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## Opinion

**Ahmed Al-Jarallah**

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

# Iran must reconsider its positions

TEHRAN did well by deciding to withdraw its military forces from Yemen and halt its support for the Houthi group. If this decision is true, Iran will be realigning its course and creating an opportunity for regional cooperation that could restore the country's vitality. It will also open the door to restoring communication channels, not only with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) capitals but also with many other Arab countries.

Since 1979, when the Iranian regime adopted the slogan of "exporting the revolution" and worked on establishing groups like Hezbollah in the Arab world, Tehran followed a trajectory that diverged from the hopes of Arab and Gulf nations.

From that moment onward, Iran abandoned its developmental ambitions, particularly those laid out since 1969, which sought to position the country as the factory of the Gulf and neighboring Asian countries, as well as a prime tourist and service destination, which reflected its status as a major regional power.

There is no doubt that Iran holds major influence at various levels, provided it follows a path that does not conflict with the global community. However, the country's vision has often been shaped by unrealistic goals stemming from a temporary revolutionary mindset, rather than a permanent approach. The Iranian regime has sought to prolong this revolutionary status, which contradicts the logical framework of a modern state, particularly when it is built on sectarian foundations in an environment that is culturally distinct from Iran's own.

Since the Battle of Dhi Qar and the defeat of the Sassanid Empire by the Arabs, Iranian nationalism has often been characterized by hostility toward its victorious neighbors.

Thus, the relationship has al-

ways been subject to ebbs and flows. Nevertheless, since the beginning of Islam, it has remained grounded in a spirit of cooperation. For most of history, the relationship was defined by a shared understanding that external threats to Islam required a unified response. This situation continued until the Iranian Revolution in 1979, which changed the equation and introduced a new hostility based on sectarian ideology, resulting in more harm than progress.

Over the past four decades, the Iranian Revolution has sought to impose its will on the countries of the region. Terrorist operations in several Gulf states, particularly the Makkah bombings in the late 1980s, along with Iran's targeting of some Gulf countries, have once again fueled divisions, seemingly reviving Sassanian nationalism.

This Iranian approach does not reflect true Islamic principles. Instead, it rekindles a sense of vengeance for the Battle of al-Qadisiyyah in 636 AD, a historical event that Iranian intellectuals often reference to justify the current regime's position.

This sentiment has reignited the conflict, now with the added dimension of inciting sectarian tensions at their worst. As a result, the region has had to approach its troublesome neighbor with considerable caution, especially given Tehran's lack of positive response to the Gulf governments' attempts to open a new chapter of good relations.

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Ahmed aljarallah

ahmed@aljarallah.com

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# Kuwait requires degree checks for work permits

PAM launches automated system for academic verification

By Fares Al-Abdan  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, April 5: Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Marzouq Al-Otaibi recently issued a circular approving the implementation of the procedures regarding the academic qualifications and professions of migrant workers, those from other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Bedoun workers in terms of the issuance, renewal and amendment of various types of work permits at labor departments through the Ashal portal for employers**

or the Sahel Business app.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the circular, stating that the workers' academic qualifications have three determinants: educational level like doctorate, master's, bachelor's or diploma; field of specialization like Commercial Law or Biochemistry; and status of the qualification like unrecognized, preliminary recognition, administrative recognition or accreditation based on the Ministry of Higher Education equivalency.

The manual stipulates that the employees' duties include verifying the compatibility between the field of specialization and profession specified in the application, while the educational level and accreditation status are verified through the automated system. The academic qualification attachment is verified only if the system requires the employer to upload it along with the work permit related application.

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A serene scene by the Kuwait Towers with beachgoers cooling off in the waters under a cloudy sky on Saturday. Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

## NewsWatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned the recent attacks by the Israeli occupation forces on Syria which left several casualties and extensive material damage.

The attacks, part of a chain of flagrant violation of the international law and legitimacy, risk escalating the tension and violence in the region, the Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

It urged the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, to shoulder their responsibility and put an end to the crimes of the Israeli occupation and bring the culprits to justice. (KUNA)

**KUWAIT CITY:** Kuwait Airways (KAC) said Friday "a technical glitch" forced rescheduling its Flight (KU502) coming from Beirut airport.

Promising to offer all necessary facilities to the passengers during their stay in Lebanon, the national flag carrier said in a press release that the passengers will receive SMS specifying the new time of the flight.

It advised them to contact the customer service center for any inquiries via the International Line 0096524345555 and the Extension No. 171, or WhatsApp No. 0096522200171. (KUNA)

**BEIRUT:** US deputy special envoy for the Middle East Morgan Ortugas met on Saturday at Baabda Palace with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun to discuss the latest developments in southern Lebanon.

The Lebanese Presidency stated in a statement that President Aoun welcomed Ortugas as the discussion focused on southern Lebanon and the Israeli occupation troops' withdrawal. The talks also covered the Lebanese-Syrian border. (KUNA)

**SANA'A:** A US airstrike has killed 70 members of the Houthi militia, including prominent field commanders and experts from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Yemen's internationally-recognized government announced Friday.

The strike, carried out on Tuesday, targeted a Houthi gathering in Al-Fazah, a coastal area in the Red Sea port city of Hodeidah, according to Yemen's Ministry of Information Moammar al-Eryani. (Xinhua)

## MEW announces 4-hour power outages in 20 areas for a week

By Mohammed Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, April 5:** The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy announced maintenance work on several secondary transformer stations in all six governorates, following a suspension during the holy month of Ramadan, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained that the maintenance work of these transformer stations will result in power outages in

some parts of 20 residential areas, starting from Saturday, April 5 to Saturday, April 12. The outages will last for four hours from 8:00 am.

The power outages will affect parts of the following areas: Jaber Al-Ahmad, Saad Al-Abdullah, Hawally, Salwa, Sabah Al-Nasser, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Fintas, Mangaf, Salmiya, Andalous, Sabah Al-Salem, Abu Al-Hasaniya, Fahaeel, Khaldiya, Ishbiliya, Qurain, Adan, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Mansouriya, and Messila.

## Kuwait's envoy to UK presents credentials to King Charles III

**LONDON, April 5, (KUNA):** Bader Al-Munaikh presented to King Charles III, of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms, his credentials as residing Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the United Kingdom.

During a ceremony, hosted at Buckingham Palace on Thursday, Ambassador Al-Munaikh conveyed to King Charles III the best

regards of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, wishing him everlasting wellbeing and the bilateral ties more growth.

Speaking to KUNA following the ceremony, he said King Charles III, in return, asked him to convey his best wishes to His Highness the Amir.

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Kuwaiti Ambassador Bader Al-Munaikh shakes hands with King Charles III at Buckingham Palace during the presentation of his credentials. KUNA photo

## Gaza death toll surpasses 50,000

## Kuwait slams Israeli attack on Gaza school

**KUWAIT CITY, April 5, (Agencies):** Kuwait has strongly condemned the recent Israeli occupation aggression on the Palestinian territories which resulted in the killing of many civilians.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounced the Israeli occupation assault on Dar Al-Arqam School in Tufah district in eastern Gaza and its destruction of a medical and relief supplies warehouse in Gaza affiliated to the Saudi Cultural and Heritage.

These attacks are a flagrant violation international law and the relevant UN charters and present a new evidence of the absence of international accountability mechanisms, the ministry stated.

It affirmed Kuwait's position stressing the need for the UN Security Council to assume its responsibility



A young Palestinian girl who was injured in an Israeli airstrike, is brought for treatment at the Baptist Hospital in Gaza City, on Thursday, April 3, 2025. (AP)

in maintaining international peace and security through putting an end to this catastrophe facing the brotherly Palestinian people.

It called for pressing the Israeli occupation to end its aggression on Palestine's territories, and opening all

crossings for delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, medical authorities announced Saturday that death toll in Gaza Strip rose to 50,669 since October 7, 2023, most of them are children and women.

Palestinian News Agency (Wafa) quoted medical sources as saying that more than 115,225 injuries were reported while many victims still unreachable under the rubble due to difficult circumstances and lack of medical crews and ambulances.

The sources said that 60 martyrs and 162 wounded arrived at Gaza Strip hospitals over the past 24 hours.

Death toll and injuries since March 18, when the occupation violated the ceasefire agreement, has reached 1,309 martyrs and 3,184 wounded.

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Berlin-Amman Declaration endorsed

## Kuwait backs '15% for 15%' disability inclusion principle

**KUWAIT CITY, April 5, (KUNA):** Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah announced Saturday Kuwait's endorsement of the Berlin-Amman Declaration on Persons with Disabilities, adopted during the third Global Disability Summit held recently in Berlin, Germany.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Minister Al-Huwailah said Kuwait's endorsement of this significant international declaration reaffirms its historical commitment to protecting the rights of persons with disabilities,



Al-Huwailah

promoting their active participation and full inclusion in society through developmental policies ensuring a dignified and sustainable life.

She emphasized Kuwait's support for the principle of "15% for 15%," which calls for allocating at least 15 percent of international development programs for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, who constitute approximately 15 percent of the world's population. She stressed that Kuwait will actively engage organizations representing persons with disabilities at all stages of planning, implementation, and monitoring of these programs.

Minister Al-Huwailah also highlighted the importance of collecting accurate data and statistics necessary for formulating comprehensive development policies serving this important segment of society, while creating an

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5 Kuwait Shopping Festival 'Ya Hala' concludes



9 Al-Fulaj emphasizes NBK's financial expertise and strong regional presence in driving major development projects





Other Voices

# Belgium rekindles economic ties with Kuwait after 23 years

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

After several years, Belgium is set to renew its economic ties with Kuwait through an Economic Mission scheduled for 29–30 April 2025. The last such visit was in 2002, marking this upcoming mission as a significant milestone in Belgian-Kuwaiti relations. This renewed engagement underscores the strong potential and mutual interest in deepening bilateral economic cooperation.

