speakers like Dr. Abdulhameed Alsarraf, Senior specialist in Oral medicine and Oral pathology, Ministry of Health, who delivered an insightful presentation on rare and common oral pathologies. Dr. Fatemah Husain, Orthodontist and Assistant Professor at Kuwait University, presented an informative lecture on craniofacial orthodontics.

Other notable presenters were Dr. Jubina Bency from the Kuwait Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Ministry of Health who gave a timely informative presentation on the relevance of travel medicine. Dr. John Joy Manappallil, Prosthodontist at the Ministry of Health delivered a detailed lecture on the challenges of prosthetic crown placement, while Dr. Ranjitha RS, Oral and Maxillofacial surgeon at Dr. Teeth Dental Care Center, Mangaf, presented on the diagnosis and management of TMJ disorders.

All the sessions were well received by the audience who actively participated in discussions with the speakers. The proceedings were



Photos during the event.

seamlessly conducted by Dr. Jane John Thomas and Dr. Akshara Jacob who were the emcees of the event.

The study club was the inaugural scientific event of the term 2026-27 and provides a strong foundation for future scientific events and workshops to promote dental excellence and collaboration within the professional community.



Ina ng Laging Saklolo Kuwait marks 27th anniversary

The Ina ng Laging Saklolo (INLS) community in Kuwait celebrated its 27th anniversary, highlighting nearly three decades of faith, unity, and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

According to a press release, the Filipino Catholic organization has remained active for 27 years, encouraging prayer, service, and fellowship among its members as well as a deeper spiritual life and devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

As part of the celebration, the community expressed gratitude for God's continued blessings and guidance throughout its journey, and prayed for the continued growth of its mission to inspire love, hope, and faith among more lives.

The members of the INLS core group are:



Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Fr. Marlon Magdoza, OFM Cap
Spiritual Leader - Sis. Edlyn Joy Platon
Assistant Spiritual Leader - Sis. Marie Claire Buenaventura
Secretary - Sis. Jhoana Mary Nimedez
Treasurer - Sis. Marissa Garmay
Auditor - Sis. Emily Espiritu

With the motto "To Jesus through Mary," the INLS Kuwait community extended its congratulations to all members on the occasion of its 27th anniversary.

Stage

Spanish-language production blends magical realism, mythology and Mexican artistry

Met Opera revives Frida and Diego's love story

NEW YORK, May 14, (AP): Racked by unrelenting pain, Mexican painter Frida Kahlo wrote in her diary shortly before she died: "I joyfully await the exit - and hope never to return."

Yet return she does - if only briefly - on the Day of the Dead "El Último Sueño de Frida y Diego" ("The Last Dream of Frida and Diego"), a Spanish-language opera receiving its Metropolitan Opera premiere this week.

The opera, with libretto by playwright Nilo Cruz and music by Gabriela Lena Frank, imagines Kahlo's spectral reunion three years after her death with Diego Rivera, the great Mexican muralist with whom she had a tempestuous romantic relationship.

In a twist on the Orpheus legend, Rivera has grown weary of life without Kahlo and - on the holiday that honors the dead and welcomes the return of their spirits - he summons her from the underworld in the hope they may be eternally reunited.

For mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard, who stars as Kahlo, the opera is "a journey of emotions that every human can possess, told through the lens or perspective of iconic humans that many of us admire."

Joining her in the cast are baritone Carlos Álvarez as Rivera, soprano Gabriella Reyes as Catrina, gatekeeper to the underworld, and countertenor Nils Wanderer as Leonardo, a spirit who impersonates Greta Garbo. Met music director Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts six of the seven performances Thursday through June 5, with the May 30 matinee broadcast to cinemas worldwide in HD.

The idea for the work dates back more than 20 years, when the late Joel Revzen, then director of the Arizona Opera, asked Frank to write an opera about Kahlo.

The collaborators agreed they wanted to avoid conventional approaches and instead leaned into magical realism.

"I wasn't interested in writing a biopic," Cruz said. "We had the movie with Salma Hayek ... and I'd seen a couple of monologues that had to do with Frida and her life."

"So this whole concept of Diego approaching the end of his life, especially on the Day of the Dead, I thought was interesting," he said. "I think opera should be bigger than life, so anything that's mythical makes for a good opera."

In setting Cruz's text, Frank said she steered away from melodies and rhythms that would too closely echo traditional Latin music.



This image released by the Metropolitan Opera shows mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as Frida Kahlo, foreground center, and baritone Carlos Álvarez as Diego Rivera in a rehearsal for "El Último Sueño de Frida y Diego," on May 11, 2026, at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. (AP)

"What I wanted to convey instead was something very colorful, something that sounded otherworldly, sometimes ancient," she said.

"You will hear a lot of instruments you won't always hear in opera," Frank said. "The marimba is in almost every scene ... It might be covering the clarinet line or the voice and you didn't realize it was there. But it makes it sound to me as if it's from Central America."

In praising the score, New York critic Alex Ross wrote that "the challenge of intermingling biography and myth might have defeated a less adroit composer. One can imagine a score cluttered with Mexican folkloric effects and su-

pernatural noises. Instead, Frank establishes a dreamlike, liminal mood from the start."

The opera had its COVID-delayed premiere in San Diego in 2022. It was a huge success, and the original production has been performed in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and elsewhere.

When the Met decided to stage it, general manager Peter Gelb hired the team that worked on Osvaldo Golijov's "Ainadamar" in 2024 - director and choreographer Deborah Colker and set designer Jon Bausor - to create a new production. Bausor and Wilberth Gonzalez collaborated on the costumes.

"It's not anything against the original," Gelb said. "But when

you have a work as important and appealing as this there's no reason why there shouldn't be more than one production. It's a sign of its artistic success."

Bausor said his inspiration for the set design was an oil painting by Kahlo titled "Tree of Hope, Remain Strong" that depicts two Fridas. One shows her in an elegant Mexican dress seated on a hospital gurney that rests on cracked earth. Another Frida lies behind her on the gurney, swaddled in sheets with angry red stitches in her back - a reminder of the constant pain she suffered after a 1925 bus collision with a streetcar.

There's no literal tree in the painting, but the title gave Bau-

sor the idea for one of the centerpiece of his set: a large, blood red tree with twisting branches and roots that resemble arteries of the human body.

"It gave us a symbol for the audience to understand that we weren't in a real space," he said. "It's a link between the living world above with the foliage at the top and the dead world with the roots below," he said.

The sides and rear of the stage are draped in recycled blue plastic that Bausor calls "a kind of shroud, or blue gauze like you might wrap wounds in."

Above the stage is a mirror, a nod to the one that was installed under the canopy of Kahlo's bed to help

her paint while she was immobilized from the accident.

And like the Kahlo painting, the stage has cracks from which dancers dressed as skeletons emerge, moving their joints in jerky fashion a bit like break dancers.

Despite its ghostly scenario, the opera has a happy ending of sorts: It grants the lovers the reunion in death that was denied them in reality. Rivera wanted to be cremated and have his ashes mixed with Kahlo's, but his family refused and buried him in a cemetery.

"It was fascinating to me that he wanted his ashes to be united with hers," Criuz said. "I thought - this is a story of love after death. So that became the theme of the opera."

Variety

LOS ANGELES: The World Cup final will feature a star-studded half-time show headlined by Madonna, Shakira and boy-band BTS.

FIFA has announced that, for the first time, the final at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on July 19 will include a Super Bowl-style concert.

The governing body said the show would support the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund, which is raising \$100 million to help children access education and soccer.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said it would bring together "music and football on the biggest stage in sport for a very special cause." (AP)

AMELIA ISLAND: At a time when college athletic departments are desperately looking for new revenue sources, Duke "came up with something creative" and landed a three-game deal with streaming giant Amazon, Atlantic Coast Conference Commissioner Jim Phillips said.

Phillips praised the Blue Devils for working with ACC television partner ESPN to secure a first-of-its-kind contract that could set a precedent for future cash grabs around the league and maybe the country.

