



KUWAIT, TURKIYE ISSUE JOINT PLEA FOR U.N. INTERVENTION IN GAZA CRISIS

Amir's visit to Turkiye sparks optimism for enhanced cooperation



Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah waves goodbye as he leaves Turkiye, concluding his state visit to the nation and heading back home.

KUWAIT CITY, May 8, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait issued on Wednesday a statement marking conclusion of the state visit paid by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the sisterly Republic of Turkiye.

The statement said, "On the basis of the historic bilateral relations bonding leaderships of the State

of Kuwait and the Republic of Turkiye, the two friendly peoples and the mutual keenness on part of the political leaderships in the two countries on boosting the friendly relations and the partnership, as well as on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the official relations between the two friendly countries, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah paid a state

visit to the Republic on May 7-8.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal was welcomed as a dear guest for His Excellency President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who was on top of the hosts at Esenboga International Airport in Ankara."

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait enforces gov't contract Kuwaitization

Regulation supports national workforce

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has announced that the regulation for Kuwaitization of government contracts has entered into force, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The regulation consists of 43 Articles that will contribute to encouraging young people to work in the private sector; especially since it enhances job security for employees under government contracts, in addition to creating more career opportunities for national professionals to

gain practical experience and develop technical skills while achieving continuity, development and transition between these contracts.

The regulation is one of the mechanisms of a project to raise the proportion of national employment in non-governmental agencies. PAM organized four introductory meetings to explain the regulation and present aspects of cooperation with Kuwaitization units in order to clarify the content of the regulation, its objectives and the implementation mechanism.

Continued on Page 5

Opinion

Gaza is the second 'Nakba' ... O Arabs, discipline those who hinder the cause

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE situation no longer accepts compliments or sweet talk. What is happening in Gaza is beyond description. Holding Israel responsible is the reality, because it fundamentally rejected all Arab initiatives to end the ongoing tragedy that started in 1947.

On the other hand, the truth must be told. Palestinian organizations have deviated from their primary goal and resorted to a corrupt method in championing their cause. Sometimes, they blackmail Arab countries, at other times they resort to terrorism; including hijacking planes, bombings and assassinations around the world. This has prompted some people to refrain from supporting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Today, with Israel's insistence on completing the invasion of Rafah -- the last safe area for the people of Gaza, the support of the West and Europe for it, and the unconditional American support for this operation; it is necessary to ask: Did the 'Al-Aqsa Flood' operation achieve its goals? Is this the objective of Hamas leaders in Gaza?

Indeed, Tel Aviv must be held accountable for all the crimes, but what about those responsible for the October 7 escapade?

Does putting the issue before the global public opinion require the killing of about 36,000 innocent people; injuring more than 78,000; destroying the entire Gaza Strip; causing famine to its people and damaging the economic structure, while losses have now amounted to more than \$19 billion?

Without a doubt, what is happening in Gaza is the second 'Nakba'. It is more horrific than the first 'Nakba' in 1948. Indeed, what the Palestinian people lost in 75 years is not equivalent to what has been happening in the past 215 days and counting.

Thus, we must ask Yahya Al-Sinwar, Muhammad Al-Deif and other leaders of Hamas and the rest of the factions: How long will your selfishness blind you from reality? Is it possible that implementing your regional employer's project is more important than your family?

These questions are also for all the 'remote-controlled' militias -- the Iraqi sectarian factions, the Lebanese 'Hezbollah', the Houthis and others -- that have caused all the tragedies for 44 years in response to the corrupt principle of 'exporting the revolution', which brought calamities to the Arab world.

Today, the leaders of 'Hamas', 'Jihad' and the rest of the absurd militias are crying out for help from the Arab and Islamic worlds. They are threatening to keep on blackmailing their leaders.

Sometimes they accuse them of reactionism, and at other times of Zionism, while the only Zionists are those who serve the Israeli plan by fragmenting the Arab nations through sectarianism, strife and terrorism.

The leaders of such factions have not realized that the real 'killing' of Israel is through peace treaties, and stressing that its idea that the Arabs would throw the Jews into the sea is not true.

Continued on Page 5

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com



Smoke rises following Israeli airstrikes in southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah, on May 7, 2024. (Xinhua)

UN chief calls on Israel to pursue ceasefire talks, avoid escalation

Kuwait condemns Israeli assaults on Gaza aid convoys

KUWAIT CITY, May 8, (KUNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Tuesday Kuwait's condemnation of Israeli settlers' assaults on Jordan's humanitarian aid convoys heading to the besieged Gaza Strip.

In a statement, the Ministry affirmed Kuwait's position calling on the international community to assume necessarily its responsibility by deploring these attacks and avoiding them, it added.

This aims to guarantee the sustainable delivery of these aid convoys to Palestinian people in order to curb the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in the Strip caused by ongoing attacks of Israel occupation, it stated.

Meanwhile, a contingent of Kuwaiti physicians concluded on Tuesday a relief mission that provided healthcare aid to a number of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, many of whom relied on critical surgeries the team conducted as a lifeline.

Besides the healthcare assistance,

the team belonging to Kuwait Relief Society, was also involved in a slew of endeavors dealing with essential food supplies and housing projects, according to team leader Omar Al-Thuwaini, citing some 236 surgeries the Kuwaiti physicians managed to complete.

The extensive program included a number of workshops and training programs that allowed the Kuwaiti physicians to impart some of their knowledge on how to deal with health emergencies, which could prove crucial in saving lives, he said.

Given the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in the Palestinian enclave, he called on aid bodies and institutions around the world to join relief efforts in the Gaza Strip, saying that the healthcare system there is on the brink of collapse, in addition to acute food shortages that have led to mass starvation.

Elsewhere, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reiterated his ap-

peal for the Israeli occupation forces to avoid any escalation in Gaza, and engage, instead, in constructive talks on ceasefire.

"The closure of both the Rafah and Karm Abu-Salem (Karem Shalom) crossings is especially damaging to an already dire humanitarian situation. They must be re-opened immediately," he said at a press encounter at the UN HQ in New York on Tuesday.

He underscored the need for an agreement between the Government of Israel and the leadership of Hamas to stop the "unbearable suffering" of both Palestinians in Gaza and the Israeli hostages and their families.

"It would be tragic if weeks of intense diplomatic activity for peace in Gaza, yield no ceasefire. No release of hostages. And a devastating offensive in Rafah," he warned.

"I reiterate my appeal for both parties to show the political courage and spare no effort to secure an agreement

now," he stressed.

The UN chief further emphasized that a full-scale assault on Rafah will be a "human catastrophe".

"Countless more civilian casualties. Countless more families forced to flee yet again - with nowhere safe to go. Because there is no safe place in Gaza.

"Attacking Rafah will further upend our efforts to support people in dire humanitarian straits as famine looms," Guterres went on.

Guterres also warned that the repercussions of an attack on Rafah will be felt far beyond the war-ravaged Gaza Strip, the occupied West Bank and the wider Middle East region.

"Even the best friends of Israel are clear: An assault on Rafah would be a strategic mistake, a political calamity, and a humanitarian nightmare.

"I appeal to all those with influence over Israel to do everything in their power to help avert even more tragedy," he added.

NewsWatch

IRBIL: The Supreme Elections Commission declared on Wednesday suspension of preparations for prospected parliamentary elections in the northern autonomous Kurdistan Region.

The commission has taken the decision pending a ruling by the Supreme Court on a libel suit that had been filed by the Kurdistan Region's Prime Minister Masrour Barzani who argued that distribution of the constituencies was unconstitutional and called for the suspension of the commission electoral works, said spokesperson of the commission Jumana Al-Ghlay in remarks to KUNA.

The court, Iraq's supreme tribunal, issued a ruling on Tuesday, suspending tasks of the commission regarding the polls, due on June 10. (KUNA)

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian affirmed Wednesday country's intent on finding solutions to outstanding issues with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Abdollahian spoke to the press during cabinet meeting, saying that Iran wishes to achieve this through technical cooperation rather than political pressures.

The top diplomat described IAEA's Rafael Grossi visit to Iran a day earlier as positive, adding that it included important discussions to boost cooperation. (KUNA)

RIYADH: GCC Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi has affirmed that the council seeks to put all available resources at the disposal of achieving global development.



Al-Budaiwi

The Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council said in a statement, on Wednesday, that the Secretary-General was addressing the eighth International Cooperation Conference, themed, "Propelling the Greater Caribbean through Pathways for Sustainable Development," held in Paramaribo, the capital of Suriname, on Tuesday.

He has affirmed, according to a report broadcast by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA), that the convention is a platform to examine means for attaining high standards of living for the peoples of the region and facing challenges jointly. (KUNA)

WASHINGTON: The Houthi militia launched three drones and a ballistic missile over Gulf of Aden without "any significant injuries," United States Central Command (CENTCOM) declared.

CENTCOM release a statement on (X) - formally known as Twitter - that "on May 6, terrorists supported by Iran launched three drones towards Gulf of Aden from areas under their control in Yemen."

The statement, released late on Tuesday, added that a ship belonging to the coalition forces managed to intercept one of those drones, while the CENTCOM successfully intercepted a second drone. (KUNA)

'Exceptional'

NCCAL preps for 2025 Cultural Capital event

KUWAIT CITY, May 8, (KUNA): The National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) announced Wednesday that the celebration of Kuwait as the 2025 Arab Cultural Capital would be exceptional.

Speaking to KUNA, NCCAL Secretary General for Art Sector Musaed Al-Zamel said that his team was working hard to prepare for the celebration by undertaking many tours and holding sessions to determine the priorities of this major cultural event.

Continued on Page 5



KUNA photo
NCCAL Secretary General for Art Sector Musaed Al-Zamel speaks during a meeting.

US gov't praises Kuwait support

WASHINGTON, May 8, (KUNA): The US applauded Kuwait's support and its role over the repatriation of its nationals, including Europeans from northeast Syria.

A statement by the State Department spokesperson Mathew Miller said, "we thank the Government of Kuwait for its support, we thank these governments for their partnership and applaud their demonstration of leadership by bringing their nationals home."

Continued on Page 5

Zammit calls on Kuwaitis to visit his country during summer

Malta offers abundant opportunities for trade, cultural ties: envoy

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: The Ambassador of Malta to Kuwait, HE George Saeed Zammit, highlighted the abundant opportunities to enhance trade, cultural, and sports exchanges between Malta and Kuwait, reports Al-Jarida daily.

celebration marking the twentieth anniversary of Malta's accession to the European Union, Zammit emphasized the growing interest from Kuwait in strengthening bilateral relations.

He revealed that discussions are underway with Kuwaiti authorities to es-

ablish a direct airline between the two countries, which would facilitate travel and further boost relations.

Currently, there is significant demand from Kuwaitis to visit Malta, driven by its picturesque beaches and historic landmarks.

Zammit noted the presence of

around 100 Kuwaiti students studying at Maltese universities in various fields such as general medicine, dentistry, and engineering. A delegation from the University of Malta is expected to visit Kuwait soon to introduce the educational opportunities available to Kuwaiti students.

Highlighting the warm hospitality of the Maltese people, Zammit invited Kuwaitis to visit Malta during the summer to experience its attractions firsthand.

Reflecting on Malta's two decades of EU membership, Zammit described it as a transformative period that has con-

tributed to Malta's economic growth, development, and prosperity. EU membership has expanded opportunities for trade, investment, and cooperation, enhancing economic stability and offering numerous benefits to Maltese citizens.

'Artificial intelligence vital in government, private affairs'

CITRA chief maps out path to technological revolution

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) Omar Al-Omar confirmed that there is a tremendous technological progress in the means of communications and information in view of the diversity of programs for exchanging information and the freedom of access for users.

In his speech at the opening of the two-day International Forum on Artificial Intelligence, Al-Omar highlighted the importance of artificial intelligence and digital services on business and daily life in the region and the world as a whole, citing the latest research and advanced technologies in the field of artificial intelligence.

He said that "whatever the current stage of uses of artificial intelligence is witnessing represents an important transformation in hu-

man lives. The future of the communications and information technology sector constitutes a real future revolution."

He pointed out the importance of artificial intelligence, developing digital services, and transforming procedures in government agencies and private sector institutions into digital smart procedures and services, especially those provided to citizens.

He explained this is because the use of artificial intelligence technologies has many benefits for all sectors, especially for government agencies, as it speeds up the daily work by using the technological development that has been achieved as it helps increase productivity and reduce errors and risks.

On the other hand, head of the forum, Eng Suleiman Al-Arouj, stated that artificial intelligence technology has a positive impact on the work system within the institution -- administrative, financial, developmental and technical sectors.

He added the programs, mega data, block chains, cloud computing, etc. are of great importance to the work performance and quality

of outputs of government agencies and the private sector in the State of Kuwait and other GCC countries.

He explained this is the aim of the forum in order to review, research and discuss the latest developments, which are considered of great importance; as well as presenting local and global developments in artificial intelligence topics and discussing them with experts and partners to reach results and recommendations to maximize the role and techniques of artificial intelligence.

In addition, international expert in United Nations affairs Dr. Radwan Al-Anani said the forum includes three workshops and 12 lectures on the latest systems and developments in artificial intelligence and digitization. He asserted that transforming transactions using modern technology is considered one of the government's most important priorities and part of the vision of the State of Kuwait.

Scientific Committee Chairman Dr. Bassem Al-Qassim revealed the forum showcases the experience of a number of young competent Kuwaitis like lecturer Suleiman Al-Arouj, who is the first Kuwaiti engineer for artificial intelligence in the Middle East; Eng Salem Al-Otaibi, who is considered an expert in artificial intelligence and has a number of experiences to present in the forum.



Al-Omar



Ambassador Zammit speaking during the celebration marking the twentieth anniversary of Malta's accession to the European Union.



Ambassadors of GCC countries in Kuwait.

Meet focuses on joint Gulf action

The Qatari Embassy in Kuwait played host to a coordination meeting involving the ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries accredited to Kuwait, alongside a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Chaired by Qatar's Ambassador Ali bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud, the meeting focused on fostering joint Gulf action and enhancing cooperation and coordination among the embassies of the GCC member states in Kuwait.



Hungarian books corner being inaugurated at the hands of Ambassador Sísábó.

Prof Al-Baq'a'in welcomes delegation

Hungarian envoy Sísábó inaugurates Embassy Corner at university library

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: The Kuwait College of Science and Technology recently welcomed the Ambassador of Hungary to Kuwait, HE András Sísábó, and a delegation from the embassy, to inaugurate a new corner for books donated by the Embassy of Hungary to the university library, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Professor Khaled Al-Baq'a'in, the President of the College, extended a warm welcome to the ambassador and the accompanying delegation during the opening ceremony, which was attended by faculty members and university staff.

This initiative, presented by the Embassy of Hungary, entails providing a collection of books covering various scientific, cultural, and literary subjects. Al-Baq'a'in commended the close relationship between the university and the Hungarian Embassy, lauding the initiative as a means to strengthen this relationship while advancing the educational objectives of the university. He emphasized the importance of such initiatives in enriching the educational experience of students and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Al-Baq'a'in highlighted the significance of accessing diverse sources of knowledge from around the world, which enables students to explore new research methodologies and gain insights from different perspectives. He expressed the university's pride in its collaboration with the embassy, particularly following the recent signing of a cooperation agreement with Quadron Cybersecurity Company, which was also sponsored by the embassy.

Al-Baq'a'in expressed hope for further collaboration in cultural and scientific events, as well as academic activities.