Led by the Economic and Commercial Counselor at the Belgian Embassy in Kuwait, Ms. Laurence Heyblom, the mission will bring together 44 Belgian companies spanning 12 key sectors, with the aim of exploring business opportunities and fostering new commercial partnerships. The sectors represented include engineering and industrial, healthcare and

medical, technology and ICT, security and safety, energy and sustainability, construction and real estate, retail and trade, education and training, legal and compliance, and food and beverages.

"This mission is not just about trade – it's about building lasting relationships," Ms. Heyblom emphasized during a recent meeting. "We want to introduce Kuwait to the diversity and innovation of Belgian companies, and also help Belgian businesses better understand the Kuwaiti market." Despite Belgium's strong global economic footprint – boasting a GDP of approxi-



Heyblom

mately €600 billion and exports comprising 85% of its economic output – its products remain relatively unknown to most Kuwaitis beyond the well-loved Belgian waffles, fries, and chocolate. This mission seeks to change that narrative.

Key Belgian firms such as DEME (a global leader in dredging and marine infrastructure), John Cockerill (specialized in industrial engineering and environmental technology), and GSK Biologicals (a pharmaceutical leader in vaccine production) will be among the participants, showcasing Belgium's world-class innovation and eco-friendly solutions.

Highlighting Belgium's logistics strength, Ms. Heyblom noted that the Port of Antwerp is Europe's second-largest and the world's second-largest pet-

rochemical hub, positioning Belgium as a strategic trade and industrial gateway to Europe.

Trade between Belgium and Kuwait already demonstrates promise. Belgium's main exports to Kuwait include chemicals (40%), food (18.6%), and machinery (11%). Meanwhile, imports from Kuwait are dominated by mineral products, making up 97.6% of total imports.

Through this mission, Belgium aims to not only enhance its trade volumes with Kuwait but also plant the seeds for long-term partnerships. With a diverse set of industries and a clear commitment to collaboration, the Economic Mission 2025 is set to open new doors and elevate bilateral relations to a new level.

# Electricity Ministry's budget hits KD3.106 billion for FY 2025/2026

KD72 million increase to fund key operations and projects

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, April 5:** The total estimated budget of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy for fiscal 2025/2026 is KD3.106 billion – an increase of KD72 million compared to the final 2024/2025 budget that amounted to KD3.034 billion, say reliable sources.

Sources confirmed that the abovementioned amount shall cover all budget items like compensation for employees, fuel for the operation of power plants, project implementation payments and others.

Sources disclosed that the allocation for

goods and services reached KD1.740 billion -- an increase of KD23 million compared to the final budget, in which the estimated amount allocated for this item reached KD1.717 billion. Sources said this covers the oil, gas and oil needed for the operation of power and water distillation plants within the aforementioned fiscal year.

Sources said the amount allotted for one of the important budget items -- employee compensation -- reached KD787.860 million. They pointed out this is an increase of KD40.437 million compared to the estimated amount of KD747.423 million in the final budget. They added this item covers salaries, bonuses and allowances of employees in technical and administrative sectors.

Sources indicated that the estimated amount to cover capital expenditures reached

KD577.525 million -- an increase of KD12.171 million compared to the estimated amount of KD565.354 million in the final budget. Sources stated that this item covers the costs related to the implementation of projects like payments to contractors, maintenance and other works.

On the other hand, the ministry announced Friday that it will carry out maintenance works in some secondary transformer stations in the six governorates; adding that this will result in a four-hour power outage in certain parts of 20 residential areas starting at 8:00 am on Saturday.

The affected areas include Jaber Al-Ahmad, Saad Al-Abdullah, Hawally, Salwa, Sabah Al-Nasser, Jeeb Al-Shuyoukh, Fintas, Mangaf, Salmiya, Andalus, Sabah Al-Salem, Abu Al-Hasaniya, Fahaeel, Khaldiya, Ishbiliya, Al-Qurain, Adan, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Mansouriya and Messilah.

## Salmi Road seeing crucial upgrades

MPW focuses extensive high-impact repairs for 16 areas and 9 highways

**KUWAIT CITY, April 5:** Months after the launch of extensive road maintenance work, both highway and internal road users remain hopeful for the repair of deteriorating streets to bring them back to the original state when Kuwait's roads were renowned for their precision and beauty, reports Al-Rai daily.

In the past few months, not a week has passed since the launch of maintenance on Salmi Road without the Ministry of Public Works or the Public Authority for Roads and Transport (PART) announcing new major maintenance projects in various areas. These efforts follow a detailed plan and timeline to be completed over the next three years. By the end of January, the number of areas undergoing maintenance had reached 16, in addition to six contracts for highway upgrades.

Anyone visiting a maintenance site in one of the areas under repair will hear the roar of bulldozers scraping the surface layers and smell the asphalt mixed with bitumen, as giant machines specially designed for the task lay the new surface.

During a visit to an asphalt-laying site in Jabriya, it was discovered that the location was buzzing with activity, as workers from the contracting companies and supervision teams were working tirelessly, racing against time to complete tasks in their assigned areas before moving on to the next, for ensuring each contract's goals are met on time and with the required quality standards.

**Salmi Road... A transformation in the making**

At a rapid pace, the Ministry of Public Works has made huge progress in the major renovation of Salmi Road. The first phase of the project, stretching from the Salmi border post to Kilo 95 mark towards Jahra, has been completed. The engineering teams continue to work on the remaining maintenance for the road.

The site supervisor Engineer Arefa Mohamed said, "The maintenance teams are working continuously to complete the entire Salmi Road. The teams are removing the old asphalt layer, and then installing a gravel base, a concrete layer, a mixed sub-base, and then three additional layers. Salmi Road will look completely different once the comprehensive maintenance is finished. The ministry's teams are closely monitoring the project's execution, with engineers overseeing the development contracts."

He affirmed that the Salmi Road project is progressing well, with meticulous attention to the execution plan, work progress, and thorough treatment of the asphalt.

**16 areas and 9 highways undergoing major maintenance**

Major road maintenance is currently ongoing in 16 areas in all six governorates, including Abdullah Mubarak, Jabriya, Aqila, Mangaf, Bayan, Ardiya, Faiha, Saad Al-Abdullah, Subhan, Al-Qasr, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Farwaniya, Hawally, Ahmadi, Egaila, and Jaber Al-Ahmad.

In addition, nine highways are also being extensively renovated through six separate contracts. These are Salmi Road, sections of Sixth and Seventh ring roads, sections of First and Fourth ring roads, Fahaeel Road, Abdali-Jahra Road, and Subiya Road.

**Citizens willing to endure for road repairs**

Several citizens indicated that any inconvenience caused by lane closures for asphalt work is minor when it comes to repairing Kuwait's roads.

They said, "For years, especially since 2018, we have been dealing with deteriorating roads, particularly the internal roads in Kuwait's residential areas. We live with the hope that one day, Kuwait's roads will be free from potholes and bumps."

We appreciate the fact that the road maintenance program is prioritizing the most damaged areas without any favoritism. This approach is something we truly value from the Minister of Public Works and the ministry's officials."

**Roads... supervision and strict adher-**

ence to standards and specifications

Director of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) Engineer Khaled Dawi announced that maintenance work has officially commenced on all six highway contracts.

He said, "Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan has personally inspected the maintenance projects multiple times, which demonstrates her commitment to ensuring that the work is completed to the highest standards of quality and efficiency."

The maintenance work began with the Salmi Road project, followed by repairs on the Seventh and Sixth ring roads, and then the Fahaeel Road. Afterward, the maintenance work on Abdali-Jahra Road and sections of the Fourth and First ring roads began. This was followed by the launch of maintenance work on Subiya Road.

PART, through its dedicated supervision teams overseeing the asphalt laying process, has been keen about ensuring the work is completed according to the agreed standards and specifications."

In addition, Eng. Dawi highlighted the coordination between PART and the Ministry of Interior, particularly the General Traffic Department, to manage lane closures at work sites and ensure smooth traffic flow without disruptions.

**Dr. Al-Mashaan's on-site presence overcomes obstacles**

Assistant Undersecretary for Planning at the Ministry of Public Works and the ministry's official spokesperson Eng. Ahmed Al-Saleh stressed Minister Dr. Al-Mashaan's keenness to ensure comprehensive road maintenance projects are carried out with the required quality and efficiency.

He indicated that her frequent visits to various work sites reflect her dedication, attention, and active follow-up on all ongoing maintenance efforts.

Eng. Al-Saleh said, "The road maintenance projects are part of the ministry's strategic plan to improve the road network and provide a safe, sustainable environment for both citizens and residents, in line with urban development and the increasing transportation needs."

Ministry officials, along with all supervision teams overseeing the execution of these contracts, ensure close monitoring at every stage of the project, from design to completion. They adhere to internationally recognized quality standards and technical specifications to guarantee the highest levels of road performance and durability.

Minister Al-Mashaan's commitment to the road maintenance project is clear through her regular site visits, where she closely monitors progress, coordinates to resolve any issues, and ensures that the work is proceeding as planned.

In her statements regarding the ministry's announcements on the launch of maintenance work in various areas throughout Kuwait, she consistently highlights the political leadership's focus on the road maintenance initiative, considering it as one of the top priorities."

**Supervising engineers**

Supervising engineers play a major role in overseeing the maintenance work, and ensuring its quality at every stage of the process.

In conjunction with the start of maintenance work, a committee was formed to select the engineers responsible for supervising the tasks.

Several supervising engineers at different maintenance sites explained that the process begins with a thorough inspection of the area by the supervising team before any work commences. This inspection ensures the integrity of the rainwater drainage network before the surface layer is removed. Any cracks are fixed before laying down the new asphalt.

They said, "Based on the directives of Minister Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan and other ministry officials, priority is given to repairing the most damaged streets in each area. The extent of wear and tear varies from street to street and from one area to another."

The engineers asked residents of the maintenance areas to be patient and cooperate with the authorities to ensure the work is completed on schedule.

