



Amir, Lebanese President pledge to promote peace Page 2



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Crown Prince to attend Cup final

Kuwait Amir receives Crown Prince, Acting PM, Ministers

KUWAIT CITY, May 17, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received Acting Prime Minister Sheikh and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and Defense Minister Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah. Separately, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Defense Minister Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah. In other news, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah will

patronize and attend the final match for His Highness the Crown Prince Cup on Monday. The match will be held at 7:15 pm local time between Kuwait Sports Club and Al-Arabi Sports Club at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium. Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tariq Al-Jalahma said the patronage and attendance of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Monday's Crown Prince Cup final reflects the leadership's strong support for the sports sector. Al-Jalahma told KUNA on Sunday that the political leadership's support highlights the importance of sports in empowering youth, promoting competitiveness and encouraging national achievements.

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Kuwait Crown Prince hosts Bahrain Interior Minister



Crown Prince Diwan photo

HH the Crown Prince receives Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

KUWAIT CITY, May 17, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah warmly welcomed Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Bahrain General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa and his

accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace on Sunday. The Bahraini interior minister and his delegation are on official visit to Kuwait. Also present at the meeting were acting Prime

Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, Head of the Diwan of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and other high-ranking officials.



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

The era of Iranian deception is over

EVERY DAY the Tehran regime presents a new method of deception, a tactic it has employed throughout the last 47 years. The Iranian regime brazenly attempts to mislead its own public and obscure the truth about its relations with the regional countries. The regime accepts the facts while claiming it is under attack from neighboring countries. Recently, the Kuwaiti army intercepted a group linked to the Revolutionary Guard - more accurately, high-ranking officers - attempting to infiltrate Boubyan Island, which resulted in a confrontation with the island's security forces. Instead of addressing the incident directly, Iran's Foreign Minister rushed to threaten Kuwait, claiming those individuals were fishermen, and demanding their release. Looking back at events since 1979, it has always been evident that the Iranian expansionist regime has sought to destabilize the region and export its so-called revolution, which is why it planted its cells in all the Gulf states. These facts are well-known. The argument has always been that the Gulf states are hostile to Iran, when the opposite is true. In reality, the Gulf states have sought to open channels of dialogue with Tehran over the past decades, undertaking numerous visits and demonstrating considerable goodwill. What has been the result? The result has been bombings, attacks, and assassination attempts in the Gulf states, with Iran claiming they were perpetrated by non-Iranian actors. However, overwhelming evidence and undeniable testimonies confirm that Iran has been responsible for these attacks. Therefore, the statement of Abbas Araghchi was misleading. He was also aiming to mislead when he said diplomacy is the only solution to the region's problems with Iran. In the recent war, Tehran revealed its ugly face and malicious intentions towards the people of the Gulf. Araghchi is trying to absolve himself of a long history of systematic aggression against the Gulf states by offering flimsy excuses.

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Worker wins case over six-month salary delay

Labor court grants transfer after wage breach

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: The Labor Court obliged a private company to cancel the residency permit of an employee and transfer him to another employer without the need for the consent of the current sponsor, as the defendant company failed to

pay his salary for six consecutive months.

The court also ordered the company to pay the employee all his outstanding wages and compensation for overtime. Case details revealed that the employee filed a complaint, stating that he worked in the company for four years. However, his employer stopped paying his salary for several months, thereby, putting him in difficult living conditions, and compelling him to borrow money and rely on assistance from his colleagues.

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Prosecution work is a sacred trust: Al-Sumait

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: Minister of Justice and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies, Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait, affirmed that working in the Public Prosecution is a trust and a responsibility linked to people's freedoms, rights, and dignity.



Al-Sumait

Al-Sumait called on the legal researchers nominated for the position of Public Prosecutor to uphold integrity, impartiality, discipline, and adherence to the rule of law. This came during his meeting with the candidates at the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies, coinciding with the start of their six-month training course. Al-Sumait explained that accepting this cohort is part of the state's plan to nationalize the judiciary and support it with qualified national talent. The next phase requires seriousness and full readiness to assume judicial responsibilities. For the first time, the course will include a specialized program in international humanitarian law in the candidates' training track, enabling them to obtain a certified trainer certificate. This step reflects the state's direction toward developing legal competencies and enhancing readiness to handle both local and international cases.

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PM Diwan photo

HH the PM being received at the airport by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

PM back in Kuwait after EU-GCC summit in Greece

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, returned to the country following his participation in the first EU-GCC Geopolitical and Investment Summit held in Greece. His Highness was received at the airport by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interi-

or Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereedah Al-Maousherji, Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Acting Chief of the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, and several senior state officials. (KUNA) - Earlier Story Page 2

Don't click fake traffic links

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: Director of the Security Media Department at the Interior Ministry Colonel Othman Al-Mansouri clarified that reports circulating on some social media platforms about the text messages sent to citizens and residents demanding payment of traffic fines, exploiting the Unified Gulf Traffic Week and claiming to be offering discounts, are false. Al-Mansouri warned that these messages are fraudulent and aimed at committing electronic fraud. He said the department urges everyone not to respond to these messages or click attached links. He stressed the need to use official payment channels, including 'Sahel' and ministry application, in addition to the service centers and traffic departments in various governorates.



Al-Mansouri

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268 medicines get price caps

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi issued a decree on Sunday, approving the prices of 268 pharmaceutical products, nutritional supplements and medicines. The decree aims to offer the above-

mentioned products at the most competitive prices in the Gulf, prioritizing patient welfare while guaranteeing the efficiency and long-term viability of the national healthcare system. The total number of approved pharmaceutical items with regulated prices has reached 1,922.

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Kuwait targets 2027 completion for international economic zone

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development has estimated that the International Special Economic Zone project will be completed by 2027. Economic experts have stressed the importance of accelerating its implementation, noting that it was included in development plans two years ago, particularly given its role in attracting foreign investment. Economic expert Qais Al-Ghanim believes that the free economic zone should have been implemented more quickly, but that war in the region temporarily delayed its progress. He expressed hope that the project would be expedited once the regional



Al-Ghanim

political situation stabilizes, especially as the economic zone is expected to be located near the Iraqi border. Al-Ghanim pointed out that China's involvement in this major project aims to facilitate the flow of Chinese goods to Mubarak Port, from where they can be transported from Kuwait to other Middle Eastern countries via railway lines that Iraq has been constructing over the past two years. He explained that the completion of Mubarak Port would benefit both the Kuwaiti and Chinese economies, especially as China is aware that Iraq's population is nearly 50 million. The port should serve Kuwait's economy even more effectively through the development of an adjacent industrial zone.

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Kuwait revokes 31 citizenships

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: The official gazette "Kuwait Al-Youm" Sunday published Decision No. 47/8/2026 issued by the Supreme Committee for Kuwaiti Citizenship Investigation, revoking the Kuwaiti citizenship of 31 individuals, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

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UK arms jets

UAE nuke plant safe after strike

ABU DHABI, May 17, (KUNA): UAE authorities said Sunday a fire broke out in an electricity generator outside the inner perimeter of Barakah Nuclear Power Plant in Al-Dhafra following a drone strike.

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Al-Jarallah, Algerian envoy explore stronger media cooperation

Zain Kuwait collaborates with ktech & CCK to empower future-ready national talent



NBK announces 14 new Al Jawhara winners



Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:24 Asr 15:20
 Sunrise .. 04:54 Maghrib .. 18:35
 Zohr 11:44 Isha 20:02



HH Amir Sheikh Meshal



President Joseph Aoun

Amir, Lebanese President pledge to promote peace

KUWAIT CITY, May 17, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a phone call Sunday from Lebanese President Joseph Aoun.

During the call, both sides reviewed the brotherly relations between Kuwait and Lebanon and discussed issues of mutual interest alongside regional and international developments, particularly current developments in the region.

The two leaders stressed the importance of exerting all efforts to promote peace in the region and support initiatives aimed at preserving its sovereignty, security and stability.

His Highness the Amir expressed appreciation to President Aoun, wish-

ing him continued good health and the Lebanese people further progress and prosperity.

In another development, 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 the accompanying delegation departed Greece Sunday.

His Highness headed Kuwait's delegation to the first European-Gulf geopolitical and investment summit.

Kuwait Ambassador to Greece Mohammad Ali Al-Roumi and embassy staff members were present at the airport to bid farewell to His Highness.

Kuwait's Amir congratulates Norway on Constitution Day

KUWAIT CITY, May 17, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, sent a congratulatory cable to King Harald V of Norway on the occasion of his country's Constitution Day.

His Highness wished the King long-lasting health and Norway and its people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, sent a congratulatory cable to King Harald V of Norway on the occasion of his country's Constitution Day, wishing him long-lasting health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, sent a congratulatory cable to King Harald V of Norway on the occasion of his country's Constitution Day.

Other Voices

Japan, Kuwait must work for sustainable ME peace

By H.E. Mukai Kenichiro
 Ambassador of Japan

Events of the past several weeks have been profoundly challenging to the State of Kuwait, yet they have served to highlight the resilience of its people, like the Al-Arfaj flower in the harsh desert condition. I am deeply impressed by the resilience, strength and unity of people of Kuwait and reaffirm Japan's solidarity with Kuwait. We remain committed to sustaining our diplomatic efforts in close partnership, as reflected in our recent engagements.



Kenichiro

Mr. Yamada Kenji, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry visited Kuwait on May 7 and held meetings with H.E. Mr. Tareq Sulaiman Al-Roumi, Minister of Oil and H.E. Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

In the talks with H.E. Mr. Al-Roumi, discussions focused on enhancing the stable petroleum supplies and developing resilient supply chains, and both sides agreed to continue working closely together on energy cooperation by strengthening energy security. In the meeting with H.E. Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem, the Minister expressed appreciation for long-standing contributions of Japanese companies in the area of water and electricity and expectations for further cooperation under the current challenging circumstances. They further discussed the potential opportunities to strengthen cooperation.

The visit proved constructive, both in affirming our solidarity with Kuwait and in conducting in-depth, face-to-face talks on enhancing bilateral cooperation. In this context, the State Minister Yamada also proposed exploring collaboration under the "Partnership On Wide Energy and Resources Resilience Asia (POWER Asia)" to enhance energy security and supply-chain resilience.

Disruption in the Strait of Hormuz not only directly affects our GCC partners but also impacts Asian countries that are closely connected each other through energy supply chains. In April, Japanese Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae announced the launch of a new cooperation framework "Partnership on Wide Energy and Resources Resilience Asia (POWER Asia)." This initiative includes approximately \$10 billion financial assistance for expanding crude oil reserves in Asian countries, establishing secure sea lanes, and restoring production capacity including oil facilities in the Middle East. The initial project under POWER Asia is expected to

involve the procurement of crude oil for the Nghi Son Refinery in Vietnam, which is jointly operated by Japanese and Kuwaiti partners. This highlights Kuwait as an indispensable comprehensive and strategic partner for Japan in strengthening energy security in Asia.

POWER Asia is a key component of updated "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)." Japan proposed FOIP a decade ago, grounded in the fundamental principles of upholding freedom, the rule of law, and respecting diversity, inclusiveness, and openness. This concept has since been widely shared as a clear vision of Japanese diplomacy. Amidst current global challenges, FOIP has been updated to prioritize the resilience and capability for the countries in the Indo-Pacific region to have freedom to decide for themselves across the economic, social, and security domains so that they can determine their own future.

The updated FOIP focuses on three priority areas. First, building economic infrastructure for the age of AI and data including by strengthening supply chain resilience for energy and critical materials. Second, co-creating economic growth opportunities through public-private collaboration and rule sharing. Third, enhancing cooperation in the field of security to ensure regional peace and stability. Guided by the Updated FOIP, and recognizing that resilient supply chains are essential for ensuring stable petroleum supplies-vital to economic activities even in the event of crises in the Strait of Hormuz-Japan will advance the efforts through POWER Asia.

Currently the security environment is changing at an accelerating pace across various fields and a free and open international order based on the rule of law is facing a serious challenge. Despite these circumstances, Japan's stance remains unchanged. Japan has consistently contributed to the peace and prosperity of the international community, adhered to international law including the United Nations Charter. Japan is determined to work toward maintaining and strengthening a free and open international order based on the rule of law. In this regard, I trust that Japan and Kuwait share the same commitment and will continue working together.

Japan and Kuwait have deepened our bilateral relations for 65 years until today as true friends who have helped one another in times of need. Last year, we agreed to upgrade our bilateral relationship to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership." As comprehensive strategic partners, Japan and Kuwait must continue to strengthen our cooperation toward peace and stability in the Middle East, a stable supply of energy, and the secure supply of essential goods. Even amid these challenging circumstances, guided by the Updated FOIP and with the initiatives of POWER Asia, Japan continues the efforts for energy security to be more resilient and prosperous together with our partners including Kuwait.

Kuwait, Bahrain keen to fortify security pillars

KUWAIT CITY, May 17, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and Bahrain's Interior Minister General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa stressed the importance of enhancing Gulf security.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Interior said that during the meeting Sheikh Fahad affirmed the depth of the longstanding fraternal and historic ties between Kuwait and Bahrain and their peoples.

Sheikh Fahad also reiterated Kuwait's full support for Bahrain and its backing of all measures aimed at preserving the kingdom's



Sheikh Fahad



Sheikh Rashid

security and stability, praising the high efficiency and vigilance of Bahraini security

agencies in addressing various security challenges.

The statement added that the two sides reviewed the latest regional and international developments.

Both sides affirmed the keenness of the two countries to support all efforts aimed at consolidating the pillars of security and stability and achieving common interests in line with the aspirations of the leaderships and peoples of the two nations.

The statement noted that Sheikh Rashid later departed the country and was seen off at Kuwait International Airport by Sheikh Fahad and a number of security officials.

Amir's Rep. meets global leaders at EU-Gulf summit

KUWAIT CITY, May 17, (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, received on Saturday Qatari Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdurrahman Al-Thani on the sidelines of the EU-Gulf Geopolitical and Investment Summit in Greece.

Deep-rooted cooperation and means to develop it for the best interests of both countries and peoples were discussed during the reception, in addition to exchanging views on issues related to regional safety and stability.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his office director Abdullah Al-Obaidi.

UK PM

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, received on Saturday former British prime minister Tony Blair and his accompanying delegation on the sidelines of the EU-Gulf Geopolitical and Investment Summit in Greece.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and

ECB chief

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 received Saturday the President of the European Central Bank (ECB) Christine Lagarde on the sidelines of the EU-Gulf Geopolitical and Investment Summit in Greece.

During the meeting, both sides discussed means of boosting cooperation between Kuwait and the ECB, along with some issues of mutual interest.

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was present.

Finland Pres.

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 received Saturday the President of Finland Alexander Stubb and his accompanying delegation on the sidelines of the EU-Gulf Geopolitical and Investment Summit in Greece.

During the meeting, His Highness the Prime Minister conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to the president, wishing Finland further progress and prosperity.

Both sides reviewed distinguished relations between Kuwait and Finland, and means of developing and boosting them in all fields to serve the interests of the two countries and their peoples as well as shared views on some issues of mutual interest.

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was present.

Cyprus Pres.

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 received Saturday the President of Cyprus Nikos Christodoulides and his accompanying delegation on the sidelines of the EU-Gulf Geopolitical and Investment Summit in Greece.

During the meeting, His Highness the Prime Minister conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to the president, wishing Cyprus further progress and prosperity.

Both sides reviewed distinguished relations between Kuwait and Cyprus and means of developing and boosting them in all fields to serve the interests of the two countries and their peoples as well as shared views on some issues of mutual interest.

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was present.



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, receives the Qatari Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdurrahman Al-Thani.



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 meets President of the European Central Bank (ECB) Christine Lagarde.



PM Diwan photos
 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 meets former British prime minister Tony Blair.

Fraud in foods in steep climb

Goat milk, seafood seized

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) announced that its Technical Monitoring and Inspection Sector's Imported Food Department inspected the warehouse of a company and seized several batches of the "Danalac" goat milk formula.

This action was taken based on a follow-up report received through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed regarding the suspected presence of the substance "Cereulide."

PAFN confirmed that all necessary precautionary and technical measures were taken in accordance with approved regulations and procedures, as part of its efforts to enhance food safety and protect consumer health and safety.

It emphasized its continued monitoring of international reports related to food safety to ensure consumer protection.

Meanwhile, the Capital Inspection Department's Waterfront Food Inspection Center, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Kuwait Municipality, announced the seizure of approximately 234 kilograms of frozen shrimp of unknown origin in the Capital Governorate. The shrimp had been thawed in preparation for sale and distribution as fresh.

The seized quantities were ready for marketing, and violation reports and destruction reports were issued for the confiscated goods.

In Jahra Governorate, PAFN's Jahra Inspection Department carried out intensive field inspections at the central fruit and vegetable market, covering 280 food establishments.

The inspections resulted in the issuance of 52 citations for violations detected within food warehouses, in addition to the seizure of large quantities of spoiled fruits and vegetables intended for distribution. Legal measures were taken against the violators.

The most notable violations included the sale of food unfit for human consumption, the sale of adulterated food, and non-compliance with health and hygiene regulations.

Judiciary goes 'full throttle' to clear backlog of appeals

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: President of the Court of Cassation Dr. Adel Bouresli affirmed that the court is keen on eliminating the backlog of appeals and ensuring the prompt delivery of justice.

Bouresli made the statement at the General Assembly of the court on Sunday, marking the end of the 2025/2026 judicial year.

He praised the efforts exerted by the agents and advisors of the court throughout the judicial year, stressing that their hard

work led to the resolution of a number of pending appeals. He pointed out that continuous work in the morning and evening sessions, in addition to appeal review sessions, remarkably reduced the number of pending appeals. He stressed the importance of maintaining the same pace of work until the backlog is fully cleared and the legal positions of litigants are stabilized.

He added that the chambers of the court will be fully staffed by July, while efforts will continue to ensure the completion of the judicial process, following the organization of the judicial recess in July and August.

Cooperation deal inked

Kuwait to provide funds for poor Egypt families

CAIRO, May 17, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Office for Charitable Projects in Cairo and the Egyptian Zakat and Charity House signed a cooperation protocol to support the most vulnerable and poorest families in Egypt.

The signing ceremony was held at Al-Azhar on Sunday, in the presence of Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Al-Tayeb and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Egypt Ghanem Al-Ghanem.

The protocol was signed by Engineer Jamal Al-Majdali, Director of the Kuwaiti Office for Charitable Projects, and Secretary General of the Egyptian Zakat and Charity House Dr. Sahar Nasr.

Following the signing, Sheikh Al-Tayeb commended the deep fraternal ties between Egypt and Kuwait and commended their abundant cooperation in various fields, especially humanitarian and charitable work.

Meanwhile, Al-Ghanem stated that Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations represent a model of brotherly cooperation based on mutual respect and shared destiny.

He emphasized that Kuwait - leadership, government, and people - attaches great importance to charitable and humanitarian work in Egypt, driven by the strong historical ties between the two countries and a desire to improve living conditions for the most deprived families.

Coordination

Continuous coordination with Egyptian institutions, particularly Al-Azhar, enhances the effectiveness of humanitarian initiatives and ensures aid reaches those who need it most, he added.

Speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Majdali said that the protocol includes a financial donation of 3,881,000 Egyptian pounds (approximately USD 73,464) from Dr. Majda Al-Yatama, as this donation is allocated to support poor students and orphans.

Al-Majdali expressed gratitude to Dr. Al-Yatama and all donors, stressing that their contributions are essential for the continuation of humanitarian and development projects.

In a similar statement to KUNA, Dr. Nasr stated that this protocol reflects the brotherly relations and historical ties between the Egyptian and Kuwaiti peoples, and both sides' commitment to strengthening social solidarity and supporting the most deprived families, especially amid current economic challenges.

She thanked the State of Kuwait, its leadership and people, and the Kuwaiti Office for Charitable Projects in Cairo for this humanitarian initiative aimed at supporting vulnerable families across all Egyptian governorates.

The Egyptian Zakat and Charity House provides monthly financial assistance to the families most in need through the "Sanad" program, in addition to various forms of support including food aid, orphan sponsorship, patient care, support for people with disabilities, and assistance for women's marriages.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

We open doors for them ... and they backstab us

"WHILE Kuwait continues to provide opportunities to Iranians, their government is conspiring against the Gulf states to undermine their internal security," columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"For example, Iran committed terrorist attacks against Bahrain during 2014 and 2015, including a bombing in the Sitra area that resulted in the deaths of two police officers, the discovery of an underground weapons cache, and a car bomb explosion near the vicinity of the Royal Court.



Ahmad Al-Dawas

"On September 9, 2015, Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa stated that large quantities of explosives had been smuggled into Bahrain, enough to wipe Manama off the map, adding that such threats were uncovered through cooperation with allies in the Gulf region, including the US Navy and others.

"Few days ago, individuals allegedly linked to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard infiltrated Boubyan Island to carry out hostile acts against Kuwait. The Kuwaiti Armed Forces arrested four of them, who confessed to being tasked by the Revolutionary Guard with carrying out attacks.

"There is a clear contrast between Iranian politics and the peaceful nature of Kuwait society and its political approach.

"Looking back at Kuwait's history, many have viewed it as a safe and stable country compared to its neighbors, a place of refuge for those seeking refuge. This encouraged people from Oman and Iran to migrate to Kuwait to earn a living.

"One Omani said, "If my blood could speak, it would say I am Kuwaiti-Omani."

"An Iranian said, "Kuwait enriched everyone. I entered with patience, and we received prosperity. We built homes in Iran, educated our children, and married them off with Kuwait's bounty."

"Many members of the Iranian communist Tudeh Party sought refuge in Kuwait following the 1953 coup against Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh's government, which had nationalized the country's oil industry.

"Similarly, members of the Muslim Brotherhood, who were persecuted in Egypt during the era of President Jamal Abdel Nasser, also found refuge in Kuwait.

"An Iranian tailor, Fathallah, said, "I entered Kuwait in 1961 by boat after hearing that Kuwait was full of good things for those who wanted to work with honor, sincerity, and loyalty. It was the end of the era of the Indian rupee and the beginning of the new dinar.

"I brought a bag and tailoring supplies. I was only 18 years old. I worked with the Royal tailor for suits, and later with Aziz Behbahani in the merchants' market. I am now 70 years old. I worked as a tailor for shirts and suits in the Qattan building, opposite the Rumi Mosque, for 18 years."

"Tailor Ahmad Gholam Abbas also took part in the discussion, saying he entered Kuwait in 1964 and worked as a tailor along with Fathallah. He said, "I arrived in the land of goodness and happiness," affirming that this blessed land deserves praise.

"He said he worked in Kuwait for many years and came to know its people well. According to him, Kuwait, through its policies, has improved the lives of many, regardless of their background.

"Ahmad also mentioned several words that are common between the Iranian language and the Kuwaiti dialect, such as "darwazeh" (gate), "khiyar" (cucumber), "tammat" (tomato), and "ustad" (teacher).