"If there's other opportunities that are out there that schools bring forward, we'll look at it," Phillips said Wednesday while wrapping up the league's three-day spring meetings inside a posh resort in northeast Florida. "I think it's innovative by Duke." (AP)

VIENNA: Vienna's famed coffeehouses have embraced the Eurovision Song Contest. They have also been touched by tensions over Israel's inclusion in the sequined, drenched pop music competition.

When officials announced a list of "Eurofan Cafes" - Vienna coffee shops offering food and music from competing countries - Israel was initially left out.

MQ Kantine, a modern café in the city's artsy museums quarter, offered to step in. Now it has falafel, bagels with lox and kosher wine on the menu, a string of small



Colombian singer Shakira rehearses a day ahead of her free concert on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, on May 1, 2026. (AP)

Israeli flags hanging from the ceiling - and a police officer outside the door.

Security is tight across Vienna during the international music contest, whose "United by Music" slogan rings sightly hollow this year. Five countries are boycotting because Israel is taking part. Pro-Palestinian activists are planning a protest concert - one of several Eurovision alternatives across Europe - and an anti-Israel march before Saturday's grand final. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: A licensed drug addiction counselor who delivered Matthew Perry the doses of ketamine that killed him, and later became a key informant in the investigation, was sentenced Wednesday to two years in prison.

At a federal court in Los Angeles, Judge Sherilyn Peace Gamett handed down the sentence to 56-year-old Erik Fleming for his role in the death of the "Friends" star.

"It's truly a nightmare I can't wake up from," Fleming said in a deep, somber voice from the podium before his sentencing. "I'm haunted by the mistakes I made."

Music

Throwback-inspired LP pays tribute to classic funk pioneers

Mýa returns after 8 years with nostalgic new album 'Retrospect,' centered on joy

NEW YORK, May 14, (AP): To know where the R&B singer Mýa is headed in 2026, it is best to look backward.

In 2003, she released her third studio album, "Moodring," featuring the track "Sophisticated Lady." It wasn't a single, but it was noteworthy: a new take on Rick James' "Cold-Blooded," a swerve into funk music from a performer best known for midtempo slow jams. "I've given you all the baby-making music I can," she joked to The Associated Press - and the James cover offered something a little different. It was another sonic direction she was waiting for the right moment to fully explore.

Her tenth studio album, "Retrospect," out Friday, threads the needle from then to now. It's a collection of throwback bangers, weaving '70s and '80s Minneapolis funk, pop, R&B and soul in one cheerful, nostalgic package.

"This is performance music, its personality music, so people get to see another part of my personality - very laid back, but I'm not there anymore," she adds. "I'm outside and I'm having fun and really enjoying my life."

It's also her first album in eight years. During the pandemic, Mýa found herself returning to the music of her childhood for healing - the stuff that would play in the living room, on "Soul Train," at the roller rink, at cookouts: Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, the S.O.S. Band, "Prince, Vanity 6, Teena Marie, Rick James, Evelyn 'Champagne' King, Mary Jane Girls, Patrice Rushen. The list goes on and on," she says. "That's also a part of the title, 'Retrospect.' It's not just retro leading into the '70s and '80s. It's about introspections as well."

Those influences are found everywhere: On the opener "Give It To You," she borrows James' inflections on the word "elated." In the West Coast funk "Just a Little Bit," featuring the Bay Area rapper Too Short, an ad-lib recalls Michael Jackson's "Remember the Time." The "who!" at the top of "No Pressure" is all Teena Marie. The big ballad "Just Call My Name" pulls influence from Mýa's mentor, Prince, with its "Purple Rain"-style guitars.

And even though there's a treasure trove of rich source material, there are no samples on the release. "Prince was very adamant about no samples, so I'm



Mýa poses for a portrait in New York on May 4, 2026. (AP)

adhering to all of those rules," she says. "I'm staying there in this independent journey."

Digging through her influences, and pulling from their insight, has been restorative. "I'm being reminded of all of the things that are embedded in my soul," she says of this music. "There's so much

stuff in here that I'm discovering comes from a specific place."

And while eight years between albums might sound like a long time for any artist, Mýa has been routinely dropping singles. But for a full-length project, she saw a value in taking her time. "I've actually revisited a few songs, of course, added features, remade (songs), and I've taken different approaches for certain tracks as well with my production partner, MyGuyMars. We also remastered the whole album twice after remixing it. It's about when its right and ready to our ears," she says. "It's kind of like serving a meal undercooked. You would never want to do that for your customers."

Looking at the giants that come before you to write a hooky song is nothing Mýa isn't used to. "I've had the most fun in the studio and on stage going back. A lot of my career has throwbacks and comes from somewhere. There's 'Ghetto Supastar,' of course, (which) comes from Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers," she says. Mýa's 1998 hit with the Fugees' Pras Michel and Ol' Dirty Bastard offered a new take on Parton and Rogers' "Islands in the Stream."

Then she shifts gears to one of her best-known tracks: "Lady Marmalade," we're not the first," she said, referencing the song that first became a hit in 1974 when it was recorded by Labelle. "They were the pioneers and the creators and the first performers of that song." Mýa's 2001 reimagining of the song, which included her, Christina Aguilera, Lil' Kim and Pink, was produced by Missy Elliott and Rockwilder for the Baz Luhrmann blockbuster "Moulin Rouge!"

"We all are still here and still doing our individual things. It's something to be celebrated," she said. "And I am praying for a reunion, because I think it would be so incredible and emotional, of course, to see each other in one room, to squeeze each other, to work together."

But for now, it's all about "Retrospect." "When I created this project, it was about joy first and foremost," she said. "I want people, when they hear this album, to find themselves or be reminded of the simpler times - and then all those more introspective records to be jolting."



A barrier is set in front of the British cruise ship Ambition, as French authorities have ordered 1,700 passengers and crew to stay on board due to a gastrointestinal illness outbreak, in Bordeaux, southwestern France on May 13. (AP)

France confines more than 1,700 on British cruise ship in Bordeaux after gastroenteritis outbreak

PARIS, May 14, (AP) — Over 1,700 passengers and crew on a British cruise ship were ordered to remain on board after an outbreak of gastrointestinal illness, French authorities said Wednesday.

They dismissed any link to a deadly hantavirus outbreak on another vessel that has put European health authorities on alert.

The Ambition was midway through a 14-night cruise from Belfast and Liverpool that was due to take in ports in northern Spain and along France's Atlantic coast.

It reached Bordeaux on Tuesday evening, according to the operator, Ambassador Cruise Line.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which tracks outbreaks on voyages that call on U.S. and foreign ports, recorded 23 gastrointestinal outbreaks on cruise ships last year. Most were caused by norovirus, including a new strain.

Last week, a Caribbean Princess cruise ship reported a norovirus outbreak during a voyage with more than 3,100 passengers aboard, according to the U.S. health agency. More than 140 passengers and 15 crew members fell ill during the trip, which ended Monday, the CDC said.

The prefect of Nouvelle-Aquitaine region and Gironde department, Étienne Guyot, suspended disembarkation from the Ambition and restricted the vessel's interactions with the port of Bordeaux.

He acted on the recommendation of the regional health agency, the Agence Régionale de Santé Nouvelle-Aquitaine, the joint statement said.

Up to 50 passengers showed symptoms consistent with acute digestive infection after the ship's captain alerted French authorities on Tuesday evening, the statement said.

Those affected were treated by the ship's doctor and isolated in their cabins. A medical team was dispatched to the vessel, and samples are being analyzed at a Bordeaux hospital.

"There is no reason to establish a link between this outbreak aboard a cruise ship from Belfast and Liverpool and the hantavirus cases detected aboard the MV Hondius," the joint statement said.

The hantavirus outbreak aboard the Hondius last month prompted a multicountry response and the hospitalization of passengers in Britain, France, Spain and the United States. Three passengers died and there have been nine confirmed cases, with another two suspected.

An update is expected later on Wednesday, once analysis results are available.

Ambassador Cruise Line said earlier Wednesday that a 92-year-old male passenger had died on Sunday, although he had not reported symptoms consistent with the illness, and that his cause of death was yet to be established by a coroner.