## PAFN carries out inspections in Al-Qurain

**KUWAIT CITY, April 5:** Inspectors from the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Inspection Department of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), led by the acting Deputy Director General for Inspection and Control Affairs Dr. Saud Al-Humaidi Al-Jalal, conducted a field inspection tour of food establishments in Al-Qurain Markets, which resulted in the issuance of eight citations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The violations for which citations were issued included non-compliance with health regulations and approved requirements, visible mold on food products, expired products, and the absence of health

licenses or health certificates for workers. Necessary legal action was taken against the violators, and one establishment was immediately closed.

PAFN urged all food establishment owners to comply fully with health requirements and cooperate with inspection teams to safeguard public health.

Dr. Al-Jalal affirmed that PAFN will not tolerate any violations of laws and regulations in food establishments in order to ensure the health and safety of consumers.

He highlighted that inspection tours will continue and are conducted regularly in various areas.



# APRIL

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Trump's policies are a disaster: Schumer

US Senate GOP approves framework for Trump's tax breaks, spending cuts

WASHINGTON, April 5, (AP): US Senate Republicans plugged away overnight and into early Saturday morning to approve their multitrillion-dollar tax breaks and spending cuts framework...



US Sen Ben Ray Lujan, D-NM, (from left), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-NY, and Sen Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn, speak to reporters before the start of a voting marathon as Senate Republicans push the next step to pass President Trump's budget agenda, at the Capitol, in Washington on April 4. (AP)

tax cuts that Republicans passed in 2017 will expire at the end of this year. The Senate package pulls in other GOP priorities - including \$175 billion to bolster Trump's mass deportation effort...

The vote, 51-48, fell along mostly party lines, but with sharp dissent from two prominent GOP senators. It could not have come at a more difficult political moment. The US economy is churning after Trump's vast tariff scheme sent stocks plummeting...

But with a nod from Trump, GOP leaders held on, determined to march ahead. Approval paves the way for Republicans, in the months ahead, to try to power a tax cut bill through both chambers of Congress...

"Let the voting begin," Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-SD, said Friday night.

The evening kicked off what's called vote-a-rama as Democrats were intent on making the effort as politically painful as possible, with action on some two dozen amendments to the package that GOP senators will have to defend before next year's midterm elections.

Among them were proposals to ban tax breaks for the super-wealthy, end Trump's tariffs, clip his efforts to shrink the federal government and protect Medicaid, Social Security and other services. One, in response to the Trump national security team's use of Signal, sought to prohibit military officials from using any commercial messaging application to transmit war plans. They all failed, though a GOP amendment to protect Medicare and Medicaid was accepted.

Democrats accused Republicans of laying the groundwork for cutting key safety net programs to help pay for more than \$5 trillion tax cuts they say dis-

proportionately benefit the rich. "Trump's policies are a disaster," said Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, as is Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency. "Republicans could snuff it out tonight, if they wanted."

The Republicans framed their work as preventing a tax increase for most American families, arguing that unless Congress acts, the individual and estate



Flood waters cover the entryway to the Weather Stone subdivision off Russellville Road in Bowling Green, Kentucky on April 4 after excessive rainfall Thursday into Friday drenched southcentral Kentucky with more than four and a half inches of rain. (AP)

More torrential rain and flash flooding expected in South, Midwest

Another round of torrential rain and flash flooding was expected to hit Saturday in parts of the South and Midwest already heavily waterlogged by days of severe storms that in some cases spawned deadly tornadoes.

Round after round of heavy rains have pounded the central US, leading to rapidly rising waterways and prompting a series of flash flood emergencies Friday night in Missouri, Texas and Arkansas. Meanwhile, many communities were still reeling from tornadoes that destroyed entire neighborhoods and killed at least seven people earlier this week.

In Frankfort, Kentucky, floodwaters swept a 9-year-old boy away while he was walking to a school bus stop Friday morning, Gov. Andy Beshear said on social media. Officials said Gabriel Andrews' body was found about a half-mile from where he went missing.

The downtown area of Hopkinsville, Kentucky - a city of 31,000 residents 72 miles (116 kilometers) northwest of Nashville - was submerged Friday. A dozen people were rescued from homes, and dozens of pets were moved away from rising water, a fire official said. (AP)

Washington and Oregon sue over US President Trump's elections order

SEATTLE, April 5, (AP): Washington and Oregon on Friday became the latest states to ask a court to reject President Donald Trump's efforts to overhaul elections in the US a day after Democratic officials in 19 others filed a similar lawsuit.

Washington Attorney General Nick Brown said the two states sued separately because they conduct elections entirely by mail and would be particularly harmed by the president's efforts.

"Neither the Constitution nor any federal law gives the president authority to set rules for how states conduct elections," Brown, a Democrat, said during a news conference. "It is the states that decide how voters are registered. It is the states that decide how ballots are counted."

Friday's lawsuit in US District Court in Seattle is the fifth against the executive order since it was issued last week. The order includes new requirements that people provide documentary proof of citizenship when registering to vote and a demand that all mail ballots be received by Election Day. It also puts states' federal funding at risk if election officials don't comply.

That could disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of voters in the Pacific Northwest, where ballots must be postmarked - but not necessarily received - by Election Day. Washington



US State Rep Sharlett Mena, D-Washington, speaks during a news conference in which the state attorney general announced a federal lawsuit challenging President Donald Trump's executive order attempting to overhaul elections in the US, in Seattle on April 4. (AP)

Secretary of State Steve Hobbs noted at the news conference that more than 300,000 ballots in Washington arrived after Election Day last year.

"President Trump's executive order is nothing more than a blatant attempt to rig the system and suppress votes," Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield said in a news release. "He's trying to make it harder for people to vote. It's a direct assault on the Consti-

tution and a brazen attempt to act like a king, dictating how states should run their elections."

The lawsuits from the states follow earlier ones against the executive order by nonprofit voting groups and the Democratic National Committee. They say the order could disenfranchise voters because millions of eligible voting-age Americans do not have the proper documents readily available.

'You cannot annex another country', Danish Premier Frederiksen tells US over Greenland

NUUK, Greenland, April 5, (AP): Denmark's prime minister has told the US during a visit to Greenland that "you cannot annex another country," even with the argument that international security is at stake.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, meanwhile, said on Friday that Washington will respect Greenland's self-determination and Copenhagen "should focus on the fact that the

Greenlanders don't want to be a part of Denmark."

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen was wrapping up a three-day visit to the strategically critical Arctic island on Friday as US President Donald Trump seeks control of Greenland. He argues that Greenland, a semi-autonomous territory belonging to the Kingdom of Denmark, is critical to U.S. security.

A week ago, Vice President JD Vance visited a remote US military base in Greenland and accused Denmark of underinvesting in the territory.

Frederiksen pushed back against the US criticism as she spoke on Thursday alongside Greenland's incoming and outgoing leaders on board a Danish naval ship. She argued that Denmark, a NATO ally, has been a reliable friend.

Speaking in English, she said that "if we let ourselves be divided as allies, then we do our foes a favor. And I will do everything that I can to prevent that from happening."

"When you ask our businesses to invest in the US, they do. When you ask us to spend more on our defense, we do; and when you ask of us to strengthen security in the Arctic, we are on the same page," she said.

"But when you demand to take over a part of the Kingdom of Denmark's territory, when we are met by pressure and by threats from our closest ally, what are we to believe in about the country that we have admired for so many years?"

"This is about the world order that we have built together across the Atlantic over generations; you cannot annex another country, not even with an argument about international security," Frederiksen said.

The Danish leader said that, if the US wants to strengthen security in the Arctic, "let us do so together."



Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, (left), Greenland's acting head of government Mute Bourup Egede, (right), and newly elected head of government, Jens-Frederik Nielsen, (center), prepare to embark on a trip with a Danish Navy Sea Hawk helicopter from the Danish Navy inspection ship Vaedderen, in the waters around Nuuk, Greenland on April 3. (AP)

Russian missile strike in central Ukraine kills 18

KYIV, Ukraine, April 5, (AP): The death toll from a Russian missile strike in the central Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rih has risen to 18, including nine children, regional governor Serhii Lysak said Saturday.

A further 61 people were injured in Friday's attack, ranging from a 3-month-old baby to elderly residents. Forty remain hospitalized, including two children in critical condition and 17 in serious condition. "There can never be forgiveness for this," said Oleksandr Vilkul, head of the city's defense council. "Eternal memory to the victims."

Kryvyi Rih is the hometown of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. "The missile struck an area right next to residential buildings - hitting a playground and ordinary streets," Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram. Local authorities said the strike damaged about 20 apartment buildings, more than 30 vehicles, an educational building and a restaurant.

The Russian Defense Ministry claimed Friday that it had carried out a high-precision missile strike with a high explosive warhead on a restaurant where a meeting with unit commanders and Western instructors was taking place.

Russian military claimed that the strike killed 85 military personnel and foreign officers and destroyed 20 vehicles. The military's claims could not be independently verified. The Ukrainian General Staff rejected the claims.

A later drone strike on Kryvyi Rih killed one woman and wounded seven other people.

Zelenskyy blamed the daily strikes on Russia's unwillingness to end the war: "Every missile, every drone strike proves Russia wants only war," he said, urging Ukraine's allies to increase pressure on Moscow and bolster Ukraine's air defenses.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, a car burns following a Russian missile attack that killed more than a dozen people, including children, in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine on April 4. (AP)



NATO foreign ministers attend a meeting of the North Atlantic Council in foreign ministers format at NATO headquarters in Brussels on April 4. (AP)

Europe and Canada to spend more on defense, but cool on US demands

BRUSSELS, April 5, (AP): European NATO allies and Canada on Friday said they are willing to ramp up defense spending but are cool on American demands for the size of their military budgets, particularly given US President Donald Trump's readiness to draw closer to Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

US allies have spent billions of dollars more on defense since Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of Ukraine more than three years ago, but almost a third of them still don't meet NATO's target of at least 2% of their gross domestic product.