"Throughout the years, Kuwait has not wronged any country, nor has it interfered in the internal affairs of others. Kuwait can be compared to a kind and generous neighbor who treats those around it with goodwill.

"Kuwait provides assistance through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and follows a peaceful policy based on coexistence.

"There are many examples of Kuwait's humanitarian role and contributions on the international stage."

Also:

"In every course I deliver, I ask participants a simple question - What concerns you most today? Most answers point to pollution," PhD in Plant Philosophy Dr. **Reem Al-Hazim** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Pollution is no longer just an unpleasant sight; it has become a serious threat affecting the health of the planet, human well-being, environmental safety, and the future of coming generations. What is truly painful is seeing both land and sea gradually overwhelmed by waste and plastic.

"A few days ago, I read about a beach cleanup campaign carried out by the Kuwait Dive Team, which succeeded in removing four tons of waste from Kuwait Bay, one of the world's largest habitats for wildlife and marine life.

"It was a shocking scene that reflected the scale of the crisis. Tons of plastic and waste are not only harming marine ecosystems, but also affecting the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we consume.

"Pollution is not the responsibility of a single entity; it is a responsibility shared by the entire community. What we need is a real action plan that begins with raising awareness in schools and universities, expanding volunteer cleanup campaigns, strengthening monitoring of waste disposal, and providing real support for recycling projects and reducing daily plastic use.

"The media, content creators, and both public and private institutions are capable of creating meaningful change when environmental awareness becomes an ongoing culture rather than a temporary campaign.

"The Earth is calling for help, asking for better awareness, more compassion, and deeper responsibility. Every piece of litter carelessly thrown away can harm or destroy living creatures. Every effort made to protect the environment is an investment in sustainability and a safeguard for future generations."

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"I chose this title, "The school of comen: from Al-Sahhaf to Araghchi," to express the repetition of lies we have been living with for more than 50 years, as if history keeps repeating itself," columnist Eng. **Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"During the time of the last Iraqi Information Minister under Saddam Hussein, Mohammad Saeed Al-Sahhaf, he would appear daily with statements claiming victories achieved by Saddam Hussein's army against American forces during the war to liberate Kuwait, while the reality on the ground was completely different. Over time, these statements became a source of public amusement.

"His approach was similar to the propaganda methods of Nazi propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels, during Hitler's rule, with his famous phrase - "Lie... lie... lie... until people believe you."

"Today, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran Abbas Araghchi is using the same tactics, even going beyond the master liar Al-Sahhaf and even Goebbels.

"In recent days, the Kuwaiti army reported intercepting a group linked to the Revolutionary Guard attempting to infiltrate Boubyan Island. When they were detained, Araghchi stated that the action was illegal and demanded their immediate release, claiming they were Iranian citizens. Stressing that this was a clear attempt to sow discord, Araghchi suggested that Kuwait had "illegally attacked an Iranian boat and detained four of its crew."

"Who is Araghchi trying to fool? Are they ordinary Iranian citizens, or officers affiliated with the Revolutionary Guard? Who is actually sowing discord? Is it the side that sends armed personnel into a neighboring country, or the side that is defending its land and themselves?"

"If they are ordinary civilians, as claimed by the minister, then why were they carrying weapons and why did they injure a Kuwaiti soldier?"

"Iranian propaganda has become laughably absurd. The world has changed since the days of Al-Sahhaf's lies. Such tactics are no longer effective, especially with modern technology and satellites. People today can distinguish between truth and misinformation with just the click of a button.

"It appears that Araghchi is still living in the Goebbels-Al-Sahhaf era, and is perhaps out of touch with reality. If they were merely hunters, then why were they armed, and why did they clash with the Kuwaiti army?"

"We know our country, and we know that Kuwait is a defensive state, meaning it does not attack anyone unless it is first attacked.

"Kuwait is not an easy target, and it has the capability to defend itself. If the Revolutionary Guard is attempting to test its resolve, it will find that Kuwait is fully capable of protecting its security.

"Recent events have proved this, including the foolish infiltration attempts by Iranians.

"Kuwait is resilient and not easily affected by them or by any stronger power. At the same time, it acts with wisdom and restraint, and its patience makes such attempts so absurd that they only bring more problems upon their perpetrators.

"The principle of reciprocity, which the UAE initiated, is now being applied in all Gulf states. I reiterate that we have wise leadership that does not seek war, but lies and slander do not go unnoticed. Anyone familiar with Boubyan Island knows its residents and terrain, and that the forces stationed there are responsible for border protection.

- Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

MoSA panels to review co-ops accounts, ops

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, May 17: The Ministry of Social Affairs recently formed eight audit committees tasked to review the operations and accounts of eight cooperative societies,

say reliable sources from the ministry.

Sources disclosed that this oversight measure aims to scrutinize the financial and administrative records of the cooperatives, and ensure that the proper procedures followed.

Sources added that if irregularities or vi-

olations are found, they will be dealt with firmly, and the necessary legal measures will be taken against the erring cooperatives.

Sources stated that after completing the audit, the committees will submit their reports, which will then be reviewed to determine if violations were committed or not.

'Cleanliness target'

Many illegal aliens held in PAI raid at scrapyard

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: The Public Authority for Industry (PAI) carried out a joint inspection campaign in the scrapyards located south of Amghara recently, in cooperation with the Public Security Sector of the Ministry of Interior, the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), and the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a press release, PAI explained that the campaign is part of its efforts to strengthen oversight of plots under its supervision and to monitor violations and encroachments on state property.

The campaign resulted in the detection of several violations and irregularities within the area. Legal measures were taken against the violators, and a number of undocumented workers were apprehended and dealt with in accordance with procedures followed by the Ministry of Interior.

PAI affirmed its commitment to continuing inspection and monitoring campaigns in coordination with relevant government entities, in order to protect state property and ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Kuwait Municipality announced the launch of inspection campaigns by its Public Hygiene and Road Occupancy Departments in all six governorates, according to a schedule prepared by the Public Relations Department, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

According to an official statement by Kuwait Municipality, the campaigns aim to monitor violations and ensure compliance with municipal regulations.

Inspection teams from the Public Hygiene and Road Occupancy Department in Ahmadi Municipality conducted the third field campaign to detect violations related to the unauthorized use of public spaces and road occupancy.

The campaign resulted in 17 citations for unauthorized use of public spaces in front of commercial establishments, in addition to 13 warnings issued in Mangaf, Mahboula, and Abu Halifa.

Kuwait Municipality emphasized that these field campaigns will continue in all governorates as part of its efforts to curb violations.

It urged shop owners to comply with regulations to avoid penalties and legal action.

KD 150 fine, 1-3 yrs in jail for illegal transport

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: Traffic officers arrested three expatriates for illegally transporting passengers.

According to a security source, the three expatriates were apprehended within 24 hours as part of the intensified efforts of traffic officers to ensure compliance with the traffic regulations.

The source disclosed that the fine for using a vehicle to transport passengers for hire without a permit is KD150 if settled amicably. If the case is referred to court, the penalty ranges from one to three years imprisonment and/or a fine of KD600 to KD1,000, the source added.

The source confirmed that the vehicles of the arrested expatriates were impounded and they were referred to the traffic police station.

95 firms sealed: On Thursday evening, the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) carried out an inspection campaign in the Fahaheel Industrial Area to identify buildings in violation of safety and fire prevention regulations.

The campaign resulted in the administrative closure of, and issuance of warnings to, 95 establishments for non-compliance with the regulations.

Al-Shatti elected chief

KD3m paid to doctors, families: medics fund

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: The Collective Solidarity Fund for Members of Medical Professional Associations held its first meeting for the 28th session of 2026, following the ordinary general assembly, which approved the administrative and financial reports.

During the meeting, Ahmad Al-Shatti was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors, Waleed Al-Basri as Vice Chairman, Hossam El-Din Abdel-Fattah as Secretary, Jaber Al-Khaldi as Treasurer and Waleed Al-Harbi as Assistant Treasurer.

The Board consists of Ayman Khalil, Khaled Saleh, Hassan Khaja, Mohamed Alaa Attia, Osama Hakim and representatives of medical professional associations -- five doctors from Kuwait Medical Association, two from Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association, two dentists and one veterinarian.

After the meeting, Al-Shatti stated that the fund aims to strengthen cooperation and solidarity among members of the medical professional associations, and provide social care for members and their families, particularly in case of death, professional disability or retirement from service in the public and private sectors.

He pointed out that for more than five decades, the fund has been committed to meeting its financial obligations to the members, indicating the total payments exceeded KD3 million.

He added that the Board of Directors, which is elected every two years, is in charge of setting policies and reviewing the recommendations to achieve balance between financial obligations and the entry of new members.

9 illegal stalls at 'Souk Juma' shut

Fake goods aplenty at market

By Marwa Al-Bahravi/Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: Director of the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, **Faisal Al-Ansari**, announced the seizure of nine unlicensed stalls at the Friday Market in Al-Rai. The stalls were found selling counterfeit goods bearing international brand names.

The action came as part of an inspection campaign carried out by ministry teams led by Faraj Mohammad Al-Jafira, the acting Head of the Al-Rai Center, and Commercial Inspector Ali Al-Owaidan.

Al-Ansari explained that the campaign resulted in nine violation reports related to the sale of counterfeit goods. A total of 1,430 items were confiscated, including bags, shoes, and T-shirts carrying fake international brand labels. Legal measures were taken against the violators, who were referred to the Commercial Prosecution.

He emphasized that inspection campaigns are ongoing, including on weekends, as part of the ministry's efforts to protect intellectual property rights, combat commercial fraud, and regulate markets.

Acquitted in drugs case: The Third Circuit of the Criminal Court overturned a sentence of four-year imprisonment with hard labor and a KD 4,000 fine issued against an individual in absentia. The court instead acquitted him of possessing hashish and intoxicants for personal use, ruling that the search conducted was unlawful.

This verdict was issued after it was proven that the arresting officer had searched the defendant during an arrest related to a theft case, without evidence of flagrante delicto or a warrant from the Public Prosecution.

The court emphasized that the principle that "wherever arrest is permissible, search is permissible" does not grant judicial officers unrestricted authority to search for crimes unrelated to the crime under investigation.

It stated that it was not convinced by the arresting officer's testimony regard-

ing the charge of resisting a police officer, noting that the case file lacked forensic evidence to support the claim.

The defendant was represented by Lawyer Abdullah Al-Alanda, who insisted that the search and sample collection procedures were invalid.

Court says refund citizen: The Circuit 45 of the Commercial Court has ordered a real estate development company to refund a citizen KD 20,000, plus 7% interest from March 31, 2017, until full payment is made, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The ruling was issued in response to a lawsuit filed by Lawyer Ali Jawhar on behalf of the plaintiff - a Kuwaiti woman - who had made payments to the company in three installments for the reservation and purchase of a chalet in a project in Sabah Al-Ahmad Marine City.

The plaintiff presented receipts totaling KD 20,000, covering reservation fees and a partial payment for the chalet.

Lawyer Ali Jawhar explained that his client was later surprised to receive a sales contract that lacked official signatures and omitted important property details, including the chalet's description and size of the chalet. The company later refused to provide the citizen with a legally valid contract or refund the amounts she had paid.

Lawyer Ali Jawhar asked the court to assign the Experts Department at the Ministry of Justice to review the documents and receipts and determine whether the payments were made for the property in question.

The expert report concluded that the plaintiff had paid the full amount to the company through receipts bearing its official seal, and that no corresponding refund or payment had been made to her.

Training program: The Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies, has announced a training program for female candidates accepted for the position of Court Clerk, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a statement, the ministry explained that the program aims to qualify national staff and enhance their professional competence in line with the requirements of judicial work. The training program will be held from May 17 to 19 from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the headquarters of the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies, 9th Floor, Room 5. Accepted candidates will be notified via the Sahel application.



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Ambassador Belhadj lauds Al-Seyassah and Arab Times partnership, stresses vital role of press

Al-Jarallah, Algerian envoy explore stronger media cooperation



Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers with Omar Belhadj, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah had a meeting with Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to Kuwait Omar Belhadj in his office on Sunday.

Advisor at the Embassy of Algeria Fouad Belkhir accompanied Ambassador Belhadj.

Also present at the meeting were Abdulaziz Suleiman Al-Jarallah and Deputy Editor-in-Chief Suleiman Al-Jarallah.

During the meeting, Ahmed Al-Jarallah warmly welcomed Ambassador Belhadj and his companion. He confirmed the strong ties and cooperation between Kuwait and Algeria in various fields.

The two sides discussed several issues of mutual concern and strategies for improving cultural and media collaboration to further cement bilateral relations.

Ambassador Belhadj expressed his gratitude for the reception and lauded the productive partnership with Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers. He underscored the vital role of the media in bridging nations and supporting fraternal relations between friendly countries.



Ahmed Al-Jarallah meets Algerian Ambassador Omar Belhadj and delegation in Kuwait, discussing enhanced media and cultural cooperation and stronger bilateral ties. Also present were Abdulaziz Suleiman Al-Jarallah and Deputy Editor-in-Chief Suleiman Al-Jarallah.

Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Public Works launches 'Bader' initiative to boost governance

MEW highway sand tenders postponed

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: The Ministry of Public Works launched the "Bader" initiative to enhance corporate governance, under the patronage of Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan.

The initiative aims to provide ministry employees with an opportunity to submit develop-

ment ideas and proposals that contribute to improving corporate governance and the efficiency of government services.

The ministry stated that the initiative aligns with its goals of fostering a competitive work environment and empowering national talent to contribute to improving institutional performance.

Coinciding with the launch, the corporate governance team presented Minister Dr. Al-Mashaan with a commemorative shield in recognition of the ministry's achievement of the Bronze Level

in the "Aadaa" project, as recognized by the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha).

Dr. Al-Mashaan praised the efforts of the corporate governance team and their role in enhancing performance, transparency, and governance standards within the ministry.

Meanwhile, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) postponed until May 31 the two tenders for removing sand from highways in the southern and northern parts of the country issued on behalf of the Ministry of Public Works.

Other Voices

A tribute to Ambassador Dimitar Dimitrov

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

One of Kuwait's true friends concludes his diplomatic mission after five years of service that helped strengthen the relationship between Bulgaria and Kuwait.

H.E. Dimitar Dimitrov, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to the State of Kuwait, became known during his years in Kuwait for his kindness, calm personality, and warm presence among both the diplomatic and local community. He attended many cultural, social, and diplomatic gatherings and always represented his country in a friendly and approachable manner.

One of the important moments during his tenure was the celebration of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and Kuwait in 2023. Ambassador Dimitrov often proudly mentioned that Bulgaria has one of the longest standing relationships with Kuwait among GCC countries. He frequently spoke about the history of friendship and mutual respect shared between the two nations over many decades.

Cultural activities also became more visible during his years in Kuwait. Bulgarian traditions, music, food, and heritage were introduced to many people through embassy and community events that helped bring people closer to Bulgarian culture. Ambassador Dimitrov also highlighted the importance of cultural dialogue and educational cooperation between both countries.

He often spoke proudly about the many Kuwaitis who studied in Bulgaria over the years, especially doctors and medical professionals who later returned to serve Kuwait's healthcare sector. Education re-



H.E. Dimitar Dimitrov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kuwait, with his wife Mrs. Antonia Dimitrova.

maintained one of the strongest links between the two countries and an area he regularly praised.

Alongside the Ambassador, his wife Mrs. Antonia Dimitrova also had a positive role within the community. As President of the International Women's Group Kuwait during the 2023 to 2024 term, she participated in many cultural and social initiatives that brought together women from different nationalities and backgrounds. Her kindness and active presence were appreciated by many members of the community.

Together, Ambassador Dimitrov and Mrs. Dimitrova represented Bulgaria in Kuwait with sincerity, dignity, and warmth. During their years in the country, they built many friendships and left behind a positive impression on those who had the opportunity to meet them.

As Ambassador Dimitrov concludes his mission in Kuwait, he leaves with the appreciation and respect of many people who valued his contribution and presence over the past five years.

MOLA distributes 8,000 'Nusk' cards for Kuwaiti Hajj pilgrims ahead of 1447 AH

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: The Ministry of Islamic Affairs announced on Friday the completion of the distribution and activation of 8,000 "Nusk" (rituals) cards, which were delivered to Kuwaiti Hajj campaigns, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative is part of joint efforts with the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah

in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in cooperation with the team assigned by the company providing services to Kuwaiti pilgrims.

In a statement posted on its X account, the ministry noted that this measure aims to ensure a safe and smooth Hajj experience for pilgrims during the 1447 AH Hajj season.

Food, medical and livelihood aid delivered

Namaa carries out KD15,000 in humanitarian projects to Benin

KHARTOUM, May 17, (KUNA): Namaa Charity of the Social Reform Society implemented humanitarian and development projects in Benin at a cost exceeding KD 15,000.

The projects included distributing 400 food baskets, performing 200 eye surgeries, distributing meat from 12 calves and supporting income-generating initiatives for needy families.

Namaa Charity Development and Relief Sector Head Khaled Mubarak Al-Shammri told KUNA the projects were launched in response to difficult humanitarian and living conditions in parts of Benin amid weak basic services and ris-

ing poverty rates.

Al-Shammri said the charity combined emergency relief with sustainable empowerment projects, noting food baskets and meat distribution supported food security, while dairy cows and sewing machines provided income sources for beneficiary families.

He added that the eye surgery project was among the most significant humanitarian interventions, helping restore sight to several patients.

Al-Shammri affirmed Namaa Charity would continue implementing humanitarian and development projects in countries most in need with support from donors in Kuwait.

PAFN intensifies slaughterhouse inspections ahead of Eid al-Adha

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: Director of the Slaughterhouses Department at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) Mohamed Al-Salem emphasized on Friday the role of PAFN in monitoring slaughtering and ensuring the safety of carcasses, as well as their compliance with



Al-Salem

approved health standards before being offered for consumption, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement issued ahead of the upcoming Eid al-Adha, Al-Salem stressed the importance of continued inspection tours of slaughterhouses and food establishments to ensure adherence to health regulations.

He also highlighted the need to raise consumer awareness about purchasing meat from licensed outlets and avoiding unlicensed slaughterhouses.



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Continued from Page 1

The era

Therefore, if we were to accept Araghchi's statement, he must understand that two wrongs do not make a right.

This will not produce the right outcome. If Iran wants sound and healthy relations with the Gulf states, it must acknowledge all the criminal acts it has committed against the region over the past 47 years, especially the crimes committed during the last war. Iran must agree to pay reparations, and then it must strive to build trust between the two parties.

In reality, Tehran cannot achieve this, as it would require changing its existing political doctrine of exporting the revolution, which implies expansion, and establishing sectarian regimes based on the theory of "Welayat Al-Faqih" (Guardianship of the Jurist), a doctrine upheld by the mullahs' regime.

We must remember that over the past five decades, the regime has raised numerous slogans and practiced terrorism around the world, from Latin America to its immediate surroundings.

The Iranian regime has been extremely rigid in its calculations, while the latest round of war has been portrayed as largely rhetorical in nature and aimed at local audiences, while the strength of the internal front in Iran is eroding.

The recent war weakened Iran's fake image of power, leaving only remnants in the hands of its proxy forces, which are now on the verge of collapse.

With the Iranian regime having lost the trust of the Gulf states, it is signing its own death warrant.

The Iranian regime has nothing left to lose, due to which it is escalating its sabotage operations to avoid further losses in the region. The only remaining solution is to punish the Iranian regime by breaking its back.

For 2,000 years, Persians have been known for their stubbornness and persistence on following the wrong path, irrespective of the cost.

The world today cannot wait indefinitely, especially given the current fragile economic situation. Therefore, a more decisive approach is now more urgent than ever.

Everyone must understand that the era of Iranian deception is over. The world must understand the true nature of this terrorist regime.

Worker wins

He repeatedly requested his unpaid salaries without any response,

then he applied for the transfer of his residency permit to another employer, as per the regulations of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) regarding delayed salaries.

He told the court that he was surprised when the company filed an absconding report against him after he requested for his dues.

He added the company also rejected his request to transfer to another employer, citing his knowledge of trade secrets and fear that he might join a competitor.

He presented documents to the court including his employment contract, bank statements proving the non-payment of salaries, a copy of his labor complaint, and correspondence with the company regarding his claim for unpaid salaries.

On the other hand, the company argued that the employee left work voluntarily, demanded that he reimburse the recruitment, training and travel expenses, and reiterated its rejection of his request to transfer to a competitor.

In its ruling, the court affirmed that the employer's refusal to pay salaries is a breach of contract, hence, the employee has the right to transfer to another employer without the consent of the current sponsor.

The court stressed that the salary is a fundamental right that should not be breached. It then ordered the company to give to the employee his unpaid salaries for six months, the full indemnity for four years of service, cash equivalent of unused leave days and compensation for overtime.

The court rejected all the arguments of the company and its requests regarding the absconding report, recruitment expenses and transfer of the employee.

UAE nuke

Abu Dhabi Government Media Office said the incident caused no injuries and had no impact on radiation safety levels.

The statement added that relevant authorities took all precautionary measures and would provide updates when available.

The UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation confirmed the fire did not affect the plant's safety or the readiness of its main systems, noting operations continue as normal.

Authorities urged the public to avoid rumors and rely on official sources for information.

Meanwhile, the UK Ministry of

Defence said the British citizens and regional partners will be better protected against drone attacks as the Royal Air Force (RAF) deploys the Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) in the Middle East.

The APKWS will be fitted to RAF Typhoon fighter jets so that they can destroy targets precisely and at a fraction of the price of missiles currently used, according to a statement released by the Ministry on Sunday.

Rapid procurement and testing work by the Ministry and industry partners BAE Systems and QinetiQ has enabled the system to move from testing to deployment on operations in less than two months.

March saw a successful test strike on a ground-based target, and RAF Typhoon pilots from 41 Test and Evaluation Squadron conducted successful air-to-air firing in April, demonstrating the system's ability to defend against drone attacks, the statement noted.

The system has now been deployed on operations in the Middle East with sorties flown by 9 Squadron RAF Typhoon fighter jets as part of the missions to defend British people, interests and partners from threats.

Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry Luke Pollard said, "This has been a superb effort working with industry to test and deploy this system in a matter of months, which will help the RAF shoot down many more drones at a much lower cost."

"Our Typhoon fleet is the backbone of UK and NATO air defence, with the RAF protecting European's Eastern flank from Russian drone incursions and defending our partners across the Middle East," he added.

Prosecution work

The program addresses important topics, including international crimes, the protection of missing persons, the protection of the Red Crescent emblem, and the preservation of cultural property, in addition to practical applications related to safeguarding human dignity in exceptional circumstances.

He affirmed that the institute will continue to prepare and qualify candidates according to approved programs and systems, contributing to refining their legal and practical skills and instilling the values of justice and professional discipline at the beginning of their

judicial careers.