The company said 48 passengers and one crew member were displaying gastrointestinal symptoms as of late Wednesday morning.

Ambassador said its data showed cases had risen after passengers boarded in Liverpool on May 9. All shore excursions at Bordeaux had been canceled and affected passengers offered full refunds, the company said.

Ambassador Cruise Line, a British operator targeting passengers over 50, was founded in 2021.

Meanwhile, passengers unaffected by an illness outbreak have been allowed off the ship in Bordeaux, while authorities confirmed the cause of the outbreak is norovirus, a nasty stomach bug that spreads easily.

Health

'We feel a bit unsafe'

World's reaction to hantavirus tinged by echoes of something else: COVID

NEW YORK, May 14, (AP) — The lingering impact of COVID-19, a few years out from the declaration that the pandemic was over, is scattered across how we live today — the work-from-home jobs, the ways some have decided wearing masks is their new normal, the hand sanitizer dispensers that remain ever present.

Some of the other ripples, though, aren't as obvious. They're the ones we carry inside us — grief over lost loved ones, chronic health conditions, the sense of lives interrupted. And in recent days, another one has made itself known in the wake of a rare hantavirus outbreak aboard a cruise ship: the fear, despite official reassurances, that it might be happening again.

But the flourishing of fear, whether on a personal or societal level, can also be an indicator that something else is missing. Perhaps there's no post-pandemic reality more entrenched than the damage done, in the US and globally, to the bonds that in the before times, many would have considered secure — science, government, information itself.

"COVID undermined our trust in what most of us used to trust," said Elisa Jayne Bienenstock, a research professor and sociologist at Arizona State University. "When general

trust goes down, when there's a lot of cynicism, who are people looking to, to explain what to do and how the world works?"

Before 2020, the outbreak of some illness somewhere didn't usually cause massive concern outside of the specific areas impacted, even as some epidemics caused significant numbers of deaths.

Some of that was complacency in the face of a world where widespread travel wasn't as accessible to the masses as it has become, which was a key part of COVID-19's spread.

In fact, there have been outbreaks of the current strain of hantavirus in some South American countries through the decades, like one in 1997 in Chile. Other countries have had epidemics of a range of illnesses from cholera to dengue to SARS, and the US has seen West Nile, Legionnaire's and more.

But in a post-COVID-19 world, it didn't take long before questions and concerns surfaced about disease spread in the days immediately following the first reports that three people had died from hantavirus on the ship. A total of nine confirmed and two suspected cases have been identified, including the fatalities.

Health experts have repeatedly emphasized that even though the vi-



Medics escort a patient, second right, evacuated from the MV Hondius cruise ship with suspected hantavirus infection, to an ambulance after being flown to Schiphol airport, Amsterdam, Netherlands on May 6. (AP)

rus can cause serious illness in those infected, the risk of spread in the general public is low. Despite that, when ship passengers were taken to the Spanish island of Tenerife to disembark, residents like Samantha Agüero were concerned.

"We feel a bit unsafe. We don't feel as there are 100% security measures in place to welcome it," she said. "This is a virus, after all, and we have lived this during the pan-

demic."

Bienenstock points to three institutions that have suffered from the public's loss of trust: government, media and science itself. But government officials and journalists were dealing with issues of public mistrust well before the pandemic.

The mistrust of science got ammunition not because scientists were making mistakes in their processes but because non-scientists didn't have the

same understanding, she said.

"Most people don't think of science as a process. In their mind, science is an answer, it's a fact. And so when those facts showed that they weren't 100% reliable and assured, it started undermining trust in the science," she said.

"One of the problems with COVID is it undermined that confidence in science for people who don't understand how science works. It showed the process. And it showed that scientists don't always have the answer," Bienenstock said. "A lot of people in crisis, when they fear things, don't care what the answer is, as long as there's a definitive answer. And science doesn't provide that when it doesn't know."

It's not just about the issue at the forefront of people's attention at the moment. There are ripple effects as well.

"COVID ... didn't just heighten people's sensitivity to health threats. It did so unevenly, in ways often disconnected from actual risk," said Michele Gelfand, professor of organizational behavior at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. "As trust in institutions has weakened, people have lost a key way to navigate uncertainty together. Without trust, people rely more on rumor,

fear, and emotion, which can lead them to overreact to small risks and underreact to serious ones."

Karlynn Morgan, a 76-year-old retired nurse-anesthetist in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, has seen that heightened attention, with more people without a medical or science background talking about health issues than before the pandemic.

She has also been disturbed by the increase in what looks to her like a lack of trust in science, as seen in falling vaccination rates and rising instances of diseases like measles.

"I think people are far less trusting because people used to take their children and just get the vaccine," she said. "When I was a kid, there was no question you were going to go get your shot."

If trust is going to be rebuilt, Gelfand said in an email, then leaders have to get involved.

"They set the threat signal. They determine whether people get accurate information about the level of danger or distorted information that serves a political agenda. When leaders send clear, honest signals, people can calibrate in the face of threat. When leaders manipulate threat for their own purposes, norms erode and trust collapses," Gelfand said.

Space

China's human artificial embryo experiment progressing well in space, say scientists

BEIJING, May 14, (Xinhua) — China has begun the world's first space experiment on human artificial embryos, with samples now aboard its space station and the study progressing smoothly, scientists announced Wednesday.

Delivered by the Tianzhou-10 cargo craft launched earlier this week, the human artificial embryo samples have been installed in the space station's experimental module by the orbiting taikonauts, according to the Technology and Engineering Center for Space Utilization under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which is in charge of the experiment.

"The experiment is going very well," said Yu Leqian, the project leader for the artificial embryo space science experiment. "A pre-set automated system changes the culture medium for the samples every day." According to Yu, through this study, scientists aim to conduct preliminary research on issues related to long-term human habitation, survival and reproduction in space.

Artificial embryos are structures derived from stem cells that closely resemble real embryos. "The human artificial embryo is made of human stem cells as raw materials," Yu explained. "This is not a real human embryo and does not have the ability to develop into an individual. However, it can serve as a model for studying early human development."

The artificial embryo samples include two types of models: one cultured on uterine cells and another placed inside a microfluidic chip. The goal is to understand how the microgravity environment in space affects early human embryonic development. According to scientists, identical samples are also

being studied simultaneously in laboratories on Earth.

The human artificial embryo experiment is scheduled to last five days in space. After that, the samples will be frozen in orbit and later returned to Earth at an appropriate time for comparative analysis with the ground-based samples.

"We hope that by comparing the development of space and ground samples, we can identify the factors affecting early human embryonic growth in the space environment, and address the risks and challenges humans may face during long-term space habitation," Yu said.

China launched the Tianzhou-10 from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on Monday morning to deliver supplies for its orbiting space station. Apart from the artificial human embryos, the cargo carried 41 space science experiment projects, including zebrafish embryos and mouse embryos.

Also:

TAIYUAN: China sent a new satellite group into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province on Tuesday.

The satellite group was launched at 7:59 p.m. (Beijing Time) aboard a modified Long March-6 carrier rocket and entered its preset orbit successfully. It will constitute the Spacesail Constellation, a mega commercial Chinese low-orbit satellite network.

This launch marked the 642nd flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series, according to the launch center.

Paleontology



This undated image provided by the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences shows an ancient tooth found at the Sunjiaodong archaeological site in China. (AP)

Ancient teeth hint at canoodling between early human relatives

NEW YORK, May 14, (AP) — An analysis of ancient teeth is giving scientists a rare peek into interactions between human relatives hundreds of thousands of years ago that have left a lasting imprint on our species.

A new study reveals genetic clues about a human ancestor called Homo erectus. H. erectus arose in Africa about 2 million years ago and spread to other parts of the globe, including Asia and possibly Europe.

Scientists have found remains from this early human in countries including Indonesia, Spain, China and Georgia. But genes and proteins don't preserve well so information about the early humans' internal makeup has proved elusive.