Trump has said that US allies should commit to spending at least 5%, but that would require investment at an unprecedented scale. According to NATO figures, the US was projected to have spent 3.38% last year, the only ally whose spending has dropped over the last decade.

"It is important that we all agree that Russia is a threat. If not, I don't know why we should always increase more and more defense spending," Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly told reporters at NATO

headquarters in Brussels.

NATO leaders said at a summit last year that Russia "remains the most significant and direct threat to Allies' security."

Trump's public rehabilitation of Putin, who had become an international pariah indicted for war crimes, has disturbed US allies, and they believe that the decision to rule out NATO membership for Ukraine weakened Kyiv's hand at the negotiating table before peace talks have even begun.

Beyond that, Europe and Canada were alarmed last month when the United States split with European allies by refusing to blame Russia for its invasion of Ukraine in votes on three UN resolutions seeking an end to the war.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that Washington isn't insisting that its allies hit the 5% spending target overnight, but "we think that's what NATO allies need to be spending for NATO to face the threats that itself has identified and articulated."

America

'7 years in jail for Santos': Prosecutors are seeking more than seven years in prison for disgraced former US rep George Santos after he pleaded guilty to federal fraud and identity theft charges.

The US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York argued in a court filing Friday that a significant sentence was warranted because the New York Republican's "unparalleled crimes" had "made a mockery" of the country's election system.

"From his creation of a wholly fictitious biography to his callous theft of money from elderly and impaired



Santos

donors, Santos's unrestrained greed and voracious appetite for fame enabled him to exploit the very system by which we select our representatives," the office wrote. (AP)

Two officers charged: Two US border inspectors in Southern California have been charged with taking thousands of dollars in bribes to allow people to enter the country through the nation's busiest port of entry without showing documents, prosecutors said.

US Customs and Border Protection officers Farlis Almonte and Ricardo Rodriguez were assigned to immigration inspection booths at the San Ysidro Port of Entry.

They were charged after investigators found phone evidence showing they had exchanged messages with human traffickers in Mexico and discovered unexplained cash deposits into their bank accounts, according to a criminal complaint unsealed Thursday. (AP)











Stocking up helps, but experts caution against panic buying

## How Trump's latest tariffs could affect your wallet



A hand-embroidery dress fabric made in India, costing a couple hundred dollars per yard, is sold at the Francia Textiles fabric store in the Fashion District in Los Angeles on Thursday, April 3, 2025. (AP)

NEW YORK, April 5, (AP) - President Donald Trump has unveiled his latest tariffs, and they could have significant implications for your wallet.

Trump's sweeping new tariffs, on top of previous levies and retaliation worldwide, are expected to increase prices for everyday items. The trade wars have already roiled financial markets and plunged businesses into uncertainty - all while economists warn of potentially weakened economic growth and heightened inequality.

Which impacts will be felt by consumers and workers first? And what can households do in the face of so much uncertainty? Here's what you need to know:

Tariffs are taxes on goods imported from other countries. Companies buying foreign products pay the tariffs imposed on them - and, as a result, face higher costs that are typically passed on to customers.

Trump has argued tariffs will protect U.S. industries from unfair foreign competition and raise money for the federal government. But since so much of what we buy today relies on a global supply chain, steeper tariffs mean you'll likely see more expensive prices from the grocery aisle to your next car repair.

"It is going to affect everything in the economy," said Josh Stillwagon, an associate professor of economics and chair of the Economics Division

at Babson College. "There's this immediate price increase that's going to be passed on to consumers here, basically as soon as the retailers have to buy new product."

No. Experts warn that these tariffs could escalate inequities. Low-income families in particular will feel the costs of key necessities, like food and energy, rise with fewer savings to draw on - significantly straining budgets.

Low-income households often "spend a larger share of their income on essential goods - whether it's food or other basic products ... (like) soap or toothpaste," said Gustavo Flores-Macias, a professor of government and public policy at Cornell University whose research focuses on economic development. Because of this, he said, "even relatively small price increases" will have disproportionate impacts.

Evidence of that disparity will only mount for big-ticket items. Dipanjan Chatterjee, vice president and principal analyst at Forrester, points to now-imposed auto tariffs, explaining that projected price hikes of thousands of dollars for a new imported car will be easier for those with larger salaries to absorb.

"That tax is more severe for people who earn less money," said Chatterjee. "So it's a regressive tax."

Beyond more immediate price pressures, experts also warn that tariffs could contribute to unemploy-

ment or lower incomes down the road. Trump has argued that tariffs will bring manufacturing back to the U.S., but if businesses take profit hits or change their supply sources, there could be layoffs worldwide.

"It's not just the price aspect and purchasing power decreasing," said Flores-Macias. "As tariffs start to work their way through the economy ... low-income families' jobs often will be the first to go. And those sectors of the population are most vulnerable."

Economist Susan Helper, former senior adviser for industrial strategy at the White House Office of Management and Budget, said that there are some cases where tariffs could raise wages, but this doesn't look likely to be one of them.

"There isn't enough certainty for businesses to invest and create new and better jobs," she said. "It takes a few years at minimum to profit off a new facility or factory, and I don't think people have the confidence that the tariffs will be stable enough that they will have a return on that investment."

The tariffs announced by Trump Wednesday, on top of other levies that are already in effect, tax imports from nearly all of America's trading partners. And U.S. shoppers currently rely on a lot of goods made abroad.

Fruits and vegetables, your next phone purchase, a pharmacy order, new clothes, or a trip to a mechanic

who uses auto parts made outside of the U.S. could all be impacted.

The timing of when prices will go up comes down to inventory, Stillwagon said. Much of that will also depend on how businesses prepare and respond to the new levies. While companies may have stocked up on goods in anticipation of these tariffs, he expects some stores to see more immediate price increases.

Prices on perishable groceries will likely increase first, because supermarket inventories need to be replenished more frequently. But a range of other items - like electronics, household appliances, clothing and footwear - could also be affected in the coming weeks and months.

"Annual losses for households at the bottom of the income distribution are estimated to be \$980 under the April 2 policy alone," according to John Breyault, vice president of public policy, telecom and fraud at the National Consumers League, who cited an analysis from the Budget Lab at Yale. He said that tariffs will disproportionately affect clothing and textiles, with apparel prices predicted to rise 17%.

Consumers are also likely to feel the pinch of tariffs in home buying, Breyault said. The new taxes on building materials are estimated to increase the average costs of a new home by \$9,200, according to an analysis by the National Association of Home Builders.

Rerouting supply chains to reemphasize domestic production is also very complex - and could take years. Stillwagon said there are some products, like bananas and coffee, that the U.S. simply can't substitute to the same scale of production other countries provide. And even for goods that can be made in the U.S., there will still likely be inflation.

"A real worry here is that this won't just be a one-time price jump," he said.

For products like coffee, Helper predicts people will likely absorb costs, while changing their shopping choices when it comes to other products.

"I guess you could switch to Coca-Cola if all you want is the caffeine," she said, lightly. "It will probably be good for California wines."

Stocking up on what you need is a start - but with limits.

"If there are things that you're buying on a consistent basis - week to week, month to month - I think it's not a bad idea to try to stock up in advance," Stillwagon said. But it's important to avoid panic buying like that seen at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, he and others added. That could cause shortages to emerge sooner and prices to go up faster.

You also don't want to buy a bunch of items that will eventually go to waste.

"If you do plan stock up on consumables, make sure you have a plan on how to store them properly so you don't end up having to throw out that 20-pound bag of shrimp, for example, in a few weeks," said Breyault.

It may also be time to look for substitutes. From electronics to clothing, Flores-Macias says that there could be more affordable secondhand or refurbished options to turn to. And Chatterjee noted consumers may want to start comparing prices of name-brands versus "private," or generic, labels in major retailers. Others may turn to at-home solutions, he said, such as growing their own vegetables.

Overall, experts say you'll need to evaluate your budget and consumption habits for the road ahead.

"This is not a hurricane that's going to be around for seven days and everything goes back to normal afterward. And you stock up on toilet paper (temporarily)," said Chatterjee. "For all you know, this thing could be around until a different administration comes in and changes trade policy."

Consumers should be on the lookout for even greater use of so-called "shrinkflation" on the grocery aisle, according to Breyault. Shrinkflation is a tactic consumer goods manufacturers use to hide cost increases by changing the design of packaging.

"Consumers can prepare for the inflation that the tariffs are likely to exacerbate by getting into the habit of checking the unit price of items on the grocery shelf," said Breyault. "While not all states require it, where it is required, consumers can more easily compare the per unit price of one item - cereal, for example - to another item."

S&P 500 drops 16% since February high over tariff worries

## Think twice before bailing out of the stock market, financial advisers say

NEW YORK, April 5, (AP) - The huge swings rocking Wall Street and the global economy may feel far from normal. But, for investing at least, drops of this size have happened throughout history.

Stomaching them is the price investors have had to pay in order to get the bigger returns that stocks can offer over other investments in the long term. Here's a glimpse at what's behind the market's wild moves and what experts advise investors young and old to consider:

Wall Street's main benchmark, the S&P 500, has lost more than 16% since setting an all-time high on Feb. 19, mostly because of worries about President Donald Trump's tariffs.

Any kind of uncertainty around the economy will give Wall Street pause, but the trade war is making it more difficult for companies, households and others to feel confident enough to invest, spend and make long-term plans.

The tariffs announced on "Liberation Day" sent stocks reeling to their worst day since the COVID crash of 2020 because they were much harsher than investors had been expecting.

They also raised the fear that Trump may push through with them to win long-term gains, such as more manufacturing jobs in the

United States.

The hope among investors had been that Trump was using tariffs merely as a bargaining chip to win concessions from other countries. Some big names on Wall Street still think that's the case, and a moderation of tariffs would help stocks recover, but it's less of a certainty now.

Regularly enough. The S&P 500 has seen declines of at least 10% every year or so. Often, experts view them as a culling of optimism that can otherwise run overboard, driving stock prices too high.