Ambassador Sísábó expressed his pleasure in the cooperation between the Embassy of Hungary and the Kuwait College of Science and Technology, emphasizing the importance of deepening understanding of Hungarian culture, arts, history, and civilization among the next generation.

He encouraged university students to explore the wealth of resources available in the Hungarian Book Corner, underscoring its significance on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Hungary.

Female grads for admin coordinator posts

MoSA approves promotion by selection

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Abdulaziz Sari Al-Mutairi has confirmed the approval of the promotion by selection of 497 employees, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement after chairing the meeting of the Personnel Affairs Committee recently, Al-Mutairi revealed the list of employees eligible for promotion by selection was approved on March 31, 2024. He said these employees were chosen in accordance with Civil Service Commission Resolution No. 18 of 2011, which stipulates the rules on promotion by selection.

Admin coordinators: Female graduates of the College of Education at Kuwait University who specialized in Islamic Studies, history, geography, psychology and philosophy will be transferred to the administrative coordinator position, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources said this decision will be implemented through the coordinated efforts of the Education Ministry and Civil Service Commission. Sources explained these female graduates will be transferred as needed once the new schools Al-Mutlaa and West Abdullah Al-Mubarak open.

albander hotel & resort

May Room Promotion

Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 60.984 net	BHD 136.198 net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 76.230 net	BHD 170.247 net

Promo period from 2nd May to 31st May 2024

Terms & conditions apply*

LOCAL

Gaza is

Continued from Page 1

Therefore, it is necessary to reach a two-State solution, in accordance with the Saudi initiative approved at the Beirut Summit, as it is the basis for everyone to get out of the impasse.

The existence of one legitimate Palestinian government, not two authorities -- one in Ramallah and the other in Gaza -- will end the suffering of the Palestinian people. This will direct the compass towards self-determination and global recognition of the State.

Consequently, there must be a single national authority that manages the Palestinian issue. It is sufficient for the Arabs to submit to these organizations run by rogue states.

The tragedy has become open to all possibilities. There is no longer a way out of the terrible hell except by making all Arabs face their responsibility regarding the absurd practices of militia leaders who were raised on blackmail, and accumulated wealth at the expense of the blood of innocent Palestinians and the rest of the countries that these organizations have entered only to wreak havoc there.

Almighty Allah says in the Holy Quran: "... and Satan has made their deeds pleasing to them and averted them from the right way, so they have guidance."

NCCAL preps

Continued from Page 1

Al-Zamel added that the celebration ceremony would create new ideas that will feature forums, meetings and cultural sessions that are specific for this event.

The NCCAL work team is examining the best locations to hold the celebration festivities and will be worthy to visitors to see and experience, he added.

He pointed out that the NCCAL employees are cooperating with other local institutions, diplomatic authorities and Arab countries' embassies to shed light on Kuwait's cultural wealth.

Al-Zamel is head of the work team appointed by the higher committee to celebrate Kuwait as the Arab Cultural Capital for the year 2025 -- headed by Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.

Amir's visit

Continued from Page 1

President Erdogan and His Highness the Amir held a session of bilateral discussions, followed by another one at the official level grouping delegations from the two sides. The talks were marked with consensus on issues of common concern and necessity of bolstering the bilateral relations in all sectors.

The two sides affirmed their pride of the distinctive ties between the two countries and peoples, praised level of the commercial and economic relations and cooperation, namely the volume of trade exchange, activities by the Kuwait Public Investments Authority in Turkey and investments by Turkish companies in Kuwait.

They signed, on sidelines of the discussions, a number of significant agreements, memoranda of understanding in the fields of coping with natural catastrophes, free trade zones, housing and infrastructural sectors, in addition to a MoU regarding the strategic ministerial-level dialogue.

Moreover, the Kuwaiti and Turkish officials signed an executive protocol for the contracts of the defense equipment's contracts and a MoU between the Kuwait Interior Ministry and the Turkish catastrophes and emergency authority.

President Erdogan, the statement continued, affirmed support for sovereignty, territorial sanctity and regional security of the State of Kuwait, stressing that contacts between the two countries would closely continue at various levels.

He expressed his appreciation of Kuwait's good efforts and the pioneering role at the regional and international levels as well as its policy aimed at attaining prosperity for peoples.

Regarding regional developments, the two countries expressed concern at conditions in Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories and the crimes committed against the Palestinian brothers and the catastrophic conditions in the occupied territories.

The two sides expressed concern regarding the tragic conditions in Rafah, southern Gaza, where the residents were threatened to be relocated against their will, affirming the necessity that the international community namely the UN Security Council shoulder the responsibility on implementing resolutions that call for an immediate cease-fire, protecting civilians, ensuring delivery of the humanitarian aid in the occupied territories and settling the Palestinian cause according to resolutions of the international legitimacy.

President Erdogan decorated His Highness the Amir with the prestigious State Order in appreciation for his major role in boosting the bilateral relations.

In the end of the visit, His Highness the Amir expressed gratitude to President Erdogan for the warm hospitality and invited him to visit Kuwait. He also expressed good wishes to the president and the friendly Turkish people.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah arrived on Wednesday, with his accompanying delegation, to Kuwait from Turkey after concluding his state visit.

His Highness the Amir was accompanied by an official delegation that included Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Dr. Anwar Ali Al-Mudhaf, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, and senior officials from the Amiri Diwan and Foreign Ministry.

US gov't

Continued from Page 1

The United States repatriated 11 US citizens from northeast Syria, including five minors.

"As a part of this operation, the United States also facilitated the repatriation of six Canadian citizens, four Dutch citizens, and one Finnish citizen, among them eight children," Miller added.

"Additionally, we resettled in the United States the nine-year-old non-US citizen sibling of one of the US citizen minors," Miller said.

"This is the largest single repatriation of US citizens from northeast Syria to date," Miller noted.

"In conducting this complex repatriation and resettlement the Department coordinated closely with our interagency partners," Miller added.

"I would like to thank the Federal Bureau of Investigation, US Customs and Border Protection, US Citizenship and Immigration Service, and the Departments of Defense, Justice, and Health and Human Services for their assistance," Miller said.

"Approximately 30,000 individuals from more than 60 countries outside Syria remain in the al-Hol and Roj displaced persons camps, the majority of whom are children.

As governments undertake repatriation of their nationals, we urge thoughtfulness and flexibility to ensure that to the maximum extent possible family units remain intact," Miller added.

"The only durable solution to the humanitarian and security crisis in the displaced persons camps and detention facilities in northeast Syria is for countries to repatriate, rehabilitate, reintegrate, and where appropriate, ensure accountability for wrongdoing," Miller said.

"The United States remains committed to helping those nations which seek to repatriate their nationals from northeast Syria, and to finding solutions, including resettlement, for those who are unable to return to their communities or countries of origin," Miller added.

Kuwait enforces

Continued from Page 1

PAM also nominated a number of members to the Kuwaitization committees in various government agencies to guarantee the successful implementation of the regulation. These committees shall identify and organize the necessary jobs and responsibilities in each government agency in accordance with the regulation.

The implementation of these regulations is expected to curtail opportunities for unskilled and unqualified workers in the labor market while minimizing violations. Initial steps are crucial for the effective implementation of the regulations, with plans to expand their coverage to include contracts across various entities to further increase the proportion of national workers.

MoCI's initiative strengthens e-transaction regulations

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: The plan of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to enhance oversight of auctions and electronic forestry operations in the country through an advanced automated platform and system is a proactive step towards ensuring transparency and protecting consumers, reports Al-Jarida daily.

By launching the "National Electronic Auctions Platform" project, the ministry aims to streamline online pay-

ment operations, enforce regulations, and safeguard customer interests.

This initiative not only facilitates smoother transactions but also strengthens state revenues and fosters trust in electronic commerce.

Additionally, the ministry's focus on developing automated systems for supervisory projects, such as monitoring precious metal trading and overseeing currency exchange activities, demonstrates its commitment to adapt-

ing to the evolving digital landscape.

By leveraging advanced technology and international best practices, the ministry aims to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in regulating various sectors.

Furthermore, collaboration with the Communications and Electronic Crimes Authority underscores the importance of combating fraud and ensuring compliance with regulations.

TENDER NOTICE
APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Oriental Insurance Company Limited is one of the four Public sector Non-Life Insurance Companies in India operating as a Branch in Kuwait is in the process of appointing auditors for the annual audit with the following scope of work:

Scope of works:

- Audit of financial statements for the current year ending 31 -12-2024
- Audit of trial balance for the financial year ending 31-03-2025
- Assistance in filing of Kuwait Income Tax declaration 31 -12-2024
- Certification of statements to Ministry of Commerce
- Certification of quarterly Gross Underwriting & Claims returns to Head Office
- Certification of payment of quarterly fees to the Insurance Regulatory Unit

Terms and Conditions:

- Tender Document Delivery Mode- In person should reach us within 15 days from the date of publication to the address given below, between 9 am to 4 pm Sunday to Thursday.
- For all purposes of the contract including arbitration thereunder, the address of the bidder mentioned in the bid shall be final unless the bidder notifies a change of address by a separate letter sent to The Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OIC), Kuwait. The bidder shall be solely responsible for the consequences of any omission or error to notify change of address in the aforesaid manner.
- Right of Acceptance: The Company reserves all rights to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.
- Communication of Acceptance -- Successful bidder shall give acceptance within 10 days from the date of receipt of the work order, failing which, the work order issued stands cancelled.
- The successful bidder shall enter into a contract and the authorized signatory shall execute and sign the contract agreement in accordance to the scope of work and conditions before commencement of service.
- Minimum Eligibility Criteria-- Reputed International Audit Firms registered in the State of Kuwait.
- For any clarifications, write to RM-Oriental@almullagroup.com

ADDRESS

Resident Manager

The Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd., Al-Arabiya Commercial Tower- 14th Floor, Ahmed Jaber Street, Sharq, Kuwait City

Phone Number: 22267486 or 95533090 - between 9 am to 4 pm.

100%
VALUE ON
DIAMOND
EXCHANGEMALABAR
GOLD & DIAMONDSGOLDEN
GIFTASSURED GOLD COINS ON
GOLD & DIAMOND JEWELLERY PURCHASE

Bringing you an exclusive collection of Gold & Diamond Jewellery complimented with incredible offers, your jewellery purchase goes hand-in-hand with your prosperity.

FREE
GOLD COINS
GET A GUARANTEED GOLD COIN
FOR EVERY KWD 250 WORTH GOLD
JEWELLERY. OFFER VALID
FROM 9TH TO 11TH MAYFREE 1 GRAM
GOLD COIN
ON PURCHASE OF DIAMOND
& PRECIOUS GEM JEWELLERY
WORTH KWD 420FREE 1/2 GRAM
GOLD COIN
ON PURCHASE OF DIAMOND
& PRECIOUS GEM JEWELLERY
WORTH KWD 250ZERO DEDUCTION
ON OLD GOLD (916) EXCHANGENo making charges
on 8 gram gold coinsSpecial buy counters
with attractive discountsOffer valid until 11th May 2024

On the auspicious day of Akshaya Tritiya (tomorrow), our showrooms will open from 8:00 AM

Scan here to
view the exclusive
jewellery collection

Lat/Am

Mexico tightens rules

Brazil south struggles to access basic goods

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil, May 8, (AP): The mayor of a major city in southern Brazil on Tuesday pleaded with residents to comply with his water rationing decree, given that some four-fifths of the population is without running water, a week after major flooding that has left at least 90 people dead and more than 130 others missing.



Melo

Efforts were continuing to rescue people stranded by the floods in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, as more rains were forecast for the region into next week. The capital, Porto Alegre, has been virtually cut off, with the airport and bus station closed and main roads blocked because of the floodwaters.

The floods in Brazil are among extreme weather events being seen around the world.

Yoga teacher Maria Vitória Jorge's apartment building in downtown Porto Alegre is flooded, so she's leaving it behind, having withdrawn about 8,000 reais (\$1,600) from her savings to rent an apartment for herself and her parents elsewhere in the state.

"I can't shower at home, wash the dishes or even have drinkable water," the 35-year-old Jorge said in her car as she prepared to travel. She had just a gallon of water for the 200-kilometer (125-mile) drive to the city of Torres, so far unaffected by the floods.

Consumption

Five of the Porto Alegre's six water treatment facilities aren't working, and Porto Alegre Mayor Sebastião Melo on Monday decreed that water be used exclusively for "essential consumption."

"We are living an unprecedented natural disaster and everyone needs to help," Melo told journalists. "I am getting water trucks to soccer fields and people will have to go there to get their water in bottles. I cannot get them to go home to home."

The most urgent need is drinking water, but food and personal hygiene products are also in short supply. Other Brazilian states are mobilizing trucks with donations bound for Rio Grande do Sul.

There were long lines and empty shelves at supermarkets in Porto Alegre on Tuesday. Some people have tried to buy bottled water since the weekend, and when they could find it, their purchases were limited to two five-liter (1.3-gallon) bottles.

Public health experts say there is also growing risk of disease as much of the region remains submerged, warning that cases of dengue fever and leptospirosis, a bacterial disease, in particular could rise sharply within days.



Mexico tightens rules on Peruvians: Julia Paredes believed her move to the United States might be now or never. Mexico was days from requiring visas for Peruvian visitors. If she didn't act quickly, she would have to make a far more perilous, surreptitious journey over land to settle with her sister in Dallas.

Mexico began requiring visas for Peruvians on Monday in response to a major influx of migrants from the South American country, after identical moves for Venezuelans, Ecuadorians and Brazilians. It effectively eliminated the option of flying to a Mexican city near the U.S. border, as Paredes, 45, did just before it was too late.

"I had to treat it as an emergency," said Paredes, who worked serving lunch to miners in Arequipa, Peru, and borrowed money to fly to Mexico's Tijuana, across from San Diego. Last month smugglers guided her through a remote opening in the border wall to a dirt lot in California, where she and about 100 migrants from around the world shivered over campfires after a morning drizzle and waited for overwhelmed Border Patrol agents to drive them to a station for processing.

Senior US officials, speaking to reporters ahead of a meeting of top diplomats from about 20 countries in the Western hemisphere this week in Guatemala, applauded Mexico's crackdown on air travel from Peru and called visa requirements an important tool to jointly confront illegal migration.



Nations renew commitment: Representatives from 22 Western Hemisphere countries gathered in Guatemala renewed their commitment Tuesday to continue offering legal pathways to enter their countries, to provide aid to communities most affected by migration and to coordinate their response to manage immigration flows.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted that progress had been made in all of those areas during the past two years. Still, the region saw record migration last year both through the treacherous Darien Gap separating Colombia and Panama and at the US border.

Two years ago, leaders from across the hemisphere signed the "Los Angeles Declaration," a U.S.-led attempt to coordinate a regional response to historic levels of migration.

"At the core of our efforts is the message that individuals should take advantage of lawful pathways rather than make the dangerous journey north," Blinken said during a news conference with Guatemala President Bernardo Arévalo Tuesday morning.

He said the Biden administration would work with the US Congress to come up with another \$578 million in aid to countries in the hemisphere hosting migrants.

Signatory countries also said they would set up a coordinating body to evaluate countries' progress in meeting their commitments.

Guatemala committed to expanding access to offices where migrants can be screened and receive information about legal pathways.



Mom gives moving tribute to sons: The mother of two Australian surfers killed in Mexico delivered a moving tribute to her sons Tuesday at a beach in San Diego.

"Our hearts are broken and the world has become a darker place for us," Debra Robinson said, fighting back tears. "They were young men enjoying their passion of surfing together."