The meeting was attended by the acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice Awatif Al-Sanad, the acting Assistant Undersecretary Nouf Al-Qabandi, Director of the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies Counselor Bader Al-Musaed, Deputy Directors Counselor Saud Al-Sanea, Dr. Ahmed Al-Muqallad, and Meshal Al-Ghannam, as well as members of the Technical Office.

Kuwait targets

Meanwhile, former financial advisor to the Ministry of Finance and economic expert Mohammed Ramadan stated that attracting foreign investment is of utmost importance for the economic zone, as it would play an important role in providing diverse logistical services and act as a catalyst for advancing major future economic projects in Kuwait.

He explained that the implementation phases will see increased activity from the local private sector through infrastructure development and related facilities.

Establishing the zone requires specific economic legislation to attract and encourage foreign investment, as foreign investors compare countries before entering markets. Therefore, it is essential to provide adequate facilities, incentives, and tax exemptions for foreign companies.

The economic zone will serve as a logistics hub for facilitating import and export activities to neighboring markets, while also creating direct job opportunities for Kuwaitis, in line with the New Kuwait 2035 vision for developing non-oil sectors.

Official statistics from the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) showed that new direct investments reached KD 222.8 million last year, bringing the total cumulative approved direct investments to KD 1.9 billion since KDIPA began operations in early 2015 up to March 31, 2025.

The statistics indicated that these investments included 105 entities from 34 countries, covering 16 vital sectors such as information and communication technology services, oil and gas services, infrastructure, energy, healthcare, insurance, aviation, agriculture, and environmental services.

Furthermore, Dr. Mohammed Al-Hajri, Professor of Economics at the Public Authority for Applied

Education and Training (PAAET), stated that the Northern Economic Zone project will be one of Kuwait's most important major economic projects, as it is expected to enhance the country's overall development impact.

He pointed to the economic zone's role in stimulating the private sector by supporting the industrial, commercial, and tourism sectors, especially as the project will be open to both local and foreign investors.

Dr. Al-Hajri stressed the importance of learning from successful economic zones around the world, such as the New York Bay Area, a major financial center in the United States with numerous financial and banking institutions, as well as the European Union, one of the world's largest economies, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Bahrain. He also referred to the East China Bay Area, encompassing China, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan, as a prime example of a region characterized by its advanced manufacturing and technology sectors.

Dr. Al-Hajri summarized the importance of establishing free zones in Kuwait in five vital effects on the Kuwaiti economy:

- Diversifying income sources so that Kuwait's economy is not dependent on a single primary resource.
- Enabling businesspeople to establish economic partnerships and large-scale companies.
- Strengthening trade between Kuwait and other countries through the free zone.
- Enhancing technology and innovation through the adoption of advanced technologies.
- Improving the business environment by strengthening investment-related regulations and legislation.

Kuwait Amir

He said the attendance of His Highness the Crown Prince would motivate players and clubs to deliver strong performances and reflects the leadership's commitment to supporting sporting events and competitions.

Al-Jalalma described the Crown Prince Cup as one of Kuwait's leading domestic tournaments, holding special significance for athletes and fans due to its long history and contribution to developing Kuwaiti football.

Jaber Al-Ahmad International

Stadium will host Monday's final between Kuwait SC and Al-Arabi SC.

Kuwait revokes

The decision was based on Article 11 of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959 concerning Kuwaiti citizenship. All relevant authorities have been instructed to implement the decision, which takes effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

Don't click

He added that electronic fraud attempts usually increase during summer and holidays, when people book chalets or purchase travel tickets through fake websites, thus, falling victim to scams.

He affirmed that the ministry is taking legal measures against websites involved in fraudulent activities. He also stated that the department is continuing its campaigns to raise public awareness on the importance of following security guidelines to prevent cybercrimes and fraud.

268 medicines

The updated registry consists of innovative therapeutic options to meet the critical and long-term health requirements of citizens and residents.

Following are the new inclusions:

- Chronic disease management: advanced medications for diabetes, hypertension, asthma and obesity
- Specialized care: advanced treatments for heart disease, angina prevention and the latest oncological therapies for tumors and cancer
- Infection and inflammation control: new-generation antibiotics and antimicrobials for the optimization of clinical treatment outcomes

The Ministry of Health affirmed that its revised pricing strategy is based on exhaustive technical research, comparing global and regional market benchmarks. It explained that regular assessments are conducted to maintain market stability, enhance pharmaceutical oversight, and ensure strict adherence to the approved prices. It added that these efforts are important in maintaining transparency and sustainability of the food and drug regulatory landscape.



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Redraft, Refine, Resubmit: Wrasse

US Senate parliamentarian deals blow to \$1 billion security proposal for WH

WASHINGTON, May 17, (AP): A proposal to fund \$1 billion in security additions for the White House campus and the president's new ballroom fails to meet procedural rules, according to the Senate parliamentarian, dealing a blow to Republican plans to include it as part of a bill to fund immigration enforcement agencies for the next three years.

The parliamentarian's ruling, described late Saturday by Senate Democrats, said that funding for a project as large and complex as President Donald Trump's massive East Wing renovation is too broad to be included in the narrow GOP budget bill, which cannot be filibustered and only needs a simple majority to pass.

It's unclear if Republicans will be able to immediately salvage any part of the billion-dollar Secret Service proposal, which would fund security for Trump's ballroom along with other parts of the White House, including a new visitor screening center, additional training for agents and extra reinforcements for large events. Republicans said Saturday night that they are revising the legislation based on the parliamentarian's advice.

Ryan Wrasse, a spokesman for Senate Majority Leader John Thune, wrote in a post on X that "none of this is abnormal" during the complicated budget process that Republicans are using to try and pass the immigration enforcement and White House security money on a partisan basis.

"Redraft. Refine. Resubmit," Wrasse said in the post.

Democrats have seized on the security request, accusing Republicans of dedicating precious federal resources to the ballroom effort instead of focusing on helping Americans with rising costs. Republicans have insisted that private donations will be used to build the ballroom and that the federal dollars are focused just on much-needed security enhancements.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., took credit for the ruling after Democrats argued to the parliamentarian that the security money doesn't belong in the bill.



Work continues on the construction of the ballroom at the White House on May 16, in Washington, where the East Wing once stood. (AP)

"Republicans tried to make taxpayers foot the bill for Trump's billion-dollar ballroom," Schumer said Saturday evening. "Senate Democrats fought back - and blew up their first attempt."

Schumer added that Democrats "will be ready to stop them again" as Republicans say they will revise the bill.

The ruling from the Senate parliamentarian is just advisory, but such rulings are rarely if ever ignored when lawmakers put together legislation that can pass with a simple majority. Most bills are subject to a filibuster and thus need 60 votes for passage - meaning Republicans must find some Democratic support in the 53-47 Senate.

Republicans are looking to approve a roughly \$72 billion package to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection until the end of Trump's term after Democrats have blocked the money for months.

As part of that package, Republicans included \$1 billion for White House security enhancements, part of it connected to Trump's new ballroom. The Secret Service had requested the money after a man was charged with trying to assassinate Trump at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner last month.

The overall budget package is providing another boost of funding for Trump's immigration and deportation agenda, fueling operations through September 2029. It comes on top of ICE and Border Patrol funds Congress provided last year in the big tax breaks bill Trump signed into law.

The parliamentarian kept most of the immigration portion of the legislation intact, though some minor provisions were blocked, including Customs and Border Patrol funds to hire, train and pay Border Patrol agents. Republicans said those were only technical fixes.

Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley, the top Democrat on the Senate Budget Committee, said Saturday evening that "Democrats are prepared to challenge any change to this bill."

Americans shouldn't spend "a single dime" on Trump's "Louis XIV-style ballroom and throw tens of billions more at two lawless agencies," Merkley said.



The USS Gerald R. Ford heads toward port at Naval Station Norfolk, as seen from Fort Monroe, Va., on May 16. (AP)

USS Ford returns home

The USS Gerald R. Ford, the world largest aircraft carrier, returned home to Virginia on Saturday after an 11-month deployment, the longest since the Vietnam War, that saw it support the U.S. war with Iran and the capture of Nicolás Maduro when he was Venezuela's president.

The most advanced US warship and two accompanying destroyers docked at Naval Station Norfolk with about 5,000 sailors waiting to see their families for the first time since June. Besides combat operations and traversing continents, the sail-

ors aboard the carrier faced a noncombat-related fire that left hundreds without places to sleep and forced lengthy repairs on the Greek island of Crete.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth was on hand for the arrival of the warships, which included the destroyer USS Bainbridge.

Hegseth commended the crew of the Bainbridge for a "job well done."

"You didn't just accomplish a mission, you made history," Hegseth said on the destroyer's deck. "You made a nation proud." (AP)

New US House map in Florida accused of violating state ban on partisan gerrymandering

WASHINGTON, May 17, (AP): New US House districts that could help Republicans win several additional seats in Florida got their first test in court Friday against assertions that they violate a state constitutional ban on partisan gerrymandering.

Attorneys representing voters asked a state judge to block the new districts from being used in the mid-term elections and instead reinstate districts used for previous elections. Such a move would create a significant wrinkle in President Donald Trump's attempt to hold on to a narrow House majority by redrawing voting districts to the GOP's advantage. The judge gave no timetable for when he will rule.

Florida's new House map is part of a national redistricting battle that gained steam last year when Trump urged Texas Republicans to redraw the state's congressional districts. On Friday, the Texas Supreme Court refused to declare that Democratic lawmakers had vacated their offices when they briefly fled the state to block a redistricting vote.

The Florida Legislature approved a new House map on April 29 - the same day the U.S. Supreme Court weakened federal Voting Rights Act protections for minorities while striking down a majority-Black



US State Rep Angie Nixon, D-Fla., speaks loudly on the House floor as the House voted on HB1D, a redistricting bill, during a special session of the Florida Legislature, on April 29, 2026, in Tallahassee, Fla. (AP)

congressional district in Louisiana. Since then, several Southern states have taken steps to try to eliminate minority districts that have elected Democrats.

On Friday, Democratic US Rep Steve Cohen of Tennessee announced that he is ending his reelection bid. His decision came a week after Tennessee Republicans

enacted a new U.S. House map that carves up Cohen's majority-Black district in Memphis. The new map gives Republicans a shot at winning all nine of Tennessee's US House seats.

Republicans already hold 20 of Florida's 28 US House seats. New voting districts signed into law by Republican Gov Ron DeSantis after

a swift two-day special legislative session could improve the GOP's chances to win four additional seats in the November elections.

Congressional districts typically are redrawn once a decade, after each census, to rebalance populations. But since Trump urged mid-decade redistricting last year, Republicans think they could gain as many as 15 seats 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.

Democrats had counted on winning up to four additional seats in Virginia. But the Virginia Supreme Court last week struck down a Democratic redistricting plan approved by voters, ruling the legislature violated procedural requirements when placing it on the ballot. On Friday, the US Supreme Court rejected a request to restore the map favoring Democrats.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2019 that it has no authority to decide whether partisan gerrymandering goes too far. But it said partisan gerrymandering claims could continue to be decided in state courts under their own constitutions and laws.

Four dead in one of largest Ukrainian drone strikes on Russia – authorities

KYIV, Ukraine, May 17, (AP): At least four people, including three near Moscow, died in one of the largest Ukrainian overnight attacks against Russia since the start of the war, according to Russian local authorities.

A woman was killed after a drone hit her home in Khimki, a city just northwest of Moscow, and two men died in the village of Pogorelki 10 km (6 miles) north of the capital, according to local Gov. Andrei Vorobyev. In social media updates, Vorobyev said Ukrainian drones had also damaged unspecified "infrastructure" and several high-rises. In Moscow itself, at least 12 people were wounded in the nighttime strike, mostly near the entrance to the city's oil refinery, mayor Sergei Sobyannin reported. Sobyannin reported the "technology" of the refinery has not been damaged.

Russian defenses shot down 81 drones headed for Moscow overnight, state agency Tass reported, citing So-



Schoolchildren hold flowers as they sit in an excavator bucket at the site of Thursday's Russian missile strike that hit a residential building in Kyiv, Ukraine on May 15. (AP)

byannin, marking one of the largest attacks on the Russian capital since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

One man was also killed as a drone struck a lorry in the Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine, according to local authorities. Russian air defenses destroyed 556 drones over Russia overnight, the country's defense ministry said Sunday morning. Shortly after midday local time, it reported that over 1,000 had been shot down or jammed in the previous 24 hours.

Russia's largest airport - Moscow's Sheremetyevo - said drone debris had fallen on its premises without causing damage.

Russia attacked Ukraine with 287 drones overnight on Sunday, 279 of which were shot down or jammed, the Ukrainian air force reported.

According to Ukraine's estate emergency service, the strikes injured 8 people in Ukraine's central Dnipropetrovsk region: three in the regional capital of Dnipro, four in President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown of Kryvyi Rih, and one in the district of Synelkove.



Financial Police patrol a scene after a car incident in a street of Modena, Italy on May 16. (AP)

8 injured after car plows into crowd in northern Italy

A driver plowed into pedestrians in the northern Italian city of Modena on Saturday, injuring eight people, four of them critically, before trying to flee and being detained by police, local authorities said. They said the man was known to officials for having mental disorders.

Authorities identified the driver as Salim El Koudri, a 31-year-old second-generation Italian born in Bergamo and living in the province of Modena. El Koudri, who holds a degree in economics, is unem-

ployed, authorities said. He was detained and questioned at police headquarters in Modena as investigators tried to determine whether he acted deliberately.

Investigators said at a press conference Saturday evening there was no immediate indication the man was under the influence of drugs or alcohol. His home was searched as part of the investigation.

Modena Prefect Fabrizia Triolo said el Koudri had been known

to local mental health services for schizoid disorders, while officials stressed that early findings pointed to possible mental instability but required further verification. No links to extremist groups emerged.

Mayor Massimo Mezzetti said no one was killed in the dramatic crash but four victims were in serious condition. He said a woman was pinned against a shop window and required the amputation of both legs. (AP)

It's official: Wes Streeting of Labour Party wants to be Britain's next prime minister

LONDON, May 17, (AP): Wes Streeting's ambition to head the British government was one of the worst-kept secrets in UK politics.

But if anyone was unaware, it's now official - the former health secretary announced on Saturday his intention to oust Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

"We need a proper contest with the best candidates on the field, and I'll be standing," Streeting said.

Streeting is the first member of Parliament to say he will take on Starmer in what is likely to be a bruising internal contest for the reins of the Labour Party, which has seen its fortunes fall in the two years since its historic landslide victory swept out Conservatives after 14 years in power.

Streeting is likely to face other challengers, including Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, if the latter can win a special election for a seat in the House of Commons that is expected to take place within the next few weeks.

Starmer has vowed to fight on despite being widely unpopular after a series of setbacks, policy U-turns



Wes Streeting arrives at the Progress Conference at Convene in London on May 16. (AP)

and questions over his judgment for appointing a friend of Jeffrey Epstein as US ambassador. The government is facing weeks of chaos after he rejected calls to resign following the party's disastrous results in the May 7 local and regional UK elections, in which Nigel Farage's anti-immigrant

Reform UK made huge gains.

"The voters did more than send Labour a message last week," Streeting said on Saturday. "They issued a warning: that unless we change course, we risk being the handmaidens of Nigel Farage and the breakup of the United Kingdom."

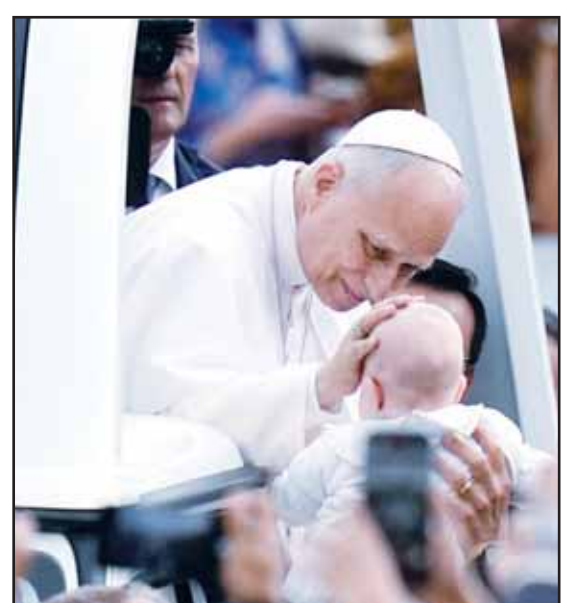
Pope Leo XIV to visit France in September

ROME, May 17, (AP): Pope Leo XIV is adding another trip to his already busy 2026 travel schedule, making a four-day visit to France at the end of September that also includes a visit to the UN culture agency.

The Vatican confirmed Saturday the Sept. 25-28 trip, which will be Leo's fourth foreign voyage of the year: Leo made a day trip to Monaco in March, visited four African nations in April and is due to visit Spain and the Canary Islands in June.

The late Pope Francis famously stayed away from the big European centers of Christianity during his 12-year pontificate, preferring instead to visit small Catholic communities far from Rome. With the trip to France confirmed, Leo now appears to be paying more attention to the experience of European faithful, amid anecdotal reports of renewed interest in the faith among young adults.

The visit to the UNESCO headquarters will also give Leo the chance to speak to a global audience in a year in which he decided against traveling to his native United States, where he could have addressed the U.N. General Assembly, as past popes have done.



Pope Leo XIV blesses a baby as he arrives for his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican on May 13. (AP)

INTERNATIONAL

Maldives suspends search for 4 Italians in underwater cave after military diver dies

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, May 17, (AP) — Maldivian authorities on Saturday suspended the search for the bodies of four Italian divers believed to be deep inside an underwater cave, after a military diver died during a perilous mission to try to reach them.

The group of five Italian divers is believed to have died while exploring a cave at a depth of about 50 meters (160 feet) in Vaavu Atoll on Thursday, according to Italy's Foreign Ministry. The recreational diving limit in the Maldives is 30 meters (98 feet).

Maldives presidential spokesman Mohamed Hussain Shareef said the search was suspended after Mohamed Mahudhee, a member of the Maldivian National Defense Force, died of underwater decompression sickness after being transferred to a hospital in the capital.

Authorities are awaiting the arrival of three Finnish divers, experts in deep and cave diving, on Sunday, to rethink their search strategy, he said.

Mahudhee will be buried with military honors in a funeral attended by President Mohamed Muizzu on Saturday night. The diver was part



Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu along with National Defense Force members prays in front of the remains of military diver Mohamed Mahudhee who died during search and rescue operation of four Italian divers, during his funeral in Male, Maldives on May 16. (AP)

of the group that had briefed Muizzu on the rescue plan when he visited the search site on Friday.

"The death goes to show the difficulty of the mission," Shareef said. Rough weather has repeatedly hampered rescue efforts.

Search operations on Saturday

involved eight local divers who worked in shifts to locate the missing Italians, the Italian Foreign Ministry said. Initial teams had already dived to identify and mark the entrance to the cave system where the Italians disappeared. The cause of the deaths remains under investigation.

Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said everything possible would be done to bring the victims home. He offered his condolences for the death of the Maldivian diver during the rescue efforts.

The victims have been identified as Monica Montefalcone, an associate professor of ecology at the University of Genoa; her daughter, Giorgia Sommacal; marine biologist Federico Gualtieri; researcher Muriel Oddenino; and diving instructor Gianluca Benedetti, according to the Maldivian government.

Benedetti's body was recovered on Thursday. His body was found near the mouth of the cave and authorities believed the remaining four had entered the cave.

Montefalcone and Oddenino were in the Maldives on an official scientific mission to monitor marine environments and study the effects of climate change on tropical biodiversity, the University of Genoa said in a statement Friday. However, the scuba diving activity during which the deadly accident occurred was not part of the planned research and was "undertaken privately," it said.

Malaysia slams Norway for revoking export license for naval missile system

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, May 17, (AP) — Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim condemned Norway's move to revoke the export license for a naval missile system for Malaysia's navy, warning it could damage confidence in European defense suppliers.

Anwar said he raised Malaysia's "vehement objection" during a phone call with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, after Oslo blocked delivery of the Naval Strike Missile system and launcher components intended for Malaysia's littoral combat ship program.

"Malaysia has honored every obligation under this contract since 2018: scrupulously, faithfully and without equivocation," Anwar said in a statement. "Norway, it appears, has not felt compelled to extend us the same courtesy and demonstration of good faith."

The missile manufacturer, Kongsberg Defense & Aerospace AS, said export licensing decisions are handled entirely by Norwegian authorities, according to Malaysian national news agency Bernama.

The Norwegian government hasn't made any public comments on the cancellation of the missile system or Anwar's remarks.

Malaysian Defense Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin told local media that the government had already paid nearly 95% of the contract value when Oslo blocked delivery in March.

The NSM anti-ship missile system was meant to equip Malaysia's new class of littoral combat ships as part of its modernization efforts.

Anwar said Oslo's move would hurt Malaysia's operational readiness and "undoubtedly carry broader ramifications for the regional balance."

He questioned the reliability of European defense suppliers if signed agreements could be reversed unilaterally.

"Signed contracts are solemn instruments. They are not confetti to be scattered in so capricious a manner," the Malaysian leader said. "If European defense suppliers reserve the right to renege with impunity, their value as strategic partners flies out the window."

Khaled said the government was now examining legal options and possible compensation claims over the cancelled delivery.



Anwar

There's no easy Venezuela copy: Feinberg

Trump administration prepares to seek Castro indictment as it pressures Cuba

MIAMI, May 17, (AP) — The Justice Department is preparing to seek an indictment against former Cuban President Raúl Castro, three people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Friday, as President Donald Trump threatens possible military action against the communist-run island.

One of the people told the AP that the potential indictment is connected to Castro's alleged role in the 1996 shutdown of four planes operated by the Miami-based exile group Brothers to the Rescue. Castro was defense minister at the time.

All three people spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation. The Cuban government did not respond to a request for comment on the potential indictment, which was reported earlier by CBS.

Any criminal charge against Castro, which would need to be approved by a grand jury, would dramatically escalate tensions with Havana and ramp up expectations of US military action in Cuba like the one carried out in January in Venezuela to bring President Nicolás Maduro to New York on drug trafficking charges.

Following Maduro's ouster, the Trump administration quickly turned its attention to his ally Cuba and ordered an economic blockade that

choked off fuel shipments to Cuba, leading to severe blackouts, food shortages and a collapse in economic activity across the island.

The US war in Iran appeared to have given Cuban leaders something of a reprieve from US talk of regime change.

As Trump seeks to wind down that conflict, speculation has been growing that he may soon turn his attention back to Cuba after pledging earlier this year a "friendly takeover" of the country if its leadership didn't open up its economy to American investment and kick out US adversaries.