Before this recent downswing, many critics were saying the U.S. stock market was too expensive after prices rose faster than corporate profits.

They also pointed to how only a handful of companies drove so much of the market's returns. A group of just seven Big Tech companies accounted for more than half of the S&P 500's total return last year, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices.

Anytime an investor sees they're losing money, it feels bad. This recent run feels particularly unnerving because of how incredibly calm the market had previously been. The S&P 500 is coming off a second straight year where it shot up by more than

20%, the first time that's happened since baggy pants were last in style before the millennium.

Selling may offer some feeling of relief. But it also locks in losses and prevents the chance of making the money back over time. Historically, the S&P 500 has come back from every one of its downturns to eventually make investors whole again. That includes after the Great Depression, the dot-com bust and the 2020 COVID crash.

Some recoveries take longer than others, but experts often recommend not putting money into stocks that you can't afford to lose for several years, up to 10. Emergency funds, for things like home repairs or medical bills, should not be invested in stocks.

"Data has shown, historically, that no one can time the market," said Odysseas Papadimitriou, CEO of WalletHub. "No one can consistently figure out the best time to buy and sell."

For years, the U.S. stock market was the best by far to invest in worldwide. Now, more investors are questioning with U.S. exceptionalism is dead.

But it could all be a reminder that investors often do best when they have a mixed set of investments rather than going all-in on just a few. And investors may no longer be as diversified as they thought

after years of sheer dominance by the Magnificent Seven over the U.S. stock market and by Wall Street over global markets.

"It is hard to roll with the punches when some days you feel like your portfolio is being pummeled," said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management. "But those moments should pass. A diversified strategy that is thoughtfully adapting to changing circumstances can't prevent the punches, but it can help soften the blows."

Phil Battin, CEO of Ambassador Wealth Management, advises investors to make sure they diversify their investments across regions and sectors to reduce risk. He says to lean towards "resilient sectors such as consumer staples, utilities and health care, which are less reliant on international trade."

The proliferation of online trading platforms and the ease of smartphones has helped create a new generation of investors who may not be used to such volatility.

But the good news is younger investors often have the gift of time. With decades to go until retirement, they can afford to ride the waves and let their stock portfolios hopefully recover before compounding and eventually growing even bigger.

Stephen Kates, financial analyst at Bankrate, says "now is not the

time to make emotional decisions." Young investors should "re-anchor to your (long-term) goals," and consider using a financial advisor to help navigate uncertain times.

"Investors with ample time to stay invested should remember how lucrative patience has been over the last 15 years," Kates said.

Older investors have less time than younger ones to allow their investments to bounce back. But even in retirement, some people will need their investments to last 30 years or more, said Niladri "Neel" Mukherjee, chief investment officer of TIAA Wealth Management.

People who have already retired may want to cut back on spending and withdrawals after sharp market downturns, because bigger withdrawals will remove more potential compounding ability in the future. But even retirees, at least in the early part of retirement, should still be invested in stocks to prepare for the possibility of decades of spending ahead.

"You may want to slow that down and pick that back up once the market recovers," Mukherjee said, "but it all comes down to having that conversation with your adviser and your portfolio manager."

No one knows, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

‘It is going to affect everything in the economy.’

‘A diversified strategy... can help soften the blows.’

## Artist encourages people to return to simple living

# Singer Rara Sekar draws inspiration from nature

OXFORD, England, April 5, (AP) - Rara Sekar closed her eyes in meditation after performing a song that speaks of rays of light that cut through the fog as one political prisoner faced death more than six decades ago.

The song, which recalls a period of political turmoil in Indonesia, has become a symbol for the singer who has focused on encouraging people to be creative in responding to the climate crisis in Indonesia, her homeland.

The prisoner's song is "very healing," Sekar told The Associated Press after performing Thursday at the Skoll World Forum, an annual event focused on ideas for change on issues ranging from climate change to health and human rights. "When I find myself hopeless doing climate activism, or other activism, I sing it."

Sekar's campaign for a healthy environment in Indonesia focuses on a return to "low-waste life," which includes foraging in the forest for wild food and communal potlucks. Between 2022 and 2023, she organized bicycle rides on the island of Java, where erosion and flooding have engulfed homes, that she said were meant to show

locals the joys of communing with nature.

"I try to give back to nature in everything I do," she said. "Not just about the songs I write but also how I live."

A vast tropical archipelago stretching across the equator, Indonesia is home to the world's third-largest rainforest, with a variety of wildlife and plants, including orangutans and elephants. But environmental degradation is widespread, and the nation has faced extreme weather events in recent years that range from flooding to landslides.

Indonesia is consistently ranked as one of the largest global emitters of plant-warming greenhouse gases, stemming from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, along with deforestation and fires of wetland ecosystems called peatlands.

Since 1950, more than 74 million hectares (285,715 square miles) of Indonesian rainforest - an area twice the size of Germany - have been logged, burned or degraded for development of palm oil, paper and rubber

plantations, mining and other commodities, according to Global Forest Watch.

Sekar performed "Kabut Putih" at Skoll, which takes place in Oxford, England. She sang as part of the Found Sound Nation, a New York-based group that works to engage communities through music.

"Kabut Putih" - or "White Fog" - was written in 1971 by Zubaidah Nuntjik, an Indonesian woman who is believed to have died after being freed from the prison camp where she and many others had been detained. Sekar released a recording of the song in 2024, working with a group that includes families of victims and survivors of the 1965 mass killings that targeted suspected members of the Communist Party of Indonesia.

Sekar, who also performs under the name hara, said the song's spirit "gave me strength just to be hopeful" as a climate campaigner.

"Most of my songs are inspired by nature," she said. "I guess I try to incorporate ways of educating people about climate, the climate crisis, through my tour."



Rara Sekar, who goes by hara, poses for a portrait during the Skoll World Forum on Thursday, April 3, in Oxford, England. (AP)

### Film

## New 'MI' previewed

# Cruise pays tribute to Kilmer at CinemaCon

LAS VEGAS, April 5, (AP) - Tom Cruise opened his highly anticipated CinemaCon appearance on Thursday with a moving tribute to his "Top Gun" co-star, Val Kilmer, who died Tuesday in Los Angeles.

"He loved movies and he gave a lot to all of us with his performances and his films," Cruise said to a room full of movie theater owners. "I really can't tell you how much I admired his work, how much I thought of him as a human being, and how grateful and honored I was when he joined 'Top Gun' and then came back for 'Top Gun: Maverick.'"

Cruise called for a moment of silence, which stood in stark contrast to the otherwise action-packed presentation of Paramount Pictures' upcoming movies.

"Thank you, Val. I wish you well on your next journey," he said to the silent room.

Cruise was there to hype "Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning," the eighth installment of the franchise set to hit theaters May 23.

Given that the 62-year-old is one of the rare stars who is still a near-guarantee for box office success, Cruise is an unsurprising darling of the annual convention and trade show in Las Vegas, where studios hype up cinemas and seek to convince theater owners they can lure audiences out of the house.

Most celebrity appearances throughout the convention comprise a few minutes onstage. But Cruise gave a thoughtful, off-the-prompter tribute to Christopher McQuarrie - or as Cruise calls him, McQ - who was honored as CinemaCon's director of the year.

The speech, followed by a long list of thank-yous to colleagues and the audience, lasted nearly 20 minutes before a new trailer was introduced.

Cruise talked at length about following the filmmaker's career after McQuarrie, at 26, won the Oscar for original screenplay for "The Usual Suspects."

"Most people are still finding their voices at that age, but McQ had already written a film that changed the cinematic landscape," Cruise said.

### Screening

The pair first worked together on the 2008 World War II drama, "Valkyrie," which McQuarrie co-wrote. "We met in LA in my screening room and we spent hours together talking about movies. And from that meeting, I knew that he was an artist that I was going to work with for the rest of my life. I absolutely knew that he was a creative brother who shares the same love and passion for cinema," Cruise said.

McQuarrie began directing the "Mission Impossible" franchise with its fifth installment, "Rogue Nation." Cruise recounted the challenges they've faced with the most recent two films, including pandemic lockdowns and Hollywood strikes, and credited McQuarrie with making the films happen.

The upcoming film was the highlight of Paramount's slate. To kick off the presentation, four motorcyclists flew off ramps as smoke shot from the ground, before descending from the stage and weaving around through aisles as the iconic theme song played.

"It's been an honor and a privilege to work with you, to learn from you, and to place you in harm's way with other people's entertainment," McQuarrie joked to Cruise while accepting the award.

Though Paramount's other projects aren't expected to rival "Mission Impossible" at the box office, the studio boasted a handful of movies clearly meant to be seen on a big screen.

The first film they teased was Edgar Wright's upcoming "The Running Man," a dystopian game show thriller based on the Stephen King novel of the same name. To tease the first footage from the film, actors Glen Powell, who is also being honored as CinemaCon's star of the year, Colman Domingo and Josh Brolin hyped the film alongside Wright.

"Now, more than ever, we need movies in the movie theaters that bring people from all different backgrounds and ideologies together, for one simple reason: to be entertained," Powell said before elaborating on the lengths to which he would go to entertain audiences. "I've fallen from buildings, I've jumped through explosions, I had my body thrashed and smashed. This is probably what I get for asking Tom Cruise advice on using a stunt double."



Tom Cruise, star of the upcoming film 'Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning,' acknowledges applause during the Paramount Pictures presentation at CinemaCon at Caesars Palace on Thursday, April 3, in Las Vegas. (AP)

### Television



Madeline Brewer arrives at the premiere of the sixth season of 'The Handmaid's Tale' on Wednesday, April 2, at TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)

## Mirren takes on new role as crime family matriarch

# Hardy and Ritchie reunite for gritty 'MobLand'

NEW YORK, April 5, (AP) - Tom Hardy has collected troves of knowledge and skill throughout his journey as an actor, forming a megastar career. But any education he received from director Guy Ritchie during their time on the 2008 "RocknRolla" film was gained from afar.