Her sons, Callum and Jake, were allegedly killed by car thieves in Baja California, across the border from San Diego, somewhere around April 28 or 29.

Robinson also mourned the American who was killed with them, Jack Carter Rhoad.

The beachside location where she spoke, across the border from the Baja California city of Tijuana, was no coincidence. She noted that her son Callum "considered the United States his second home."

Robinson noted that her son Jake loved surfing so much that, as a doctor, he liked to work in hospitals near the beach.



Philippine Army fires ATMOS 155mm howitzers during a joint military exercise on May 8 in Laoag, Ilocos Norte, northern Philippines. Inset: US marines carry equipment at the Paredes Air Station at Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte province during a joint military exercise in northern Philippines on May 6. (AP)

Asia

Australia's PM rejects China's argument

US, Philippine forces sink ship during drills

LAOAG, Philippines, May 8, (AP): US and Philippine forces, backed by an Australian air force surveillance aircraft, unleashed a barrage of high-precision rockets, artillery fire and airstrikes Wednesday and sank a mock enemy ship as part of largescale war drills in and near the disputed South China Sea that have antagonized Beijing.

Military officials and diplomats from several countries watched the display of firepower from a hilltop along a sandy coast in Laoag City in Ilocos Norte, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s northern home province.

More than 16,000 military personnel from the United States and the Philippines, along with a few hundred Australian troops and military observers from 14 countries, were participating in annual combat-readiness drills called Balikatan, Tagalog for shoulder-to-shoulder. The drills, which started April 22 and end Friday, include a scenario of a foreign invasion of the Philippine archipelago.

It's the latest indication of how the United States and the Philippines have bolstered a defense treaty alliance that started in the 1950s amid their concern in recent years over China's increasingly aggressive actions in disputed territories in Asia.

Marcos has ordered his military to shift its focus to external defense from decades-long domestic anti-insurgency operations as China's actions in the South China Sea become a top concern. That strategic shift dovetails with the efforts of US President Joe Biden and his administration to reinforce an arc of alliances in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China.

China has angered the Philippines by repeatedly harassing its navy and coast guard ships with powerful water cannons, a military-grade laser, blocking movements and other dangerous maneuvers in the high seas near two disputed South China Sea shoals. They have led to minor collision that have injured several Filipino navy personnel and damaged supply boats.

"We're under the gun," Philippine Ambassador to Washington Jose Romualdez told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Also:

MELBOURNE, Australia: China's account blaming Australia for a dangerous clash between their military aircraft in international airspace over the Yellow Sea failed to undermine Australian objections, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Wednesday.

- according to civil society groups.

Opposition leader Raila Odinga last week warned the government against demolishing more houses without a resettlement plan in place. (AP)

ment plan in place. (AP)

'Dozens still missing': Nearly 40 construction workers were still missing Wednesday in the rubble of a building that collapsed in South Africa on Monday as rescue teams continued to search for survivors for a third day in the wreckage of the unfinished five-story apartment complex.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken addresses a regional meeting on irregular migration, next to Guatemalan President Bernardo Arévalo, (left), and US Ambassador Tobin Bradley, (right), at the National Palace in Guatemala City on May 7. Blinken is in Guatemala for a two-day visit. (AP)



An engineer works on a power line pole in Nairobi, Kenya on May 6. The number of people who have lost their lives in the devastating floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains in Kenya since March has risen to 238, with 75 others still missing, the government said on May 7. (Xinhua)



Ruto



Odinga

Africa

Tanzania flash floods kill 2: At least two people have been killed by flash floods triggered by tropical cyclone Hidaya in Kilwa district in the Lindi region in southern Tanzania, an official has said.

Kilwa district commissioner Mohamed Nyundo said on Monday that 39 people have been trapped in wetlands as district authorities were working closely with the Tanzania Fire and Rescue Force to rescue them.

The flash floods that hit the Lindi region overnight on Saturday washed away four bridges along the highway between the port city of Dar es Salaam and the southern regions of Lindi and Mtwara. As a result, the Tanzania Fire and Rescue Force shut down the highway on Sunday.

Minister of Works Innocent Bashungwa ordered the Tanzania National Roads Agency to renovate the damaged bridges within 72 hours beginning Sunday.

Tropical cyclone Hidaya unleashed the devastation hours before it completely lost its strength after its landfall on Mafia Island earlier on Saturday. (Xinhua)



Kenya demolishes houses: Kenya's government has begun bulldozing homes built in flood-prone areas and promising evicted families the equivalent of \$75 to relocate after a deadline passed to evacuate amid deadly rains.

In the capital, Nairobi, a bulldozer ripped through iron-sheet walls as people watched in despair. Security forces with guns and batons stood guard and fired tear gas at some residents. The government last week told thousands of people living near rivers, dams and other flood-prone areas to vacate as heavy rains that have left 238 people dead in recent weeks continue to pound.

Most of those whose houses are demolished say they do not know where to go, even though the government claims they were notified about options. Human Rights Watch has accused the government of an inadequate response.

"Now what are we going to do? We love our president, and that is why we supported him. He should come to our aid," Jekenke Jegeke told The Associated Press.

President William Ruto, who visited the vast Mathare informal settlement along the Nairobi River on Monday, said those whose houses had been demolished would be given 10,000 Kenyan shillings (\$75) to help them resettle elsewhere.

Three people, including two children, have died in Mathare after being run over by bulldozers in the demolitions - one before the president's visit and two after it

power in arousing emotions among some residents of the city.

Also:

SEOUL, South Korea: Kim Ki Nam, a North Korean propaganda chief who helped build personality cults around the country's three dynastic leaders, has died at 94, the North's state media said.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said the country's current leader, Kim Jong Un, visited the body of Kim Ki Nam at a funeral hall in the capital, Pyongyang, early Wednesday and expressed condolences to family members. The agency said Kim Jong Un will lead the state funeral committee for Kim Ki Nam, who will be buried on Thursday.

KCNA said Kim Ki Nam, a former secretary of the ruling Workers' Party's central committee, "devoted his all to the sacred struggle for defending and strengthening the ideological purity of our revolution and firmly guaranteeing the steady victory of the socialist cause." The agency said he died Tuesday after being treated for age-related illnesses and multiple organ dysfunctions for the past year.

the helicopter "flew within close range of China's airspace" in attacking the Chinese case.



PHNOM PENH, Cambodia: Cambodia's Defense Ministry insisted Wednesday that the months-long presence of two Chinese warships in a strategically important naval base that is being newly expanded with funding from Beijing does not constitute a permanent deployment of the Chinese military in the country.

Questions had arisen after the Center for Strategic and International Studies reported last month that two Chinese corvettes that docked at the Ream Naval Base's new pier in December had maintained a nearly permanent presence there since.

Current satellite images, analyzed by The Associated Press, confirm that the two ships remained there on Wednesday, more than five months since they initially appeared.

construction workers were still missing Wednesday in the rubble of a building that collapsed in South Africa on Monday as rescue teams continued to search for survivors for a third day in the wreckage of the unfinished five-story apartment complex.

Seven workers have been confirmed dead, while authorities in the city of George on South Africa's south coast released new information on the injuries, saying 16 of the 29 people rescued from the debris were in a critical condition in hospitals and another six had life-threatening injuries. They said 39 workers were still unaccounted for and buried in the rubble of concrete and mangled metal scaffolding.

The collapse of the building that was still under construction sparked a desperate rescue effort that has seen specialist disaster response teams brought in from other towns and cities to help. A total of 75 construction workers were at the building site when it came down, the George municipality said.

More than 200 rescue personnel continued to search for survivors using sniffer dogs and underground cameras. Cranes and other heavy lifting equipment were brought in to lift some of the huge concrete slabs that came crashing down on workers. (AP)

Philippines' unemployment rate up to 3.9 pct in March

The unemployment rate in the Philippines increased to 3.9 percent in March from 3.5 percent in February, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said on Wednesday.

PSA head Dennis Mapa said at a press conference that there were 2 million jobless Filipinos in March this year, higher than 1.8 million unemployed individuals in February.

National Economic and De-

velopment Authority Secretary Arsenio Balisacan highlighted March employment in key sectors, such as wholesale and retail trade, and manufacturing.

"The wholesale and retail trade sector saw the highest annual increase, employing 963,000 additional individuals. Manufacturing followed closely with 553,000 new jobs, while public administration and

defense added 229,000 employed individuals," Balisacan said.

The government will focus on attracting job-generating investments from the private sector and scaling up social and physical infrastructure to improve employment, Balisacan said, adding reskilling and upskilling programs to increase employability will also be prioritized. (Xinhua)

Türkiye to impose fines on businesses for price hikes

Turkish authorities have decided to impose fines totaling 1.9 million U.S. dollars on businesses found guilty of exorbitant price increases and stockpiling, amid high inflation, the Turkish Trade Ministry said on Monday.

The ministry said on the social media platform X that exorbitant price increases, particularly in basic food and essential products in supermarkets, as well as stockpiling actions in the auto-

motive sector, have been subjected to detailed control.

According to the statement, the product prices of companies operating in the ready-mixed concrete and cement sector are also under examination.

Entities selling bread at prices higher than those set by the ministry will also face fines, it added.

In the statement, the ministry emphasized its "commitment to implementing essential adminis-

trative measures against actions that negatively impact consumers by disrupting pricing behavior in the markets."

Türkiye has been grappling with consistently high inflation rates, reaching 69.8 percent in April, up from 68.5 percent in March.

Despite this, many companies have been exploiting the situation by significantly raising their prices (Xinhua)

US seeks information from company

Tesla queried on how it dev'd & verified whether Autopilot recall worked

DETROIT, May 8, (AP): Federal highway safety investigators want Tesla to tell them how and why it developed the fix in a recall of more than 2 million vehicles equipped with the company's Autopilot partially automated driving system.

can keep a vehicle in its lane and a distance from objects in front of it, was not designed to operate on roads other than limited access highways.

Investigators with the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration have concerns about whether the recall remedy worked because Tesla has reported 20 crashes since the remedy was sent out as an online software update in December.

Missy Cummings, a professor of engineering and computing at George Mason University who studies automated vehicles, said NHTSA is responding to criticism from legislators for a perceived lack of action on automated vehicles.

The recall fix also was to address whether Autopilot should be allowed to operate on roads other than limited access highways. The fix for that was increased warnings to the driver on roads with intersections.

"As clunky as our government is, the feedback loop is working," Cummings said. "I think the NHTSA leadership is convinced now that this is a problem."

But in a letter to Tesla posted on the agency's website Tuesday, investigators wrote that they could not find a difference between warnings to the driver to pay attention before the recall and after the new software was released. The agency said it will evaluate whether driver warnings are adequate, especially when a driver-monitoring camera is covered.

The 18-page NHTSA letter asks how Tesla used human behavior science in designing Autopilot, and the company's assessment of the importance of evaluating human factors.

The agency asked for volumes of information about how Tesla developed the fix, and zeroed in on how it used human behavior to test the recall effectiveness.

It also wants Tesla to identify every job involved in human behavior evaluation and the qualifications of the workers. And it asks Tesla to say whether the positions still exist.

Phil Koopman, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University who studies automated driving safety, said the letter shows that the recall did little to solve problems with Autopilot and was an attempt to pacify NHTSA, which demanded the recall after more than two years of investigation.

A message was left by The Associated Press early Tuesday seeking comment from Tesla about the letter.

"It's pretty clear to everyone watching that Tesla tried to do the least possible remedy to see what they could get away with," Koopman said. "And NHTSA has to respond forcefully or other car companies will start pushing out inadequate remedies."

Tesla is in the process of laying off about 10% of its workforce, about 14,000 people, in an effort to cut costs to deal with falling global sales.

Safety advocates have long expressed concern that Autopilot, which

Cummings said she suspects that CEO Elon Musk would have laid off anyone with human behavior knowledge, a key skill needed to deploy partially automated systems like Autopilot, which can't drive themselves and require humans to be ready to intervene at all times.

can keep a vehicle in its lane and a distance from objects in front of it, was not designed to operate on roads other than limited access highways.

"If you're going to have a technology that depends upon human interaction, you better have someone on your team that knows what they are doing in that space," she said.

Gulf countries and Egypt poised to capitalize on global tourism boom

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: Arabian Gulf Business Insight recently quoted experts highlighting the immense potential for Gulf countries and Egypt to capitalize on the current global tourism boom. Their robust financial capability significantly contributes to bolstering the growth of the tourism sector in the region, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Cummings said her research has shown that once a driving system takes over steering from humans, there is little left for the human brain to do. Many drivers tend to overly rely on the system and check out.

Torab Selim, head of hospitality, tourism, and entertainment consulting in the region, predicts a doubling of hotel room capacity in the Gulf countries and Egypt within the next six years, surpassing one million rooms.

struction in regions like Abha, Taif, and Al-Ahsa.

Despite this expansion, Selim notes that due to the region's population growth, the projected increase may still fall short of future demands. By 2030, it's anticipated that Saudi Arabia and the UAE alone will boast approximately 300,000 hotel rooms, with Egypt and other Gulf nations following suit.

Last year, Gulf countries saw a substantial 29% increase in tourist numbers compared to 2022, elevating their global tourism share to 5%, up from 3% five years ago. Despite the presence of luxury accommodations, opportunities still exist for more affordable hotel options, especially in the mid-range segment.

Nicholas Nasra, head of hotel, hospitality, and tourism consulting for the Middle East and North Africa at Colliers, underscores the significant growth potential in the UAE, particularly in emerging destinations like Ras Al Khaimah. He also highlights the momentum in major Saudi cities and mega projects, with thousands of hotel rooms currently under con-

Dimitris Manikis, President of Wyndham Hotels and Resorts in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, emphasizes the importance of diversifying tourism offerings to achieve Saudi Arabia's ambitious goal of attracting 150 million tourists annually by 2030. Manikis advocates for targeting the middle-class tourist segment by providing luxury experiences at affordable prices, citing Dubai as a prime example of successfully striking a balance between luxury and affordability.

Trade-in program energizes China consumer mkt vitality

BEIJING, May 8, (Xinhua): China's new round of consumer goods trade-ins has achieved positive initial results over the past few months, raising market confidence that successful revival of consumption will offer stronger impetus to the economy.

However, the report also highlights global efforts to combat over-tourism, with measures such as tourist taxes in Venice and protests in the Spanish Canary Islands aimed at managing tourist influxes. Challenges like tourist overcrowding persist in popular destinations like London, Paris, and Beijing, emphasizing the need for more diverse tourist destinations globally.

During the just-concluded May Day holiday break, sales of automobiles, home appliances and furniture monitored by the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) increased by 4.8 percent, 7.9 percent and 4.6 percent year on year, respectively.

of consumer goods -- nearly 15 years since the last such round of renewals.

From e-commerce platforms to brick-and-mortar stores, more buyers made deals thanks to subsidies and discounts under the program.

At the end of 2023, people in China owned some 336 million civilian automobiles and over 3 billion major household appliances, including refrigerators, washing machines, and air conditioners. It is estimated the upgrading drive will create market demand worth more than 1 trillion yuan (over 140 billion U.S. dollars).

"Recently, trade-ins accounted for 40 to 50 percent of our orders every day," said Zhao Hongfu, manager of a store of home appliance retailer Suning in Shanghai. Wang Kui, working for online shopping platform Tmall, said the value of trade-in deals involving home appliances and smartphones has since late March 2024 smarted by 90 percent compared with a year earlier.

Analysts have highlighted the significance of this new program in unleashing domestic demand potential and sustaining economic recovery.