Richard Feinberg, a professor emeritus specializing in Latin America at the University of California-San Diego, said that any indictment of Castro will play well with voters in south Florida but is unlikely to persuade career war planners in the Pentagon to pursue a second war of choice - this time just 90 miles from Florida.

"There's no easy Venezuela copy," said Feinberg. "There's no clear line of succession and it's hard to imagine regime change without US boots on the ground."

The AP reported in March that the US Attorney in Miami had created a special working group of prosecutors and federal law enforcement to build cases against top Cuban of-



Former Cuban president Raul Castro looks at the Cuban flag during his speech at the event celebrating the 65th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution in Santiago, Cuba, Jan 1, 2024. (AP)

icials amid calls by several south Florida Republicans to reopen its investigation into Castro's alleged role in the 1996 shutdown.

Trump declined to discuss a potential indictment on Friday, deferring to the Justice Department.

"But they need help, as you know, and you talk about a declining country - they are really a nation or a country in decline, so we're going to see," Trump told reporters aboard

Air Force One. "We have a lot to talk about on Cuba, but not maybe for today."

CIA Director John Ratcliffe met with Cuban officials, including Castro's grandson, during a high-level visit to the island on Thursday.

Castro, 94, took over as president from his ailing brother, Fidel Castro, in 2011, and then handed power to a handpicked loyalist, Miguel Díaz-Canel, in 2019.

While he largely has avoided the spotlight since retiring in 2021 as head of the Cuban Communist Party, he is widely believed to wield power behind the scenes, a fact underscored by the prominence of his grandson, Raúl Guillermo Rodríguez Castro, who previously met secretly with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Ru-

Cuba's shutdown in 1996 of two Cessna aircraft operated by the Brothers to the Rescue was a watershed moment in decades of hostilities between the two countries.

At the time, President Bill Clinton had been cautiously exploring ways to reduce tensions with a Cold War adversary but faced stiff opposition from exiles who organized publicity-seeking flyovers of Havana, dropping anti-Castro leaflets, and aiding Cuban rafters fleeing economic deprivation and single-party rule.

The Cubans had warned the US government for months that it was prepared to defend against what it considered deliberate provocations. But those calls went unheeded and on Feb. 26, 1996, missiles fired by Russian-made MiG-29 fighter jets downed two unarmed civilian Cessna planes just beyond Cuba's airspace, according to an investigation conducted by the International Civil Aviation Organization. A third plane,

carrying the organization's leader, narrowly escaped.

"With hindsight, it appears the Castros' motive was to slow down the Clinton outreach because they needed the US as an external enemy to justify their national security posture," said Richard Feinberg, who worked on Cuban issues at the National Security Council at the time.

They succeeded beyond their wildest dreams, said Feinberg.

Shortly after the shutdown, Congress passed what became known as the Helms-Burton Act, which codified a US trade embargo enacted in 1962 and made it far more complicated for successive U.S. presidents to engage with Cuba.

To date, the US has convicted only a single person of conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the Brothers to the Rescue shutdown. Gerardo Hernández, the leader of a Cuban espionage ring dismantled by the FBI in the 1990s, was sentenced to life in prison but was released by President Barack Obama during a prisoner swap in 2014 as part of an attempt to normalize relations with Cuba.

Two fighter jet pilots and their commanding officer have also been indicted but are outside the reach of US law enforcement while living in Cuba.

Lat/Am

Venezuela deports Maduro's ally to US: Venezuela's government said Saturday it deported a close ally of Nicolás Maduro facing several criminal investigations in the U.S. less than three years after the businessman was pardoned by President Joe Biden as part of a prisoner swap.



Saab

The decision marks a stark reversal for Alex Saab, who Maduro fought tooth and nail to bring home after his previous international arrest in 2020. Now, the Colombian-born insider, long described by U.S. officials as Maduro's "bag man," may be asked to testify against his former protector, who is awaiting trial on drug charges in Manhattan after being captured in a shock raid by the U.S. military in January.

The Venezuelan immigration authority in a short statement Saturday did not explicitly say where it had sent Saab but said the decision was made based on several ongoing criminal investigations in the U.S. The statement's reference to Saab only as a "Colombian citizen" appeared to be a nod to Venezuelan law, which prohibits the extradition of its nationals. Following his last arrest, Venezuela's government submitted a copy of what it said was Saab's Venezuelan passport to a US court, with then Vice President Delcy Rodríguez - now acting President - claiming he was an "innocent Venezuelan diplomat" who had been illegally "kidnapped" while on a humanitarian mission to Iran to circumvent the "immoral, imperial blockade" imposed by the United States. (AP)

Former mayor shot dead in Colombia: A former mayor allied with presidential candidate Abelardo de La Espriella was shot dead in Colombia's heartland, local authorities said Saturday. One of his aides was also killed.

The killings of Rogers Devia and his staffer Eder Cardona was the latest incident of political violence in a region under dispute by two groups labeled as terrorists by the US government and a third group - a splinter of the once dominant guerrilla Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

Devia died in an attack by gunmen in the rural area of Cubarral, a city he governed between 2020-2023 lying 170 kilometers (105 miles) south of the capital Bogota, said the Public Defender's Office of the department of Meta in a posting on X. (AP)

Dominican opposition criticizes deal with US: Opposition figures in the Dominican Republic on Wednesday criticized an agreement signed with the United States to have the Caribbean nation receive third-country deportees, saying it lacks transparency and violates national sovereignty.

The non-binding memorandum of understanding, which was announced by the Dominican Foreign Ministry, said the country will accept the temporary entry of a limited number of third-country nationals without criminal records before they return to their home countries.

The deal is the latest such agreement between the Trump administration and some countries in Latin America and Africa that has come under fire. The third-country deportations, costing millions of dollars, are part of U.S. President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown that includes deporting migrants to countries other than their own.

"This agreement represents a surrender of our national sovereignty," Manolo Pichardo, from the opposition Fuerza del Pueblo party, told The Associated Press. (AP)

Latin American nationals deported by United States to Congo face an uncertain future

DAKAR, Senegal, May 17, (AP) — It's an existence that Congo's president has described as "living the Congolese dream." For the 15 Latin Americans deported to the African nation under the Trump administration's widely criticized crackdown on migrants, it feels more like a nightmare.

The Associated Press spoke with one, a 29-year old Colombian woman who confirmed what people deported to other African nations have described: A shackled deportation despite a U.S. immigration judge's protection order. Confinement in a hotel with supervised outings.

And an impossible choice: Return to a home country with the risk of persecution or stay in Congo, a country the Colombian woman had never heard of before she arrived.

"They treat us like we're children," she said as their three-month Congolese visas near an end, with no plan in sight.

"What would one do in a completely unknown place, without a place to live and without knowing what to do?" she



Pedestrians slalom between traffic to cross the road in Kinshasa, Congo on Jan 8, 2019. (AP)

added, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

It was not immediately clear what a new US court ruling, saying the US likely broke the law by deporting a fellow Colombian to Congo, will

mean for her.

In her interview from the hotel in Congo's capital, Kinshasa, where she and other deportees are held, the woman gave new details about the central role that a United Nations-

affiliated body, the International Organization for Migration, is playing.

She said deportees are allowed to leave the hotel about once a week and only accompanied by IOM staff. When they shop at a supermarket or withdraw money they are quickly ushered back to their vehicle, with IOM staff never out of sight.

"They choose where we go and what we buy," she said.

At the hotel, she said, IOM staff have organized activities like painting, music and volleyball but many deportees have stopped participating, bored with the routine. She goes for meals and remains in her room otherwise, making late-night calls to her 10-year-old daughter in Colombia and worrying when she will see her again.

Most striking is the role IOM staff are playing in presenting deportees with their possible fates.

They have offered the woman two paths: Return to Colombia, where a U.S. judge has ruled she cannot safely be sent back, while receiving IOM "protection and assistance," or remain in Congo with no support.

Africa

Rwandan genocide suspect Kabuga dies: Rwandan suspect charged in connection with the 1994 genocide died in a hospital while in custody in The Hague, Netherlands, a UN court said Saturday, three years after the court declared him unfit to continue standing trial.

Félicien Kabuga, 91, was accused of encouraging and bankrolling the mass killing of Rwanda's Tutsi minority. His trial began in 2022, nearly three decades after the 100-day massacre that left 800,000 dead.

In 2023, the judges declared him unfit to continue standing trial because he had dementia and said they would establish a procedure to continue hearing evidence without the possibility of convicting him. (AP)

Nigeria police detain 3 suspects in school attack: Three gunmen who allegedly stormed into two primary schools in a rare attack in southwestern Nigeria were taken into custody, police said Saturday. Authorities were still assessing the number of schoolchildren that might have been abducted, police spokesperson Ayanlade Olayinka told The Associated Press.

Gunmen attacked two primary schools in the Oriire area of Oyo state, about 220 kilometers (135 miles) from Lagos, in the early hours of Friday. The suspects, who were identified by the community, were arrested, Olayinka said.

Police didn't say if they were searching for more suspects. (AP)



A Nigerian police officer stands guard during an event in Minna, Nigeria on Dec 22, 2025. (AP)



A group photo of officials from Zain, ktech, and CCK.



Waleed Al-Khashti with Meshari Boodai and Prof. Dr. Ayman Al-Zayed.



Al-Khashti with Othman Boodai, Abdulrahman Al-Ajeel, and Dr. Amani Hasan.

Enhancing student opportunities via college collaborations

Zain Kuwait collaborates with ktech & CCK to empower future-ready national talent

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: Zain Kuwait has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Kuwait Technical College (ktech) and Canadian College of Kuwait (CCK), marking a strategic collaboration aimed at strengthening the connection between academia and industry, while creating practical opportunities for students and youth across Kuwait.

The announcement was made at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC), joined by Waleed Al-Khashti, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer at Zain Kuwait; Meshari Ayman Boodai, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Kuwait Technical College (ktech); Othman Ayman Boodai, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Canadian College of Kuwait (CCK); Professor Dr. Ayman Sulaiman Al Zayed, College President at Kuwait Technical College (ktech); Abdulrahman Abdulqader Al Ajeel, Vice President of Finance & Administration at Kuwait Technical College (ktech); and Dr. Amani Hajji Hasan, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Canadian College of Kuwait (CCK), along with team members from the three partners.

The MoUs reflect Zain's ongoing commitment to innovation, sustainability, youth empowerment, and national capability development. Through this partnership, Zain will work closely with the two academic entities on initiatives focused on entrepreneurship, digital transformation, student development, knowledge exchange, and sustainability-driven projects that help prepare young talents for the evolving needs of the future economy.

The agreements will support the development of practical and inno-

- **Waleed Al-Khashti:** "We're bridging academia and industry through innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability, and experiential learning"
- **Meshari Ayman Boodai:** "A strategic partnership to empower students through practical education and align academic skills with the needs of the economy."
- **Prof. Dr. Ayman Sulaiman Al Zayed:** "Developing an applied education ecosystem that transforms academic knowledge into practical outcomes, supporting innovation and contributing to national development priorities."
- **Othman Ayman Boodai:** "Advancing applied education that fosters innovation and prepares competitive graduates capable of creating impact within Kuwait's knowledge economy."

vation-focused experiences for students, including workshops, training opportunities, mentorship initiatives, guest lectures, hackathons, internships, and future collaborative programs. These initiatives are designed to connect classroom learning with real-world industry exposure, helping students build stronger employability, technical, creative, and entrepreneurial skills.

Waleed Al-Khashti said: "At Zain, we believe that meaningful collaboration between industry and academia is essential to preparing young people for the opportunities of tomorrow. Our MoUs with ktech and CCK reflects a commitment to empowering students with practical exposure, future-ready skills, and access to innovation-driven platforms that help them turn ideas into impact."

Al-Khashti added: "This partnership builds on Zain's long-standing

role as a national enabler of education, youth empowerment, and digital innovation. By working closely with leading academic institutions like ktech and CCK, we aim to support Kuwait's broader vision for developing national capabilities, encouraging entrepreneurship, and creating inclusive opportunities that enable young talents to contribute to the country's sustainable growth."

Meshari Ayman Boodai said: "This partnership with Zain Kuwait strengthens Kuwait Technical College (ktech)'s mission to bridge academic learning with practical application and equip students with future-ready skills for a rapidly evolving economy."

Professor Dr. Ayman Sulaiman Al Zayed said: "This partnership supports Kuwait Technical College (ktech)'s applied education model by transforming academic knowledge

into practical competencies through strong collaboration with the private sector."

Othman Ayman Boodai said: "This partnership reflects the Canadian College of Kuwait's (CCK) commitment to applied learning by empowering students with innovation-driven experiences that prepare them for a competitive global workforce."

Zain will work with its partners across several key focus areas, including youth development and experiential learning, innovation and entrepreneurship, academic engagement, and student participation in Zain-led ecosystem programs such as the Zain Innovation Challenge and Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC) initiatives. The collaboration will also promote engagement in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, helping students explore practical pathways into emerging fields.

The partnership also places a strong emphasis on diversity and inclusion, with initiatives aimed at encouraging greater participation by women in technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship-related fields, while ensuring inclusive access to opportunities for all students.

Through this strategic collaboration, Zain Kuwait, ktech, and CCK aim to create long-term value for students, academic institutions, and the wider community. The MoU further positions Zain as a strategic innovation and knowledge partner within Kuwait's educational ecosystem, reinforcing its commitment to building future-ready talents and supporting impactful partnerships that contribute to national development.

In celebration of the upcoming Eid Al-Adha

Gulf Bank rolls out new Eid banknotes across branches

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: With the approach of Eid Al-Adha, Gulf Bank has announced the availability of new banknotes of various denominations across all bank branches except the following: Jahra Cooperative Society, Fahad Al-Salem, and Mansouriya, allowing customers to conveniently obtain fresh banknotes traditionally distributed during Eid celebrations.

New banknotes are available at most Gulf Bank branches, while customers can also obtain them through Interactive Teller Machines located at the Main Branch on Mubarak Al Kabeer Street, Crystal Tower, Al Adan, Al Salam, Jabriya, Fahadheel Xcite, Mishref, Shaab, Al Fannar Mall, Abdullah Al Salem, and Sabah Al Ahmad, Alkhiran Mall, Hawalli, and Sabahiya. Note that the new banknotes will be available on ATM devices starting May 26.

Through its branches, Gulf Bank is providing new Kuwaiti dinar banknotes in denominations of KD20, KD10, KD5, KD1, in addition to KD 0.500 and KD 0.250, while Interactive Teller Machines provide the first four denominations to help meet the increased demand for smaller notes during the Eid sea-

son. In addition, Gulf Bank continues to offer convenient digital solutions through its mobile banking application, including the WAMD and Pay Link services, enabling customers to transfer money quickly and securely through simple steps within the application.

Starting from the first day of Eid, Gulf Bank will also activate the E-dedi service on its mobile banking app, allowing customers to send digital Eid gifts to up to five recipients at once, providing a convenient way to share the joy of Eid with family and friends.

Gulf Bank also encourages parents to take advantage of this occasion to promote a culture of saving among children by motivating them to set aside part of their Eid money. The bank offers a wide range of savings accounts designed to support different financial goals, including the neo Children's Savings Account, which is specifically designed for children and young customers. Through Gulf Bank's extensive network of ATMs, children can conveniently deposit their Eid money, helping them develop positive saving habits from an early age.



For the fourth consecutive year

Kamco Invest wins six LSEG Lipper Fund Awards for '26

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced that Kamco Invest won the 2026 LSEG (London Stock Exchange Group) Lipper Fund Awards in 6 categories, in recognition of the performance of the Kamco Investment Fund. The recognition highlights the fund's exceptional performance and risk-adjusted returns in comparison to similar funds over specific periods. Lipper's internationally recognized proprietary quantitative methodology for evaluating funds provides an objective and impartial assessment of each fund's performance.

The LSEG Lipper Fund Awards for the MENA markets honor funds that have demonstrated exceptional performance through Lipper's stringent evaluation methodology. Kamco Investment Fund was recognized as the Kuwait 2026 winner in the MENA Markets and MENA Markets Domestic categories, receiving awards for "Best Equity Fund Over 3 Years", "Best Equity Fund Over 5 Years", and "Best Equity Fund Over 10 Years".

The Kamco Investment Fund outperformed its benchmark across the respective investment periods, recording returns of 35.3% over 3 years compared to 34.2% for the benchmark, 69.0% over 5 years versus 54.5% for the benchmark, and 205.2% over 10 years compared to the benchmark return of 164.8%, as of 30 April 2026.

Commenting on the recognition, Salah Al Wuhaib, Managing Director of Equity and Fixed Income at Kamco Invest, said, "We are honored to receive this recognition for the fourth consecutive year, which comes as a testament to the consistent performance of the Kamco Investment Fund, which remains one of our flagship strategies in Kuwait. This achievement highlights the strength of our investment philosophy and the active management approach we adopt across our funds and portfolios. We remain committed to maintaining a disciplined investment approach aimed at generating sustainable long-term value for our clients."

Al Wuhaib added, "This recognition from the LSEG Lipper Fund Awards reflects the fund's strong performance across short-, medium-, and long-term investment horizons. Our investment framework has demonstrated resilience throughout varying market conditions and periods of volatility. Our Kuwait-focused funds continue to achieve solid results and maintain their position among the top-performing conventional and Islamic funds."



Salah Al Wuhaib

Otto Research Kober, Head of Lipper Christian, LSEG Data & Analytics, said, "The 2026 LSEG Lipper Fund Awards mark another volatile three-year stretch for global markets. The managers we're recognizing have guided investors through an environment where base rates have spiked, then diverged, as central banks navigated new and challenging inflationary landscapes, alongside uneven global growth, and heightened geopolitical risk."

Kober added, "Whether managers entered the market in the era of easy money or have navigated cycles for decades, the recent period made one thing plain: durable results come from a disciplined process, not prediction. We applaud the 2026 LSEG Lipper Fund Award winners for delivering outperformance and the steady reassurance of consistency through changing market conditions."

Al Wuhaib concluded by commending the Equity and Fixed Income team for their dedication and disciplined investment approach, which consistently position Kamco Invest equity funds among the top-performing funds in their categories.

It is worth mentioning that LSEG is one of the world's leading providers of financial markets infrastructure and delivers financial data, analytics, news, and index products to more than 40,000 customers in over 170 countries. They help organizations fund innovation, manage risk, and create jobs by partnering with customers at every point in the trade lifecycle: from informing their pre-trade decisions and executing trades to raising capital, clearing and optimization. Backed by more than three centuries of experience, innovative technologies, and a team of 25,000 people in over 60 countries, they are driving financial stability, empowering economies and enabling sustainable growth.



NREC Q1 2026 Update: Portfolio Optimization & Capital Allocation Progress



Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: National Real Estate Company (NREC) provides the following update on portfolio activity and strategic priorities for the quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Key Metrics
Total Assets: KD 471 million
Operating Revenue: KD 0.8 million
Net Loss: KD 53.8 million (reflecting non-cash share of associate results)

Portfolio Overview
 NREC maintains a KD 471 million asset base diversified across real estate, logistics, and infra-

structure — spanning Kuwait and select regional and international markets. The portfolio is structured to provide resilient exposure across economic cycles, with an ongoing focus on concentrating capital in higher-returning positions.

Strategic Progress
Global Positioning — Agility Global PLC
 NREC's investment in Agility Global PLC anchors its international exposure, providing participation in globally diversified platforms across logistics, aviation services, supply chain infrastructure, and industrial real estate. Near-term, this position is expected to deliver participation in Agility's shareholder distribution of approximately USD 75 million by 21 May 2026.

As of 31 March 2026, NREC held an 18.5% strategic stake in Agility Global, which continues to achieve strong performance across its portfolio companies. For Q1 2026, Agility Global reported EBIT of \$103 million, EBITDA of \$185 million, and revenue of \$1.4 billion. Total assets stood at \$13.2 billion and shareholders' equity at \$5.6 billion.

NREC's Strategic Stake in Makhazen
 NREC also owns a strategic 22.3% stake in Makhazen, which has recognized a one-off non-cash charge of KD 233 million in Q1 2026, as part of a strategic balance sheet reset. This charge represents the full write-down of investment property assets and related balances associated with legacy leasehold land disputes in Kuwait.

Makhazen reported revenues of KD 36 million for the first quarter of 2026, adjusted EBITDA of KD 16 million and adjusted net profit attributable to equity holders was KD 7 million for the quarter (after excluding non-recurring items).

Asset Monetization — MIH Libya Exit
 During Q2, NREC completed the exit of its MIH investment in Libya at a transaction value of approximately KD 26 million. Initial proceeds of approximately 10% have been received, with the balance expected by 30 June 2026. This exit marks

the opening of an active monetization program targeting approximately KD 80 million in additional proceeds over the next two years.

Capital Allocation Priorities
 Monetization proceeds are being deployed against three defined priorities: debt reduction, reallocation toward higher-returning opportunities within the portfolio, and direct returns to shareholders where appropriate.

CEO Commentary
 "NREC's portfolio has demonstrated consistent resilience, underpinned by diversified exposure across real estate, logistics, and infrastructure — both regionally and globally through our Agility Global position. We have moved from strategy to execution on our monetization agenda: the MIH exit is completed, proceeds are flowing, and our pipeline of further asset realizations is active and advancing. Our capital allocation framework is clear — reduce leverage, redeploy into higher-returning positions, and return capital to shareholders as we create the capacity to do so. We are focused on delivery."

— Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Financial Performance
 Operating revenue for the quarter stood at KD 0.8 million, consistent with the prior year period. The net loss of KD 53.8 million for the quarter reflects a non-cash share of results from an associate and is not indicative of the underlying operational performance of the Company's core portfolio.

About NREC
 Established in 1973 and listed on Boursa Kuwait, NREC is a real estate investment and development company operating across the Middle East and North Africa, with a diversified portfolio spanning retail, commercial, and residential assets.

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Mohamad Afif becomes the second millionaire in the 2026 Al Jawhara Account Draws

NBK announces 14 new Al Jawhara winners

Abdalmehsen Al-Adwani wins the Al Jawhara Junior Grand Prize



Special Celebration hosted by the Bank's Grand Plaza – The Avenues Branch.

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: In an exceptional event with media and public attendance, National Bank of Kuwait held a special four-hour event last Thursday at its branch in Grand Plaza – The Avenues, during which the names of 14 new winners in the Al Jawhara and Al Jawhara Junior draws were announced.

The event, attended by several NBK officials, featured a variety of entertainment shows, activities, and competitions that received great engagement from attendees, reflecting NBK's close relationship with its customers and its commitment to delivering a comprehensive banking experience that goes beyond the traditional framework.

The draw, conducted in the presence and under supervision, and monitoring, of audit representatives from Deloitte and Grant Thornton, resulted in Al Jawhara account customer Mohamad Afif Mohamed Ghader winning the grand prize of KD 1 million, and becoming the second millionaire in the 2026 Al Jawhara draws. Meanwhile, Al Jawhara Junior account customer Abdalmehsen Ali Abdalkareem Al-Adwani won the grand prize of KD 10,000.