In a new work, researchers siphoned ancient enamel proteins from H. erectus teeth belonging to

five men and one woman that were recovered across several locations in China to learn how these early humans may have mingled.

The 400,000-year-old teeth all had two key mutations in a protein found in tooth enamel. One mutation hasn't been observed before and could be a unique calling card belonging to East Asian members of H. erectus.

The second, though, was more complex. Scientists identified a variant that's also present in a small fraction of modern humans — as well as one of our extinct cousins called Denisovans.

That told scientists that H. erectus could have mated with and passed their genes to Denisovans in the past. But how did it get to us? Scientists think that may have happened later when our ancestors intermingled with Denisovans.

Small study hints that revving up immune cells might help fight HIV

WASHINGTON, May 14, (AP) — Scientists are tweaking a powerful cancer therapy in hopes it could fight HIV instead, by supercharging patients' own immune cells.

On Tuesday, researchers said a single dose of those revved-up cells strongly suppressed HIV in two people — one for nearly a year and the other for nearly two years — without requiring their usual medicines.

Larger and longer studies are needed to prove if what's called CAR-T cell therapy might really offer long-lasting help for HIV, cautioned Dr. Steven Deeks of the University of California, San Francisco, who led the research.

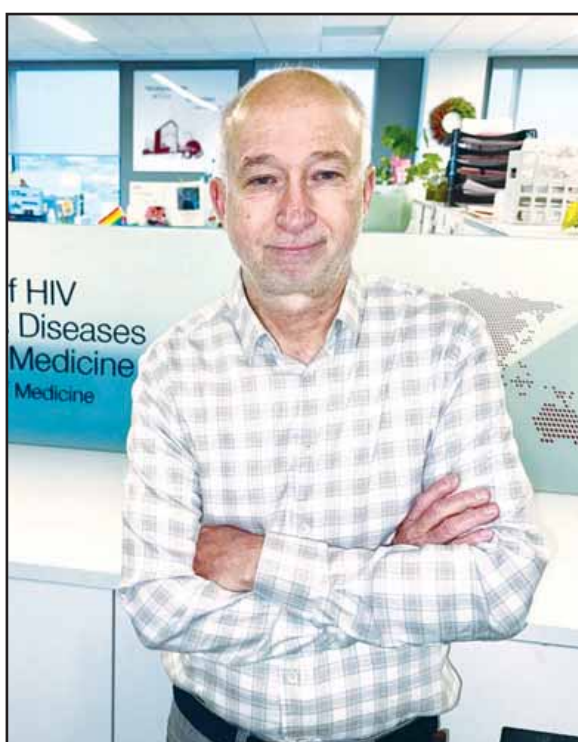
"We find the fact that two people have had such a really sustained response provocative," he said. "There is a real need for a one-and-done, safe and scalable cure ... and this is one of the strategies that we're pursuing."

The data is being presented at a meeting of the American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy in Boston.

There are nearly 40 million people living with HIV around the world. Today's medicines have turned the virus that causes AIDS from a fast killer into a manageable chronic disease, often keeping the virus at undetectable levels, but only if people can afford the drugs and stick with them. The virus hides out in reservoirs in the body and rebounds fast if people stop treatment.

Researchers have long hunted an elusive cure, pursuing such clues as a rare gene mutation that makes some people naturally resistant to HIV or how a handful of HIV patients who also had certain cancers were declared cured or in long-term remission after receiving a stem cell transplant, something too risky for most people.

CAR-T therapy involves taking immune cells called T cells out of a person's blood, genetically engineering them into "living drugs" and infusing them back into the patient. They're widely used to cure certain types of cancer and are being studied for other diseases.



Dr. Steven Deeks at the UCSF Division of HIV Infectious Diseases and Global Medicine on May 5, in San Francisco. (AP)

Acosta stars with brace as Nashville roll past Revolution

Messi scores twice as Miami beat Cincinnati with late surge

WASHINGTON, May 14, (AP): Lionel Messi had two goals and an assist, German Berterame had the go-ahead goal in the 84th minute and Inter Miami rallied for a 5-3 victory over Cincinnati, extending its road winning streak to seven.

It is the third time this season the Argentine superstar has had at least three goal contributions in a match. He is second in the league with 12 goals.

Mateo Silvestri evened it at 3-3 in the 79th minute after coming on as a substitute.

Kevin Denkey, Pavel Bucha and Evander scored for Cincinnati. It is the first time in 64 matches since Pat Noonan became coach in 2023 it lost when it had the lead after 75 minutes.

Messi gave Miami a 1-0 lead at the 24-minute mark after he deflected a shot that went off Cincinnati's Matt Miazga near the Cincinnati goal. Denkey evened it on a penalty kick in the 41st minute.

After Bucha put Cincinnati on top in the 49th minute, Messi made it 2-2 six minutes later on a cutback after getting the pass from Luis Suarez.

Evander's in the 64th minute with a right footer from the center just outside the box to give Cincinnati a 3-2 lead. Miami though would rally and score the next three goals.

Julian Hall scored three goals and became the youngest player (18 years, 50 days) with a hat trick in MLS history, and the New York Red Bulls beat the Columbus Crew 3-2.

Hall has nine goals this season -

after coming into 2026 with three career goals in 38 appearances across three MLS seasons.

The Red Bulls (5-5-3), who beat Chicago 3-1 on Saturday to snap a five-game winless streak, have won back-to-back games for the first time since they started the season 2-0-0. Bryan Acosta found the net for the first time since 2019, scoring in each half with assists from Cristian Espinoza, to lead Nashville SC to a 3-0 victory over New England on Wednesday night behind rookie goalkeeper Brian Schwake.

Nashville (8-1-3) ended New England's seven-match unbeaten run - six of them victories - by handing the Revolution (7-4-1) their first home loss after winning six straight to begin a season under first-year coach Marko Mitrović for the first time in club history.

Nashville sent a message after New England entered with a chance to grab the top spot in the Eastern Conference. Instead, Nashville will maintain its lead in the East - held since the third week of the season.

Hugo Cuypers scored his MLS-leading 12th goal this season, Robin Lod and Maren Haile-Selassie each added a goal, and the Chicago Fire beat D.C. United 3-1.

Cuypers has scored at least one goal in each of the nine games he has played this season.

Chris Brady had six saves for Chicago (6-4-2).

The Fire had lost back-to-back games for the first time this season. Nicolás Fernández scored a goal in



Toronto FC goalkeeper Luka Gavran (1) stops Inter Miami CF midfielder Lionel Messi (10) during second half MLS soccer in Toronto. (AP)

the eighth minute, Matt Freese had his fourth shutout this season, and New York City FC beat Charlotte FC 1-0.

NYCFC (5-5-3), which beat Columbus 3-0 on Saturday to snap a seven-game winless streak, has won back-to-back games for the second time this season.

Martin Ojeda scored on a first-half penalty kick before delivering the winner in the 90th minute and Orlando City rallied to keep the Philadelphia Union reeling with a 4-3 victory.

Orlando City (4-8-1) took a 1-0 lead in the 19th minute on Ojeda's PK. The striker's seventh goal of

the season came after he was fouled by Union goalkeeper Andrew Rick, who was booked for a yellow card.

Defender Griffin Dorsey scored unassisted in the 27th minute to make it 2-0 and the lead stood through halftime. It was Dorsey's first netter this season and his 12th in 143 appearances.

David Vazquez scored the first two goals of his career and added his first assist to beat 19-year-old rookie goalkeeper Duran Ferree and San Diego FC rolled to a 5-0 victory over Austin FC.

Marcus Ingvartsen had assists on the first two goals before scoring in the second half to help San Diego (4-

5-4) win for the first time since beating Sporting Kansas City 1-0 on the road on March 7 on a goal by Anders Dreyer. Rafael Navarro scored a goal, Nico Hansen had his first shut-out this season, and the Colorado Rapids beat Minnesota United 1-0 to snap a three-game losing streak.

The Rapids (5-7-1) went into the game winless in five straight and won for the first time since a 6-2 home victory over Houston on April 11.