"I didn't have very much to do with him ... the first time I worked with him. Gerard (Butler) was leading that film and in many elements, we were support staff," said Hardy. "So, I got to experience being on the Guy Ritchie set, and it was a bit from a position of not being a lead, and that's a different responsibility."

But time can bring people and experiences back around, especially in Hollywood. Since that film 17 years ago, Ritchie has transitioned into esteemed directorial status. And Hardy has morphed into a box office superstar with films like "The Dark Knight" as the imposing villain Bane, and the titular role for Marvel's "Venom" franchise. Now, the two have reunited for Ritchie's gritty, yet sophisticated series "MobLand."

"I was really keen to go back and work with him because he's a fellow Brit and he's done quite incredible work," explained Hardy. "I wanted to go and play with him, actually, and see what that was like now I'm older, and it was good fun."

The Paramount+ original series follows Harry Da Souza (Hardy), an intimidating, yet calm fixer for a London-based crime family hoping to find the missing son of a rival faction to prevent a catastrophic gang war.

How did Hardy prepare to play such a menacing, yet even-keeled character?

"No acting required!" he said with a big laugh. "Just turn up and, 'Oh, yeah, that makes sense' and say the lines. Don't bump into the furniture."

The second episode of the 10-part "MobLand" series airs Sunday on Paramount+.

The series was created by Ronan Bennett, known for popular crime shows like "The Day of the Jackal" and "Top



This image released by Paramount+ shows Tom Hardy, (left), and Paddy Considine in a scene from 'MobLand.' (AP)

Boy," and written with playwright Jez Butterworth. Ritchie serves as executive producer and directed the first two episodes. The "MobLand" idea began as a spinoff from Showtime's popular "Ray Donovan" series, before becoming a stand-alone show.

Two-time Oscar-winner Helen Mirren stars as the devils Maeve, matriarch and manipulator of the crime family, while Pierce Brosnan plays her husband and mob leader, marking a reunion for the pair who worked on the 1980 film "The Long Good Friday."

It may be hard to think of a role that Dame Mirren hasn't played, but she found one with "MobLand."

"There are always characters out there that are going to take you by surprise and ... I think, 'Oh my god, I've never done anything like that before,'" said the "1923" star who believes the line between shooting film and TV is now nearly nonexistent. "That's one of the sort of beauties of my job, actually, is to

constantly be entering into such very, very different worlds."

Mirren said the opportunity to work with Hardy was intriguing.

"Tom's involvement in it was one of the reasons I signed up because I've admired his work over many years," Mirren said. "Different actors, you can see, 'Oh, they're a great actor' ... they can perform. But certain actors like Tom, it's an interior power that just communicates with the camera. And Tom's got that. You know what? It's called star power."

The "MobLand" cast features Paddy Considine of "House of the Dragon" fame, Joanne Froggatt, Lara Pulver, Anson Boon and Mandeep Dhillon. While this show technically reunites Mirren and Brosnan, they also shot the upcoming "The Thursday Murder Club" film prior to this project.

While much was unknown when Brosnan signed on, "MobLand" had all the right ingredients for the former James Bond to dive in, starting with Ritchie, who released his Netflix series "The Gentlemen" last year.

"He's naughty. He's cheeky. He's bold," said Brosnan. "I love his work. His movies. The way he's acquitted himself on the landscape of cinema. He's a unique talent all his own ... so I said yes. I wanted to go back to London. I wanted to work."

Next for Hardy is the crime drama film "Havoc" premiering later this month, and there's chatter of a potential sequel to his 2015 "Mad Max: Fury Road." A second season of "Taboo" is on the way - nearly a decade after its debut. What about a "Spider-Man" and "Venom" crossover? Hardy addressed the rumors that an alleged project fell apart, clarifying it was never in the works.

"People embellish a story. I just said I would have loved to work with 'Spider-Man,' but it never happened, which is a fact. It hasn't happened. And I'm no longer working with 'Venom' ... it is a shame because my kids would love to watch Venom and Spider-Man together," said Hardy. "I would have liked that."

### Variety

WASHINGTON: Books on the Holocaust, histories of feminism, civil rights and racism, and Maya Angelou's famous autobiography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," were among the nearly 400 volumes removed from the US Naval Academy's library this week after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's office ordered the school to get rid of ones that promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

The Navy late Friday provided the list of 381 books that have been taken out of its library. The move marks another step in the Trump administration's far-reaching effort to purge so-called DEI content from federal agencies, including policies, programs, online and social media postings and curriculum at schools.

In addition to Angelou's award-winning tome, the list includes "Memorializing the Holocaust," which deals with Holocaust memorials; "Half American," about African Americans in World War II; "A Respectable Woman," about the public roles of African American women in 19th century New York; and "Pursuing Trayvon Martin," about the 2012 shooting of the Black 17-year-old in Florida that raised questions about racial profiling. (AP)

LONDON: Britain's charity regulator has opened an investigation into an African charity co-founded by Prince Harry, a week after the prince and the organization's board of trustees resigned amid a dispute with the charity's chairwoman.

Sentebele, which provides support for young people in Botswana and Lesotho, has been wracked by turmoil since Harry and his co-founder abruptly resigned March 26, saying the relationship between the board and its chair was beyond repair. Chair Sophie Chandauka later accused the prince of orchestrating a campaign of bullying and harassment to try to force her out.

The Charity Commission said Thursday that it was in "direct contact" with parties on both sides to gather evidence in its compliance case.



Harry

"The regulator's focus, in line with its statutory remit, will be to determine whether the charity's current and former trustees, including its chair, have fulfilled their duties and responsibilities under charity law," the commission said in a statement.

Chandauka criticized Harry in an interview with Sky News on Sunday, saying that filming for the prince's latest Netflix program interfered with a scheduled fundraiser for Sentebele and an incident with his wife, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, became a source of friction. (AP)

NEW YORK: The MTV Video Music Awards have a new home: This year, the music award show will be broadcast by CBS for the first time, organizers announced Thursday.

The three-hour show will broadcast live on CBS on Sunday, Sept. 7, from the UBS Arena just outside New York City. It will also simulcast on MTV and be available to stream on Paramount+, the platforms that aired last year's show. A one-hour, live pre-show will air across Paramount Media Networks.

CBS is home to a number of award shows, including the Tony Awards and the American Music Awards. It has aired the Grammys since 1973, though that show will head to ABC in 2027.

At the 2024 VMAs, Taylor Swift won big, taking home seven awards. That included the night's biggest prize, the trophy for video of the year, for "Fortnight" featuring Post Malone. Swift's awards haul brought her to a career total of 30, tying her and Beyoncé for the title of most-awarded musician in VMA history. (AP)





Kiwis fast bowler Sears takes 5-34

## New Zealand wins the 3rd ODI vs Pakistan by 43 runs, sweeps series

MOUNT MAUNGANUI, New Zealand, April 5, (AP): Pakistan ended a disappointing tour of New Zealand on another somber note Saturday, losing the third one-day international by 43 runs.

While Pakistan made a bold effort to chase down New Zealand's total of 264-8, it fell short again and was dismissed for 221 in a match reduced by a wet outfield to 42 overs per side.

New Zealand fast bowler Ben Sears took 5-34, his second five-wicket total in consecutive matches.

Pakistan made a strong start to its chase despite a shocking injury to opener Imam-ul-Haq, who retired hurt in the third over after being struck in the head by a throw at the stumps.

Imam was attempting a quick single when a throw to

the non-striker's end lodged in the grill of his helmet. He was clearly dazed and struggled to stand steadily before being helped from the field.

Babar Azam rallied Pakistan after the incident with a half century which, with support from Abdullah Safique (33) and Mohammad Rizwan (37), helped Pakistan to 95-1 at the midpoint of its innings.

With 10 overs remaining, Pakistan was 167-4 and well in the match: New Zealand was 165-4 at the same stage. But New Zealand took 99 runs from the last 10 overs of its innings and Pakistan couldn't match that finish.

Tayyab Tahir made 33 from 31 balls but when he holed out in the 39th over with Pakistan 218-9 the chase was all but over.

Pakistan arrived in New Zealand with a new-look squad, eager to shrug off a disappointing performance at the recent Champions Trophy which it hosted and hoping to build towards next year's T20 World Cup.

But the tourists lost the five-match T20 series 4-1 and lost the first two matches of the three-match ODI series by 73 runs and 84 runs before Saturday's defeat. The Pakistan batters mostly struggled on fast and bouncy New Zealand pitches.

"Obviously it was a disappointing series for us," Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan said. "But if you look at the positives, Babar Azam is in very good touch. Looking at the bowling Sufiyan Muqem was the guy.

"You have to give credit to New Zealand in all departments. They played very well for the last couple of months. They played well in Pakistan against us and they are true professionals."

Earlier, opener Rhys Mariu and Michael Bracewell made half centuries and Daryl Mitchell passed 2,000 runs in ODIs as New Zealand batted first after losing the toss.

Mariu posted his maiden half century in his second ODI and went on to make 58 from 61 balls. Mitchell came into the match with 1,998 runs in one-day internationals with finished with 2,041 runs from 52 matches in which he averages 49.7.

Captain Bracewell finished strongly, making 59 from 40 balls.

## Lucknow hands Mumbai third defeat



Mumbai Indians' Vignesh Puthur fields the ball during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Lucknow Super Giants and Mumbai Indians at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow, India. (AP)

### Thakur, Khan kept nerves in last two overs

LUCKNOW, India, April 5, (AP): Lucknow Super Giants notched their first home win after beating the Mumbai Indians by 12 runs in the Indian Premier League.

Fast bowlers Shardul Thakur and Avesh Khan kept their nerves in the last two overs against Hardik Pandya to restrict Mumbai to 191-5 in reply to Lucknow's 203-8.

Thakur gave away only seven runs in the penultimate over and Khan conceded just nine runs in the final over despite Pandya smashing a first-ball six over extra cover.