The list of 14 winners announced during the event also included 4 winners of the weekly Al Jawhara draws, each receiving KD 20,000: Ali Hussain Abd Alkudhur Hasan Asghar, Qutaibah Shaker Mahmoud Asad Hussain, Mtharef Yousef Mohammad A-Dhaen, and Ahmad Kamel Sulaiman Al-Haddad. Additionally, the winner of the April monthly Al Jawhara draw prize worth KD 125,000 was Reja Rashed Reja Al-Hasam Al-Rasheedi. Alongside them were 7 winners of the April monthly Al Jawhara Junior prizes, where 3 customers: Abdullah Hasan Fadhel Al-Baghli, Ahmad Abdalrahman Ahmad Al-Bloushi, and Ali Yaser Mostafa



Hisham Al-Nusif

■ **Al-Nusif:** Al Jawhara offers an exceptional experience that encourages saving and helps make new millionaires.

■ Al Jawhara Account supports NBK's efforts to promote a savings culture and enhance financial inclusion.

■ We are committed to reinforcing equal opportunities through the supervision of independent global auditing firms over all draws.

Ali Khan, each won KD 1,000, while 4 customers each won KD 500: Lulua A F Al-Wagayan, Lana Hamad Mohammad Al-Shatti, Fajar Naeem Mohamed Naeem, and Abdulrazzaq Mahmoud Abdulrazzaq Naqi Al-Kuwaiti.

On this occasion, Mr. Hisham Al-Nusif, Chief, Consumer Banking at National Bank of Kuwait, commented: "At NBK, we maintain our commitment to offering our customers an exceptional savings experience through the Al Jawhara and Al Jawhara Junior programs, the largest draw program of its kind in Kuwait, which not only encourages a culture of saving, but also actively contributes to creating new millionaires, reinforcing NBK's position as a trusted banking partner that prioritizes its customers' ambitions and financial

future".

Al-Nusif added: "We are delighted to announce 14 new winners in the Al Jawhara and Al Jawhara Junior draws, including the second millionaire of 2026, during our first event after the completion of the postponed draws from last month, in a special atmosphere that confirms NBK will always remain close to its customers".

Al-Nusif emphasized that the Al Jawhara Account represents a key pillar in the Bank's strategy aimed at giving customers the opportunity to win exceptional prizes that enrich their banking experience. It also serves as an important means of saving and future planning for all family members, while supporting NBK's efforts to promote a culture of sav-

ing and strengthen financial inclusion.

Al-Nusif also highlighted NBK's ongoing commitment to reinforcing the principles of equal opportunity and absolute credibility through the supervision of independent international auditing firms over all Al Jawhara and Al Jawhara Junior draws, underscoring transparency and customers' continued trust in the bank.

Moreover, Al-Nusif noted that the draw process is conducted with the highest standards of fairness to ensure the protection of customers' rights and preserve their chances of winning. To guarantee fair opportunities, winners of any Al Jawhara or Al Jawhara Junior draw are excluded from entering new draws for 90 working days. In addition, winners of prizes worth KD 50,000 or more are excluded from all draws for one full year from the date of winning, allowing more customers to get the chance to win.

Finally, Al-Nusif explained that the Al Jawhara Savings Account offers customers an additional interest rate of up to 1.5% during the first year, while also automatically qualifying them for the monthly draws and the grand prize draw once their balance reaches KD 5,000 or more.

It is worth noting that the total annual prize value of the Al Jawhara Account draws amounts to KD 5 million. The weekly prize is KD 20,000, the monthly prize is KD 125,000, while the grand prize of KD 1 million is conducted three times annually.

As for the Al Jawhara Junior draws, dedicated to customers under the age of 21, monthly draws are held for 7 cash prizes (KD 1,000 for three winners and KD 500 for four winners), in addition to one winner receiving a cash prize of KD 10,000 with every Al Jawhara grand prize draw.

Ring the bell for the ninth consecutive year

Boursa Kuwait renews its commitment to women's empowerment



Female leaders in the Kuwaiti capital market highlight its features and discuss the role of inclusivity in enhancing the efficacy of investment decisions.

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: Reaffirming its commitment to women's empowerment and to strengthening inclusivity and equality within the Kuwaiti capital market and the broader economic landscape, Boursa Kuwait rang the bell in commemoration of women's empowerment for the ninth consecutive year, in collaboration with the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), UN Women, the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative, and the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

This global initiative was launched more than a decade ago to draw attention to the importance of women's representation in leadership positions and in economic and financial decision-making processes, while encouraging stock exchanges and financial institutions around the world to take tangible actions in support of gender equality.

Boursa Kuwait's participation in this initiative is a natural extension of its corporate strategy, founded on embedding the principles of diversity, inclusivity and sound governance as indispensable pillars for building a trusted, balanced, and sustainable national capital market.

The exchange is proud of being among the first stock exchanges in the Gulf and Middle East region to join this initiative and ring the bell in support of women's empowerment, as part of its belief that balanced and inclusive capital markets can drive sustainable economic development and best serve their investors and communities.

As part of this initiative, Boursa Kuwait hosted a panel discussion titled "Women at the Forefront of Decision-Making in Capital Markets," organized in collaboration with the CFA Institute and the CFA Society Kuwait that served as a platform for dialogue on the

status of women in the Kuwaiti financial sector and highlighted the key challenges and opportunities related to strengthening their presence in leadership and decision-making roles amid the rapid transformations taking place in global financial markets and the growing emphasis on governance and sustainability.

The discussion, which attracted distinguished attendance from female professionals in the financial and investment sectors, was moderated by Ms. Sarah Maynard, Global Head of External Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy and Programs at the CFA Institute and featured Ms. Reem Al Hajri, General Manager of Investor Relations and Mergers & Acquisitions at Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc), and Ms. Anwar Al-Ajeel, Senior Vice President at Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC).



Dalal Behbehani

The initiative opened with welcoming remarks by Boursa Kuwait Board Member Ms. Dalal Behbehani, who highlighted the values that guide Boursa Kuwait's support for this initiative. She also shed light on the significant shifts taking place across the financial sector in terms of women's representation and their growing presence in decision-making roles.

"At Boursa Kuwait, we believe market sustainability begins with inclusive institutions," she said in her opening remarks. "We go beyond supporting diversity, leading change by encouraging listed companies to empower women in decision-making roles. The fi-

ancial sector has moved beyond traditional representation into a new era where women's empowerment is recognized as a distinct competitive and economic advantage. Our ambition is to build a strong market that reflects the full potential of our society."

Behbehani emphasized that the rapid transformations taking place across the global financial landscape have established a new equation for success, where technical competence is no longer sufficient for distinction. Instead, diverse leadership has become a fundamental requirement for achieving growth in increasingly complex business environments.

"Recent studies have demonstrated that women's representation in leadership positions goes far beyond fulfilling diversity requirements and has become a key driver of stronger governance, more rigorous evaluation and sounder decision-making. Today, the link between leadership diversity and sustainable financial performance is undeniable, as diverse leadership strengthens institutional resilience and enhances the ability to anticipate risks. The question is no longer whether we can afford to embrace diversity, but whether we can afford the consequences of its absence," she added.

Themes and objectives

The panel discussion was held within a multifaceted intellectual and practical framework, highlighting key themes tied to the major transformations shaping the global investment landscape:

- Investment Decision-Making Mechanisms: Reviewing the methodologies adopted by listed companies and financial institutions in shaping investment decisions, with a focus on the analytical approaches often demonstrated by female leaders in balancing risks

and returns.

- Performance Measurement and Risk Assessment: Discussing the tools and standards used in volatile market environments, and how diverse perspectives contribute to improving the accuracy of evaluations and mitigating cognitive biases that may affect decision quality.

- Sustainability and ESG Standards: Examining the integration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards into long-term investment strategies amid growing regulatory pressures and rising expectations from international investors.

- The Journey of Women's Leadership: Sharing real-life experiences related to structural and cultural challenges within the financial sector and exploring how obstacles can be transformed into meaningful milestones for professional growth.

Ring the Bell: A Commitment Beyond Symbolism

The event concluded with a bell-ringing ceremony with the participation of leading women from Kuwait's investment and financial institutions and listed companies. The ceremony served as a renewed public declaration by financial institutions of their commitment to equality and women's empowerment and sent a clear message to listed companies and the wider investment community that leadership diversity must be treated as a strategic priority.

This initiative forms part of global efforts to advance Goal 5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which focuses on gender equality and women's empowerment. It also aligns with the growing requirements of the ESG framework, which has become a key benchmark in assessing corporate performance and attractive-

ness to institutional investors internationally. Through its continued participation, Boursa Kuwait aims to reinforce the message that more inclusive and balanced capital markets are better positioned to achieve long-term sustainability and growth.

Strong Institutional Commitment and Longstanding UN Partnerships

Women's empowerment is an institutional pillar for Boursa Kuwait. Since joining the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative as a partner and supporter in 2017 and signing the Women's Empowerment Principles issued by UN Women in 2019, the company continued to translate these commitments into action through an integrated framework of policies and programs that promote diversity and inclusion within its workplace and across the wider market ecosystem.

Boursa Kuwait is committed to maintaining a workplace free from all forms of discrimination, where equal opportunities are available to all. The company also applies strict policies to ensure pay equity, equal career opportunities and professional advancement, while fostering a supportive environment that encourages women to assume leadership roles and actively participate in decision-making at all levels.

The company believes that the effective inclusion of women in the financial sector contributes to building a more balanced and resilient economic ecosystem. By broadening their talent base, institutions strengthen their ability to embrace diverse ideas and adapt to evolving market demands, helping shape a fairer, more innovative professional community that is better equipped to respond to the challenges of a fast-moving knowledge economy.

Highlighting deep-rooted partnership

Kuwait, UK discuss expanding economic cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: Minister of Finance Dr. Yaqoub Al-Sayed Yousef Al-Rifai on Sunday met with British Ambassador to Kuwait Qudsi Rasheed.

Officials representing the two nations also attended the meeting, which focused on broadening bilateral partnerships and exploring new avenues for cooperation.

The two parties exchanged views on regional developments and their economic and financial impacts locally and globally, as well as other issues of mutual concern.

They confirmed the deep-rooted strategic and historical ties between Kuwait and the United Kingdom, agreeing that these relations are built on a firm legacy of trust and collaboration, particularly in the investment, financial and economic sectors. They reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen cooperation in various industries.

Rasheed commended the strong relationship of his country with Kuwait, stressing that the United Kingdom is keen on maintaining concerted efforts and increasing joint initiatives in different fields.

Al-Rifai reiterated that Kuwait is committed to strengthening its partnership with the United Kingdom. He emphasized the importance of bolstering investment and economic ties to support sustainable development and serve the interests of both countries.



Kuwait, UK reaffirm strong strategic ties.

Negative EBITDA on exceptional charge

Makhazen reports resilient operating performance in Q1

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: Makhazen, the new operating brand of Agility Public Warehousing Company KSCP, today announced its financial results for the first quarter ended 31 March 2026.

Makhazen reported revenues of KD 36 million for the first quarter of 2026, a decrease of 5% year-on-year, primarily reflecting the handover of certain sites in Kuwait during 2025.

During the quarter, following recent court developments relating to certain leasehold land matters in Kuwait, the Board resolved to take a full provision against the associated investment property assets and related balances. This resulted in a one-off non-cash charge of KD 233 million. The company will continue to vigorously defend its position through all available legal channels.

As a result of this exceptional non-cash charge, reported EBITDA for the quarter was negative KD 216 million, while net loss attributable to shareholders reached KD 225 million.

Excluding these non-recurring items, the company's underlying operating performance remained resilient, adjusted EBITDA was KD 16 million and adjusted net profit attributable to equity holders was KD 7 million for the quarter.

Q1 2026 Performance
During the quarter, Makhazen remained focused on strengthening its operating platform, optimizing its asset base, and advancing projects that support Kuwait's long-term economic and development priorities.

Makhazen's operations delivered profitable underlying performance across all core segments, reflecting continued operating discipline and the strength of its core business platform.

Business segments
South Village (S2) construction is progressing well, S2 is a logistics and commercial development serving Sabah Al-Ahmed City, one of Kuwait's largest planned urban developments.

The Metal & Recycling Company contract awarded by KNPC and KIPIC is progressing on track.

Global Clearinghouse Systems continues to deliver solid operational performance supported by network



Faisal Jamil Sultan, Chairman of Makhazen

optimization and expansion of service offerings.

As of 31 March 2026, Makhazen held a 25% strategic stake in Agility Global, which continues to achieve strong performance across its portfolio companies. For Q1 2026, Agility Global reported EBIT stood at \$103 million, EBITDA reached \$185 million and revenue of \$1.4 billion. Total assets stood at \$13.2 billion and Shareholders' equity at \$5.6 billion.

Chairman's Statement
Faisal Jamil Sultan, Chairman of Makhazen:

"The first quarter of 2026 reflects a resilient underlying operating performance. Reported results were significantly affected by a one-off non-cash provision taken following recent court developments relating to certain legacy leasehold land matters. Our core business remains profitable and operationally sound, and the company will continue to pursue its legal rights in connection with these matters.

As we move forward under the Makhazen brand, our focus remains on strengthening the business, optimizing our asset base, and positioning the company for sustainable long-term growth. With a strong balance sheet and resilient operating platform, we remain confident in the company's ability to create long-term value for shareholders."

Inflation bites as markets hold their nerve

By National Bank of Kuwait

Global markets navigated a week of competing forces, as stronger-than-expected US inflation data collided with cautious optimism surrounding Trump's landmark visit to Beijing. April CPI accelerated to 3.8%, its highest since May 2023, while producer prices surged 6.0% year-on-year, cementing expectations that the Federal Reserve will hold rates higher for longer. Yet risk sentiment proved resilient: retail sales beat forecasts, the labor market remained firm with jobless claims still well below historical averages, and the prospect of tariff relief on some USD 30 billion of US-China bilateral goods offered a rare constructive signal. In the UK, a stronger-than-expected Q1 GDP print of 0.6% was overshadowed by sterling's sharp weekly decline, as political uncertainty around a potential Starmer leadership challenge and fresh oil price fears pushed GBP/USD below \$1.34. Across the Asia-Pacific, Japan's producer prices posted their fastest annual rise since May 2023, underscoring how energy-driven cost pressures continue to ripple through global supply chains. The week's central message is clear: underlying economic activity remains more resilient than many had feared, but inflation, fueled by the Iran war's energy shock, is proving equally stubborn, leaving central banks with little room to pivot.

United States

US Inflation Accelerates to Highest Level Since 2023 Amid Energy Shock

US annual inflation accelerated to 3.8% in April 2026, rising from 3.3% in March and reaching its highest level since May 2023, as higher energy prices linked to the Iran war continued to fuel inflationary pressures. The increase came in above market expectations, driven primarily by a sharp surge in energy costs, particularly gasoline and fuel oil prices. Inflation also picked up in shelter costs, while food inflation remained elevated. On a monthly basis, consumer prices rose 0.6%, slowing slightly from March's sharp increase but still reflecting persistent price pressures across the economy. Meanwhile, core inflation, which excludes food and energy, edged higher to 2.8% year-on-year and rose 0.4% month-on-month, both exceeding forecasts and reinforcing expectations that the Federal Reserve may maintain a tighter monetary policy stance for longer.

US Producer Inflation Jumps Sharply, Reinforcing Fed Tightening Concerns

US producer price inflation accelerated significantly in April, with headline PPI rising 1.4% month-on-month and 6.0% year-on-year, far exceeding market expectations and marking the strongest increase since 2022. Core producer prices, which exclude food and energy, also rose sharply, signaling broad-based inflationary pressures across the economy. The surge was driven by higher energy prices, rising services costs, and a sharp increase in transportation and warehousing expenses, with truck freight costs posting their largest increase since 2009 due to elevated fuel-related pressures. The stronger-than-expected inflation data reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve may keep monetary policy tighter for longer, as rising upstream costs increasingly fed into broader production and consumer prices.

US Retail Sales Remain Resilient Despite Rising Energy Costs

US retail sales increased 0.5% month-on-month in April 2026, matching market expectations and following a downwardly revised 1.6% rise in March, signaling continued resilience in consumer spending. The strongest gains were recorded at gasoline stations as fuel prices rose amid the Iran war, while solid increases were also seen in electronics, online retail, food and beverage stores, and restaurants. Excluding gasoline stations, retail sales still rose a healthy 0.3%, indicating broader underlying consumer demand. However, spending weakened in furniture, clothing, and auto dealerships, reflecting some pressure on discretionary purchases. Meanwhile, core retail sales, which

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.1777	1.1616	1.1790	1.1625	1.1500	1.1700	1.1670
GBP	1.3609	1.3312	1.3653	1.3321	1.3175	1.3400	1.3320
JPY	156.39	156.39	158.84	158.76	158.00	161.00	157.60
CHF	0.7761	0.7760	0.7873	0.7867	0.7800	0.8030	0.7790

feed directly into GDP calculations and exclude volatile categories such as autos, gasoline, building materials, and food services, also rose 0.5%, exceeding expectations and pointing to steady momentum in the US economy despite elevated inflationary pressures tied to higher energy prices.

US Jobless Claims Rise Slightly but Labor Market Remains Resilient

Initial jobless claims in the US increased by 12,000 to 211,000 in the first week of May, coming in above market expectations of 205,000. Continuing claims also rose by 24,000 to 1.782 million, although slightly below forecasts. Despite the uptick, both measures remain well below their average levels from last year, reinforcing signs of a still-resilient US labor market with relatively low levels of layoffs. Meanwhile, unemployment claims filed by federal employees declined modestly, easing some concerns related to disruptions caused by recent government shutdowns and delays in unemployment insurance processing.

Trump's Landmark China Visit Amid Trade and Geopolitical Tensions

US President Donald Trump's visit to China marked the first US state visit to China in nine years, meeting President Xi Jinping in Beijing as both nations attempted to stabilize relations amid rising geopolitical tensions linked to Iran and Taiwan. Talks focused on trade normalization, regional security, rare earth supply chain dependencies, and possible tariff relief, with both sides reportedly considering a framework to reduce tariffs on around USD 30 billion of bilateral goods. President Xi emphasized the importance of a "partners not rivals" relationship, while Trump highlighted greater market access for US companies as a key priority. The visit also included senior executives from major US firms such as Apple, Nvidia, Tesla, and Citigroup, while negotiations continued around extending the October trade truce and addressing disputes over rare earth export controls and US sanctions tied to Iranian oil trade.

United Kingdom

UK Economy Expands Strongly in First Quarter of 2026

The UK economy grew 0.6% in the three months to March 2026, continuing its steady recovery after growth rates of 0.5% and 0.4% in the prior rolling three-month periods. The expansion was mainly driven by the services sector, which rose 0.8%, while construction output rebounded 0.4% after five consecutive quarterly declines. Production output also increased modestly by 0.2%, although growth slowed compared to the previous period. On a monthly basis, GDP rose 0.3% in March following a 0.4% increase in February, supported by gains in both services and construction activity. Construction output surged 1.5% during the month, helping offset a slight decline in production. Overall, the data points to improving momentum in the UK economy during the first quarter of 2026, led primarily by the services sector and a recovery in construction activity.

Pound Falls as UK Political Uncertainty and Inflation Risks Intensify

The British pound fell below \$1.34 on Friday, hitting its weakest level since early April and heading for an almost 2% weekly decline against

the US dollar. Sterling came under pressure after reports suggested Andy Burnham, viewed by bond investors as a less market-friendly candidate, could challenge Prime Minister Keir Starmer, adding to political uncertainty in the UK. Concerns over inflation also increased after comments from US President Donald Trump regarding the Strait of Hormuz pushed crude oil prices higher, raising fears of further energy-driven price pressures. Markets are now pricing in around 70 basis points of additional Bank of England rate hikes this year, while BOE Chief Economist Huw Pill signaled support for further monetary tightening to counter inflation risks stemming from the ongoing energy shock linked to the Iran war.

The GBP/USD currency pair was last seen trading at 1.3321.

Asia-Pacific

Japan Producer Prices Surge Amid Energy-Driven Cost Pressures

Japan's producer prices rose 4.9% year-on-year in April 2026, accelerating sharply from a revised 2.9% increase in March and surpassing market expectations of 3%, marking the fastest annual growth since May 2023. The surge was largely driven by rising energy costs and supply chain disruptions linked to the Iran war, which intensified input cost pressures across the economy. Strong price increases were seen in chemicals, petroleum and coal products, electrical machinery, transport equipment, and electronic components, while textile prices returned to growth and declines in iron and steel prices moderated. On a monthly basis, producer prices jumped 2.3%, up from 1.0% in March and the strongest monthly increase since April 2014, highlighting mounting inflationary pressure at the producer level.

The USD/JPY currency pair was last seen trading at 158.76.

Commodities

Oil Prices Surge as Strait of Hormuz Risks Keep Supply Concerns Elevated

Brent crude futures climbed to around \$109 per barrel on Friday, putting prices on track for an approximate 8% weekly gain as tensions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz continued to fuel supply concerns. Markets remained unsettled after US-Iran peace talks stalled, with President Donald Trump warning Iran to strike a deal or face "annihilation," while optimism for a durable ceasefire faded. Although Iran stated that some ships had resumed crossing the Strait, the critical waterway remains largely restricted following the collapse of negotiations on a US-backed proposal earlier this week. Adding to concerns, the International Energy Agency estimated that crude and fuel flows through the Strait declined by roughly 4 million barrels per day in March and April, warning that the global oil market could remain significantly undersupplied through October even if the conflict is resolved soon. Further uncertainty stemmed from ongoing reports of ship attacks and seizures in the region, while Trump also indicated that China was seeking to increase oil purchases from the US amid the disruption.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30635.

CPI hits 3.8% amid surge in energy costs

US inflation jumps as Iran war drives energy costs

WASHINGTON, May 17, (AP): In the past week, many Americans remained focused on the economy, inflation and how those forces could impact their lives. Trips to the grocery store or gas station are more painful than they were last year, and that is impacting the decisions of both households and businesses.

Here's a snapshot of prominent economic data and news that occurred over the past week and what it potentially means for you.

U.S. consumer prices climbed sharply again last month as the 10-week war with Iran pushed energy prices higher.

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

Labor Department figures showed that gasoline prices are up more than 28% compared to a year ago. AAA says the average gallon of gasoline costs motorists more than \$4.50 a gallon, about 44% more than it

cost last year at this time.

U.S. wholesale inflation came in hot last month. Producer prices rose 6% from a year earlier, the most since December 2022, as the 10-week Iran war pushed up energy prices and put pressure on companies to pass along higher costs to consumers.

The Labor Department reported Wednesday that its producer price index - which tracks inflation before it hits consumers - shot up 1.4% in April, the biggest monthly gain since March 2022.