Hansen finished with two saves. Sebastian Berhalter scored two goals - his first multi-goal game this season - and the Vancouver Whitecaps beat FC Dallas 3-2 on.

The Whitecaps (9-1-2) are unbeaten in seven consecutive games. Vancouver, coming off 1-1 ties with the LA Galaxy and San Jose, had been winless in back-to-back games for the first time this season.

Calvin Harris had a goal and two assists and Dejan Joveljić scored against his former team, leading Sporting Kansas City to a 3-1 victory over the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Sporting KC (2-8-2) snapped an eight-match winless streak under first-year manager Raphaël Wicky and an eight-match winless skid at home dating to last year. The club's only other victory came against the Galaxy (4-5-4) - a 2-1 road win on March 14 in which Joveljić also scored.

Sporting KC grabbed a 1-0 lead in the 32nd minute on Capita Capemba's first career goal in his sixth appearance. Harris and Lasse Berg Johnsen had assists.

Zavier Gozo scored twice - the 19-year-old's first career multi-goal game in MLS - and Rafael Cabral had four saves to help Real Salt Lake beat the Houston Dynamo 3-0.

Gozo has a career-high five goals this season.

Tomás Totland scored four minutes into the match and fellow defender Rafael Santos added a second-half goal to help St. Louis City beat Los Angeles FC for the first time, 2-1.

Totland used assists from Eduard Löwen and Marcel Hartel to find the net for the first time this season and the third time in 55 career appearances. It is Osaze De Rosario scored a goal in the 89th minute, Jesús Ferreira and Albert Rusnák each added a goal, and the Seattle Sounders beat the San Jose Earthquakes 3-2 to extend their unbeaten streak to nine games.

Nouhou Tolo played a first-touch entry pass from the left side, just outside the area, to De Rosario for a header from the top of the 6-yard box the skipped into the net to cap the scoring.

Cole Bassett scored a tying goal in the 77th minute as the Portland Timbers played the Montreal Impact to a 2-2 draw.

Bassett's initial attempt from distance went off the far post, but he was first to the rebound for a shot into the back of the net.

Kevin Kelsy also scored for Portland in the 21st on a redirection of Kristoffer Velde's cross to tie it at 1-all.

Chelsea falters as FA Cup final looms

City eyes another piece of history

MANCHESTER, England, May 14, (AP): This season's FA Cup has already delivered the biggest upset in its 155-year history. Why not one more?

While, on the face of it, victory for Chelsea against Manchester City in Saturday's final would not go down as one of the more memorable shocks in the history of soccer's oldest knockout competition, it would certainly upset the odds.



Pep Guardiola

Consider the fortunes of both teams going into the Wembley showpiece. City is still in contention for a domestic treble of trophies, having already won the English League Cup. It is second in the Premier League, two points behind Arsenal with two rounds to go, and has only lost one domestic match since the end of November.

The form is certainly with Pep Guardiola's team, even if his current class feels below the standard of his greatest in his time at City.

Chelsea, meanwhile, despite spending more than \$1 billion to assemble a squad that won the Club World Cup less than a year ago, is in turmoil.

Two coaches have been fired since the turn of the year. Liam Rosenior lasted less than four months and was shown the door in April after a run of seven losses in eight games in all competitions.

The record has hardly improved since then, with Chelsea still without a league win in seven games and looking likely to miss out on Champions League qualification next season.

It is relying on a novice interim coach to try to end the campaign on a high note and deny Guardiola what would be his 17th major trophy at City and his 35th overall.

Calum McFarlane was promoted from an academy role at Chelsea to fill in as interim after Club World Cup-winning coach Enzo Maresca was fired in January.

Now he's back in that position after Rosenior's exit.

McFarlane vs. Guardiola feels like a mismatch of epic proportions. Or is it?

Despite his extremely limited experience as a head coach, McFarlane, who was formerly part of City's academy, has already pro-

duced some standout results.

Not least when taking charge of Chelsea's 1-1 draw at City in January.

Since being reinstated, he steered the team to victory against Leeds in the FA Cup semifinals and a 1-1 draw at Liverpool last week.

In that sense, he is making a habit of producing performances on the big occasion.

So while a victory against City would not quite compare with sixth-tier Macclesfield eliminating titleholder Crystal Palace in the third round, a novice coach leading crisis-struck Chelsea to triumph at Wembley is an unlikely storyline in its own right.

In the Premier League, Brighton look to strengthen its push for Champions League qualification against Leeds.

Brighton is seventh and can move up to sixth with a win, above Bournemouth which doesn't play City until Tuesday.

West Ham can climb out of the bottom three with a win at Newcastle. It would leapfrog Tottenham, which plays Chelsea on Tuesday.

Arsenal can move a step closer to the title when it plays relegated Burnley on Monday.

But the biggest match of the weekend in the UK is in Scotland where Celtic hosts Hearts in the final game of the season.

It is a winner-takes-all match with Hearts one point above second-place Celtic. A draw would be enough for Hearts to win its first league title since 1960. Defending champion Celtic must win to retain its trophy.

Marc Guehi was part of the Palace team that was stunned by Macclesfield in January. Now he is one game away from lifting the FA Cup, which he won with Palace by beating City in last year's final.

Chelsea hopes Pedro Neto and Alejandro Garnacho will be available for the FA Cup final after muscle injuries. Rodri and Abdou Diallo are in contention for City.

Arsenal defender Ben White is out for the season with medial ligament damage.

Despite seeing Liverpool's Premier League title defense unravel this season and boos from fans, coach Arne Slot is convinced his job is safe.

"I don't think I am deciding that alone, but I have every reason to believe I am the Liverpool manager next season," he said.



In this file Photo, Chelsea's Enzo Fernandez celebrates at the end of the FA Cup semifinal soccer match between Chelsea and Leeds in London, England, Sunday, April 26, 2026. (AP)

PSG clinches Ligue 1 title

Lens left frustrated after missed opportunities

PARIS, May 14, (AP): Paris Saint-Germain clinched a record-extending 14th French league title after winning 2-0 at closest rival Lens.

PSG needed only a draw to seal a fifth consecutive Ligue 1 crown and is now nine points ahead of Lens with one game left.

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia scored in the 29th minute and Ibrahim Mbaye added the second goal in stoppage time after Lens missed several chances to score at Stade Bollaert-Delelis.

"Without a doubt this was difficult. Lens did so well this season," PSG coach Luis Enrique said. "I think they deserved more tonight but (goalkeeper Matvei) Safonov was incredible tonight."

The match was rescheduled from April 11 by the French league to help titleholder PSG's ambitions in the Champions League. PSG takes on Premier League leader Arsenal in the Champions League final on May 30 in Budapest.

Although the postponement was strongly contested by Lens, coach Pierre Sage's side had no say in the matter.

Lens also has a final to prepare for - against Nice in the French Cup on May 22 - and Sage left his two best forwards - wingers Florian Thauvin and Allan Saint-Maximin - on the bench against PSG until the hour mark.

PSG punished a Lens error when Dembélé intercepted a sloppy pass from defender Malang Sarr and fed Kvaratskhelia, who scored with a clinical finish.

PSG scored in stoppage time through Mbaye, the 18-year-old forward who thumped a pass from Désiré Doué in off the crossbar mo-



PSG's Ousmane Dembele kicks the ball during the French League One soccer match between Lens and Paris Saint Germain, in Lens, northern France. (AP)

ments after Lens had fluffed yet another chance.

Lens should already have been level - or even ahead - at the break but striker Wesley Saïd misjudged a close-range header and then shot straight at Safonov in first-half stoppage time.

Safonov kept out another effort from Abdallah Sima early in the second half when the striker went clean through. Sima then hit the post after collecting a superb pass from Thauvin in the 74th.

"I had some luck today," Safonov acknowledged. "If my opponents had

put their shots a bit more either side of me it would have been different."

Saint-Maximin was dangerous when he came on in the second half but wasted several good situations when excessively trying to put himself in the perfect shooting position.