Mumbai seemed to be in control of the chase as Suryakumar Yadav made 67 off 43 balls in his 100th IPL game for the Indians. But Khan dismissed Yadav off a mistimed ramp shot in the 17th over that brought Lucknow back into the game.

"Mentally tough game," Lucknow captain Rishabh Pant said. "They did not lose a lot of wickets and kept on going but we kept our calm and finished the game."

Lucknow has two wins and two losses. Five-time champion Mumbai has lost three of its four games.

Mumbai suffered a setback when Rohit Sharma was ruled out of the game after injuring his knee in practice. Marsh capitalized on



Lucknow Super Giants' Ayush Badoni plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Lucknow Super Giants and Mumbai Indians at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow, India. (AP)

an early dropped chance and dominated a 69-run power play with Markram taking a back seat in the absence of Sharma.

Marsh made 60 off 31 in a 76-run partnership with Markram.

Marsh was dismissed by left-arm wrist spinner Vignesh Puthur, who took a smart diving return catch off a leading edge from the Australian, who hit his third half-century in four games.

Pandya then dismissed Nicholas Pooran and Pant cheaply with

two slower short balls. Pant, who was bought for an IPL-record \$3.2 million by Lucknow, is going through a lean patch after his third single-digit score in four games.

Markram briefly took on the attack but then played second fiddle to Ayush Badoni, who made a brisk 30 off 19 balls. However, Badoni departed before the death overs when he scooped a simple catch to wicketkeeper Ryan Rickelton of Ashwani Kumar's off-cutter.

Markram completed his half-century off 34 balls but fell for 53 off 38 to Pandya, who bowled two overs late in the innings and chipped in with three wickets to complete a five-wicket haul.

Miller's two boundaries in the final over got Lucknow past 200, which proved just enough for the home team in the end.

"When you get a good start, you are always ahead of the game," Pant said. "The idea is to play according to the situation. The start Marsh gave helped the lower middle capitalize on that."

Yadav and Naman Dhir scored well over 10 per over after openers Will Jacks and Ryan Rickelton were out inside the first three overs of their run chase.

Dhir hit three sixes and four boundaries in his 46 off 24 balls before he was clean-bowled by Digvesh Rathi's quick leg-break in the ninth over.

Yadav and impact player Tilak Varma added 66 runs, but Lucknow came back when Yadav tried his favorite ramp shot behind the wicket but didn't time it well enough.

Varma struggled to keep up the momentum and at 25 off 23 he was retired out with Mumbai still needing 24 off the final seven balls.

"Disappointing when you lose," Pandya said. "It is a long tournament. (If) you get a couple of wins you get into the rhythm."

## León gets court date for legal fight against FIFA over Club World Cup entry

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, April 5, (AP): Sport's highest court said it will hold fast-track appeals next month as Mexican soccer club León tries to overturn a FIFA decision to expel it from the Club World Cup in the United States.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said León and its sibling club Pachuca have separately filed appeals against a FIFA ruling last month that since they have the same owner they can't both play at Club World Cup.

"Club León filed an additional appeal against the decision by the FIFA secretary general to be reinstated in the competition," the court said

in a statement.

"The appeals will be expedited and heard during the week of May 5," CAS said.

No target was given for a verdict in the case that will decide the final place in the 32-team lineup for the month-long tournament. The Mexican clubs qualified by winning the continental club championship for the CONCACAF region in different years.

FIFA revealed plans this week for a one-game qualification playoff between Los Angeles FC and Mexican team América if its ruling is upheld at CAS.

In a separate CAS process, Costa Rican club

Alajuelense is arguing its case to get the final entry, which will be worth a minimum \$9.55 million payment plus an additional share of the \$1 billion tournament prize fund based on results. The tournament starts June 14.

Alajuelense's case is being heard April 23 in Madrid, though its importance is secondary to the León appeal.

León was included by FIFA in the tournament draw in December despite the pending multi-club ownership issue. It was drawn in a group with Chelsea, Esperance from Tunisia and Flamengo of Brazil.

### UConn routs UCLA 85-51 in Final Four

## South Carolina returns to title game with rout of Texas

TAMPA, Fla., April 5, (AP): Dawn Staley has never lost a national championship game in three trips as South Carolina's coach.

Part of the key to winning those decisive games? Forgetting about what happened the last time she was there. And this time, that was only a year ago.

Staley's defending champion Gamecocks left no doubt they would return to the title game, getting 14 points from Te-Hina Paopao and overwhelming Texas 74-57 on Friday night in the Final Four of the women's NCAA Tournament.

The Gamecocks are a win away from becoming the first team to secure consecutive titles since UConn won four straight from 2013-16. South Carolina will play UConn for the championship on Sunday after the Huskies routed UCLA 85-51 in Friday's second semifinal.

Freshman Joyce Edwards added 13 points, 11 rebounds and six assists for South Carolina (35-3), which used its experience and poise to weather an early deficit, and then took control with its depth at both ends of the floor.

Three South Carolina players finished in double figures - Bree Hall had 11 points - and the Gamecocks dominated Texas in the post with 40 points in the paint to the Longhorns' 22.

Madison Booker had 11 points with three fouls for the Longhorns (35-4), who were trying to reach their first championship since 1986. They were in the Final Four for the first time since 2003 after a dominant season, which was their first in the Southeastern Conference after coming over from the Big 12.

Sarah Strong and Azzi Fudd didn't even need much help from superstar Paige Bueckers to propel UConn into the national title game, leading the Huskies to a remarkably easy 85-51 victory over UCLA in the Final Four of the women's NCAA Tournament.

Strong finished with 22 points and Fudd scored all of her 19 points in the first half for the second-seeded Huskies, who are one win away from their 12th national championship and first since the team won four straight from 2013-16, led by Breanna Stewart. The eight-year title drought is the longest for the Huskies since they won their first in 1995.

UConn will face defending champion South Carolina on Sunday for the title after the Gamecocks beat Texas 74-57 earlier Friday night. It's a rematch of the 2022 championship game, which the Gamecocks won 64-49. The teams met in February and UConn shocked South Carolina with a 29-point road victory.

Bueckers, the likely top pick in the WNBA draft on April 14, finished with 16 points after topping 30 in each of the previous three games for the Huskies (36-3).

All-America center Lauren Betts scored 26 points for top overall seed UCLA (34-3).

UConn got off to a hot start with Strong and Fudd leading the way. Even when shots looked off, they found their way in. Fudd, one of the best shooters in the country whose career at UConn has been interrupted by multiple injuries, banked in a 3-pointer from the top of the key, prompting Auriemma to throw his arms in the air and smile.



South Carolina guard Te-Hina Paopao (0) strips the ball from Texas guard Jordan Lee (7) during the first half of a national semifinal Final Four game during the women's NCAA college basketball tournament in Tampa, Fla. (AP)

## Müller to leave Bayern after 25 years

MUNICH, April 5, (AP): Thomas Müller will end his "incredible journey" with Bayern Munich this summer after 25 years at his boyhood club but says he wasn't ready to leave.

The 35-year-old midfielder, whose contract is set to expire after the season, made the announcement Saturday in a joint statement with Bayern.

On Instagram, Müller wrote that he respected Bayern's decision not to offer him a new contract for next season "even if this did not reflect my personal wishes."

Müller has helped Bayern win a record 12 Bundesliga titles and two Champions League crowns - 33 trophies in total, the team said. But his playing time has been limited recently.

"It's clear that today is not like any other day for me," Müller said. "My 25 years as an FC Bayern Munich player will come to an end in the summer. It's been an incredible journey, shaped by unique experiences, great encounters and unforgettable triumphs."

Müller made his Bayern debut under Jürgen Klinsmann in 2008 and his breakthrough came under Louis van Gaal the following season. He joined the club's academy at age 10 in the summer of 2000.

He's scored 247 goals and has made a club-record number of appearances with 743 matches but his game time has dwindled.

Müller has played in 36 games in all competitions this season, most recently in Bayern's 3-1 win over Augsburg on Friday. However, he only started 12 of those games and has often come off the

bench only in the final minutes.

"I feel immense gratitude and joy that I got to make this career with my beloved club," Müller said in a club statement. "The special connection to the club and our fantastic fans will always remain. What I want as a farewell should be clear: titles we can celebrate together, and moments we'll remember fondly for a long time."

He didn't mention retirement, leaving open the possibility he could represent another club for the first time since he left his local club TSV Pähl for Bayern a quarter of a century ago.



In this file photo, Bayern's Thomas Müller holds the trophy after winning the Bundesliga title after the German Bundesliga soccer match between Bayern Munich and FC Augsburg at the Allianz Arena stadium in Munich, Germany. (AP)

## SPORTS



Winners pose for a group photo.



Officials applaud participants during the closing ceremony.

## IBAK Diamond League 2025 ... A knockout success

## International senior badminton tourney concludes with spectacular displays of skill

KUWAIT CITY, April 5: The Indian Badminton Association of Kuwait (IBAK) proudly hosted the IBAK Diamond League 2025, marking a historic moment as the second-ever International Masters Doubles only Badminton Tournament under the Seniors category.

IBAK Diamond League, a premier badminton tournament in the seniors' category, successfully concluded, showcasing remarkable talent and sportsmanship from players worldwide. The event, held at IBAC Salwa Gym, witnessed intense competition among seasoned athletes, reaffirming their passion and dedication to the sport.

Bringing together elite senior badminton players from various countries, the tournament provided a platform for players to display their skills, experience, and competitive spirit.

The matches featured spectacular rallies, strategic game play, and impressive performances that enthralled spectators and reaffirmed badminton's growing appeal among senior athletes.

From 31 March 2025 to 2 April 2025, participants competed across various categories and age groups, showcasing their skills in both Men's/Women's doubles and Mixed doubles matches.