Energy prices climbed 7.8% from March to April and 22.7% from a year earlier. Gasoline soared 15.6% from March and diesel, the dominant fuel used in shopping, jumped 12.6%.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called core producer prices were up 1% from March and 5.2% from April 2025.

All the numbers were much higher than economists had forecast.

The number of Americans filing for jobless aid rose last week but remains historically low despite the economic uncertainty caused by the war in Iran.

U.S. applications for unemployment benefits

for the week ending May 9 rose by 12,000 to 211,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. That's slightly more than the 207,000 new applications analysts surveyed by the data firm FactSet had forecast.

Weekly filings for unemployment benefits are considered a proxy for U.S. layoffs and are close to a real-time indicator of the health of the job market.

Despite relatively few layoffs, the labor market appears to be stuck in what economists call a "low-hire, low-fire" state. That has kept the unemployment rate low at 4.3%, but left many of those out of work struggling to find new employment.

Shoppers pulled back on spending in April as higher gas prices fueled by the Iran war meant less money left over for some nonessentials like clothing and furniture.

Retail sales rose a respectable 0.5% in April, but that was slower than the 1.6% growth seen in March, according to Commerce Department data released Thursday. March marked the largest one-month increase in retail spending in more than three years, largely because gas prices rose so rapidly.

Warba launches 'Eidiya' service across branches

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: Warba Bank announced the launch of its "Eidiya" cash service, providing newly issued banknotes to customers through selected branches and ATMs across Kuwait's governorates. The initiative aims to ensure a convenient banking service during the Eid holiday period.

The bank confirmed that the service includes various denominations, including KWD 1, KWD 5, KWD 10, and KWD 20 notes, allowing customers to easily withdraw their preferred denominations through both designated branches and ATMs.

Ensuring Customer Convenience:

Abdullah Nasser Al-Shuail - Senior Director of the Branches at Warba Bank, stated: "Warba Bank is committed to providing services that simplify daily transactions for our customers, particularly during holiday seasons which witness a high demand for new banknotes. We have activated a wide network of branches and ATMs to ensure easy access across Kuwait."

Al-Shuail added that the bank focuses on enhancing its readiness during peak seasons and holidays by deploying efficient and rapid banking solutions that prioritize customer convenience.

Nationwide Coverage Across Governorates:

The bank stated that the Eidiya service is available across a comprehensive geographical network, covering the Capital, Hawally, Farwaniya, Ahmadi, Jahra, and Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorates, in addition to selected ATMs located in key areas such as co-op societies and commercial complexes.

The participating branches include:

- Capital Governorate: Arraya, Keifan, Shamiya, Adailiya, Jaber Al-Ahmad, and Ministries Complex.
- Hawally Governorate: Hawally, Al-Shuhada, Salmiya, and Mubarak Al-Abdullah.
- Ahmadi Governorate: Egaila, Mangaf, Fahaheel, and Jaber Al-Ali.
- Farwaniya Governorate: Far-



Abdullah Al-Shuail

■ Al-Shuail:
"We are committed to making Eidiya withdrawals easier and more accessible for customers."

waniya, Airport T4, and The Avenues Mall.

■ Jahra Governorate: Jahra and Saad Al-Abdullah.

■ Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate: Adan and Abu Fatira.

The service is also available via dedicated ATMs at several locations, including: The co-op societies of Abdullah Al-Mubarak, Sabah Al-Salem, Abu Halifa, Shamiya, Al-Siddiq, and Al-Khaldiya, as well as the Arraya Complex, and Al-Ansari Exchange in Jahra.

Operational Readiness for Eid:

Warba Bank noted that the deployment of the Eidiya service is part of an integrated operational plan to ensure branch and channel readiness during the Eid period, providing flexible banking solutions that meet customer expectations.

About Warba Bank:

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

Cannes couture

Cate Blanchett poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Paper Tiger' at the 79th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 16, 2026. (AP)



Kristen Stewart. (AP)



Jury member Chloé Zhao. (AP)



Nicky Hilton Rothschild. (AP)



Jury member Demi Moore. (AP)



Victoria Luengo. (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: Clarence Carter, the blues and soul musician and singer-songwriter with the raspy, emotional vocals whose hits included the sentimental "Patches" and the salacious "Strokin," has died at age 90.

Carter's death was confirmed by Bill Carpenter, a spokesman for his former wife and fellow singer, Candi Staton. Carter died Wednesday of natural causes, according to Carpenter.

Carter, a self-taught guitarist who was born blind in Montgomery, Alabama, and majored in music at Alabama State College, had his biggest hit in 1970 with "Patches," a plaintive tale about a poor country boy who must become a man and run his family's farm after his father dies. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles Sparks guard Kelsey Plum is joining Amazon Prime Video's WNBA broadcasts as a player contributor, making appearances in studio throughout the season. "Kelsey's had a standout career in the WNBA and is a dynamic presence in women's basketball," said Amina Hussein, head of on-air talent and development for Prime Video Sports. "We're building something special with WNBA on Prime, and her contributions to our broadcast as a current league veteran will add to our goal of delivering fans an authentic, player-driven experience."

Plum, the No. 1 pick in the 2017 draft, will help highlight key storylines around the league and provide insight. Prime studios are in Los Angeles. (AP)

INDIANAPOLIS: Grammy-nominated Jordin Sparks will sing the national anthem at next week's Indianapolis 500, race organizers announced Thursday.

The singer, songwriter and actress also performed the anthem before the 2015 and 2024 races. This year's "Greatest Spectacle in Racing" is scheduled for May 24.

"Jordin knows how important the national anthem performance is to the pre-race ceremonies of the Indianapolis 500, and we have been moved by her two previous renditions," Indianapolis Motor Speedway President Doug Boles said in a statement released by track officials. (AP)



Jordin Sparks arrives at the BET Awards on June 9, 2025, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. (AP)

Cannes

Last interview gets haunting revival from Soderbergh

Lennon documentary hits AI nerve

The day John Lennon was shot, on Dec. 8, 1980, he and Yoko Ono gave an interview to a San Francisco radio crew from their home in New York's Dakota Apartments. They were promoting their new album "Double Fantasy," but the two-hour conversation was wide ranging. Though the interviewers had been warned "no Beatles questions," Lennon and Ono were thrillingly open. That day, Annie Leibovitz also shot the famous portrait of a clothes-less Lennon wrapped around Ono.

The interview is similarly naked. The two, particularly Lennon, riff on love, their relationship, creativity, life after the Beatles, raising their toddler son, writing songs in bed and much more. At the age of 40, Lennon sounds like someone who has found real clarity.

"I feel like nothing happened before today," said Lennon.

In "John Lennon: The Last Interview," Steven Soderbergh turns those surviving tapes into a documentary that does as much to demystify Lennon and Ono as "Get Back" did to the Beatles. The film debuted Saturday at the Cannes Film Festival.

"I was just so compelled by their generosity of spirit throughout the conversation," Soderbergh explained in an interview Saturday in Cannes. "It's like the world took place in one day, in this apartment."

Making it posed an acute problem. Soderbergh was resolved to let the audio play. He could find ways to visualize much of the film, but that still left a large gap where the conversation grows more philosophical.

"I worked on everything that could be solved except that for as long as I could," Soderbergh says. "Then there was the inevitable moment of: OK, but really what are we going to do? We just started play-



David Hudson, from left, Nancy Saslow, director Steven Soderbergh and David Hillman pose for photographers at the photo call for the film 'John Lennon: The Last Interview' during the 79th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 16, 2026. (AP)

ing and ran out of time and money. That's where the Meta piece came in."

Soderbergh accepted an offer to use Meta's artificial intelligence software to conjure surreal imagery for those sections, which make up about 10% of the film. When Soderbergh let the news out earlier this year, it prompted an uproar. One of America's leading filmmakers was using AI? In a film about a Beatle, no less?

The AI parts (overwhelmingly slammed by critics in Cannes) are fairly banal and don't differ greatly from special effects - there are no deepfakes of Lennon. But they put Soderbergh at the forefront of an industrywide debate about the uses of AI in moviemaking. It's a conversation the director, who has made movies on iPhones, is eager to have.

Soderbergh: Transparency is so important in the world outside of the creative context, we're not aware of the extent that this is being used and used to manipulate us. We don't know because they're not telling. We find out after, by accident, by some whistle blower. I'm like my own whistle blower: "This is what he's doing."

Soderbergh: I knew what was coming. I take it very seriously, and I understand why people have an emotional response to this subject. As I've said before, I feel like I owe people the best version of whatever art I'm trying to make and total transparency about how I'm doing it. But, yeah, you don't say yes to Meta offering you these tools and offering to finish the film and not know you're going to come in for some heat. That was part of the deal.

Soderbergh: I think most jobs that matter when you're making a movie cannot be performed by this tech and never will be performed by this tech. As it becomes possible for anybody to create something that meets a certain standard of technical perfection, then imperfection becomes more valuable and more interesting. We haven't seen yet someone with a certain amount of creative credibility go full-metal AI on something, and see how people react. I think it's necessary. How do you know where the line is until somebody crosses it? I don't think what I'm doing crosses it. Some people may disagree. I don't know where my line is yet. I'm waiting to see.

Soderbergh: Circles of light that come out of nowhere, things like that. A black rose that turns into a

Busby Berkeley thing and then a red rose. I wasn't very articulate to the people I was working with. It was hard to describe the things I wanted to see. The good part about this technology was at least ability to have something in front of me quickly that I could respond to.

Soderbergh: I've determined my rule is: It has to be necessary. Is it the only way to accomplish what I want to see? Is it truly the best way to do it? That's the real question. You're going to see a lot of people doing stuff with AI that fail those two challenges.

Soderbergh: I needed a way to follow them in flight visually, or I'm not doing my job. It's hard to judge how long it will take us to find homeostasis with this technology. I think we will. Just looking at this technology in the movie making business, each department has or will have a very different relationship with it. I'll have a different relationship than a writer, than an actor, than the costume designer, the production designer, the sound effects people.

Each creative person is going to have their own prism and be affected by it in different ways. Our inherent desire to have a simple template for how this is to be approached is part of the problem. I don't think that's possible. I don't think there's a one-size fits all.

Soderbergh: Especially his burning desire to destroy the male rock star myth - at a time when that was not the mood anyone else was in. That's inspiring. What I hope young people who see it get out of it is: This guy told the truth about everything from the jump, right up through the last day of his life. He just was built that way. And he was constructive. He was very opinionated but also very thoughtful and all in the aid of: Can we do this better? Can we do a better version of human beings on this planet? (AP)

Library of Congress adds Swift, Beyoncé classics to audio archives

LOS ANGELES, May 17, (AP): Albums and songs from Taylor Swift, Beyoncé, Chaka Khan and The Go-Go's are joining America's audio canon.

The new inductees into the National Recording Registry at the Library of Congress include Swift's blockbuster 2014 pop album "1989," Beyoncé's era-defining 2008 anthem "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)," Khan's genre-blending hit "I Feel for You," Vince Gill's emotional ballad "Go Rest High on That Mountain" and The Go-Go's groundbreaking debut album "Beauty and the Beat."

They were among the 25 re-

cordings entering the archive in the class of 2026, acting Librarian of Congress Robert Newlen announced Thursday. The selections were chosen for their "cultural, historical or aesthetic importance in the nation's recorded sound heritage."

"Music and recorded sound are essential, wonderful parts of our daily lives and our national heritage," Newlen said in a statement. "The National Recording Registry works to preserve our national playlist for generations to come."

Other recordings entering the registry include Ray Charles' groundbreaking country crossover album



This combination of images show, from left, Beyoncé, Jose Feliciano, Vince Gill, Chaka Khan and Taylor Swift. (AP)

"Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music," Reba McEntire's "Rumor Has It," Rosanne Cash's "The Wheel" and Weezer's self-titled debut known as "The Blue Album."

Classic singles from Gladys Knight and the Pips, The Byrds, José Feliciano and Paul Anka also earned inclusion.

Among the more unconventional selections are the soundtrack to

the influential 1993 video game "Doom" and the radio broadcast of "The Fight of the Century," the legendary 1971 heavyweight boxing match between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

Music

Electrifying 'Bangaranga' steals spotlight in glitter-filled finale

Dara delivers Bulgaria's first-ever Eurovision triumph

VIENNA, May 17, (AP) — Bulgarian singer Dara won the 70th Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday with her infectious party anthem "Bangaranga," giving the southeast European country its first-ever victory in the competition.

Israeli competitor Noam Botan came second after a contest in Vienna clouded by protests and a boycott over the country's participation.

Dara beat 24 other competitors during Saturday's grand final of the sequin-drenched pop music competition. The song's infectious beats and tightly choreographed dance routine proved a hit with both national juries in participating countries and viewers around the world, whose votes together decide the winner.

"This is unbelievable," Dara said at a post-show news conference early Sunday. "I don't even know what's going on."

She thanked "everyone who felt the bangaranga and felt connected to the force."

The 27-year-old performer is an established name in her homeland, but had not been among the favorites to win. Still, "Bangaranga" is the sort of pop banger that Eurovision does so well, with its irresistible exhortation: "Surrender to the blinding lights. No one's gonna sleep tonight. Welcome to the riot."

Dara has spoken about battling with anxiety, and described bangaranga as an inner force that allows people to "drop this mask of chasing perfection." She has said the song draws on Bulgaria's kukeri, elaborately costumed men who perform ritual dances to ward off evil spirits.

Romania's Alexandra Căpitănescu came third in the contest with the rock song "Choke Me." Australian star Delta Goodrem was fourth with the slick midtempo ballad "Eclipse," and Italian crooner Sal Da Vinci came fifth with "Per Sempre Sì," or "Forever Yes."

The Finnish duo of pop star Pete Parkkonen and classical violinist Linda Lampenius, who were strong favorite on betting markets, ended up in sixth place.

Eurovision historian Dean Vuletic said the contest often produces surprises.

"Eurovision has never really been a contest for big stars," Vuletic said. "People like to see the underdog on stage. They like to see the artist-in-the-making on stage or an artist from a smaller, poorer country on stage."

Acts from 25 countries, whittled down from an initial 35, took the stage at the Wiener Stadthalle arena in Vienna to battle for the continent's pop crown. A fiery Finnish violinist, a Moldovan folk rapper and a Serbian metal band were among the contenders in a campy, colorful contest that has been likened to the World Cup with songs instead of soccer.

And like global sports, it of-



Dara from Bulgaria holds up the trophy after winning the Grand Final of the 70th Eurovision Song Contest in Vienna, Austria, Sunday, May 17, 2026. Inset: Dara from Bulgaria performs the song 'Bangaranga' during the Grand Final of the 70th Eurovision Song Contest in Vienna, Austria, Saturday, May 16, 2026. (AP)

ten becomes entangled in politics. The contest has been clouded for a third year by calls for Israel to be excluded over its conflicts in Gaza and elsewhere, with five longtime participants - Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland, Iceland and Slovenia - boycotting in protest.

The political tensions have clouded a contest that over the decades has given the world the perfect pop of ABBA's "Waterloo" and the ageless "Nel blu, dipinto di blu" - better known as "Volare" - along with a host of Euro-pop party anthems.

The contestants had just 3 minutes to win over viewers. Jets of flame, glitter guns and wind machines worked overtime in a show that celebrated Europe's eclectic musical tastes.

Serbian metal band Kravina offered hard rock angst, there was brooding choral rock from Albania's Alis, and Cypriot contestant Antigonis had the crowd on its feet with dance floor filler "Jalla."

Female solo artists dominated: There was an empowering power ballad from Germany's Sarah En-

gels, gospel-tinged R&B from Poland's Alicja, ethereal beauty from Ukraine's Lelėka, techno-pop from Sweden's Felicia and opera-pop from France's Monro.

Male soloists were well represented too, by the likes of Aidan

from Malta, Denmark's Søren Torpegaard Lund, rock-edged singer Jonas Lovv from Norway and Austria's techno-pop performer Cosmo.

Party rap with a political edge was in the house thanks to Sa-

toshi's ebullient "Viva, Moldova" and Greek artist Akylas' playful "Ferto."

British act Look Mum No Computer came last with the jokey novelty song "Eins, Zwei, Drei," winning just a single point. Bulgaria gained 516 points in the contest's convoluted voting system, and Israel received 343.

Tension over Israel's participation in Eurovision looks unlikely to subside.

This is the second year in a row that Israel has come second, largely because of a huge vote from the public. Eurovision organizers tightened voting rules this year after allegations the country had mounted an intense lobbying campaign to get votes for its competitor.

Botan was loudly cheered, though there was a smattering of boos as he performed "Michelle," a rock ballad in Hebrew, French and English. Earlier in the week, four people were ejected for trying to disrupt his semifinal performance.

Hundreds of protesters against Israel's inclusion marched near the

contest arena before Saturday's final, some holding placards saying "Block Eurovision." Pro-Palestinian groups also staged an outdoor concert on Friday under the banner "No stage for genocide."

"Inviting Israel on such a beautiful stage as the Eurovision Song Contest stage is an affront to all the people who believe in humanity, who believe in love and togetherness," said Congolese-Austrian artist Patrick Bongola, one of the organizers.

Despite blow to Eurovision's finances and viewership from the boycott, the contest is eyeing expansion, with a spinoff Eurovision Song Contest Asia due to take place in Bangkok in November.

Vuletic said political controversy is nothing new. The first Eurovision boycott was in 1969 - by Austria, which refused to send a delegation to Spain under dictator Francisco Franco.

"We've seen very politicized editions of the contest in the recent past," Vuletic said. "All of them were very much mired in political controversy, yet Eurovision continues."



Eurovision fans celebrate the Bulgaria's historic first Eurovision victory with Dara's song 'Bangaranga' in Sofia, Sunday, May 17, 2026. (AP)

Books

One of the Middle Ages' most widely circulated historical texts

Medieval manuscript in Rome stuns scholars with oldest English poem

ROME, May 17, (AP) — The researchers in Ireland looked at their computer screen, marveling at a medieval book tracked down in a Roman library. They flipped through its digitized pages and found their sought-after treasure: the oldest surviving English poem.

"We were extremely surprised. We were speechless. We couldn't believe our eyes when we first saw that," Elisabetta Magnanti, a visiting research fellow at Trinity College Dublin's school of English, told The Associated Press.

What's more, she said, the poem was within the main body of Latin text: "It was extraordinary."

Composed in Old English by a Northumbrian agricultural worker in the 7th century, "Caedmon's Hymn" appears within some copies of the "Ecclesiastical History of the English People," written in Latin by a monk and saint known as the Venerable Bede. His history is one of the most widely reproduced texts from the Middle Ages, with almost 200 manuscripts, according to Magnanti's colleague Mark Faulkner, an associate professor of medieval literature at Trinity.

He considers Caedmon's poem to be the start of English literature.

The manuscript he and Magnanti found is one of the oldest, dating from the 9th century. Two earlier copies contain the poem in Old English, but as afterthoughts - translated from Latin and scrawled into the margin by later scribes or appended but not within the text's main body, according to the researchers.

The discovery sheds light on the English language's wide diffu-



A rare, long-lost copy of Caedmon's Hymn - the first poem ever written down in Old English - is visible in the five lines above the final line of the left page from an 8th-century manuscript copy of the Venerable Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People, at Rome's National Library. (AP)

sion, long before what was previously understood, Faulkner said in Rome, where the duo had traveled to view the text in person for the first time.

"Prior to the discovery of the Rome manuscript, the earliest one was from the early 12th century. So this is three centuries earlier than that. And so it attests to the importance that was already being attached to the English in the early 9th century," Faulkner said.

And it's something of a miracle they uncovered it at all.

Caedmon is said to have composed the poem while working at Whitby Abbey in North Yorkshire, after guests at a feast began reciting poems, Faulkner said.

"Embarrassed that he didn't know anything suitable, Caedmon left the feast and went to bed," he said. "A figure then appeared to him in his dreams telling him to sing about creation, which Caedmon miraculously did, producing the nine-line hymn."

Some 1,400 years later, this copy of his poem resurfaced in Rome's main public library - but not before crossing the Atlantic Ocean at least twice and changing hands even more times.

Monks transcribed this copy of Bede's history in the scriptorium of the Benedictine abbey of Nonantola, one of the most important transcription centers during the Middle Ages, located near modern-day Modena in northern Italy, according to Valen-



From left, Elisabetta Magnanti, Mark Faulkner of Dublin's Trinity College, Andrea Cappa and Valentina Longo of Rome's National Central Library examine a manuscript containing a rare, long-lost copy of Caedmon's Hymn - the first poem ever written down in Old English - at Rome's National Library. (AP)

tina Longo, curator of medieval and modern manuscripts at Rome's National Central Library.

In the 17th century, as the abbey's importance declined, its vast collection of manuscripts was shifted to another abbey in Rome, then moved to the Vatican and finally on to a small church.

Along the way, some of the texts went missing, only to emerge in the early 19th century in the possession of famous international collectors, Longo said.

This copy of Bede's history went to renowned English antiquarian Thomas Phillipps. He fell on hard times, selling off bits and pieces of his collection, and Swiss bibliophile Martin Bodmer secured the book.

From there, somehow, it arrived in New York City, in the trove of Austrian-born rare bookseller H.P. Kraus during the 20th century.

Italy's culture ministry was scouring the world for the Nonantola abbey's missing manuscripts, snapping them up in auctions and from collectors around the world. It bought the copy of Bede's history from Kraus in 1972, Longo said, and since then the ill-fated text has remained in Rome's library - but received scant notice.

Enter Magnanti, who had spent over four years studying Bede's history and was compiling a catalog of extant copies.

"I knew that the book was listed in the library's catalog, so I was almost

certain that the book was, in fact, still here," she said. "I realized that, because of the very complex history of this book, no big scholar had really looked at it. So it had been virtually unstudied."

She emailed the library, which confirmed the book was in its stacks. Three months later, she received digital images of the entire manuscript.

Now we must praise the guardian of the heavenly kingdom, the might of the creator and his intention, the work of the father of glory, in that he of each wonder, eternal lord, established the beginning.

He first created the earth for men, heaven as a roof, the holy creator, then the middle earth, the guardian of mankind, the eternal lord, afterwards created for men on earth, the almighty lord.

The library has digitized the entire Nonantolan collection and it is freely accessible through the website, Longo said.

It's part of a massive project by the library to make thousands of rare books and manuscripts available to researchers around the world, according to Andrea Cappa, the library's head of manuscripts and the rare books reading room.

"The discovery made by the experts of Trinity College is just one starting point, a single manuscript that might pave the way for countless other discoveries, in countless other fields, through international cooperation like this," Cappa said.



KUNA photo
CAN launches annual lung cancer campaign to raise public awareness.

CAN launches annual lung cancer awareness campaign against smoking

KUWAIT CITY, May 17, (KUNA): The Cancer Awareness National campaign (CAN) launched on Sunday its annual lung cancer campaign to raise public awareness.