"We created a lot of chances and stopped them playing. My players deserved at least a draw tonight," Sage said. "Their goalkeeper had a great game but we missed a lot of chances. They had two chances and scored."

The last team to stop PSG winning the title was Lille in 2021. This season was closer than the last, howev-

er, when PSG sealed the title without losing and with six games left.

In the other match, Strasbourg won 2-1 at Brest in a game also rescheduled because of Strasbourg's involvement in the UEFA Conference League, where it lost to Rayo Vallecano in the semifinals.

Defender Valentin Barco and midfielder Sebastian Nanasi scored for Strasbourg either side of a goal from Brest striker Ludovic Ajorque in a lively opening.

Strasbourg will finish the season in eighth and Brest was 12th heading into the final round of Ligue 1 games.

Raghuvanshi hits third half-century

Kohli's ton seals six-wicket win over Kolkata

RAIPUR, India, May 14, (AP): Virat Kohli marked his record-breaking appearance with an unbeaten century off 58 balls to lead defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru to the top of Indian Premier League with a six-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders.

Kohli, who came into the game with back-to-back ducks against Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants, hit a fluent 105 with 11 fours and three sixes in Bengaluru's authoritative run-chase of 194-4 in 19.1 overs.

"Century or no century, the more important thing is to finish the game," Kohli said. "There is a reason people say pressure is a privilege -- it keeps you humble. ... A couple of games that do not go your way, you feel a bit of nervousness and that helps you."

Angkrish Raghuvanshi third half century of the season (71) and an unbeaten 49 by Rinku Singh had lifted Kolkata to 192-4 after Bengaluru's first game at their second home was delayed for 45 minutes by rain and a wet outfield.

Raghuvanshi smashed three sixes and seven fours before he was run out on the final ball of the innings as the left-hander featured in two productive half-century stand with Cameron Green (32) and Singh, who hit three fours and two sixes in his 29-ball knock.

But Kohli's record-breaking 279th IPL game, surpassing the previous record held by Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Rohit Sharma and his ninth hun-



Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli celebrates his century during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Kolkata Knight Riders in Raipur, India. (AP)

ded in the competition propelled Bengaluru to the No. 1 spot with 16 points. With two more league games in hand Bengaluru are now firm favorites to qualify for the playoffs.

Kohli also became the quickest batter to complete 14,000 runs in T20s in 409 innings as he went past West Indian Chris Gayle's record of 423 innings.

"I just love batting, even after all this," Kohli said. "What an honor to be competing at this level and against the very best still. Just give my heart and soul out there because it is going to finish one day."

A sixth defeat in 11 games left Kolkata with nine points and in danger of missing out on the playoffs.

Kohli controlled the chase with impact player Devdutt Padikkal, who scored 39 off 27 balls. Kolkata, one of the top side this season in the field, dropped catches from both batters in the 20s before they went on to share a match-winning 92-run stand.

Rovman Powell couldn't hold on to an overhead catch of Kohli in the power play at short cover and Vaibhav Arora missed a sitter at deep backward

square leg when Padikkal was on 22.

Kohli was not overawed by the two successive ducks and lived up to his reputation of scoring big while chasing as he started by smashing four boundaries from the first six balls he faced.

Kohli drove Arora's first full pitched ball to midwicket boundary and then rounded off the over by smashing three boundaries. Jacob Bethell (15) didn't hold back and welcomed Saurabh Dube with two fours and a six as Bengaluru sped to 36-0 in three overs.

Kartik Tyagi surprised Bethell with a sharp bouncer and held on to an easy return catch but Padikkal showed aggression against both the pace and spin of Sunil Narine before Kohli raised his half century off 32 balls in the 10th over.

Both batters kept Narine at bay in the middle overs before Padikkal got caught at extra cover in the 14th over. But Kohli kept on accelerating from the other end before Narine got his only wicket of the final ball of his spell when Rajat Patidar was caught by Rahane at extra cover.

Kohli raised his hundred in the 19th over with a single of Arora's full toss before Jitesh Sharma rounded off Bengaluru's commanding chase with a winning boundary of Dube.

"We thought 190 was a competitive total," Kolkata captain Ajinkya Rahane said. "That (dropped) catch of Kohli ... I felt was the difference. While chasing a total, Virat is a dangerous player."

Disappointed about the result: Flick

Barcelona's 100-point bid ends in loss at Alaves

MADRID, May 14, (AP): Barcelona's hopes of reaching the 100-point mark in the Spanish league ended with a 1-0 loss at Alaves.

Barcelona clinched its second straight league title on Sunday with a 2-0 win over rival Real Madrid at home and needed three wins in its last three matches to reach 100 points.

The loss ended an 11-game winning streak for the Catalan club. "A little bit disappointed about the result, we all wanted to win today," Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said. "But at the end I saw good things, I'm happy with the performance of the team."

Alaves' players provided a guard of honor for Barcelona's team before the match, lining up and applauding their rivals as they entered the field.

It was a big win for Alaves, which moved out of the relegation zone with the result. It reached 15th place with 40 points, one point clear of the bottom three with two rounds left.

"We are not clear yet, but it was a big step," Alaves forward Toni Martínez said.

Ibrahim Diabate scored the winner from inside the area in first-half stoppage time.

Alaves hadn't earned a clean sheet in 20 straight league matches. Bar-

celona had scored at least once in 56 straight league matches.

Espanyol beat Athletic Bilbao 2-0 at home to end an 18-game winless streak and move further away from the relegation zone.

Pere Milla scored in the 69th and Kike García in stoppage time to give Espanyol its first win of the year. Its last victory had been in December at Athletic.

The result moved Espanyol to 14th place, while Athletic stayed ninth. Sevilla also gained some breathing room after it rallied from two goals down to win 3-2 at Villarreal.

It was the third victory in a row for Sevilla, which moved to 10th place, four points from the relegation zone.

Villarreal stayed in third place, but only three points ahead of fourth-placed Atletico Madrid, which won 2-1 at Osasuna.

Mallorca lost 3-1 to Getafe at home to stay in 17th place, just outside the relegation zone. Mallorca has only one win in its last five games.

Getafe was seventh, in position to qualify for European competitions.

Oviedo has already been demoted, but 10 teams are within four points of each other near the bottom of the table going into the last two rounds.



Barcelona's Dani Olmo, left and Alaves' Victor Parada fight for the ball during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Alaves and Barcelona in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain. (AP)

Cavs on verge of series win after OT thriller over Pistons



Cleveland Cavaliers guard Jaylon Tyson, left, and Detroit Pistons forward Isaiah Stewart fight over a ball during the first half in Game 5 of a second-round NBA playoffs basketball series in Detroit. (AP)

Harden scores a playoff-best 30 points

DETROIT, May 14, (AP): James Harden scored a playoff-best 30 points and Donovan Mitchell had 21, helping the Cleveland Cavaliers come back from a nine-point deficit late in regulation and beat the Detroit Pistons 117-113 in overtime on Wednesday night to take a 3-2 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

The Pistons led by 15 points in the first half and 103-94 with two-plus minutes left. The Cavs rallied and

pulled into a 103-all tie on Evan Mobley's free throws with 45.2 seconds left.

"That stretch right there says a lot about our progress - mental performance progress and mental toughness progress," Cavs coach Kenny Atkinson said.

Just before the buzzer, Cleveland's Jarrett Allen and Detroit's A'undrea Thompson got tangled up and no call was made.

"He fouled A'undrea - clearly," Pistons coach J.B. Bickerstaff said. "He tripped him when he was going for a loose ball."

Cleveland went on a 13-0 run and held Detroit scoreless for five minutes from late in fourth quarter to midway through overtime. The Cavs went ahead by seven with 2:39 left in OT on Mitchell's

3-pointer.

Cade Cunningham, who had 39 points and nine assists, made a jumper to pull the Pistons within two points with 25 seconds left.

Harden made one free throw on the ensuing possession and rebounded his missed second attempt. He made another free throw to help seal the win.

Game 6 is Friday night in Cleveland, where the fourth-seeded Cavs will get the first of two chances to advance to face the New York Knicks in the East finals.