China's State Council released an action plan in March to initiate large-scale equipment upgrades and trade-ins

Given complicated situations both at home and abroad, these consumer goods trade-ins will stimulate consumer sentiment and strengthen growth momentum, said Zhu Keli, a researcher at the China Institute of New Economy.

China's State Council released an action plan in March to initiate large-scale equipment upgrades and trade-ins

Fu Yifu, a research fellow with the Star Atlas Institute of Finance, believed that industrial upgrades will be boosted and this will also result in acceleration of China's green transformation.

US seeks information from company

Apple's biggest announcement from iPad event: brighter screen, faster chips and the 'Pencil Pro'

CUPERTINO, Calif., May 8, (AP): Apple has unveiled its next generation of iPad Pros and Airs - models that will boast faster processors, new sizes and a new display system as part of the company's first update to its tablet lineup in more than a year.



Apple-Final-Cut-Pro-for-Mac-10-8-and-Apple-Final-Cut-Pro-for-iPad-2-he-ro

The showcase at Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, California, comes after the company disclosed its steepest quarterly decline in iPhone sales since the pandemic's outset, deepening a slump that's increasing the pressure on the trendsetting company to spruce up its products. Apple is expected to make a much bigger splash next month during an annual conference devoted to the latest version of its operating systems for iPhones, iPads and Mac computers - software that analysts expect to be packed with more artificial intelligence technology.

The new iPad Air has the faster M2 chip, boasts a new design, more base storage, a new 13-inch display option and a recentered camera. It will also support use of the new Apple Pencil Pro, which was a function previously

Both lines of new iPads add bells and whistles but have adjusted prices to match. The iPad Pro sports a new thinner design, a new M4 processor for added processing power, slightly

upgraded storage and incorporates dual OLED panels for a brighter, crisper display. Prices have been hiked to match its new offerings, with the 11-inch model going for \$999 and the 13-inch model fetching \$1,299.

"You can have your head fixed in one position, you can potentially have your eyes on the road, and you can be a million miles away in your head," she said. "All the driver monitoring technologies in the world are still not going to force you to pay attention."

The letter, he said, shows NHTSA is looking at whether Tesla did tests to make sure the fixes actually worked. "Looking at the remedy I struggled to believe that there's a lot of analysis proving that these will improve safety," Koopman said.

In its letter, NHTSA also asks Tesla for information about how the recall remedy addresses driver confusion over whether Autopilot has been turned off if force is put on the steering wheel. Previously, if Autopilot was deactivated, drivers might not notice quickly

NHTSA is asking Telsa "What do you mean you have a remedy and it doesn't actually get turned on?" Koopman said.

The agency also says Tesla made safety updates after the recall fix was sent out, including an attempt to reduce crashes caused by hydroplaning and to reduce collisions in high speed turn lanes. NHTSA said it will look at why Tesla didn't include the updates in the original recall.

NHTSA could seek further recall remedies, make Tesla limit where Autopilot can work, or even force the company to disable the system until it is fixed, safety experts said.

NHTSA began its Autopilot investigation in 2021, after receiving 11 reports that Teslas using Autopilot struck parked emergency vehicles. In documents explaining why the investigation was ended due to the recall, NHTSA said it ultimately found 467 crashes involving Autopilot resulting in 54 injuries and 14 deaths.

Strong spending highlights vitality of China's economy

8.47 mln exits and entries recorded during the holiday

BEIJING, May 8, (Xinhua): China's May Day holiday witnessed a surge in tourism and robust consumer spending, underscoring the resilience and dynamism of the world's second-largest economy.

This vitality is evident from encouraging growth figures. Official data has revealed that about 295 million domestic tourist trips were taken during the five-day holiday, a 7.6 percent year-on-year increase and a substantial 28.2 percent surge from the same period in 2019. Domestic tourist spending also surged 13.5 percent compared to 2019 figures.

Philippine inflation rate slightly quickens to 3.8 pct in April

MANILA, May 8, (Xinhua): Year-on-year inflation in the Philippines rose to 3.8 percent in April from 3.7 percent in March due to the continued increases in food and transport prices, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said on Tuesday.

In a news conference, PSA head Dennis Mapa said the uptrend in overall inflation in April was primarily driven by the higher year-on-year increase in food and non-alcoholic beverages, which increased to 6 percent from 5.6 percent in March.

During the holiday, China processed nearly 8.47 million entry and exit trips, reflecting a remarkable 35.1 percent increase from the same period last year. The country's box office earnings surpassed 1.52 billion yuan (214 million U.S. dollars), making this year's May Day holiday the third-highest-grossing in history.

Holiday periods are valuable indicators of economic activity and consumption trends. Insights from the May Day holiday reaffirm that consumption remains a cornerstone of China's economic growth trajectory, bolstered by structural changes and advancements in high-quality development.

In the first quarter, China's GDP expanded 5.3 percent year on year. Notably, domestic demand contributed 85.5 percent of economic growth, with final consumption expenditure accounting for 73.7 percent.

There has also been a notable shift in household consumption patterns, moving from a primary focus on goods consumption to a more balanced emphasis on goods and services. Per capita expenditure on services accounted for 43.3 percent of total per capita consumption expenditure in the first quarter.

The increasing popularity of consumption in services, including tourism, entertainment, digital services, health care and environmentally friendly products, reflects China's huge consumption potential. Meanwhile, the adoption of innovative technologies has given rise to novel business models such as livestreaming sales, instant retail and intelligent logistics, thereby propelling the growth of online retail sales of physical goods.

A meeting of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee on April 30 emphasized proactive measures to expand domestic demand and implement initiatives such as large-scale equipment upgrades and consumer goods trade-ins. The meeting also called for the creation of more consumption scenarios to meet the people's needs for diversified and high-quality consumption in an improved manner.

In terms of commodity consumption, local governments have carried out trade-in programs, contributing to the steady growth of big-ticket consumption. Notably, retail sales of automobiles, home appliances and furniture monitored by the Ministry of Commerce all saw steady growth during the holiday.

China has set a growth target of around 5 percent for this year, and its economy has made a promising start, reinforcing the positive trajectory of its recovery. Expectations are high that the Chinese economy will continue to lead major economies in terms of growth and remain a significant driver of global economic growth.



FUTURETEC

Announcement for severing relations with a former employee

Future Technology Systems Company for Computer hereby announces that Mr. Ahmed Yousef Dheif-Alla Al-Zateemeh, holder of Civil ID Card No. (293060803157)

was working with the Company in the position of (Sales Manager), Therefore, the work relationship with him was terminated on 31/05/2023. and he no longer has any relation with the Company. Therefore, we would like to declare that the Company shall not bear any consequences or liabilities resulting directly or indirectly from dealing with him in any business In the name of the company, and we discharge our legal liability for the same.

Interactive discussions on career paths and growth opportunities

ABK empowers future leaders by sponsoring AUM's 10th Annual Career Expo '24

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) was recently honored in the American University of the Middle East's (AUM) award ceremony on the occasion of its 10th Annual Career Expo. As a gold sponsor of the event, the Bank demonstrated its role as a key supporter of education and talent development, emphasizing its commitment to empowering the next generation of professionals.

ABK's presence at the career expo featured dedicated staff members engaging with students and graduates at a booth, providing valuable insights into the Bank's operations, career opportunities, and company culture. Through interactive discussions, ABK representatives enlightened attendees about the diverse career paths and growth prospects available within the organization.

Speaking about the significance of sponsoring such an event, Afrah Al Arbash, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK, emphasized, "Participating in AUM's career expo exemplifies our commitment to nurturing young talent and fostering career development opportunities. It is an excellent platform for students to explore various career options and gain valuable insights into the banking industry."

Not only did it benefit students and graduates by connecting them with potential employers, but the event also provided ABK with a prime opportunity to identify promising talent and cultivate future leaders within the organization. By actively engaging with the student community, the Bank aims to nurture skilled professionals who can contribute to its growth and success.

Moreover, ABK's sponsorship underscores its dedication to supporting national talent and fostering a thriving workforce in the country. Through these initiatives, the Bank demonstrates its commitment to investing in local talent, providing career advancement opportunities, and contributing to the country's overall economic development.

In line with this commitment, Al Arbash further stated, "We are proud



Ms. Afrah Al Arbash
GM of Human Resources at ABK.

Afrah Al Arbash

- We aim to empower students and graduates to realize their full potential and contribute meaningfully to the banking sector and beyond

to support national talent and provide opportunities for professional growth and development. By participating in such events, we aim to empower students and graduates to realize their full potential and contribute meaningfully to the banking sector and beyond."

Al Arbash thanked AUM for honoring ABK at the ceremony, pointing out the significance of the annual career expo as a provider of opportunities for students and a main support in helping them kickstart their careers.

The event served as a pivotal platform for students, graduates, and industry professionals to network, explore career opportunities, and gain valuable industry insights. Through its sponsorship and active participation, ABK reaffirms its position as a key player in shaping the future of banking talent and fostering a culture of excellence in the industry.



ABK's representatives with university officials at the exhibition.



ABK honored at the ceremony.

Review of virtual bank experience for students

NBK Executive Management visits schools to follow-up 'Bankee' program implementation

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: The Executive Management of National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continue their visits to public and private school across Kuwait to follow up the implementation of the "Bankee" program, which was officially initiated in this school year in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Kuwait Authority for Anti-Corruption "Nazaha", and Creative Confidence.

In this context, the bank organized a visit to Amra Bint Hazm Elementary School for Girls in Faiha Area featuring the participation of Mr. Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, Deputy CEO of NBK-Kuwait accompanied by representatives from Ministry of Education and Nazaha, in which they closely monitored the latest updates regarding the school students' financial literacy program.

During the visit, Al-Marzouq toured several classrooms within the school to review in detail the implementation of program, including the virtual bank experience that allows students to have a financial account in which they use the "Bankoz" virtual currency, and how they win prizes and rewards as they accumulate the program's currency in their accounts in exchange for their exceptional performance and behavior.

The school administration stated during the visit that "Bankee" has become an integral part of the students' daily classroom activities, highlighting that they are highly engaged with the program's attractive content, and the remarkable development in their financial culture, and the positive changes in their behaviors after implementing the program.

On the right track

Commenting on this, Al-Marzouq said, "We are very happy with the great interaction of students in various Kuwaiti schools with the Bankee program during the first school year of its official implementation, which indicates that it is on the right track to achieve its desired goal."

"The objective of "Bankee" is to prepare a financially literate generation who are capable of managing their own and their families' finances in the future, by instilling basic economic concepts in students at an early age, such as earning, spending, saving, and calculating financial obligations, and promoting sound financial practices such as wise spending and saving. This is done through a program that simulates real-world economy in a practical and interactive manner, which will benefit the whole society in the long term, and have positive impact on the Kuwaiti economy in general," he noted.

Al-Marzouq emphasized that NBK extends utmost support to national initiatives that aim to enable the Kuwaiti young generation to play an instru-



A group photo with the students of Amra Bint Hazm Elementary School for Girls.



Sulaiman Al-Marzouq during his speech.



Students at the 'Bankee' program.

mental role in building Kuwait's renaissance and prosperity in the future, indicating that investing in students at a young age and providing them with the required educational support and assistance as per the latest international standards would create a generation who are capable of raising Kuwait's flag high in all fields.

Financial inclusion and sustainability

"The Bankee program is part of our broader commitment to promoting financial inclusion and spreading financial culture among all segments of society. It also aligns with the bank's sustainability strategy, which focuses on supporting education as a fundamental part, reflecting our firm belief that it is the cornerstone of Kuwait's renaissance and progress," Al-Marzouq added.

"The program also establishes a concept that the bank strongly supports and encourages in delivering its social responsibility, which is cooperating with public and private sector entities to implement various initiatives, launch programs and entering into partnerships to extend support to all segments of society in different fields.

Having achieved a remarkable success in its pilot phase, Bankee encouraged more schools and students to join it. Out of 150 applicants, 30 schools have been enrolled in the program so far, in addition to a special needs school for learning difficulties (Joan Al-Kuwait Elementary School), with a total of 15,000 students and more than 3,000 teachers.

Bankee also launched its website in Arabic and English, as well as social media pages on Instagram, TikTok and YouTube, to enable all participants to

benefit from the provided content, activities and events held at different schools all year round.

It is worth mentioning that NBK has recently been honored with the Bronze Award from Qorus in the Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) category for Bankee Program. This recognition signifies the bank's commitment to incorporating innovations that integrate sustainability and environmental, social, and governance standards into its activities.

"Bankee" stands as the pioneering program launched by NBK, designed to contribute to financial inclusion, especially among school students, with a view to promote sustainable financial literacy within the community in the future. NBK officially kick started the program in October 2023 in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Nazaha.

Felicitations speeches by dignitaries and officials

Kozhikode Fest 2024 celebrates 14th anniversary in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: Kozhikode District Association Kuwait's 14th Anniversary Celebration "Kozhikode Fest 2024" was held at Abbasia Central School Open Auditorium which was specially prepared in Mamukoya Nagar under the leadership of President Mr. Najeeb PV. General Manager Philip Koshy, of Al Mulla Exchange Company inaugurated the function. Javed bin Hameed, the General Secretary, provided an explanation on the organizational matters. The souvenir was released and presented to the main sponsor, Medx Medical Care President & CEO Mr. Muhammad Ali V.P by the Sponsor Committee Convener Mr. Shaji KV and Souvenir Committee Convener Mr. Najeeb TK.

Mango Hyper Chairman Mr. Rafeeq Ahmed, Malabar Gold Zonal Head Mr. Afzal Khan, Goscor Founder & CEO Mr. Amal Haridas, Association Patrons Mr. Hamid Keloth, Mr. Ragesh Parambath, Mahilavedi President Mrs. Hasina Ashraf, General Secretary Mrs. Rekha S and Treasurer Mrs. Mizna Faisal gave the felicitation speeches. The officials handed over the memento to the main sponsors at the venue. Program General Convener Haneef C welcomed the Audience and treasurer Santosh Kumar gave vote of thanks.

Muhammad Ali, Operation Manager of mango hyper with Chairman & MD Mr. Rafiq Ahmed handed over the key



of the car to Ms. Kumari, the winner of the coupon draw given to customers by Mango Hyper as part of their 17th anniversary during the event.

Dance programs led by Association Mahilavedi and Balavedi was the main highlight and Medex team enhanced the event by giving musical tribute in

memory of Kozhikode's unique artist Mamukoya. The Kozhikode Fest 2024 gala night, led by singers Shyam Millennium, Fazila Banu, Sneha Ashok, Shanif and Musavvir with the orchestra team of Nabeel, Hakeem, Mubashir and Manoj was a grand success. Dr. Merlin Anchored the Func-

tion and Event partner INSHOT Media Factory which made the program memorable.

Harshad Kayanna was the winner of the Kozhikode Fest Raffle Coupon Draw. Association office bearers, wing conveners and CEC members presided over the Kozhikode fest.

'Showcase of Talent and Intellect'

IMWA hosts EDUMEET 2024 at Indian Community School

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: The Indian Muslim Welfare Association (IMWA) recently hosted the much-anticipated EDUMEET 2024 on 3rd May 2024 at Indian Community School Salmiya auditorium. IMWA EDUMEET is an event designed to provide a platform for Indian students in Kuwait to exhibit their prowess in public speaking and essay writing. Held under the overarching theme of fostering educational activities and raising awareness on current affairs, EDUMEET 2024 saw enthusiastic participation from students across various Indian schools in Kuwait.