Chairman of CAN and Kuwait Society for Combating Smoking and Cancer (KSPSC) Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh said awareness remains the main pillar in limiting the spread of lung cancer, describing it as one of the cancers most closely linked to preventable risk factors.

He said lung cancer ranks as the sixth most common cancer in Kuwait, noting that 150 cases were recorded in 2021, representing five percent of all registered cancer cases.

He stressed that spreading awareness about the danger of smoking, passive smoking and exposure to environmental pollutants directly contributes to protect-

ing public health.

Dr. Al-Saleh added that CAN continues its efforts year-round through awareness campaigns, educational lectures and field activities in health centers and hospitals, alongside cooperation with health authorities to train medical staff on early detection and awareness of symptoms.

He reemphasized that the campaign seeks to promote healthier lifestyles to help prevent cancer diseases, particularly lung cancer.

Meanwhile, CAN executive committee member and campaign coordinator Dr. Eman Al-Shammari said the initiative comes as part of a series of awareness campaigns organized throughout the year.

She added that the campaign will include awareness messages on social media platforms, lectures, workshops and educational videos.

Kuwaiti doctor performs two live advanced endoscopic procedures at ESGE Conference

KUWAIT CITY, May 17, (KUNA): Dr Asmaa Al-Kandari, Consultant of internal medicine and gastroenterology at Jahra Hospital, represented Kuwait on Saturday, by performing two live procedures before conference attendees.

The procedures included the removal of a tumor in the appendix using colonoscopy and the removal of a tumor in the transverse colon using advanced endoscopic techniques.

The procedures were conducted during the annual conference of the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, held in Milan from May 14 to 16, 2026, with the participation of leading experts and specialists from around the world.

In a statement to KUNA, the Ministry of Health said that Dr. Al-Kandari is also participating as a speaker in a multidisciplinary scientific session discussing the evaluation and triage of complex gastrointestinal disease cases. The session brings together specialists in gastroenterology and digestive endoscopy, oncology, surgery, and histopathology in a scientific model that highlights the importance of integration among medical specialties



Dr. Asmaa Al-Kandari during live procedures.

KUNA photos

to reach the best treatment decisions for patients.

The Ministry noted that Dr. Al-Kandari's participation is particularly distinguished as she is the only participant from the Middle East in the program, representing Kuwait among a group of global experts from 13 different countries.

It added that, on the research front, she presented a scientific paper on the use of Artificial Intelligence techniques to assess the depth of gastrointestinal tumors. The study explores the use of AI-supported endoscopic technologies to help determine the depth tumors, improve the accuracy of therapeutic evalua-

tion, and support medical decision-making.

The Ministry noted that the Conference features more than 12 scientific tracks, live endoscopy demonstrations, and the participation of experts from five continents, highlighting the latest innovations and treatment techniques in the field.

Chinese medical team organizes free clinic to northern Togo health center

LOME, May 17, (Xinhua): The 28th Chinese medical team based in Kara, northern Togo, on Saturday organized a free clinic and donated medicines to the Saint Martin Health Center in Ketao, located some 433km north of the Togolese capital Lome.

The Chinese medical team, comprising specialists in traumatology, anesthesiology, general medicine, surgery, gynecology, stomatology, and acupuncture, provided medical checks to more than 120 people, including senior citizens.

Organized under the framework of the "100 Teams, 1,000 Villages" initiative, the free consultations focused on ophthalmic examinations, oral and dental health assessments, cardiac evaluations, as well as trau-

ma-orthopedic development checks.

Xi Gang, head of the Chinese medical mission, said his team came well-prepared with a large quantity of medicines to meet the needs of the patients who require them most under the initiative.

"We will make every effort to provide the best services to vulnerable people, especially in rural and remote areas," Xi added.

Marie-Bernard Kolah, head of the Saint Martin Health Center, noted a high turnout of patients who welcomed the timely arrival of the Chinese medical mission.

"We had announced that Chinese doctors would come, and so many people traveled from the surrounding hamlets of Ketao," she said.

Kuwait Down Syndrome society organizes marathon for third consecutive year

KUWAIT CITY, May 17, (KUNA): Kuwait Down Syndrome society organized a marathon, titled "our path is one", for the third consecutive year, with broad participation from children, families, and volunteers, to integrate them into varied sports and societal activities.

Organizing the marathon reflects the Society's belief in the abilities of people with Down Syndrome and its commitment to supporting and developing their skills through various sports and community activities. Chairwoman of the Society's Board of Directors Izdehar Al-Kandari told (KUNA) on Saturday.

Al-Kandari added that sports represents an essential part of the Society's programs because of their positive impact on physical, health, psychological, and social aspects, in addition to their role in com-

bating obesity and boosting the children's self-confidence.

She explained that the children's participation in races and sports activities helps bring joy and happiness to them and fosters a spirit of competition and challenge among them.

She noted that the Society provided specialized trainers to supervise the participants and offer the necessary support.

Al-Kandari further expressed appreciation to the sponsors and supporters of the marathon, emphasizing that community partnerships contribute to the success of initiatives aimed at empowering people with Down Syndrome and strengthening their positive presence in society.

More than 300 suspected cases and 88 deaths

WHO declares global health emergency over Ebola outbreak in Congo and Uganda

ABUJA, Nigeria, May 17, (AP): The World Health Organization declared the Ebola disease outbreak caused by a rare virus in Congo and neighboring Uganda a public health emergency of international concern on Sunday, after more than 300 suspected cases and 88 deaths.

The WHO said the outbreak does not meet the criteria of a pandemic emergency like COVID-19, and advised against the closure of international borders.

The WHO said on X that a laboratory-confirmed case has also been reported in Congo's capital, Kinshasa, which is about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the outbreak's epicenter in the eastern province of Ituri, suggesting a possible wider spread. It said the patient had visited Ituri and that other suspected cases have also been reported in North Kivu province, which is one of Congo's most populous and borders Ituri.

Ebola is highly contagious and can be contracted via bodily fluids such as vomit, blood or semen. The disease it causes is rare, but severe and often fatal.

The WHO's emergency declaration is meant to spur donor agencies and countries into action. By the WHO's standards, it shows the event is serious, there is a risk of interna-

tional spread and it requires a coordinated international response.

The global response to previous declarations has been mixed. In 2024, when the WHO declared mpox outbreaks in Congo and elsewhere in Africa a global emergency, experts at the time said it did little to get supplies like diagnostic tests, medicines and vaccines to affected countries quickly.

Health authorities say the current outbreak, first confirmed on Friday, is caused by the Bundibugyo virus, a rare variant of the Ebola disease that has no approved therapeutics or vaccines. Although more than 20 Ebola outbreaks have taken place in Congo and Uganda, this is only the third time the Bundibugyo virus has been detected.

Congo accounts for all except two of the cases, both of which were reported in Uganda, the WHO said.

The Bundibugyo virus was first detected in Uganda's Bundibugyo district during a 2007-2008 outbreak that infected 149 people and killed 37. The second time was in 2012, in an outbreak in Isiro, Congo, where 57 cases and 29 deaths were reported.

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Director-General Dr. Jean Kaseya said Saturday that



A girl sanitises her hands in front of Kibui Muslim Hospital in Kampala, Uganda on May 16. (AP)

a high number of active cases remain in the community, particularly in Mongwalu, where the first cases were reported, "significantly complicating containment and contact tracing efforts."

Violent conflict with militants, some backed by the Islamic State group, as well as constant population movement due to mining, both within Congo and across the border in Uganda, have also posed a major

challenge to response efforts.

Officials first reported the spread of the disease in Ituri province, close to Uganda and South Sudan, on Friday. On Saturday, the Africa CDC reported 336 suspected cases and 87 deaths in Congo.

"There are significant uncertainties to the true number of infected persons and geographic spread associated with this event at the present time. In addition, there is limited un-

derstanding of the epidemiological links with known or suspected cases," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

The two cases in Uganda include one person whom officials said had traveled from Congo and died at a hospital in Uganda's capital, Kampala, and another the WHO said had also traveled from Congo.

The WHO said the high percentage of positive cases among samples tested, the spread to Kampala and Uganda and the clusters of deaths across Ituri "all point toward a potentially much larger outbreak than what is currently being detected and reported, with significant local and regional risk of spread."

Kaseya said slow detection delayed the response and gave the virus time to spread.

"This outbreak started in April. So far, we don't know the index case. It means we don't know how far is the magnitude of this outbreak," Kaseya said, using a term for the first detectable case of an epidemic.

The earliest known suspected case, a 59-year-old man, developed symptoms on April 24 and died at a hospital in Ituri on April 27.

By the time health authorities were first alerted to the outbreak via social media on May 5, 50 deaths

had already been recorded, the Africa CDC said.

The WHO said at least four deaths have been reported among healthcare workers who showed Ebola symptoms.

Shanelle Hall, principal adviser to the head of Africa CDC, told reporters Saturday that there were four therapeutics under consideration for the Bundibugyo virus, but no vaccine was being actively considered.

A bigger issue is that even existing vaccines and therapeutics for other Ebola viruses are not manufactured in Africa. Africa's struggle to get vaccines from richer countries during the COVID-19 pandemic spurred different efforts to accelerate its capacity to manufacture shots, but resources remain scarce.

Kaseya said the demand for a vaccine for a rare virus like Bundibugyo, which is not as deadly as the Ebola Zaire prominent in Congo's past outbreaks, has been the recurring issue in discussions with pharmaceutical companies over vaccine manufacturing.

"If we are serious in this continent, we need to manufacture what we need," he said. "We cannot every single day look for others to come to tell us what they are doing."

Cruise ship Andes virus matches known S.American viruses: France

PARIS, May 17, (AP): France's Pasteur Institute said it has fully sequenced the Andes virus detected in a French passenger from the MV Hondius cruise ship and found that it matched viruses already known in South America, with no evidence so far of new characteristics that would make it more transmissible or more dangerous.

"The analyzed virus corresponds to the viruses already known and monitored in South America," Health Minister **Stéphanie Rist** said Friday on X. "At this stage, no element suggests the emergence" of a form of the virus that could be more transmissible or more dangerous, she said.



Rist

Pasteur said genomic analysis confirmed that the virus found in the French passenger matched the virus detected in other cases aboard the ship and closely resembled known Andes virus samples circulating in South America.

"This sequencing work allows us to better understand the virus and to ensure close health monitoring," Rist said. She added that the data would be shared with the international scientific community.

Pasteur said the viruses detected in patients from the ship were identical to each other and about 97% similar to some Andes viruses circulating in South America, including those identified in rodents. Jean-Claude Manuguerra, who heads Pasteur's Environment and Infectious Risk unit, said the remaining variation appeared to reflect natural viral variation and did not seem to affect the characteristics of the virus detected among travelers.

Also:

VANCOUVER, British Columbia: One of four Canadians who returned home from a cruise ship where there was a hantavirus outbreak received a "presumptive positive" test result for the virus, Canadian officials said Saturday.

Results from the National Microbiology Lab in **Winnipeg** to confirm the case are expected to come over the weekend, said Dr. **Bonnie Henry**, the public health officer for the province of British Columbia.

"Clearly this is not what we hoped for, but it is what we planned for," Henry said.

When should you get routine mammograms? Conflicting advice makes it hard to know

WASHINGTON, May 17, (AP): Deciding when to get routine mammograms is confusing. Some health groups recommend women begin at age 40 or 45 while another recently opted for age 50. They also differ on whether yearly or every other year is best.

The conflicting advice is at least partly because guidelines for breast cancer screening are designed for women at average risk and with no possible cancer symptoms. But breast cancer is so common that it is hard to know who is really "average" and how to balance the pros and cons of screening.

"Breast cancer is not one disease," said Dr. Laura Esserman of the University of California, San Francisco. "So how in the world does it make sense to screen everybody the same when everyone doesn't have the same risk?"

Esserman is leading research to better understand the nuances of who is at low or high risk or somewhere in between and eventually offer more tailored screening advice.

More than 320,000 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, according to the American Cancer Society. Death rates have been



A radiologist uses a magnifying glass to examine mammograms for breast cancer in Los Angeles, May 6, 2010. (AP)

dropping for decades, thanks largely to better treatments. But it is still the second-most common cause of cancer death in US women -- and diagnoses are inching up.

For now, here are some things to know.

The newest guidance comes from the American College of Physicians,

which recommends that average-risk women ages 50 to 74 get an every-other-year mammogram. For those 40 to 49, the guideline says to discuss pros and cons with a doctor and if they choose screening, to go every other year.

That advice, issued last month, was a surprise. Most other US health

groups have urged women to start earlier, in their 40s. The influential US Preventive Services Task Force recently switched its guidance to start every-other-year mammograms at age 40 instead of 50.

The American Cancer Society has long recommended yearly mammograms for 45- to 54-year-olds -- but says they can choose to start at 40. For those age 55 and older, the cancer society says women can switch to every other year or choose to keep going for yearly checks.

The new American College of Physicians guidelines also say doctors can ask if women 75 or older wish to stop routine screening. In contrast, the cancer society says there is no reason to stop if they are still healthy.

The higher a woman's risk of eventually developing breast cancer, the more benefit she will derive from more frequent screenings. But beyond some well-known factors like the cancer-causing BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes, it is hard for women to know their true risk. Age has long been a proxy because the risk of breast cancer rises as women get older.

Mahmudul, Mominul 76-run stand puts Bangladesh ahead

Bangladesh on top as Pakistan crumbles for 232 in second test

SYLHET, Bangladesh, May 17, (AP): Bangladesh tightened its grip on the second test against Pakistan after a disciplined batting and bowling performance on the second day Sunday.

Opener Mahmudul Hasan hit 52 to help Bangladesh reach 110-3, extending its overall lead to 156 runs at stumps.

Earlier, fast bowler Nahid Rana and left-arm spinner Taijul Islam claimed three wickets apiece to wrap up Pakistan's first innings for 232, giving the side a 46-run lead in bowling-friendly conditions.

Bangladesh was bowled out for 278 in its first innings after a sublime 126 from Litton Das on the opening day.

Nahid, fresh from his five-wicket haul in Bangladesh's 104-run victory in the first test, was instrumental in denying Pakistan a first-innings lead.

He dismissed star batter Babar Azam, who made a team-best 68 on his return, before breaking the resistance of Sajid Khan (38) to wrap up the Pakistan innings.

Fast bowler Taskin Ahmed and offspinner Mehidy Hasan shared four wickets to leave Pakistan in trouble after the visitors resumed Sunday at 21 without loss.

Taskin (2-37) dismissed openers Abdullah Fazal and Azan Awaiz in his first two overs of the day to put Bangladesh on the front foot.

Abdullah Fazal, fresh from his twin half-centuries in the first test, edged a delivery behind after scoring 9.

Taskin then swung one viciously past Awaiz, a century in the first test, who pushed the delivery to short-leg when on 13.

Captain Shan Masood and Babar Azam temporarily

stalled the slide before Mehidy (2-21) ended the 38-run partnership when Masood hit a short ball straight to the fielder at short cover for 21.

Mehidy then also dismissed Saud Shakeel (8) to leave Babar with significant work to do to keep Pakistan in the match.

Babar got some support from Salman Agha as they appeared comfortable in negotiating Bangladesh bowlers after the early trouble.

Babar hit pacer Shoriful Islam for a boundary to raise his 31st fifty off 63 balls and looked to be in control until Nahid produced a beauty to unsettle him.

Babar, who struck 10 boundaries in his 84-ball-knock, chipped straight to Mushfiqur Rahim after being baffled by the clever variation of pace from Nahid, ending the 63-run partnership with Agha.

Taijul got into the act with the wicket of Agha, who made 21, before dismissing Mohammad Rizwan and Hasan as Pakistan lost three wickets in quick succession.

Sajid Khan then took the side past 200 by attacking the Bangladesh bowlers.

Nahid came back to end Khan's 28-ball 38, laced with two fours and four sixes, and wrap up the Pakistan innings.

Despite losing Tanzid Hasan early in the innings, Mahmudul and Mominul Haque put on 76 runs for the second wicket to keep the side's nose in front.

Pacer Mohammad Abbas broke the partnership after Mahmudul reached his sixth fifty and Khuram Shahzad removed Mominul (30) with the last ball of the day.

Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto was batting on 13.

Fernandes equals assist record, Man Utd survives Forest thriller



Manchester United's Casemiro, left, challenges for the ball with Nottingham Forest's Elliot Anderson during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Nottingham Forest in Manchester, England. (AP)

Brighton misses chance to jump to sixth

LONDON, May 17, (AP): Bruno Fernandes grabbed his record-tying 20th assist of the Premier League season to help Manchester United beat Nottingham Forest 3-2 in an end-to-end match featuring another VAR controversy on Sunday.

Bryan Mbeumo's 76th-minute goal proved to be decisive and was set up by Fernandes, who moved equal with Thierry Henry (2002-03) and Kevin De Bruyne (2019-20) for most assists in a single Premier League campaign.

The Portugal midfielder has one game left to set the outright record

- at Brighton next weekend.

United had earlier gone in front for the second time in the game when Mathew Cunha stroked home in the 55th minute after Mbeumo controlled the ball using his outstretched arm before having a shot blocked. The goal was awarded by the on-field referee and he stuck to his decision - judging the contact accidental - after the VAR recommended he look at the incident again on the pitchside monitor.

The win guaranteed third place for United - one of the Premier League's five Champions League qualification spots - and it was another step in the right direction under Michael Carrick, who is widely expected to be hired as permanent manager in the coming

days after a successful four-month spell in charge.

This was Carrick's 11th win in 16 games at the helm, with only two losses in that period.

Luke Shaw gave United the lead in the fifth minute and Morato equalized in the 53rd.

Cunha's contentious goal regained the lead for the hosts and Mbeumo made it 3-1, before Morgan Gibbs-White pulled another goal back for Forest, whose safety was assured last week.

It was Brazil midfielder Casemiro's final home match for United after four years with the team, and he received a standing ovation when he was walked off the field after being substituted in the 81st minute.

In the race to qualify for Euro-

pean competitions, seventh-place Brighton missed the chance to jump to sixth after losing 1-0 at Leeds, whose winner came from England striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin - a World Cup hopeful - in stoppage time.

Eighth-place Brentford equalized late - through Dango Ouattara for his second of the match - in a 2-2 home draw with Crystal Palace and moved one point behind Brighton.

Sunderland is a further point back after winning 3-1 at Everton courtesy of three second-half goals, and Fulham drew 1-1 at already-relegated Wolverhampton thanks to a penalty converted by U.S. left back Antonee Robinson for his first Premier League goal.

Milan, Roma wins keep top-four race alive

Napoli secure Champions League spot

MILAN, May 17, (AP): Napoli secured a spot in next season's Champions League by beating Hellas Verona, respectively, in their final matches. Juventus visits Torino in the derby and Como travels to Cremonese.

Scott McTominay, Amir Rahmani and Rasmus Hojlund scored to help Napoli to a comfortable 3-0 win at already-relegated Pisa on Sunday to ensure Antonio Conte's team will finish in the top four of the Italian league, with just one round remaining.

AC Milan and Roma also won on Sunday to leave them level on 70 points in third and fourth place. Juventus and Como were two points further back.

Milan and Roma play Cagliari and Hellas Verona, respectively, in their final matches. Juventus visits Torino in the derby and Como travels to Cremonese.

Just like in the penultimate round, all those matches will kick off simultaneously.

Inter Milan won the Serie A title with three rounds remaining and will celebrate after its match against Hellas Verona later, its final home game



Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez holds the trophy of the Italy's cup prior to the start of a Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and Hellas Verona, in Milan, Italy. (AP)

of the season.

Christian Pulisic came on as a second-half substitute to help Milan to a crucial 2-1 win at Genoa.

Pulisic missed Milan's last match with a lower-back problem but the United States forward recovered earlier than expected and was brought

on in the 76th minute with the Rossoneri winning 1-0 thanks to Christopher Nkunku's penalty.

Pulisic had an immediate impact, five minutes after coming off the bench, as he laid off the ball to Zachary Athekame, who drilled into the bottom corner from outside the area.

Iyer hits 73 not out off 40 balls

RCB secure knockout spot with big win over struggling Punjab

DHARAMSALA, India, May 17, (AP): Venkatesh Iyer was 73 not out off 40 balls and Virat Kohli hit a 37-ball 58 as defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru beat Punjab Kings by 23 runs to advance to the knockout stage of the Indian Premier League on Sunday.

Put into bat, Bengaluru scored an impressive 222-4. In reply, Punjab reached 199-8 in 20 overs with Bhuvneshwar Kumar picking up 2-38 in four overs.

Bengaluru confirmed its spot in the top four with a game to spare - it has 18 points from nine wins in 13 games.

For Punjab, it was a sixth straight loss. It is fourth with 13 points from 13 games. The Kings must now win their final game against already eliminated Lucknow Super Giants but will still depend on other results going their way.

Left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar bowled opener Jacob Bethell for 11 but Bengaluru went on to score 61-1 in the powerplay.

Kohli hit his fourth half-century of the season off 31 balls. Kohli struck three sixes and four fours overall, putting on 76 runs for the second wicket off 41 balls with Devdutt Padikkal (45), who hit three sixes off 25 balls before he was caught off Brar.

Iyer and Kohli then came together to add 60 off 35, before Kohli was caught off Yuzvendra Chahal in the 15th over.

Bengaluru accelerated despite that loss as Iyer smashed his first 50 of the season, coming off 29 balls. Overall, he hit four sixes and eight fours.

Tim David's 12-ball 28 included two sixes as Bengaluru eased past 200 with 65 runs off the last five overs.

It was the 53rd 200-plus score in this edition of the IPL, and the most for any season. The previous record was in 2025 with 52 200-plus totals in 74 matches.

In reply, Punjab quickly slipped to 19-3 in 3.2 overs. Kumar struck twice in 11 balls, removing attacking openers Priyansh Arya (0) and Prabhsimran Singh (2).

Rasikh Salam (3-36 in four overs) had skipper Shreyas Iyer caught behind for 1. Punjab only managed 49-3 in the powerplay.

Cooper Connolly (37) and Suryansh Shedge (35) stabilized the innings, and Marcus Stoinis (37) and Shashank Singh put on 67 off 32 deliveries for the sixth wicket.

Josh Hazlewood broke that partnership, trapping Stoinis lbw, after Punjab fought back from 93-5 to 160-6 in 16.1 overs.

Singh (56 off 27) overcame his poor run to score 50 off 22 balls, and Azmatullah Omarzai contributed 14. Both fell in the final over.



Punjab Kings' Marcus Stoinis plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Punjab Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Dharamshala, India. (AP)

Carano's return cut short as Rousey strikes in 17 seconds

INGLEWOOD, Calif., May 17, (AP): When Ronda Rousey finally got back into a mixed martial arts cage after 9 1/2 years away from her sport, she couldn't wait even one more minute to collect another arm - and to have her own arm raised one last time.