If the top-seeded Pistons win, they will host Game 7 on Sunday.

Cleveland won the first road game of the series - and its first as a visitor this postseason.

The Pistons had won four straight games at home since Orlando put them on the brink of elimination in Game 5 of the first round.

Harden had eight rebounds and six assists. Max Strus made six 3-pointers and scored 20 points for the Cavs, Mobley added 19 points and Jarrett Allen had 16 points and 10 rebounds.

"It wasn't our best night offensively, but I think that's what speaks volumes to getting this win was we found a way," Strus said.

Starting in place of the injured Duncan Robinson, Daniss Jenkins scored 19 points for the Pistons. Tobias Harris missed 13 of 19 shots and scored 13 points, and Jalen Duren was limited to nine points and five rebounds.

'It's actually quite disgusting'

Scottish Premiership rocked by VAR decision, title race heats up

GLASGOW, May 14, (AP): Just days after English soccer had what many said was its most controversial VAR call, Scotland said.

Two league title races on a knife edge, two hugely consequential refereeing decisions that provoked equal amounts of anger, confusion and conspiracy theories.

Also delight for Celtic, which benefited from the disputed call Wednesday just as Arsenal did Sunday.

"It's actually quite disgusting," said Derek McInnes, coach of Scottish Premiership leader Hearts after seeing the handball incident that gave Celtic a last-minute penalty in a 3-2 win at Motherwell.

"It's such a bad decision," said McInnes, who takes his Hearts team to Celtic for a final showdown Saturday with a one-point lead in the standings.

That lead could - and most in Scotland seemed to believe should - be three points.

Wednesday evening in Scotland was the second-last round of games in a title race for the ages.

Unheralded Hearts has led the league for months trying to bring the trophy back to the club after a 66-year wait.

Hearts easily beat Falkirk 3-0 at the same time as Celtic's back-and-forth drama at Motherwell. A tense split-screen evening got clearer focus in the closing minutes.

Motherwell leveled at 2-2 in the 85th minute at Fir Park, just before Hearts got its third in the 86th at a Tynecastle Park pulsating with the noise of 19,000 raucous fans.

If those results stood, Hearts would go to Celtic able to lose by two clear goals Saturday and still win the title on the tiebreaker of goal difference.

Then, Celtic had a throw-in near the Motherwell penalty area in the last of four minutes of stoppage time.

The throw-in was launched long and Celtic's United States defender A'undrea Thompson jumped for a header with Motherwell's Sam Nicholson.

Trusty's shoulder seemed to lift Nicholson's arm upward, pushing his hand toward his face. The ball was cleared high and about 20 meters (yards), apparently from Nicholson's header. No foul was spotted by the referee.

Trusty went down as if struck in the head and referee John Beaton eventually went to his pitchside monitor for a video review.

The main camera angle did not seem conclusive but Beaton judged a handball offense and pointed to the penalty spot.

With the last kick, in the 99th minute, Celtic forward Kelechi Iheanacho scored. Hearts fans who stayed on at Tynecastle watched their phone screens in dismay.

Celtic will now clinch its 14th league title in 15 years with a win by any score against Hearts, which must avoid defeat.

"It's shocking, it's a shame for the game," Motherwell coach Jens Berthel Askou said. "It felt totally unreal."

The Danish coach said Nicholson's arm was pushed and questioned if the ball ever even struck a hand. "I can't see it no matter what angle I look at. It's a crazy thing to be



Motherwell's Sam Nicholson fouls Celtic's A'undrea Thompson, left, in the box resulting in a penalty being awarded to Celtic during the Scottish Premiership soccer match between Motherwell and Celtic in Motherwell, Scotland. (AP)

part of."

McInnes agreed, saying: "I thought I was missing something when I was watching it."

The Celtic view was different.

"We got a penalty which looks as if it's pretty clear-cut," said Martin O'Neill, the 74-year-old Celtic coaching great now on his second interim spell in a season of turmoil at the Glasgow giant.

Askou also articulated what many Scottish fans and pundits had said since a series of disputed VAR decisions at Celtic and Hearts games at the weekend.

"I think the big question is," Askou said, "What are we even doing here?"

Video review of on-field decisions has been a maelstrom of debate since FIFA fast-tracked it to a World Cup debut in 2018.

Still, the camera system - designed to eliminate "clear and obvious errors" by match officials - is probably most controversial in Britain. That is mostly not FIFA's fault, but how match officials there interpret what they see.

The furor reached a Premier League peak Sunday.

Arsenal was clinging to a 1-0 lead, to stay clear of title rival Manchester City, when West Ham thought it scored from a stoppage-time corner to earn a point in its own fight against relegation.

It stemmed from a melee of jumping, pushing, tugging bodies in the goalmouth seen at corners in most Arsenal games this season, and branded "wrestlemania" by some media.

After an unusually long video review, the match officials disallowed the goal for a foul on Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya. It was among at least five fouls committed by both teams as the ball arrived from the corner. Still images of the messy tangle were almost comical.

Had the West Ham goal stood, City would now be top of the Premier League with two rounds left after a 3-0 win Wednesday over Crystal Palace.

Arsenal and Celtic are favored to win titles in the next 10 days. The debate will surely rage in Britain for many years.

Bundesliga's final day

Champions League and relegation showdowns loom

BERLIN, May 14, (AP): Two dramatic three-way showdowns will dominate the last day of the Bundesliga season Saturday as Stuttgart leads a race for Champions League qualification and former champion Wolfsburg fights to avoid an historic relegation.

The top three spots are already clear after Bayern Munich sealed the title last month, while Borussia Dortmund is runner-up yet again and Leipzig is third.

Stuttgart has the fourth Champions League spot for now. Hoffenheim and Bayer Leverkusen want it.

Stuttgart's final game is a tough one at Eintracht Frankfurt. A win there would almost certainly guarantee fourth spot. If Stuttgart drops points, Hoffenheim can snatch fourth with a better result at Borussia Mönchengladbach and return to the Champions League for the first time since 2017-18.

Leverkusen needs to beat Hamburger SV and hope Stuttgart and Hoffenheim lose.

Champion of the Bundesliga in 2008-09, Wolfsburg hasn't been outside the top flight since 1997. It's one of the bottom three teams, all level on points, chasing one shot at survival.

The teams in 17th and 18th - St. Pauli and Heidenheim - are relegated automatically. The side in 16th, Wolfsburg for now, goes into a promotion-relegation playoff against a second-division team.

Wolfsburg visits St. Pauli on Saturday and



Borussia Dortmund's Nico Schlotterbeck celebrates scoring a goal during a Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and Eintracht Frankfurt in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

a loss for either means relegation. Heidenheim could yet leapfrog both with a win at home to Mainz.

The second division heads into its final day Sunday with promotion at stake. Schalke is already returning to the Bundesliga as champion but Elversberg, Hannover and Paderborn are level on points chasing the second spot.

Elversberg, from a tiny town near the French border, has a goal-difference advantage and a win over relegated Preussen Muenster should do it.

If Stuttgart can make it to the Champions League, it'll be thanks to Deniz Undav, whose 19 goals are second only to Harry Kane in the Bundesliga this season.

Hoffenheim's Champions League push has depended on Andrej Kramaric, who's played more than 300 games for the club, combining with young forward Fisinik Asllani.

England captain Kane's shot at Robert Lewandowski's single-season Bundesliga scoring record may have gone after Bayern opted to focus on keeping him fit for the Champions League, but he can still sign off in style.

Kane has 33 goals for Bayern in the Bundesliga and 55 in all competitions ahead of hosting Cologne on Saturday.

Bayern's Canadian left back Alphonso Davies has a hamstring injury less than a month from the World Cup. His clubmate Serge Gnabry has ruled himself out of playing at the tournament for Germany after a thigh muscle tear.

It's the last game in charge for coach Marie-Louise Eta, the first woman to become a head coach in any of Europe's five biggest men's leagues when she took interim charge of Union Berlin, where she got her first win last week.