The event commenced with solemnity as Mohammed Faizan delivered a poignant recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by an eloquent English translation by Ahmed Faizer. Mr. Harit Shelat, Second Secretary from the Embassy of India, Kuwait, then graced the occasion with his insightful address, setting the tone for a day filled with intellectual stimulation.

Adding a literary flair to the proceedings, IMWA unveiled their annual magazine, showcasing the literary talents within the community. The excitement escalated as the rules for the essay writing competition were announced, categorizing participants based on their academic levels into three groups namely Group A for grades 7th and 8th, Group B for grades 9th and 10th and Group C for grades 11th and 12th.

Meanwhile, as budding writers poured their thoughts onto paper, motivational speaker Mr. Crawford Wilson D'souza engaged the audience with his inspiring words and interactive presentation.

The highlight of the event, however, was the debate competition, where students deliberated on the topic, "Is the Indian education system better than the foreign education system?" With 10 teams passionately advocating for and against the motion, the stage was set for a battle of intellects. A distinguished panel of judges, including Dr. Navnit Gandhi, Dr. Hasan Ali Khan, Dr. Sabiha Bilgrami, and Dr. Radhika Bhardwaj, meticulously evaluated each presentation, creating an atmosphere of intellectual rigor.

To keep spirits high, the hosts, Summaya Parveen and Israa Naem, interspersed the event with interactive spot quiz and prizes ensuring that the audience remained engaged throughout.

As the debate reached its end, Dr. Mohammed Naemuddin, President of IMWA, took the stage to address the audience, expressing his gratitude to

all participants and attendees. Subsequently, the judges for both the debate and essay writing were honoured for their invaluable contribution, underscoring the significance of their discerning adjudication.

The moment of anticipation arrived as the winners were announced for the debate and essay writing competition. Participants who emerged victorious in the debate competition were

Winner: Arnab Rai - Fahheel Al Watanieh Indian Private School
1st Runner Up: Pranav Sheetal Nambiar - Indian Educational School
2nd Runner Up: Shivani Menon - Indian Community School, Salmiya Senior Branch

The prestigious school trophy for the best debate team was awarded to Indian Educational School debate team of Pranav Sheetal Nambiar and Evan-na Sarah Brijes.

Around 100 students participated in the essay writing competition showcasing exemplary writing skills. Participants who emerged victorious were

Essay Writing Winners (Group-A) - Grades (VII - VIII)

Winner: Sevyn Titus Mathee - United Indian School

1st Runner up: Amber Bint Aurif - Learners Own Academy

2nd Runner up: Felix Francis - Indian Community School, Amman Branch

IMWA Talent: Areeb Khan - Essay Writing Winners (Group-B) - Grades (IX - X)

Winner: Ayman M.Y. Kunju - Al Rashid Indian School

1st Runner up: Sehrish Khan - Indian Community School, Amman Branch

2nd Runner Up: Arnab Rai - Fahheel Al Watanieh Indian Private School

IMWA Talent: Safa Anwar - Essay Writing Winners (Group-C) - Grades (XI - XII)

Winner: Shana Sahir Varikoli - Indian Educational School

1st Runner up: Anica Anil Pinto - Indian English Academy School

2nd Runner Up: Malavika Happy A - Indian Educational School

IMWA Talent: Nafisa Ali

With the formalities concluded, the event culminated in a joyous photo session, capturing memories of camaraderie and intellectual fervour. EDUMEET 2024 not only provided a platform for academic expression but also fostered a sense of community and collaboration among Indians in Kuwait.



EDUMEET 2024

Fans follow Swift to Europe for cheaper Eras Tour tickets

LONDON, May 8, (AP) — Thousands of ride-or-die Taylor Swift fans who missed out on her US concert tour last year or didn't want to buy exorbitantly priced tickets to see her again found an out-of-the-way solution: Fly to Europe.

The pop star is scheduled to kick off the 18-city Europe leg of her record-setting Eras Tour in Paris on Thursday, and planeloads of Swifties plan to follow Miss Americana across the pond in the coming weeks. The arena where Swift is appearing said Americans bought 20% of the tickets for her four sold-out shows. Stockholm, the tour's next stop, expects about 10,000 concertgoers from the U.S.

A concert might sound like an odd *raison d'être* for visiting a foreign country, especially when fans can watch the Eras Tour from home via the documentary now streaming on Disney+. Yet online travel company Expedia says continent-hopping by Swift's devotees is part of a larger trend it dubbed "tour tourism" while observing a pattern that emerged during Beyoncé's Renaissance world tour.

Some North American fans who plan to fly overseas for the Eras Tour said they justified the expense after noticing that tighter restrictions on ticket fees and resales in Europe made seeing Swift perform abroad no more costly - and potentially cheaper - than catching her closer to home.

"They said, 'Wait a minute, I can either spend \$1,500 to go see my favorite artist in Miami, or I can take that \$1,500 and buy a concert ticket, a round-trip plane ticket, and three nights in a hotel room,'" Melanie Fish, an Expedia spokesperson and travel expert, said.

That was the experience of Jennifer Warren, 43, who lives in St. Catharines, a city in the Niagara region of Ontario. She and her 11-year-old son love Swift but had no luck scoring what she considered as decently priced tickets in the U.S. Undeterred, Warren and her husband decided to plan a European vacation around wherever she managed to get seats. It turned out to be Hamburg, Germany.

"You get out, you get to see the world, and you get to see your favorite artist or performer at the same time, so there are a lot of wins to it," said Warren, who works as the director of research and innovation for a mutual insurance company.

Phenomenon

The three VIP tickets she secured close to the stage - "I would call it brute-force dumb luck" - cost 600 euros (\$646) each. Swift subsequently announced six November tour dates in Toronto, within driving distance of Warren's home. "Absolute nose-bleed seats" already are going for 3,000 Canadian dollars (\$2,194) on secondary resale sites like Viagogo, Warren said.

Hard-core fans trailing their favorite singer or band on tour is not a new phenomenon. "Groupie" emerged in the late 1960s as a somewhat derogatory word for the ardent followers of rock bands. Deadheads took to the road in the 1970s to pursue the Grateful Dead from city to city.

More recently, music festivals like California's Coachella and England's Glastonbury, and concert residencies in Las Vegas by the likes of Elton John, Lady Gaga and Adele, have attracted travelers to places

they wouldn't otherwise visit, Fish noted.

Travel and entertainment analysts have also spoken of a pent-up consumer demand for "experiences" over material objects since the coronavirus pandemic. Some think the willingness of music lovers to broaden their fandom horizons is part of the same mass cultural correction.

"It does seem like it's more than a structural shift, maybe a personality transformation we all went through," said Natalia Lechmanova, the chief Europe economist for the Mastercard Economics Institute.

As Swift hopscoches across Europe, Lechmanova expects restaurants and hotels to see the same boost that Mastercard observed within a 2.5-mile (4-kilometer) radius of concert venues in the U.S. cities she visited in 2023. The U.S. dollar's strong value against the euro may also increase retail spending on apparel, memorabilia, beauty products and supplies for the friendship bracelets fans exchange as part of the Eras Tour experience, the economist said.

Former college roommates Lizzy Hale, 34, who lives in Los Angeles, and Mitch Goulding, 33, who lives in Austin, Texas, already had tickets to see the Eras Tour in L.A. last summer when they decided to try to get ones for Paris, London or Edinburgh, Scotland, too. They saw a Europe concert trip as a makeup for travel plans they had in May 2020 to celebrate Goulding's birthday but had to cancel due to the pandemic.

Goulding managed to secure VIP tickets for one of Swift's three Stockholm shows. He, Hale and two other friends scheduled a 10-day trip that also includes time in Amsterdam and Copenhagen.

Music

Variety



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Ryan Gosling, left, in a scene from 'The Fall Guy.' (AP)

Film

Stunt performers on their rough-and-tumble life

'Fall Guy' celebrates Hollywood's 'heroes'

NEW YORK, May 8, (AP) — There are two things to keep in mind while being burned alive for a movie scene.

The first, says stunt performer Ben Jenkin, is not to breathe in a flame. That would be bad. Jenkin was reminded of that over and over before doing his first fire burn (and then seven more) in David Leitch's "The Fall Guy," an action extravaganza that affectionately celebrates the rough-and-tumble lives of stunt performers.

The other thing: Keep moving. "Moving forward and keeping the fire behind you allows you to breathe and to control the fire," Jenkin says. "Movement is your friend."

That would make a decent slogan for stunt performers who have, since the early days of Hollywood, fueled the mayhem of movies. Since at least when the facade of a house fell around Buster Keaton in "Steamboat Bill, Jr.," stunt performers have played a vital role in sustaining the illusion of countless car chases, bar fights, rooftop leaps and, yes, guys on fire.

By its nature, it's nearly anonymous work, with stunt performers doubling for daintier stars. But Leitch, a long-time stuntman before he became a director, and "The Fall Guy," hope to redefine the role of stunt work in Hollywood. "The Fall Guy," which features nearly every kind of stunt imaginable, arrives as a growing chorus is calling for a new Oscar category for stunt performance.

"It was never really about: The individual stunt performer needs to be recognized," says Leitch, who spent years as Brad Pitt's double before transitioning to directing with "John Wick." "It was more about the contribution of the department. We create these sequences, whether it's for Paul Thomas Anderson or Adam Sandler or James Cameron."

The most eye-catching stunts come in big-budget action movies like "The Fall Guy," but nearly every studio movie involves some stunt work. Take Chris O'Hara, head of Stunts Unlimited and the stunt designer on "The Fall Guy." He's not only a veteran of innovative, stunt-heavy films like "The Matrix" and the Jason Bourne series but he was also the guy who caught Saoirse Ronan when she leapt out of a (seemingly) moving car in Greta Gerwig's "Lady Bird."

With "The Fall Guy," O'Hara is the first person to be credited as a "stunt designer," a designation that's been approved by SAG-AFTRA and the Directors Guild. To O'Hara, that credit better represents what's usually

called stunt coordination. Conceptualizing and crafting elaborate sequences requires more than making sure everyone stays safe.

When they were starting out in Los Angeles, Leitch and O'Hara lived together. Their garage was stuffed with mats and air bags. They dug a hole in the backyard and put a trampoline in it. "The landlord never caught us," says Leitch, grinning. They, along with four other stuntmen including Chad Stahelski, set out with big ambitions to make their mark on Hollywood. While cutting their teeth on TV shows like "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," they trained. Some were gymnasts, some drivers, some martial arts experts.

"It was a nonstop circus of skills you need but it's fun to learn them," says Leitch. "Hard on your body, but fun."

Sequences

They became masters of their craft - or at least mostly. Leitch never got driving down. On "The Mexican," he crashed an El Camino into its only back-up, another El Camino.

But eventually, filmmaking seemed like one more skill to hone. Leitch had become adept at pre-visualizing sequences as a moving storyboard to show directors how an action scene would move and fit together. Plus, he was accustomed to keeping a cool head in extreme circumstances. How scary could directing be compared to standing on a ledge as a production raced to get a high fall in before the day's light went?

"When you've had life and death stakes, what's the worst that can happen in a scene?" says Leitch. "I have to cut it differently?"

Leitch has since become a sought-after action director, helming films like "Atomic Blonde," "Deadpool 2" and "Bullet Train," in which Pitt starred. That was a full circle moment for the former star-stuntman tandem but "The Fall Guy" might be more so. Based on the 1980s Lee Majors TV series, it's a comic, behind-the-scenes ode to the nature of stunt work and on-set life.

Ryan Gosling stars as Colt Seavers, a veteran stuntman and double for star Tom Ryder (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) whose romance with a fellow crew member, Jody Moreno (Emily Blunt), is severed after an accident on set only to fitfully resume years later. By then Jody is directing her first feature and Colt is brought in as a stuntman, including for that fire-burn scene.

For Leitch and Kelly McCormick, his wife and production partner, both the stunts and the love story of "The Fall Guy" have a touch of autobiography. After a years-long working relationship, McCormick and Leitch were married in 2014 and together run their production company 87North.

At the SXSW premiere of "The Fall Guy," Gosling proudly announced what few actors do: He did not do his own stunts. The movie required five stuntmen to double as Gosling, including Jenkin and Logan Holladay. In the film, Holladay sets a new record for cannon rolls of a vehicle, rolling a Jeep Grand Cherokee eight and a half times down a Australian beach. In one of the movie's many ironic moments, you can see Holladay strapping Gosling into the car just before the scene.

Before working in film, Jenkin was accomplished in parkour. "I feel right into stunts," he puns. His gift for contorting himself through the air and landing on the designated spot has made him one of the most sought-after stuntmen. Still, "The Fall Guy" was the busiest he's ever been on a movie. "I can't remember how many times I went through a pane of glass," says Jenkin.

Some moves were new for Jenkin, like getting hit by a car. "Hips over hood," Leitch advised him.

"When you're a kid and you watch Jackie Chan running down the street and he's chasing a bus and then he hooks onto the bus with an umbrella, you're like, 'That's so cool,'" Jenkin says. "Now we get to live that. Me and Ryan were surfing a door across the Harbour Bridge holding onto the back of a bin truck with a shovel. When do you get to do things like that?"

Though the campaign has been ongoing for years, it will take time for the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences to embrace a new category. They have some strength in numbers; stunt professionals make up the largest group of members in the academy's Production and Technology branch.

"It's not that they want more recognition than any other sort of department. These days, they're in almost every film," says McCormick. "They are front and center working with all the other departments - including, by the way, they go to post. A lot of times they are helping the editor find the way through a sequence. I haven't had a hair person come to post ever."

BARCELONA, Spain: Spanish state prosecutors recommended Wednesday that an investigating judge shelve a probe into another alleged case of tax fraud by pop star Shakira.

The Colombian singer is under investigation for the alleged evasion of 6.7 million euros (\$7.2 million) in taxes on her 2018 income via an offshore company. She has denied wrongdoing.

State prosecutors, who had initially brought the allegations forward, are now saying "there is not sufficient evidence" of a possible fiscal crime.

It will be up to the investigating judge to decide whether to continue with the probe, and possibly recommend that the case be tried, or dismissed.

In a separate case, Shakira struck a deal in November with prosecutors whereby she acknowledged she had failed to pay Spanish government 14.5 million euros (about \$15.6 million) in taxes between 2012 and 2014.

Shakira currently resides in Miami after having left Spain following her breakup with the now former soccer player Gerard Pique. (AP)

NEW YORK: One-time movie mogul Harvey Weinstein was returned to a New York City jail in what his publicist said Tuesday was the result from a published report claiming he was getting VIP treatment during his 10-day stay at a hospital.

The publicist, **Juda Engelmeyer**, said Weinstein was moved late Monday from Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan to an infirmary at the city's **Rikers Island** jail complex.

The move came hours after The City, a nonprofit news outlet, reported that Weinstein was housed in a private room in the hospital's intensive care unit with a television, phone and a bathroom rather than a separate floor where inmates normally reside.

Engelmeyer disputed the account, saying Weinstein "wasn't getting preferential or VIP treatment" and wasn't housed in what could be characterized as a hospital suite. Engelmeyer said he'd been housed on the floor for inmates where everyone has access to a room with phones and a television room.

"He's been moved back to Rikers largely due to pressure, I

believe, due to pressure because of the news about what somebody thought was VIP treatment," he said.