Rousey stopped Gina Carano with her signature armbar just 17 seconds into the two iconic fighters' double comeback bout Saturday night.

After finishing the 44-year-old Carano with a ferocity that evoked her famous heyday, the 39-year-old Rousey reaffirmed that this was only the epilogue on her historic MMA career. She insists she is headed into retirement after ending on a dominant victory.

"I was hoping to come out as unscathed as possible," Rousey said. "I didn't really want to hurt her. Luckily it was beautiful martial arts, that's what I think that was. It was art."

Rousey (13-2) didn't waste an instant after the opening bell, immediately charging and tackling Carano. Rousey quickly moved into position and applied her famous finishing move, wrenching Carano's arm as the fight was stopped.

Rousey famously won eight fights in less than a minute during her meteoric rise through MMA in the 2010s. When asked if she considered waiting a bit longer to go for the finish in this comeback fight, since it was so many years in the making, Rousey laughed.

"Hell no," she said. "My husband and my kids are watching me. I don't want to put them through anything more than I have to."

Carano, who hadn't fought in 17 years, was all smiles even after the swift end to one of the longest layoffs in pro sports history. Rousey and Carano hugged and shared warm words after the finish, raising



Ronda Rousey, of the United States, right, celebrates after defeating Gina Carano, of the United States, left, in their featherweight mixed martial arts fight Saturday in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

each other's arms in victory.

"I wanted that to last longer," Carano said. "I felt so ready. I've never felt that good. But I haven't been here for 17 years ... and I wanted to hit her."

This improbable double comeback bout united two of the most important fighters from MMA's past two decades.

Rousey became one of the world's most famous athletes as she won the first women's title in the UFC, which only began to promote women's MMA because of Rousey's undeniable talent and star power.

Rousey first became interested in MMA because of Carano, whose athleticism and star power made her into a television headliner when the nascent sport was still fighting for legitimacy and acceptance in the late 2000s.

Rousey left the sport after consecutive losses, while Carano moved on to an acting career after taking her first loss.

After having two children and settling into post-fighting life on her farm in Riverside, Rousey seriously began to consider an MMA return last year. She immediately focused on a fight with Carano, whose long-thriving career as an actor abruptly ended in 2021 with her series of controversial social media posts.

SPORTS

Pec, Marcinkowski help Galaxy end Sounders' remarkable home streak



Toronto FC forward Daniel Salloi, left, shoots against Charlotte FC defender Andrew Privett, right, during the second half of an MLS soccer match in Charlotte, N.C. (AP)

Gozo scores 3rd goal in 2 games in late bid for US roster spot

SEATTLE, May 17, (AP): Gabriel Pec had a goal and an assist to back goalkeeper JT Marcinkowski and the Los Angeles Galaxy beat Seattle 2-0, ending the Sounders' 22-match unbeaten streak at home as well as a nine-match unbeaten run this season.

Greg Vanney led Los Angeles to its first victory in Seattle since July 9, 2016 - Bruce Arena's final season as the Galaxy's coach.

Pec used assists from Marco Reus and defender Miki Yamane in the 23rd minute to score his fifth goal of the season, giving the Galaxy a 1-0 lead that stood through halftime. It was his fourth goal in the last three matches and his 27th in 75 career appearances.

Reus' assist was his fifth this season, while Yamane collected his first.

Pec and Edwin Cerrillo set up Matheus Nascimento's first goal this season two minutes into stoppage time to clinch the victory. Cerrillo entered in the 89th minute before snagging his first assist and Pec's helper was his fourth.

Marcinkowski stopped six shots for Los Angeles (5-5-4). It was his first clean sheet in his 10th start this season.

Andrew Thomas finished without a save for Seattle (7-2-3), whose only other loss came in its road opener at Real Salt Lake on Feb. 28.

The Galaxy extended the league's longest current streak with at least one goal scored to 23.

Zavier Gozo scored his third goal in two games as the 19-year-old bids to become a late addition to the U.S. World Cup roster, and Real Salt Lake beat the Colorado Rapids 2-1.

Sergi Solans added a goal and an assist for Real Salt Lake (8-4-1). Rafael Cabral had three saves.

Juan Manuel Sanabria played and arcing entry pass from nearly 30 yards out and Solans slammed home a header near the penalty spot to give RSL a 2-1 lead in the 68th minute.

Wayne Frederick opened the scoring in the seventh minute. Connor Ronan played an arcing corner to the opposite side of the goal and Paxton Aaronsen skipped a blistering entry for Frederick for a first-touch finish inside the near post.

Sergi Solans had a goal and an assist. Zavier Gozo added a goal, and Real Salt Lake beat the Colorado Rapids 2-1.

Rafael Cabral had three saves for Real Salt Lake (8-4-1).

Juan Manuel Sanabria played and arcing entry pass from nearly 30 yards out and Solans



Vancouver Whitecaps FC goalkeeper Isaac Boehmer, center left, tangle up on an attempted goal as midfielder Sebastian Berhalter (16) looks on during the second half of an MLS soccer match in Houston. (AP)

slammed home a header from near the penalty spot to give RSL a 2-1 lead in the 68th minute.

Wayne Frederick opened the scoring in the seventh minute. Connor Ronan played an arcing corner to the opposite side of the goal and Paxton Aaronsen skipped a blistering entry for Frederick for a first-touch finish inside the near post.

Guilherme Santos - known simply as "Guilherme" - scored a goal in the sixth minute of stoppage time, Jonathan Bond had three saves, and the Houston Dynamo beat Vancouver 1-0 to snap the Whitecaps' seven-game unbeaten streak.

Bond had his fourth shutout this season for the Dynamo (7-6-0).

The Whitecaps (9-2-2) lost for the first time since a March 21, a 1-0 home loss against San Jose.

Manu Garcia and Stephen Afrifa both scored late in the second half to rally Sporting Kansas City to a 2-1 victory over Austin FC.

Sporting KC had lost all five of its previous matches at Q2 Stadium.

Pep Biel had a goal and an assist, Kerwin Vargas added two assists and Charlotte FC beat Toronto FC 3-1.

Wilfried Zaha scored in the 19th minute - with assists from Vargas and Biel - to give Charlotte a 1-0 lead. It was the third goal this

season for Zaha, and his 13th in 43 career appearances. Biel's helper was his fifth.

Luca Langoni scored the go-ahead goal early in the second half and the New England Revolution held on for a 2-1 victory over Minnesota United to close out a four-match homestand.

Carles Gil scored on a penalty kick in the 5th minute to give New England a 1-0 lead. The PK was awarded when Dor Turgeman was fouled by Minnesota United defender Michael Boxall.

Hugo Cuypers scored his MLS-leading 13th goal this season, Philip Zinckernagel added a goal and an assist, and the Chicago Fire beat CF Montreal 2-0.

Cuypers has at least one goal in each game he's played this season and is just the third player in MLS history to score in 10 consecutive regular-season contests.

Pep Biel had a goal and an assist, Kerwin Vargas added two assists and Charlotte FC beat Toronto FC 3-1.

Charlotte rested U.S. national team defender Tim Ream for what the team said was "load management" and said the 38-year-old will be available next. Samuel Sarver scored his third goal in the last four games in stoppage time, Patrickson Delgado and Petar Musa each added a goal, and FC Dallas beat San Jose 3-2 to hand the Earthquakes their second consecutive loss.

Milan Iloski scored in the 70th minute Saturday night for the Philadelphia Union in a 1-1 tie with the Columbus Crew.

The Union (1-9-4), who had lost back-to-back games, are winless in seven straight.

Jay Fortune scored late in the second half to rally Atlanta United to a 1-1 draw with Orlando City on Saturday night.

Fortune used assists from defenders Matthew Edwards and Stian Gregersen in the 86th minute to score for the second time this season and the fourth time in 64 career appearances. Both defenders checked into the match in the 68th minute before notching their first assists this season.

João Peglow scored a goal in the 90th minute Saturday night for D.C. United in a 1-1 tie with St. Louis City.

Jared Stroud played an arcing corner kick that bent out to Peglow, who stopped it with his first touch and then blasted a shot from outside the penalty arc that capped the scoring.

FC Cincinnati's Tom Barlow scored his second goal of the match in the eighth minute of second-half stoppage time, two minutes after Marcus Ingvartsen's second goal gave San Diego FC the lead and the two clubs settled for a wild 3-3 draw.

Place with distinct cultural neighborhoods

Toronto, one of most diverse cities in world to host 6 World Cup games

TORONTO, May 17, (AP) - Toronto, one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world, will host six World Cup games, including the first-ever such match in Canada on June 12.

The host country will face Bosnia and Herzegovina in that opening match. Ghana plays Panama on June 17, Germany plays Côte d'Ivoire on June 20, Croatia faces Panama on June 23 and Senegal plays Iraq on June 26. Toronto also hosts a round of 32 match on July 2.

Canada's largest city is welcoming the world and emphasizing its diversity, a contrast to the U.S., where fears about border control could keep international fans away. Toronto touts itself as the "world in a city."

"More than half our residents were born outside Canada," Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow said. "Over 200 languages are spoken across our neighborhoods - and yes, this summer, the world will come to Toronto. But for us, the world has always been here."

Toronto is a place with distinct cultural neighborhoods. The most popular tourist attractions include the CN Tower, the revitalized Harbourfront and the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Toronto has it all. Sports bars like Real Sports with its 39-foot HD big screen will be packed. And it won't be hard to find food from most of the countries in the 48-team tournament. Michelin-recognized restaurants like Alo, Toronto institutions like Sot-

to Sotto, and St. Lawrence Market, ranked as one of the world's best food markets, are just a few highlights.

Toronto cancelled a plan to charge general admission to its FIFA Fan Festival after a backlash. The games will be broadcast on screens, and there will be live music and more than 30 food vendors serving flavors from around the world. The zone is located on the grounds of the Fort York National Historic Site and underneath Toronto's Gardiner Expressway, just a mile away from Toronto Stadium.

Toronto is encouraging public transit, with the Toronto Transit Commission providing expanded service with trains, buses and streetcars and the regional GO Transit service offering more trains. The city is heavily restricting traffic around the downtown core where the stadium is. There will be no public parking at Toronto Stadium or in nearby residential areas like Liberty Village.

Toronto Stadium is the smallest venue for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The stadium is where Major League Soccer's Toronto FC and the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts play. The facility underwent a \$100 million-plus renovation that added about 17,000 temporary seats. That will bring the capacity to the FIFA minimum of 45,000.



In this file photo, BMO Field is pictured as the City of Toronto and MLSE complete the first phase of upgrades in transforming the space into the 2026 World Cup ready Toronto Stadium in Toronto. (AP)

Al-Nassr falls to Gamba Osaka in Asian final

Ronaldo's Saudi trophy wait drags on

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, May 17, (AP) - Cristiano Ronaldo's wait for a first major trophy in Saudi Arabia continued when Al-Nassr lost to Japan's Gamba Osaka 1-0 in the Asian Champions League Two final.

A first-half goal from Turkish forward Deniz Hamzat helped Osaka secure Asia's second-tier tournament despite Al-Nassr dominating possession and having more attempts on goal.

The defeat came five days after Al-Nassr was seconds away from winning the Saudi Pro League for the first time since 2019, only to concede in stoppage time and leave the title race to be decided on the final matchday on Thursday.

It was a frustrating night for the home side. Al-Nassr created multiple openings in the first half but Osaka took the lead in the 30th minute. Hamzat turned and fired a low shot into the bottom corner from just inside the area. After a lengthy VAR check for offside, the goal stood.

"I am happy to score and help the team and to do my best for this club," said Hamzat, who went off injured at halftime. "I was nervous watching in the second half but the most important thing is that we won and I am proud of my teammates. Now it is time to celebrate and enjoy."

Osaka defended in numbers and with discipline, making it difficult for Al-Nassr's star-studded attack to create clear chances.

Ronaldo, who joined the club in December 2022, came close to equalizing just before halftime but his close-range header from a Joao Felix cross sailed wide. Felix, who signed from Chelsea in July, went even closer with 13 minutes remaining, striking the post with a low shot from outside the area.

Despite the double disappointment this week, Al-Nassr can still clinch the Saudi Pro League. It leads Al-Hilal by two points heading into the final game against Damac on Thursday.

Spaniard hired on 4-year deal

Alonso begins new chapter at Chelsea after Real exit

LONDON, May 17, (AP) - Chelsea hired Xabi Alonso as its latest coach on a four-year deal on Sunday, with the Spaniard making his return to management after a disappointing eight-month spell at Real Madrid.

Alonso will formally take charge on July 1 as the replacement for Liam Rosenior, who was fired last month, and will become the fifth permanent coach appointed by Chelsea's American owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital since they bought the club in 2022.

Alonso lasted eight months at Madrid before leaving the club by mutual consent in January after poor results and widespread media reports that he lost control of the locker room. That damaged his strong reputation built at Bayer Leverkusen, which he led to the German title and an unbeaten domestic campaign in the 2023-24 season.

Chelsea described Alonso as "one of the most respected figures in the modern game."

"From my conversations with the ownership group and sporting leadership, it is clear we share the same ambition," Alonso said in a

Chelsea statement. "We want to build a team capable of competing consistently at the highest level and fighting for trophies."

Chelsea looks highly unlikely to be in next season's Champions League, however, and might miss out on European competition entirely. The club was guaranteed a trophyless season

by losing to Manchester City in the FA Cup final on Saturday, though did win the Club World Cup last summer.

After an unseemly end to Rosenior's turbulent tenure, Chelsea's ownership said it would be undertaking "a process of self-reflection" ahead of its next coaching appointment, amid growing

tension among supporters about the direction of an increasingly dysfunctional club and its massive financial concerns following years of heavy spending.

Since the 2022 purchase of Chelsea by a consortium fronted by Boehly, part-owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers, and largely funded by private equity company Clearlake Capital, the club's leadership has spent around \$2.5 billion on new, mostly young and unproven players on long contracts and taken on a debt approaching \$2 billion, according to figures compiled by The Athletic.

Chelsea's most recent financial results revealed the club made pre-tax losses of \$350 million, a record in the Premier League era.

It's with this backdrop that Alonso moves to Chelsea, which he described as "one of the biggest clubs in world football."

"There is great talent in the squad and huge potential at this football club and it will be my great honor to lead it," he said. "Now the focus is on hard work, building the right culture and winning trophies."



In this file photo, Real Madrid's head coach Xabi Alonso looks on before the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Real Betis Sevilla in Madrid. (AP)

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Ukraine's Elina Svitolina kisses the trophy after winning against United States' Coco Gauff at the end of the women's final match at the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome. (AP)

Sports

The Whites enter the final in exceptional form

Kuwait Club seeks more silverware in Crown Prince Cup final against Al-Arabi

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi square off tonight in the final of the prestigious Crown Prince Cup at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, with kickoff scheduled for 7:15 p.m. under the patronage and attendance of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Kuwait Club booked their place in the final after a dominant run through the competition, defeating Khaitan and Burgan by identical 3-0 scorelines before edging Al-Nasr 3-2 in a thrilling semifinal clash.

Al-Arabi, meanwhile, began its journey with a 2-1 victory over Al-Yarmouk, then eliminated rivals Qadsia 2-0 in the quarterfinals before securing another 2-0 win against Al-Fahaheel to reach the title match.

"The Whites" enter the final in exceptional form. Kuwait Club is the defending champion and currently holds both the Amir Cup and Zain Premier League titles. It is also on course for a fifth consecutive league crown, sitting nine points clear at the top of the standings ahead of Kazma, who has played one game more.

The club recently strengthened its legacy on the continental stage as well, lifting the AFC Challenge League title after defeating Cambodia's Svay Rieng 4-3 last week. The triumph marked Kuwait Club's fourth Asian title following three previous AFC Cup crowns.

Having defeated Al-Arabi 1-0 in last season's final, Kuwait is aiming to extend their dominance and add yet another trophy to its impressive collection.

Head coach Nebojsa Jovovic possesses a well-balanced squad filled with experience and quality, including goalkeepers Khaled Al-Rashidi and Saud Al-Houshan, alongside players Mohammad Furaj, Sami Al-Sanea, Ali Hussein, Redha Hani, Fahad Al-Hajri, Fahad Hammoud, Ahmad Al-Dhafiri, Yousef Nasser, Faisal Zayed, Mohsen Fallah, Mohammad Daham and Amr Abdel Fattah. The team's foreign stars include Mehdi Barrahma, Yassine Khenissi, Idrissa Doumbia, Arsen Zola and Mohammad Marhoon.

Al-Arabi, however, head into the showdown highly motivated. "The Greens" are determined to prevent Kuwait from collecting another title, avenge last year's final defeat and finally bring silverware back to the club after years of disappointment.

Coach Nasser Al-Shatti knows his side faces a difficult challenge against a confident and experienced opponent, but he believes his players have what it takes to rise to the occasion and reclaim glory.

Among Al-Arabi's key players are Ali Khalaf, Bandar Al-Salama, Mohammad Khaled, Hamad Al-Harbi, Ali Aziz, Suleiman Abdulhafour, Salman Al-Owaidi, Yousef Majed, Bader Tarek, Abdulmohsen Al-Sharhan, Abdullah Ammar, Ali Abdulrasool, Khaled Al-Murshid, Abdulwahab Al-Owaidi and promising youngster Hussein Al-Aryan. Their foreign lineup features Kamil Al-Aswad, Zaid Qunbar, Nabil Marmouk, Anabo Aiyola and new Brazilian signing Sheldon.



In this file photo, Al-Arabi player holds back Kuwait Club player during a league match.

Kuwait continues medal surge at Gulf Games



Women's triple jump gold medalist Aisha Al-Khader



Saudi Al-Kandari and Afrah Mohammed



6-Red Snooker champion Ammar Taqi

KUNA photos

Tally rises to 38 medals; handball team falls to Qatar

DOHA, May 17: Kuwait's sporting delegation continued its strong medal-winning run at the 4th Gulf Games – Doha 2026, held in the Qatari capital and running until May 22, as the national tally rose to 38 medals (6 gold, 14 silver, and 18 bronze).

On day five of competition, Kuwaiti athlete Aisha Al-Khader secured gold in the women's triple jump. Haya Al-Tawajer claimed silver in the 3000m steeplechase, while Fajr Mandani added silver in the hammer

throw, with teammate Sheikha Al-Saqhan taking bronze in the same event. In billiards and snooker, Ammar Taqi delivered a gold medal performance in the individual 6-Red Snooker event after defeating Qatar's Ali Al-Obaidli in the final.

Kuwait also picked up a silver medal in the mixed skeet shooting event through Saud Al-Kandari and Afrah Mohammed.

In padel, Kuwait's women's team impressed with a dominant start, beating Bahrain 3-0 and following it up with another 3-0 win over host Qatar, strengthening its bid for the gold medal.

However, the handball team fell 34-19 to Qatar.

Kuwait Olympic Committee board member and Chairwoman of the Women's Sports Committee, Fatima Hayat, praised the achievements of Kuwaiti female athletes, expressing pride in their performances and continued progress.

Marking Kuwaiti Women's Day on May 16, she highlighted the occasion as a national milestone reflecting the long-standing contributions of Kuwaiti women across social, economic, and sporting fields, alongside their continued development and success.

Al-Diyab: Fair draw, equal chances in Asian Handball Championship

Al-Hajri confirms readiness as Kuwait Club prepares internal camp

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 17: The director of the 28th Asian Men's Club Handball Championship, Samah Al-Hajri, confirmed that Kuwait Club is fully prepared to host the continental event, set to take place from June 6 to 15 at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

His remarks came during the official draw ceremony held at Al-Raya Hotel, attended by Asian Handball Federation officials, including Treasurer Faisal Baqer and Technical Director Jassim Al-Diyab, along with representatives of participating clubs and the organizing committee. Kuwait Club was represented by team manager Haitham Al-Rashidi, while Burgan's delegation was led by Abdullah Al-Yousefi.

The draw placed Kuwait Club in Group B (Gulf Group) alongside Bahrain's Al-Najma, Saudi Arabia's Al-Khaleej, and Qatar's Al-Arabi. Burgan was drawn in Group A with Sharjah (UAE), CHA (China), and Al-Duhail (Qatar).

Al-Hajri praised the Asian federation for the organization, noting that the groups are balanced and highly competitive, featuring strong teams with rich continental experience. He added that this edition is expected to be one of the strongest in the tournament's history due to the high level of participating clubs.

He also confirmed that preparations are progressing smoothly with strong support from Kuwait Club's management, led by President Khaled Al-Ghanem, as well as co-operation from the Asian Handball Federation, the Kuwait Handball



An official picks Kuwait Club during the draw.

Federation, and the Public Authority for Sport. He highlighted that all organizing committees are working continuously to ensure a successful championship, emphasizing Kuwait Club's strong track record in hosting major events.

Al-Hajri revealed that Kuwait Club's handball team has cancelled its overseas training camp and instead entered an internal camp starting today, due to the commitments of military personnel and student players. The squad will train twice daily until the start of the competition.

He also thanked the club leadership for providing full support and facilities for the camp, while calling on fans to play a key role in supporting the team throughout the tournament.

Asian Handball Federation official Jassim Al-Diyab described the draw as "fair," stressing that all



The director of the 28th Asian Men's Club Handball Championship, Samah Al-Hajri with Haitham Al-Rashidi



Members of the Al-Madhoh family played a role in organizing and conducting the tournament draw.

eight teams will compete on equal terms for the title.

He explained that the tournament

features two groups of four teams, with the top teams advancing to the quarterfinals in a crossover knock-



The press closely monitors the proceedings.

out format. He added that the competition level is very close, with strong contenders including Sharjah, Al-Khaleej, and top clubs from Qatar and Bahrain.

Al-Diyab expressed confidence that the event will be successful both technically and organizationally, even before it begins.

Kuwait Club handball team director Haitham Al-Rashidi said the draw placed the team in a challenging group that includes elite sides such as Sharjah, Al-Duhail, and Burgan.

He noted that the club intentionally sought a strong group to better assess its level, especially after a break in competition, adding that the tournament format provides valuable preparation through high-quality matches.

Al-Rashidi emphasized that Kuwait Club operates under a fully professional system established

by honorary president Marzouq Al-Ghanem and club president Khaled Al-Ghanem, stressing that the team always enters competitions aiming for titles. He also said the club is determined to pursue an Asian handball crown following its recent continental football success.

Al-Sulaibikhat Club has announced the signing of Brazilian international Leandro da Silva and French player Nicolas Clerc to reinforce its handball team ahead of the 2026-2027 season.

Team manager Hussein Sowan confirmed that the club is continuing its reinforcement strategy and is in talks to sign a third foreign player. He also praised the appointment of national coach Hussein Habib, expressing confidence in the technical staff and squad to deliver strong performances in the upcoming season.