Hosting Augsburg on Saturday is the last game in Eta's five-game spell in charge. She takes over Union's women's team next season.

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Kuwait Club player wins the aerial battle against Svay Rieng player during the Challenge League final in Kuwait.

Sports

Kuwait Club's Challenge League win locks in Champs League 2 berth for next season



Kuwait Club players celebrate with officials at the end of the final.

Photo by Rizk Taufiq

Historic victory draws national praise and celebration

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Kuwait's sporting landscape was lifted further as Kuwait Club secured the AFC Challenge League title, defeating Cambodia's PKR Svay Rieng 4-3 in a thrilling final at Jaber Al Ahmad International Stadium.

The victory also secured Kuwait Club a place in next season's AFC Champions League 2, while second place in the domestic league will enter the qualifying play-offs, and the third-placed team will feature in the AFC Challenge League.

Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Tareq Al-Jalaha congratulated the club, calling the triumph a significant milestone that reflects the combined efforts of management, technical staff, and players.

He said the achievement highlights the continued progress of Kuwaiti clubs in Asian competitions and reinforces the ability of young athletes to represent the country proudly

on the international stage, reaffirming state support for the sports sector.

AFC President Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa also praised Kuwait Club, noting the

club's strong continental presence and commending its determination, experience, and passionate fan support.

Director General of the Public Authority for Sport, Bashar Abdullah, extended his congratulations, saying the title reflects the steady development of Kuwaiti sports and the team's high-level performance throughout the tournament.

Kuwait Football Association President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef also congratulated Kuwait Club, praising both the organization of the final and the club's consistent displays, which underscore Kuwait's status in Asian football.

Kuwait Club President Khaled Al-Ghanem dedicated the victory to Kuwait's martyrs, describing it as a gesture of gratitude to those who sacrificed for the nation.

He also praised the players' commitment throughout the competition and thanked the technical, administrative, medical staff, and supporters, while singling out vice president of football operations Adel Aqla for his key behind-the-scenes role in the club's success.



Kuwait Club President Khaled Al-Ghanem raises the Challenge Cup trophy alongside the players.

Kuwait enjoys impressive medal-winning run in Qatar



Kuwait champions celebrate with their medals.

DOHA, May 14, (KUNA): Kuwait added to its medal tally, securing two silver and six bronze medals on the second day of the 4th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Games in Doha, which runs until May 22.

Swimmer Abdullah Sultan claimed bronze in the 200m backstroke.

In taekwondo, Ali Bourhama won silver in the under-68kg category, while Ali Ghloum secured bronze in the over-80kg division. Fatima Al-Jemaz added another bronze in the over-67kg category.

In fencing, Fawzia Al-Rifai earned silver in the épée event.

The Kuwaiti quartet of Ali Al-Kharafi, Husnain Al-Kharafi, Anaz Al-Anaz and Yara Al-Hunaidi, coached by Peter Postelmans, captured the bronze medal in the team event performance in the showjumping competition.

The event, held at the indoor arena of the Qatar Equestrian Federation, featured two rounds and a jump-off amid intense regional competition.

Host nation Qatar claimed the gold medal

through riders Faleh Al-Ajmi, Salman Al-Emadi, Khaled Al-Emadi and Bassem Mohammad, while the United Arab Emirates team took silver.

The winners were crowned by Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, who also serves as President of the Olympic Council of Asia and chairman of the organizing committee of the Games.

In bowling, the duo of Mustafa Al-Mousawi and Faisal Al-Saleem won bronze in the doubles event, while in billiards, Suleiman Ghloum secured bronze in the 10-ball singles competition.



Coach Peter Postelmans pictured with Kuwait's stars.

Burgan begins Cairo preparations

Countdown begins as Club Handball Championship draw set for Saturday

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: The draw for the 28th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship will be held on Saturday at 7:00 p.m. at Al Raya Hotel ahead of the tournament scheduled to take place in Kuwait next month.

The competition, postponed from 2024, will be hosted by Kuwait SC from June 6 to 15 at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex and will also serve as a qualifier for the 2026 IHF Men's Super Globe in Egypt.

Eight teams will compete in the tournament: Kuwait Club, Burgan Club, Al-Arabi, Al-Duhail, Sharjah Club, Al-Khaleej, Al-Noor and China's CHA Club. The clubs will be divided into two groups, while the technical meeting is set for June 5.

Meanwhile, Burgan Club departed for Cairo today to hold an external training camp as part of preparations for the continental event. The team is due back in Kuwait on May 31.

Burgan will play three friendly matches during the camp to evaluate player readiness and fine-tune tactical plans ahead of the championship.

The delegation is headed by club president Anwar Al-Otaibi and includes vice president Mohammed Nasser, the administrative staff and 17 players.

Handball director Abdulaziz Najeeb said the club is aiming for a strong showing in its first appear-



A file photo of players battling for the ball.

ance at the Asian championship, stressing that the management, technical staff and players are all determined to compete for the title.

He added that the club administration has provided full support to the team and expressed hope that Kuwaiti fans would stand behind Burgan throughout the tournament.

Burgan recently signed Egyptian coach Hussein Zaki to lead the side in the Asian competition. Japanese professional Yasuhira is also expected to join the squad after completing his loan spell with a Macedonian club later this month.

The club is additionally studying several foreign player options in hopes of signing three professionals before the tournament begins.

Lazio initiates own downfall

Inter seals long-awaited double



Inter Milan's team captain Lautaro Martinez lifts the trophy after defeating Lazio to win the Italian Cup soccer final in Rome. (AP)

ROME, May 14 (AP): Inter Milan cemented its domination of Italian soccer by securing the league and cup double for the first time in 16 years.

Inter beat Lazio 2-0 to win the Italian Cup, adding to the Serie A title it clinched with three rounds to spare.

Not since José Mourinho led Inter to a treble in 2010 - including the Champions League trophy - had Inter won the league and cup in the same season. Inter coach Christian Chivu, who is quickly making a name for himself in the managerial ranks after helping Parma avoid relegation last season, played on the 2010 team.

"What mark would I give Chivu? Ten out of 10," Inter captain Lautaro Martinez said after the final.

Chivu is in his first season at Inter after replacing Simone Inzaghi, who left following the disappointment of the end of last season when the Nerazzurri finished one point below Serie A champion Napoli, lost in the Italian Cup semifinals and were routed 5-0 by Paris Saint-Germain in the most lopsided Champions League

final in history.

"Doing the double is very important," Lautaro added. "It wasn't easy to start again after what happened last year but we managed to have a great season in our performances, results and intensity."

"I'm happy to finish with another trophy that matters a lot to us."

Lazio initiated its own downfall, gifting Inter both of its goals.

Inter took the lead in the 14th minute when Federico Dimarco whipped in a corner from the right and Lazio defender Adam Marusic headed it into his own net.

The second goal, in the 35th, was the fault of Nuno Tavares as the Lazio defender was robbed of the ball by Denzel Dumfries just outside the area. Dumfries cut inside and unselfishly rolled it across for Lautaro to score one of the easiest goals of his career, tapping it into an empty net from three yards out.

Inter had beaten Lazio 3-0 on Saturday in Serie A in a dress rehearsal for Wednesday's cup final in the same stadium in Rome.

Best of the Rest

Pulisic set to return this weekend: United States forward Christian Pulisic is likely to recover from a lower back injury in time for AC Milan's penultimate Serie A match this weekend.

Pulisic missed AC Milan's game against Atalanta on Sunday in another setback for the American player, who is enduring the longest goalscoring drought of his career.

However, he trained with the rest of the Milan squad on Wednesday and should be available for selection by Rossoneri coach Massimiliano Allegri for Sunday's match at Genoa. Milan's final game of the season is at home to Cagliari the following week.

Pulisic hasn't scored in his last 17 league matches since Dec. 28. He has also gone scoreless in eight games for the U.S.

Milan lost 3-2 at home to Atalanta on Sunday to leave it at risk of not qualifying for next season's Champions League. The Rossoneri are fourth, the final Champions League qualifying berth, level on points with fifth-place Roma and just two above Como. (AP)