Weinstein was brought to Bellevue Hospital only hours after he was transferred on April 26 from the Mohawk Correctional Facility, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) northwest of Albany, to Rikers



Shakira



Weinstein

less than a day after the New York Court of Appeals vacated his conviction. (AP)

NEW YORK: No, Katy Perry and Rihanna didn't attend the Met Gala this year. But that didn't stop AI-generated images from tricking some fans into thinking the stars

made appearances on the steps of fashion's biggest night.

Deepfake images depicting a handful of big names at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's annual fundraiser quickly spread online Monday and early Tuesday.

Some eagle-eyed social media users spotted discrepancies - and platforms themselves, such as X's

Community Notes, soon noted that the images were likely created using artificial intelligence. One clue that a viral picture of Perry in a flower-covered gown, for example, was bogus is that the carpeting on the stairs matched that from the 2018 event, not this year's green-tinged fabric lined with live foliage. (AP)

Features

ARABIC TIMES

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

People & Places

Music

Shooting probed

Drake and Lamar's epic feud decoded

LOS ANGELES, May 8, (AP): In one of the biggest beefs in recent hip-hop history, Drake and Kendrick Lamar are feuding - to the point that police were asked about their feud after a security guard was shot outside Drake's Toronto mansion on Tuesday. But it wasn't always this way.

Over a decade ago, the pair collaborated on a few songs: On Drake's 2011 track "Buried Alive Interlude," on Lamar's 2012 release "Poetic Justice," and on ASAP Rocky's "(Expletive) Problems" that same year.

That didn't last very long. In 2013, Pulitzer Prize winner Lamar was featured on Big Sean's "Control," in which he called out a slew of contemporary rappers including Drake, J. Cole, Meek Mill, Pusha T, ASAP Rocky, Big K.R.I.T., Wale, Pusha T and even Big Sean among them.

"I got love for you all, but I'm trying to murder you," he rapped. "Trying to make sure your core fans never heard of you."

Drake responded in a Billboard cover story, saying "I know good and well that Kendrick's not murdering me, at all, in any platform." Shortly afterward, at the 2013 BET Hip-Hop Awards, Lamar took another jab at Drake.

Over the next few years, the rappers launched disses at each other with less frequency. Drake had other beefs with other performers, like Meek Mill in 2015, and most infamously Pusha T in 2018, where the latter rapper dropped "The Story of Adidon," revealing Drake is a father.

In October 2023, J. Cole perhaps accidentally reignited the beef on "First Person Shooter" with Drake. He rapped "Love when they argue the hardest MC/Is it K-Dot? Is it Aubrey? Or me?" referencing Lamar and Drake's birth name, Aubrey Graham. "We the big three like we started a league/but right now, I feel like Muhammad Ali."

Rumors

Which brings us to the current moment. Here's a timeline of the developments in recent weeks - it should be noted that diss tracks between rappers often include exaggerated truths and unsubstantiated rumors for dramatic effect, and that police have not said the feud led to Tuesday's shooting.

"The big three," Lamar raps, referencing J. Cole's boast. "It's just big me."

He references Drake's 2023 album "For All the Dogs," and also compares himself to Prince and Drake to Michael Jackson: "Prince outlived Mike Jack."

J. Cole soon releases a response, "7 Minute Drill," but quickly apologizes for it onstage at his Dreamville Festival in Raleigh, N.C.

Drake's response is leaked and later premiered by DJ Akademiks. "You ain't in no Big Three, SZA got you wiped down, Travis got you wiped down, Savage got you wiped down," he raps about Lamar.

It also assumed Drake takes aim at Future, Metro Boomin, Rick Ross and The Weeknd - Ross releases a response track shortly afterward.

Drake's second diss track used artificial intelligence technology to include verses from Tupac and Snoop Dogg, two of Lamar's influences. In his own verse, Drake accuses Lamar of delaying his response track because of the imminent release of Taylor Swift's "The Tortured Poets Department." (Lamar collaborated with Swift on "Bad Blood.")

Tupac's estate threatened to sue Drake in response, so he removed the song from his social channels.

Snoop Dogg responded to the news in a video on Instagram. "They did what? When? How? Are you sure?" he said. "I'm going back to bed. Good night."

This is where it gets more complicated. Lamar's "Euphoria" hits like an opus, unleashing a slew of allegations against Drake. He comes after Drake's skills as a rapper, use of AI, appearance, racial identity, and parenting.

"I got a son to raise, but I can see you know nothin' 'bout that," Lamar raps.

The title is a reference to the HBO series "Euphoria," of which Drake is an executive producer.

Lamar teases that he'll go "back-to-back" with his tracks.

In Lamar's next diss, titled after a time and location like Drake is wont to do, Lamar targets the company Drizzy keeps. "Have you ever thought that OVO was working for me? Fake bully, I hate bullies," he raps, referencing Drake's record label. "You must be a terrible person/Everyone inside your team is whispering that you deserve it."

Relationship

According to Billboard, the song was produced by Sounwave and Jack Antonoff - the latter notably Swift's longtime producer. It also samples Al Green's "What a Wonderful Thing Love Is," on which one of Drake's relatives played guitar.

Drake hits back with a music video and a nearly eight-minute response, in which he alleges abuse and infidelity in Lamar's relationship with his fiancée.

Almost immediately afterward, Lamar releases "Meet the Grahams," which begins with the rapper addressing Drake's son: "I'm sorry that man is your father." Lamar also addresses Drake's parents, and "a baby girl," alleging that Drake has a secret daughter. He also labels Drake a "predator," without elaborating.

Hours later, Lamar doubles down, releasing "Not Like Us," produced by DJ Mustard.

"Say, Drake, I hear you like 'em young/You better not ever go to cell block one," Lamar raps.

Referencing Lamar's "The Heart" series, Drake drops "The Heart Part 6" in response. In the song, which samples Aretha Franklin's "Prove It," Drake challenges Lamar's allegations, doubles down on his own against him, and says that he does not have a secret daughter.

Meanwhile, police are investigating a shooting outside rapper Drake's mansion in Toronto that left a security guard seriously wounded.

Authorities did not confirm whether Drake was at home at the time of the shooting, but said his team is cooperating. The shooting happened around 2 a.m. Tuesday in the affluent Bridle Path neighborhood of Toronto.

Toronto Police Inspector Paul Krawczyk said video of the shooting had been recovered and the guard who was wounded remains hospitalized.

In recent weeks, Drake has been engaged in a rap feud with Kendrick Lamar, with each artist dropping diss tracks attacking the other.



TALI of Luxembourg performs the song Fighter during the first semifinal at the Eurovision Song Contest in Malmo, Sweden, Tuesday, May 7. (AP)



Johnny Logan of Ireland, two-time Eurovision winner, performs the song Euphoria during the first semifinal at the Eurovision Song Contest in Malmo, Sweden, Tuesday, May 7. (AP)



Jonathan



Harry

Variety

CHANGSHA: When Joyce Jonathan performed the song "Les Champs-Elysees" in both French and Chinese, people in China learned a new word -- "chanson," a poetic and romantic genre of music from France.

Jonathan is participating in "Ride the Wind 2024," becoming the first French singer-songwriter to take part in the hit Chinese music competition formerly known as "Sisters Who Make Waves." The show, produced by Mango TV, challenges female celebrities, mostly above the age of 30, to stage performances that defy age stereotypes.

In an interview with Xinhua, Jonathan said that her foray into Chinese reality shows was driven by her love for the Chinese culture and a wish to "show a possible bridge between the French and Chinese cultures."

"I haven't participated in reality shows back in France," she said. "I accepted the invitation this time because it is a huge challenge, and because I want to learn more Chinese and learn to sing in Chinese."

Jonathan's parents both have a love for the Chinese culture, and her mother runs a travel agency that began promoting tours to China back in the 1990s. Jonathan visited China with her mother for the first time at the age of 10 and has since formed a lasting bond with the country.

As a child, she received her first scooter and guitar in Beijing. And as she grew up, she gravitated toward Chinese philosophies like Daoism and Confucianism. Since her first album was released in 2010, she has translated several songs into Chinese and has returned to China regularly to perform.

Now at 34, Jonathan is learning Yue opera, a traditional Chinese opera style that features male roles played by women, as part of the competition. (Xinhua)

ANAHEIM, Calif.: Disney has received a key approval to expand its Southern California theme parks in its first push to make major changes to its iconic Disneyland in decades.

The Anaheim City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to approve the plan to transform Disney's 490-acre (488-hectare) campus in densely-populated Southern California by moving parking to a multi-story structure and redeveloping a massive lot with new entertainment and rides. It was a second, required vote for the plan after the council gave initial approval last month. The approved zoning changes and ordinances require another 30 days for

Music

Gaza war casts a shadow on song contest

Eurovision begins amid pop, protests

MALMO, Sweden, May 8, (AP): Competition in the 68th Eurovision Song Contest kicked off Tuesday in Sweden, with the war in Gaza casting a shadow over the sequin-spangled pop extravaganza.

Performers representing countries across Europe and beyond took the stage in the first of two semifinals in the Swedish city of Malmo. It and a second semifinal on Thursday will winnow a field of 37 nations to 26 who will compete in Saturday's final against a backdrop of both parties and protests.

Ten of the 15 acts performing Tuesday were voted through to the final by viewers. They include Croatian singer-songwriter Baby Lasagna, whose infectious electro number "Rim Tim Tagi Dim" is the current favorite to win, and Ukrainian duo Alyona Alyona and Jerry Heil, flying the flag for their war-battered nation with the anthemic "Teresa & Maria."

Also making the cut were goth-style Irish singer Bambie Thug, 1990s-loving Finnish prankster Windows95man and Portuguese crooner Iolanda. Iceland, Azerbaijan, Poland, Moldova and Australia were eliminated.

Other bookmakers' favorites who will perform Thursday include non-binary Swiss singer Nemo, Italian TikTok star Angelina Mango and the Netherlands' Joost Klein with his playful pop-rap song "Europapa."

Security is tight in the Swedish city, which expects an influx of some 100,000 Eurovision fans, along with tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters. Israel is a Eurovision participant, and demonstrations are planned on Thursday and Saturday against the Israel-Hamas war, which has left almost 35,000 Palestinians dead.

Organizers told Israel to change the lyrics of its entry, originally titled "October Rain" in apparent reference to Hamas' cross-border Oct. 7 attack that killed some 1,200 Israelis and triggered the war. The song was renamed "Hurricane" and Israeli singer Eden Golan was allowed to remain in the contest.

Jean Philip De Tender, deputy director-general of Eurovision organizer the European Broadcasting Union, told Sky News that banning Israel "would have been a political decision, and as such (one) which we cannot take."

Police from across Sweden have been drafted in for Eurovision week, along with reinforcements from neighboring Denmark and Norway.

Eurovision's motto is "United by Music," but national rifts and political divisions often cloud the contest despite organizers' efforts to keep politics out.

Performed

Flags and signs are banned, apart from participants' national flags and the rainbow pride flag. That means Palestinian flags will be barred inside the Malmo Arena contest venue.

Some musicians seem determined to make a point. Eric Saade, a former Swedish Eurovision contestant who performed as part of Tuesday's show, had a keffiyeh, a headscarf associated with the Palestinian cause, tied around his wrist as he sang.

Afterwards, organizers said in a statement that "we regret that Eric Saade chose to compromise the non-political nature of the event."

Performers are feeling political pressure, with some saying they have been inundated with messages on social media urging them to boycott the event.

"I am being accused, if I don't boycott Eurovision, of being an accomplice to genocide in Gaza," Germany's contestant, Isaak, said in an interview published by broadcaster ZDF. He said he did not agree.

"We are meeting up to make music, and when we start shutting people out categorically, there will be fewer and fewer of us," he said. "At some point there won't be an event anymore."

One person who knows how Eurovision unity can collide with bitter reality is singer Manizha Sangin, who represented Russia at the contest in 2021. The country was expelled the following year over its invasion of Ukraine.

Manizha, who performs under her first name, spoke out against the war. As a result, her performances were canceled in Russia and her music banned from public spaces. The singer remains in Russia but has found it all but impossible to work.

"People are afraid to work with me here because they're afraid to have consequences after, problems after that," she said.

Despite the difficulties, Manizha has recorded a single, "Candlelight," which she is releasing on Wednesday as "a message of hope."

"Music cannot stop war," she said. But "what music can do is inspire people."

Manizha thinks Russia will one day return to the Eurovision fold - but not soon.

"Maybe next generation," she said. "But for now, relationships are too complicated. And then that makes me sad, you know, because that's why people are not hearing each other. Because we are separated from each other. And the thing, is music should unite."

changes to take effect.

The proposal doesn't expand the parks' physical footprint but will help Disney create new, immersive experiences for visitors by building a land such as the snow-covered hamlet of Arendelle from "Frozen" or the critter-filled metropolis of "Zootopia." It requires Disney to invest at least \$1.9 billion in the project over the next decade and spend tens of millions of dollars on street improvements, affordable housing and other infrastructure in the city of 345,000 people. (AP)

MINNEAPOLIS: People buying tickets online for concerts, sporting events and other live events in Minnesota will be guaranteed

more transparency and protection under a so-called Taylor Swift bill signed into law Tuesday by Gov. Tim Walz.

The law, prompted by the frustration a legislator felt at not being able to buy tickets to Swift's 2023 concert in Minneapolis, will require ticket sellers to disclose all fees up front and prohibit resellers from selling more than one copy of a ticket, among other measures. The law will apply to tickets purchased in Minnesota or other states for concerts or other live events held in Minnesota.

Walz signed House File 1989 - a reference to Swift's birth year and an album with that title - at First Avenue, a popular concert venue in downtown Minneapolis. "Never in my wildest dreams did I im-

agine that we would be at a bill signing for House File 1989 at First Avenue," Democratic Rep. Kelly Moller, chief author of the bill, said.

Moller was among thousands of people who became stuck in ticket sales company Ticketmaster's system after it crashed in 2022 amid the huge demand for Swift concert tickets and attacks from bots, which tried to buy tickets for resale at inflated prices. The situation led to congressional hearings but no federal legislation.

Supporters of Minnesota's new law say the state joins Maryland as among the few states to pass protections for ticket buyers into law.

Ticketmaster did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the new Minnesota law. Taylor Swift's media team also did not respond. (AP)

LONDON: Prince Harry arrived in London on Tuesday to mark the 10th anniversary of the Invictus Games but won't see his father during the visit, a spokesperson said.

King Charles III, who returned to his official duties last week after being sidelined for three months with cancer, is too busy to meet with his youngest son, the spokesperson for the Duke of Sussex said. "The duke of course is understanding of his father's ... commitments and various other priorities and hopes to see him soon," a statement said.

Harry, who has a strained relationship with his family, rushed to London in February for a very brief visit after his father was diagnosed with an undisclosed type of cancer.

Harry, 39, has seen his father infrequently since the prince quit royal duties in 2020 and moved to California with his wife, Meghan, citing what they said were unbearable intrusions and racist attitudes of the British media. He has since detailed his rocky relationship with his family in TV interviews, a documentary and a memoir, "Spare." (AP)



Director and Producer Ridley Scott is made a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire by Prince William, the Prince of Wales, in recognition to his services to the UK film industry, at Windsor Castle, in Windsor, England, Wednesday, May 8. (AP)

Dr. Al Awadhi urges collaborative efforts in child abuse prevention

Ministry of Health in partnership with Zain kick-off nationwide awareness campaign to promote Child Protection Helpline 147

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: The Kuwait Ministry of Health (MoH) in partnership with the country's leading digital service provider, Zain, announced the kick-off of a nationwide awareness campaign to promote the Child Protection Helpline 147.