The event highlighted the players' abilities and lifelong passion for the sport, further promoting badminton as an inclusive activity that transcends age. Badminton players from various countries like India, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Lebanon, Russia, Pakistan, and Kuwait participated in the tournament. The event was hosted in categories as follows. Mix Doubles +35, Women Doubles +35, Men Doubles +35, Men Doubles +45, Mix Doubles +45.

Chief Guest of the tournament was Mr. Kareem Elkhelawy, Marketing Manager at Al Mulla International Exchange Company. Mr. Kareem Elkhelawy gave the medals and cash prizes to all Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medal-



Players getting ready for action.

ists.

IBAK Chairman, Dr. Manimara Chozha, expressed his gratitude, saying, "We are thrilled with the turnout and the high level of competition we witnessed over the past days. It is inspiring to see senior players compete with such enthusiasm and skill."

Their dedication is a testament to the sport's timeless nature. We thank Our sponsors - Al Mulla Exchange, EagleBurgmann, Trans W bolting services, Logi Middle East Limited Company, Ooredoo, Nouri Industrial Establishment Company, Mr. ErinjeriRapealJose (Founder, Global International Gen-

eral Trading & Contracting Company), Dr. Ali Jaber Al Marri (Consultant - Intervention Radiology and Pain Management, Taiba Hospital), Dr. Asma Al Kandri (Gastroenterologist & Endoscopist, Taiba Hospital) and supporters who made this event a grand success."

The tournament not only fostered a competitive spirit but also promoted camaraderie and international sportsmanship among senior players. With the overwhelming response and enthusiasm from participants and spectators, organizers are looking forward to an even bigger and better edition next year.

IBAK can be reached at [www.ibakwt.org](http://www.ibakwt.org) or [ibakcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:ibakcommittee@gmail.com). The following are the results of various individual categories.

Event	Position	Name
Mix Doubles +45	1	Magesvar Maheswaran K+ Jayashree Raghu
	2	Jabbar Farooqui+ Shaina Ajay Kumar
	3	Bobby Varughese+ Cheryl Magsayo Manaytay
Men Doubles +45	1	Srinivas Reddy G + Magesvar Maheswaran K
	2	Jabbar Farooqui+ Manimara Chozhan Regunathan
	3	Mathew Abraham + Chandra Mouli
Mix Doubles +35	1	Syed Akhbar Shah + Ainur Jubail Jul
	2	Magesvar Maheswaran K+ Jayashree Raghu
	3	Jabbar Farooqui+ Olivia Oliquino Knaf
Men Doubles +35	1	Hisham Ezzi + Syed Akhbar Shah
	2	Manimara Chozhan Regunathan + Subin Varghese
	3	Anil Antony + Rethesh KUMAR Ps
Women Doubles +35	1	Olivia Oliquino Knaf + Cheryl Magsayo Manaytay
	2	Rio Ferrer + Ainur Jubail Jul
	3	Jayashree Raghu + Ivy Jill T. Simene

## Celtics break season 3s record, Pistons wrap up first playoff spot since 2018-19

Cavaliers close within a game of sealing East's best mark

**BOSTON, April 5, (AP):** Jaylen Brown scored 31 points and hit three 3-pointers and the Boston Celtics broke the NBA record for 3-pointers in a season in a 123-103 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Friday night.

Boston was 14 of 39 from 3-point range to push its season total to 1,370. Golden State held the previous record with 1,363 in 2022-23.

After having their nine-game winning streak halted in their previous game, the Celtics coasted to the victory.

Jayson Tatum added 23 points, eight rebounds and eight assists. Kristaps Porzingis had 15 points before he walked to the locker room holding a towel to the bridge of his nose early in the final quarter after getting hit by Cody Martin's elbow while the Suns player was driving to the basket.

**Pistons 117, Raptors 105**

In Toronto, Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 23 points, Jalen Duran had 21 points and 18 rebounds and the Detroit Pistons beat the Toronto Raptors to wrap up their first playoff berth since 2018-19.

Malik Beasley scored 21 points for the Pistons, and Dennis Schroeder added 16. Detroit won a franchise-worst 14 games last season, ending an NBA-record 28-game losing streak in the process.

**Cavaliers 114, Spurs 113**

In San Antonio, Donovan Mitchell scored 26 points, Evan



Cleveland Cavaliers guard Donovan Mitchell, right, passes the ball as he is guarded by San Antonio Spurs forward Sandro Mamukelashvili (54) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Antonio. (AP)

Mobley added 25 points and 10 rebounds and the Cleveland Cavaliers held on to beat the San Antonio Spurs to move a game away from clinching the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Cleveland never trailed and led by 23 points in winning its third straight. The Cavaliers have won six of seven and are a win or a Boston loss from clinching the East's best record for the sixth time in franchise history.

**Warriors 118, Nuggets 104**

In San Francisco, Stephen Curry scored 36 points and the Golden State Warriors beat the Denver Nuggets for their fifth straight win.

Brandin Podziemski added 26 and Jimmy Butler III had 19 for the Warriors. They pulled within a half-game of the Nuggets, who

began play third in the Western Conference.

The Warriors built a double-digit lead in the third quarter and maintained it the rest of the way. A 3-pointer by Curry midway through the quarter gave Golden State a 15-point lead, and he also completed a three-point play with under three minutes to play to keep the lead at 15.

Nikola Jokic led the Nuggets with 33 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists, after finishing with 61 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in the last game he played.

**Rockets 125, Thunder 111**

In Houston, Jalen Green had 34 points, Alperen Sengun added 31 and the Houston Rockets snapped the Oklahoma City Thunder's 11-game winning streak.

Houston, which is second in the

Western Conference, improved to 2-3 against the top-seeded Thunder with the win. Oklahoma City lost for the first time since March 10.

**Lakers 124, Pelicans 108**

In Los Angeles, Luka Doncic had 35 points, Austin Reaves added 30 and LeBron James had 27 in the Los Angeles Lakers' victory over the New Orleans Pelicans.

Doncic struggled in a 123-116 loss to Golden State a night earlier, finishing with 19 points on and being exploited several times on the defensive end, but he responded to help the Lakers maintain their grip on third place in the Western Conference ahead of Denver and the Warriors. The Lakers have won three of four.

**Clippers 114, Mavericks 91**

In Inglewood, Kawhi Leonard scored 20 points, Ivica Zubac had 14 points and 13 rebounds and the Los Angeles Clippers routed the Dallas Mavericks for their third straight victory.

The teams will meet again Saturday in Inglewood.

Norman Powell added 14 points, James Harden had 13 points and Bogdan Bogdanovic and Devin Eubanks each scored 12 points. Los Angeles led by 25 points midway through the second quarter and pushed its lead to 35 points in the fourth before emptying its bench.

The Clippers are 13-3 in their last 16 games.

**Kings 125, Hornets 102**

In Charlotte, Zach LaVine had 25 points and 10 rebounds, Domantas Sabonis added 24 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists and the Sacramento Kings rolled past the Charlotte Hornets to remain in 10th place in the Western Conference standings.

DeMar DeRozan added 22 points to help the Kings win for only the second time in their last nine games.

**Bulls 118, Trail Blazers 113**

In Chicago, Nikola Vucevic and Coby White each had 31 points, Josh Giddey had a triple-double and the post-season bound Chicago Bulls beat the Portland Trail Blazers.

Giddey had 15 points, 19 rebounds and 12 assists for his sixth triple-double of the season. The Bulls are 10th in the Eastern Conference, the lowest position they can finish.

**Pacers 140, Jazz 112**

In Indianapolis, Myles Turner had 26 points, seven rebounds and six blocked shots, and the Indiana Pacers beat the Utah Jazz for their third straight victory.

Pascal Siakam scored 22 points and Bennedit Mathurin had 20, going 12 for 16 from the free throw line.

## De Bruyne to leave City at end of season

MANCHESTER, England, April 5, (AP): Kevin De Bruyne has announced he will leave Manchester City - bringing an end to a trophy-laden decade with the club.

The 33-year-old Belgian playmaker is out of contract this summer and in an emotional post on his social media channels on Friday confirmed he is in his "final months" with the Premier League champion.

"Nothing about this is easy to write, but as football players, we all know this day eventually comes. That day is here," he wrote.

De Bruyne will go down as one of the all-time Premier League greats after helping City win 16 major trophies during a period of unprecedented dominance.

Since joining from Wolfsburg for around \$71 million in 2015 he has gone on to win every major club honor, including the Champions League.

"This city. This club. These people... gave me EVERYTHING. I had no choice but to give EVERYTHING back! And guess what - we won EVERYTHING," he wrote. "Whether we like it or not, it's time to say goodbye."

City manager Pep Guardiola described it as a "sad day" following De Bruyne's announcement.

"In the Premier League he is one of the greatest midfielders ever to play in this country and I think in this club (there) is no doubt," Guardiola said. "His assists, his goals, his vision in the final third, that is so difficult to replace."

With 118 assists in the league, De Bruyne is second only to Manchester United great Ryan Giggs, who provided 162, on the all-time list.

He reached that total in 280 appearances, as opposed to 632 for Giggs. He has played 413 matches for City in all competitions, scored 106 goals and was twice named PFA Player of the Year in England.

While De Bruyne will go down as one of the finest players to play for City, he could have



In this file photo, Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal during the Champions League quarterfinal second leg soccer match between Manchester City and Real Madrid at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

instead spent the bulk of his career at Chelsea after joining club from Belgian team Genk in 2012. But he grew frustrated after making only two league starts and eventually moved to Wolfsburg in Germany in 2014.

There he revitalized his career and convinced City to make him the club's record signing.

De Bruyne did not say if he would take part in the Club World Cup, which runs through June and July in the United States.

"He has to decide, it's a new competition. I hope he can continue to play football in another place, but it depends on risk and contracts for the future," Guardiola said. "I don't know. The club has to talk to him, and he has to say what he wants to do."



Golden State Warriors guard Moses Moody (4) dives for the ball next to Denver Nuggets guard Christian Braun (0) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco. (AP)

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