The dedicated hotline, which was first provided by Zain to MoH's Child Protection Office in 2016, establishes a direct and confidential point-of-contact to report all forms of child abuse, neglect, or harm in Kuwait.

The initiative was announced during a ceremony held at Zain's headquarters in Shuwaikh, where H.E. Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Abdulwahab Al Awadhi; Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, Bader Al-Kharafi; Zain Kuwait CEO, Nawaf Algharabally; and Child Protection Office Director, Dr. Mona Al Khawari were present, along with the Ministry's top officials and Zain's executive team.

H.E. Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Abdulwahab Al Awadhi commented: "Acting against child abuse and neglect is a top priority for the Ministry of Health via the Child Protection High Committee, which laid the foundations, plans, and necessary measures to protect every child from harm. The committee operates according to scientific plans and strategies and has taken impactful steps to promote a culture that protects children and monitors any neglect or abuse cases. It is also tasked with studying abuse causes and formulating suitable solutions to prevent them in partnership with other related stakeholders."

Dr. Al Awadhi continued: "In continuation of the Ministry's efforts in this regard, a special team was formed to protect children across all of Kuwait's Governorates. The multi-disciplinary team consists of doctors, nurses, mental health professionals, and social workers. MoH also formed the Child Protection Office under the Ministry's legal office, and it is responsible for managing the necessary teams, decision making, and protocols."

The Minister noted: "MoH's Child Protection Office is an example of the collaboration between ministries, government and non-government agencies, and civil society organizations. The Office develops and operates strategies and national projects that are consistent with global plans, in line with the decision of the General Assembly of the World Health Organization to guide healthcare systems to combat abuse against children, girls, and women. MoH played a bigger role through a multi-sectoral national strategy that includes prevention, awareness, offering services to victims, and more."

Collaboration

Dr. Al Awadhi also shed light on the fruitful collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Zain, which resulted in the establishment of the 147 helpline since 2016. The hotline receives abuse reports and provides mental counseling to children and their parents. He also noted that the helpline is recognized by Child Helpline International (CHI), and the campaign launch coincided with the International Day for Child Helplines.

In addition, the Minister applauded the legislative achievement in Kuwait, with the issuing of the Children Rights Act 21 for the year 2015, which affirms children's rights and the State's responsibility to take

all the necessary measures to ensure children receive the highest level of healthcare services through preventative and curative services. Furthermore, the law contains other key branches like social care, educational care, and criminal protection, reflecting the State of Kuwait's commitment to present comprehensive care for children and their rights.

Bader Al-Kharafi said: "We take pride in the extended partnership between Zain and the Ministry of Health, which has succeeded in introducing a plethora of impactful programs and initiatives to serve everyone in our community over the years."

"This nationwide campaign reflects a wider, more comprehensive effort to heighten awareness of children's rights and bring the community's attention to the risks they face. Our initiative focuses on shedding light on the significant role of the 147 helpline that Zain provided and promoting the community's collective role in safeguarding every child in Kuwait."

Al-Kharafi continued: "At Zain, we strive to play an active role in shouldering the nation's social development plans because we strongly believe in the invaluable role the private sector plays in supporting the public sector to bring about positive change within the community."

"The helpline provides a confidential and direct point-of-contact that allows anyone to report child abuse cases, and it is supervised by an expert team of social counselors. Our campaign targets the entire community, whether individuals, companies, ministries, or civil society organizations. We will harness the power of Zain's digital reach through our social channels to spread the message and promote the campaign's mission even further."

Guidance

Zain first provided the Child Protection Helpline 147 to the MoH's Child Protection Office in 2016, and it was recently officially transferred to the Ministry. The hotline is recognized by Child Helpline International (CHI) and is available 24/7 to receive reports of all forms of child abuse, neglect, or harm. All reports are treated in utmost confidentiality, and the person who reports the alleged incident is protected under the law.

Reports through the 147 helpline are received by an expert team of counsellors and social workers from the Child Protection Office, who are trained to handle all kinds of abuse reports. The team determines the severity of every case and notifies the related authorities immediately, while also providing counseling, mental support, and social guidance to callers or victims, if necessary.

The nationwide awareness campaign targets the entire Kuwait community, including individuals and organizations, including MOH's medical institutions, encouraging medical staff, doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to report any abuse they may become aware of.

Zain has a sound history of Child Protection initiatives

Through its membership to the GSMA, Zain partnered with Child Helpline International (CHI) to represent this global network in markets where it has no presence. Ultimately, Zain's partnership with CHI succeeded in providing free access to helplines in several markets across MENA.

In the Global Child Forum's



H.E. Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al Awadhi, Bader Al Kharafi, and Dr. Mona Al Khawari with top officials from MoH and Zain.



Health Minister affirmed the State of Kuwait's efforts to protect children's rights.



Bader Al Kharafi highlighted Zain's initiatives to protect children.



Dr. Ahmad Al Awadhi, Bader Al Kharafi, and Nawaf Algharabally at the event.



A flyer of the MoH and Zain's campaign.

report entitled, The State of Children's Rights and Business 2023, Zain scored higher than the sector average and doubled the ranking of many regional corporates in key children's rights categories. Described as a 'Leader' in the benchmarking rankings, Zain scored 8.4/10 overall against an ICT sector average of 5.8/10 and a regional average of just 3.4/10. The average of all global companies benchmarked stood at 4.9/10.

As a 'Leader', Zain was described in the report as a company that "has developed and implemented several policies and practices that address your organization's impact on chil-

children's rights across several important areas. Your company has taken concrete steps to move beyond policies and have embedded children's rights into company practice, following-up through monitoring, transparent reporting, and programs to create action for children's rights."

Through Zain's community-oriented and child well-being initiatives, the company looks to continue to improve and safeguard the livelihoods of the communities it serves and beyond. This notable benchmarking recognition helps assess Zain's progress to-date in children's rights and safety and inspires the company to do even better in the future.

Child Online Safety is of great importance for Zain given that over 30% of all internet users globally are estimated to be children and with the expansion of broadband access, this number is only set to rise over time. Zain is fully committed to addressing the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.2 calling on ending all forms of violence against children by 2030.

Zain scored perfect marks in several categories in the reports' benchmarking exercise, including Standards & Guidelines; Board accountability; Materiality assessment; Supplier assessment; Grievance mechanisms; Collaboration; Prod-

uct safety; Policies & commitments; and Resource use and damage to the environment, cementing its position as a leading proponent of corporate governance, sustainability, children's rights, and sound business practices.

With the aim to further raise awareness on children's rights and online safety, Zain expanded its partnership with Child Helpline International (CHI) to support child helplines across its countries of operation. This partnership aims to enhance collaboration between child helplines, Zain, and key child protection stakeholders; explore new technologies and software to enhance the helplines; create awareness campaigns; and expand services to include instant messaging and social media.

Zain has been actively working on implementing child sexual abuse material blocking mechanisms across its operations. In recent years, the company assessed the regulations and existing blocking mechanisms in each market. As a result, the company established a goal for all its markets to have child sexual abuse material (CSAM)-blocking mechanisms in place.

Activities

In a previous initiative, Zain established a partnership with UNICEF, signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to work towards the advancement of the rights of children in the region. Zain and UNICEF collaborated based on their respective expertise on strengthening activities around child rights. The MoU covered aspects on online gaming, raising awareness on child online safety, and convening stakeholders on online protection.

Through its partnership with UNICEF, Zain collaborated to create a Child Online Safety Booklet for school students and children. The goal of the booklet is to educate children on the risks they may be exposed to while being connected online or while gaming. In addition, the booklet offers tips and recommendations on what to do and not to do while online. This booklet was developed for Zain esports to disseminate to any partnership where children are players.

In another previous initiative, Zain launched the second phase of its 'Internet Monsters' campaign, showcasing the company's commitment to raising further awareness on the risks children face online with lessons being taught through the adaptation of popular fairy tales. Internet Monsters showcases alternate plotlines to well-loved children's stories, taking into consideration how online risks such as cyberbullying; self-generated child abuse content and materials; social media addiction; or widespread online scams and threats could come to the fore if technology was introduced into the telling of the fairy tales.

The 'Internet Monsters' campaign by Zain also included the commissioning of a dedicated illustration that drew attention to the fact that children can report online risks and abuse by calling their national child helplines. The campaign also included the development of two animated videos narrating different safety tips, to be shared with children, on how to protect themselves online. The videos were directed in a light and playful manner to appeal to children.

The MOH and Zain encourage the community to report any incidents to 147 and assures all of confidentiality and protection under the law.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For your ads on this page

Call: 24813805 E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

www.arabtimesonline.com

SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE
القروانية FARWANIYA

DENTAL & COSMETIC DEPARTMENT

- SCALING & GUM TREATMENT
- COSMETIC SMILE RECONSTRUCTION
- GUM & ORAL SURGERY
- BAD BREATH TREATMENT
- SURGICAL TREATMENT
- ROOT CANAL TREATMENT
- COSMETIC FILLING
- FIXED & REMOVABLE DENTURES
- CROWN TREATMENT
- SIMPLE & SURGICAL EXTRACTION

Dr. Shajahan V.M BDS, MDS Dental Surgeon
Dr. Ayham Askar BDS Dental Surgeon
Dr. Raina Fernandes BDS Dental Surgeon

Working Time: From 9am to 1pm & 5pm to 9pm
Ph: 24 734 000
Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police station - Farwaniya
www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

Federation cites flooding for action

Brazil's soccer body suspends matches for 3 southern clubs

Delhi notches crucial 20-run victory over Rajasthan in push for playoffs

McGurk scored a whirlwind half-century

NEW DELHI, May 8, (AP): Australia's young Twenty20 batting sensation Jake Fraser-McGurk scored a whirlwind half-century as Delhi Capitals notched a crucial 20-run win over Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League.

The 22-year-old Fraser-McGurk, left out of Australia's T20 World Cup squad, gave perfect momentum upfront with a 20-ball 50 as Delhi made a challenging 221-8 after Rajasthan won the toss and elected to field at a venue where all four previous games this season were won by teams batting first.

Captain Sanju Samson kept Rajasthan in the hunt with a blistering 86 off 46 balls with six sixes and eight boundaries but his controversial dismissal in the 16th over saw the visitors finishing at 201-8 for its third loss this season.

Rajasthan has 16 points and stayed at No. 2 on net run-rate behind table-topper Kolkata Knight Riders. Delhi with 12 points is tied



Delhi Capitals' Tristan Stubbs plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals in New Delhi, India. (AP)

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil, May 8, (AP): Brazil's soccer federation has suspended matches involving three top-tier clubs of the country's flood-ridden southern region, but only for 20 days.

Gremio, Internacional and Juventude, which are based in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, will only return to activities after the harms of major flooding are mitigated, the Brazilian soccer body said in a statement Tuesday. Ten of their matches in the Brazilian league and the Brazilian Cup will be rescheduled.

The decision also applies to away matches of the three clubs.

Many fans and players had pushed for a complete halt to competitions in the South American nation.

The soccer body said it will reassess its move after May 27.

"(The Brazilian soccer confederation) stresses its unrestricted support so all measures and actions are adopted for the benefit of the population, which is the maximum priority," it said.

Later, South American soccer confederation CONMEBOL said that it postponed one group-stage match of Gremio's in the Copa Libertadores and another of Internacional's in the Copa Sudamericana.

SOCCER

Authorities say at least 95 people have been killed over the last seven days in the region and another 131 are reported missing.

Both Internacional and Gremio had their stadiums inundated in state capital Porto Alegre, with their pitches now severely damaged by the water. The stadium of Juventude, based in the countryside city of Caxias do Sul, risks being flooded in the next few days.

Only jet skis have entered the Beira-Rio and the Arena do Gremio stadiums in Porto Alegre since last week.

Porto Alegre's airport is also flooded, as are many of the city's hotels and roads, which would make it impossible for away teams to play even if the local stadiums were to be immediately cleared.

Other Brazilian clubs have expressed their support to the Rio Grande do Sul clubs and offered their facilities for training until the end of the month.

All three clubs had their weekend matches in the fifth round of the Brazilian league suspended.

Internacional is in ninth position with seven points, three behind leader Athletico Paranaense. Gremio is in 11th position with six points and Juventude has five competition points.

Damage from the rains have affected more than 1 million people in the region, according to authorities. Approximately 200,000 people are now displaced and taking refuge in schools, gymnasiums and other temporary shelters.

More heavy rains are expected until the end of the week, meteorologists say. The suspension of professional soccer matches in Rio Grande do Sul state also applies to local clubs in Brazil's third and fourth divisions, its national women's soccer league and under-20 tournaments.

CRICKET

with three other teams - Chennai Super Kings, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Lucknow Super Giants - as race for the playoffs gets tight.

Samson was in sight to seal Rajasthan's playoff spot before Shai Hope plucked a splendid catch on the edge of the boundary at long-on. Samson exchanged words with on-field umpires after he was declared out by television umpire Michael Gough as replays from one angle suggested Hope might have touched the boundary line.

Thereafter, the wheels came off from Rajasthan's run-chase and it lost five wickets for 39 runs as left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav (2-25) struck twice in one over and sealed the game for home team.

Earlier, Fraser-McGurk smashed fast bowler Avesh Khan for 28 runs in one over of power play and raced to his half-century off 19 balls before he missed out Ravichandran Ashwin's (3-24) full toss and was caught in the covers in the fifth over.

Left-handed Abhishek Porel kept the momentum going by smacking 65 off 36 balls but Ashwin stemmed the flow of runs in the middle overs. Ashwin got the key wicket of Porel in the 13th over, but Tristan Stubbs provided the late flurry with a 20-ball knock of 41 as the South African countercharged against Yuzvendra Chahal (1-48) and Trent Boult (1-48) in the death overs.

Olympic torch being welcomed in French port city of Marseille with fanfare and high security

MARSEILLE, France, May 8, (AP): Paris Games organizers have promised "fantastic" celebrations as the arrival of a majestic ship carrying the Olympic torch from Greece was expected to draw a huge crowd Wednesday in the southern French city Marseille, where the Old Port has been placed under high security.

Paris 2024 Olympics Organizing Committee President Tony Estanguet expressed his emotion at the torch's arrival in France.

"The return of the Games to our country will be a fantastic celebration," he said.

The torch was lit in Greece last month before it was officially handed to France. It left Athens aboard a three-mast ship named Belem, which was first used in 1896, and spent twelve days at sea.

More than a thousand boats will accompany the Belem's parade around the Bay of Marseille. The ship will then dock on a pontoon that looks like an athletics track in the Old Port.

The welcoming ceremony will include a demonstration by the jets of the Patrouille de France, the acrobatic team of the French air force.

"As a former athlete, I know how important the start of a competition is. That is why we chose Marseille, because it's definitely one of the cities most in love with sports," said Estanguet, a former Olympic canoeing star with gold medals from the 2000, 2004 and 2012 Games.

Olympic swimmer Florent Manaudou has been chosen to be the first carrier of the flame in France. Manaudou won four Olympic medals and he's the brother of swimmer Laure Manaudou, who won

three Olympic medals at Athens in 2004. "We are extremely proud," Marseille mayor Benoit Payan said. "This is where it all begins."

The show will "dazzle the world," said Payan, adding that up to 150,000 spectators are expected in the Old Port.

Marseille people "have a sense of celebration, a sense of the game, sport and Olympism in their guts," he said, recall-

ing that the city was founded by Greek colonists some 2,600 years ago.

Payan said all efforts have been made

OLYMPICS

to ensure security underwater, at sea, in the air and on the ground.

Heavy police and military presence was seen patrolling Marseille's city center Tuesday, as a military helicopter flew over the Old Port, where a wide range of barriers have been set up.

"There are various security threats that weigh on this event," the biggest being "the terrorist threat," French Interior Ministry spokesperson Camille Chaize said.



A flame guardian displays a lantern meant to hold the Olympic flame during security exercises at the Carpiagne military base in southern France, Monday, May 6, 2024. (AP)

The group of LIV players includes Patrick Reed

PGA Championship invites 7 LIV players to get top 100 in the world

WASHINGTON, May 8, (AP): The PGA Championship officially has Tiger Woods in a field released Tuesday that includes invitations to seven players from Saudi-funded LIV Golf, giving the major 99 of the 100 in the world ranking at Valhalla next week.

The PGA of America strives to have the top 100 in the world to maintain its reputation for having the strongest field of the four majors, although it is not part of the criteria. Those hopes ended late Tuesday when Rikuya Hoshino (No. 94) withdrew.

The PGA leans on a catch-all category of "special invitations." The group of LIV players includes Patrick Reed, whose tie for 12th in the Masters moved him inside the top 100. He is at No. 92, and the invitation keeps alive his streak of playing every major since the 2014 Masters.

The PGA Championship returns to Valhalla in Louisville, Kentucky, for the fourth time on May 16-19. Rory McIlroy won at Valhalla the last time it was there in 2014. The course is best known for Woods winning a playoff over Bob May in 2000 for his third straight major.

Joaquin Niemann, who won the Australian Open in December and has two LIV Golf wins this year, already received an invitation. The surprise was Talor Gooch announc-

ing in an X post on Monday that he had been invited.

It was a sign the PGA of America's selection committee was looking at LIV results on their own, as Gooch doesn't play much outside the Saudi league. He won three times on LIV in 2023 and won the season points list.

Other invitations went to Dean Burmester, Lucas Herbert and Adrian Meronk, all of them inside the top 100 in the world. The seventh invitation went to David Puig, the 22-year-old from Spain who is No. 106 in the ranking. Puig

has finished in the top 10 in six of his last seven tournaments on the Asian Tour, including two wins. LIV will be represented by 16 players, down from 18 a year ago.

There might have been one more, except British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen turned down his invitation. Oosthuizen, who is No. 125 in the world, won twice late last year in South Africa in tournaments co-sanctioned by the European tour.

His manager, Carlos Rodriguez, said in a text message that Oosthuizen already had some personal commitments.

The LIV group includes defend-

ing champion Brooks Koepka, who goes for a fourth PGA Championship title. He is the only active LIV player to win a major.

Kerry Haigh, the championship director for the PGA of America, has said he would consider deserving players from tours around the world. Invitations were given to Tim Widing of Sweden, who has won consecutive tournaments on the Korn Ferry Tour. BAnother invitation went to Kazuma Kobori, a 22-year-old born in Japan who now plays under the New Zealand flag. He has won three times this year

in the Webex Players Series on the PGA Tour of Australasia.

The field has 21 club professionals - 20 from the PGA Professional Championship last week, and Michael Block, who qualified by finishing among the top 15 last year at Oak Hill.

The PGA is keeping two spots open in case the winners of the Wells Fargo Championship and the Myrtle Beach Classic are not already eligible. Only four players in the 69-man field at the Wells Fargo Championship have not qualified. The first alternate is Alex Smalley.



Taylor Pendrith hits from the sand on the sixth green during the final round of the Byron Nelson golf tournament in McKinney, Texas. (AP)

GOLF

Best of the Rest

Liaoning forces decider: The Liaoning Flying Leopards registered a 107-90 road victory over the Guangdong Southern Tigers on Wednesday, leveling the best-of-five Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) semifinals at 2-2.

Three consecutive 3-pointers helped Guangdong establish an early double-digit lead at 22-12, but they suddenly lost momentum on both ends as Liaoning took 21 points in a row to surpass the hosts 33-22 with two minutes played in the second quarter.

Former NBA Houston Rockets center Zhou Qi hit all eight free throws to help Guangdong cut the deficit to 52-43 before the interval, while Liaoning extended the lead to over 20 points in the third quarter. Guangdong continued struggling in offense in the last period and witnessed the game slip out of their hand.

Mason won't return to United: The president of La Liga club Getafe Angel Torres said that Manchester United have informed him they will not be taking forward Mason Greenwood back at the end of the season.

Greenwood moved to the Spanish club at the start of the season, after Manchester United decided against keeping the 22-year-old in their squad, despite charges of attempted rape and

assault being dropped against him after prosecutors said there was "no longer a realistic prospect of conviction" in the case.

His move to Spain has been a sporting success, with 10 goals in 32 games for the club from the south of Madrid.

Greenwood's performances had caused some speculation that he could return to his parent club, or that Manchester United could receive an offer for him from elsewhere in Spain, with FC Barcelona mentioned as a possible destination.

Cambodia ready to host event: Cambodia is ready to host the second Asian Mixed Martial Arts Championship from July 11 to 13, the National Olympic Committee of Cambodia (NOCC) said on Wednesday.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet is scheduled to open the tournament at the capital's Olympic Stadium, the NOCC said, adding that the games will bring together more than 100 elite Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighters from more than 20 countries and regions across Asia.

Co-organized by the NOCC and the Olympic Council of Asia, the event will be the largest-ever gathering of MMA fighters in Cambodia, NOCC's secretary general Vath Chamreun said.



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Jalen Williams (8) drives against Dallas Mavericks forward Tim Hardaway Jr. during the second half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series in Oklahoma City. The Thunder won 117-95. (AP)
— See Page 15

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

PSG knocked out as Dortmund head to CL final

Mbappe can't pull off comeback

PARIS, May 8, (AP): London's calling, but not for Kylian Mbappé.

When Borussia Dortmund's players rushed over to their fans wearing yellow "London 24" T-shirts and joined in the celebrations after knocking out Paris Saint-Germain to reach the Champions League final, Mbappé had long left the field.

Wembley Stadium on June 1 is the final stop on Dortmund's quest for the Champions League trophy, by which time Mbappé will have played his last game for PSG having failed to win the trophy the club's cash-rich Qatari owners so crave.

Central defender Mats Hummels headed Dortmund into the final as the German team won 1-0 at PSG.

Moments after Warren Zaire-Emery missed an open goal for PSG, Hummels rose unchallenged to head in Julian Brandt's corner from the left in the 50th minute.

Dortmund advanced 2-0 on aggregate



Dortmund's Mats Hummels celebrates after the Champions League semifinal second leg soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Borussia Dortmund at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France. (AP)

gate and largely contained Mbappé, who is leaving at the end of the season. PSG exerted late pressure.

Goalkeeper Gregor Kobel palmed away Mbappé's low shot, then pushed Mbappé's deflected close-range effort onto the crossbar with a superb one-handed save. The Parc des Princes crowd groaned when midfielder Vitinha's thumping 25-meter strike rattled the woodwork. "Extremely proud. I'm very happy," Terzić said. "We beat a team like PSG two times and we again kept a clean sheet. We started really well and kept them away from the goal."

Dortmund is on course for its second Champions League trophy after winning in 1997 and a third European trophy, having won the now defunct

SOCCER

UEFA Cup Winners' Cup in 1966. Dortmund also reached the Champions League final in 2013, losing to Bayern.

"Indescribable. After more than 10 years, I am in the final with Borussia again," said Marco Reus, Dortmund's veteran midfielder who is leaving the team after this season. "How we won the game, no one will ask tomorrow. Shots against the post won't matter tomorrow."

For PSG, it's another season ending without raising the trophy its cash-rich Qatari owners have chased after by spending huge amounts on star players like Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Neymar, Lionel Messi and Mbappé. PSG lost its only Champions League final in 2020 to Bayern. "Efficiency, that's what we were missing," PSG captain Marquinhos said. "We should have defended better. They scored from a corner and a counter-attack (in the first leg). We created more chances but they won both games."

As Dortmund's players celebrated, Mbappé looked dejected as he trudged for the last time in a Champions League game wearing a PSG jersey. He is widely expected to join Madrid.

Moments before Dortmund's goal, Zaire-Emery somehow hit the post



PSG's Achraf Hakimi (right) challenges Dortmund's Karim Adeyemi during the Champions League semifinal second leg soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Borussia Dortmund at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France. (AP)

from two meters out after Gonçalo Ramos flicked on Mbappé's cross from the left.

On Hummels' goal, PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma again did not move off his line to claim the ball, having not done so when Barcelona scored on a corner from the left in the first leg of the quarterfinals. Coach Luis Enrique's players seemed nervous, playing cautiously and defending too deeply in the first half, allowing Dortmund to settle into a comfortable rhythm. Mbappé was ineffective in attack

when PSG lost the first leg and, despite their speed, Mbappé and Ousmane Dembélé struggled to find space behind a well-organized Dortmund defense with midfielder Emre Can offering good protection. It took 30 minutes before Mbappé and Zaire-Emery freed Dembélé on the right of the penalty area, but he failed to hit the target.

Speedy left winger Karim Adeyemi did so for Dortmund five minutes later when a rapid counter-attack exposed PSG's defense, but Donnarumma rescued PSG with a fine low save.

Hummel's goal at least woke up PSG's attack, but Ramos missed the target when well-placed either side of a stinging shot from left back Nuno Mendes hitting the left post.

Dembélé then cut inside Hummels, who was perhaps unfortunate not to concede a penalty midway through the second half. Referee Daniele Orsato awarded a free kick.

PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi pointed to the amount of times PSG hit the post or crossbar over both legs.

But in reality PSG again fell short,

despite boasting one of the world's best players in Mbappé.

PSG only qualified for the knockout stage in the last round of group games, losing at Newcastle and AC Milan and finishing second behind Dortmund. Overall, PSG lost five games in the competition. Mbappé's last home game for PSG - which has already clinched the French league title - will be Sunday against Toulouse, and his last for the club May 25 in the French Cup final against Lyon. In Lille and not London.

A significant milestone

Kuwait Club basketball team receives hero's 'welcome' after WASL Championship victory

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: Kuwait Club basketball team received a warm and enthusiastic welcome on arrival after winning the West Asia Super League Championship title in Manama on Monday.

Kuwait Club President Khaled Al-Ghanem, leading the reception committee, expressed immense pride in the team's unprecedented achievement of securing the title in the Gulf region for the third consecutive time.

He dedicated the victory to the political leadership and the Kuwaiti people, emphasizing that the team represents the nation and the accomplishment belongs to all Kuwaitis. Al-Ghanem highlighted the pivotal role played

BASKETBALL

by the club's vice president and game director, Badr Al-Osaimi, in supporting the team and praised the players and technical staff for their outstanding performance.

Dhari Burgess, President of the Kuwait Basketball Association, also extended congratulations for this remarkable achievement, recognizing the tremendous effort and perseverance that led to this success.

Burgess, who attended the matches in Manama, hailed the victory as a significant milestone for local basketball, underscoring the team's ability to surpass Manama, one of the region's top teams.

Kuwait Club secured first place by winning two out of three matches against Manama, prevailing in the first and third matches on the opponent's turf while enduring a loss in the second match at home.



A player exchanges pleasantries with club official.

First Division League culminates

Al-Sahel eye qualification

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: Tonight marks the conclusion of the First Division League with two pivotal matches in the twentieth round. Yarmouk will clash with Al-Tadamon at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium, while Sulaibikhat will take on Al-Sahel at Al-Tadamon Stadium. Both matches are scheduled to kick off at 7:05 pm.

The first showdown holds significant stakes for Yarmouk as they stand on the verge of clinching the First Division title and securing a coveted spot in the Zain Premier League. Having already sealed the top spot in the standings two rounds ago with 30 points, Yarmouk enters the match with confidence. Meanwhile, the battle for qualification between Al-Tadamon (26 points) and Al-Sahel (24 points) intensifies, with Burgan (12 points) and Sulaibikhat (7 points) eliminated from contention.

Al-Tadamon requires just one point to secure its qualification to the Premier League, irrespective of the outcome of the match between Al-Sahel and Sulaibikhat. Its head-to-head record against Al-Sahel favors the "Sons of Farwaniya", adding to its

advantage.

Tonight's fixture marks the fourth encounter between Yarmouk and Al-Tadamon this season. While two matches ended in a draw with identical 1-1 scores, Yarmouk emerged victorious in the third encounter with a 2-1 win. Al-Tadamon is eager to demonstrate its capabilities as they aim to reclaim its place in the Premier League, while Yarmouk competes

SOCCER

without the burden of pressure, having already secured qualification.

In the second match, Al-Sahel enters the fray with one eye on their own match and the other on the outcome of the Yarmouk versus Solidarity encounter, hoping for a favorable outcome for Yarmouk.

Al-Sahel's task appears manageable today, given its superior goal difference compared to their rivals, especially considering its previous victories over Sulaibikhat, with scores of 4-2 and 2-0, albeit with a draw in its last encounter with a scoreline of 1-1.

Kuwait handball team begins preparations for World Cup with friendly games against Turkey

By Khaled El Anzi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

ISTANBUL, May 8: The Kuwait national handball team gears up for its first trial match against the Turkey as part of its preparations for the upcoming World Cup in January 2025. The match is set to take place at the sports complex hall in Izmir, with the teams scheduled to meet again in a second friendly match the day after tomorrow.

The Turkish Handball Federation

HANDBALL

extended an invitation to the Kuwaiti team to engage in two friendly matches during the international break in the sport. The Kuwaiti delegation, led by Federation Treasurer Khaled Ghuloum and including Assistant Secretary Abdullah Al-Dhiyab, along with the technical staff and 18 players, arrived in Turkey yesterday morning.

Under the guidance of Algerian coach Saeed Hegazy and his assistant Mohamed Masoudan, along with Hungarian goalkeeping coach Levy and technical analyst Ayman Al-Sheikh, the team underwent two training sessions yesterday focusing on physical and technical aspects.

In addition to the friendly matches, the Kuwaiti Handball Federation is organizing a friendly mini-tournament during the international break to further prepare the team for the



Kuwait coach supervises training session ahead of the friendly.

World Cup finals, aiming to elevate their technical and physical levels.

Khaled Talab, representing the Handball Federation, affirmed the collective efforts to bring the national team to the desired technical standard, expressing confidence in the players' ability to shoulder the responsibility. He highlighted that the team's qualification for the World Cup has opened new opportunities, including invitations from other participating federations, signaling a promising future for the "Blue" team.

China rout Australia in U17 Asian Cup opener

JAKARTA, May 8, (Xinhua): Li Yuhuan produced an attacking masterclass as she led China to a 3-0 win over Australia in their opening Group B match in the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup held in Indonesia.

From the onset, Li dominated the left wing, consistently outmaneuvering Australian defender Isabella Hoyos. China's initial scoring opportunity came just two minutes into the game when Li bypassed Hoyos to set up Zhang Kegan, though her shot was thwarted by Australia's goalkeeper Caoimhe Bray.

China broke through three minutes later. Li once again escaped Hoyos and delivered a precise low cross, which Zhou Xinyi converted into the opening goal. Australia attempted to leverage the windy conditions with long-range efforts from Kiera Meyers and Sienna Dale, but Chinese goalkeeper Hou Shumei confidently handled the challenges.

In the second half, China maintained its aggressive play, doubling the lead in the 63rd minute. Li's attempt hit the bar, but substitute Xiao Jiaqi was quick to react, controlling the rebound and firing it into the top corner.



Yarmouk player makes a goal attempt.