



# 'Kuwait's charitable legacy must remain untarnished'

Dr Al-Huwailah calls for charity sector reforms

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

**KUWAIT CITY, April 10: Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah categorically rejected any actions that tarnish Kuwait's reputation in the field of charitable work, "whether done in good faith or deliberately to harm this noble humanitarian sector".**

During her meeting on Thursday with representatives of charitable organizations at the ministry with the aim of improving the performance of charitable work in coordination with state sectors, Dr. Al-Huwailah said, "There are many issues that

need attention and discussion. Some organizations have strayed from their intended path, and we must collaborate to discuss necessary amendments to correct the course of certain organizations, particularly in relation to collecting donations, especially foreign donations, as some of them may potentially harm charitable work.

"I was shocked by the issue related to the debtors' campaign and the role of organizations in addressing it. We expected to reach a specific number, which we would discuss later. In addition, international reports have raised observations about the State of Kuwait, and this is no secret, it is well known, whether by the U.S. Treasury or other international organizations. Some charitable organizations have received negative feedback, and we are here to improve this performance with your help, the ministry, and the laws, as well as to amend and refine these laws so that we can stand on solid ground.

Continued on Page 5



PM Diwan photo

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah visits the Mercedes-Benz AG Group manufactory where he was briefed about the group's plans for automobiles and production lines. — See Page 2

## 640 individuals lose Kuwaiti citizenship

KUWAIT CITY, April 10, (KUNA): The Supreme Committee on Kuwaiti citizenship announced on Thursday the revocation of citizenship from 640 individuals, with the matter referred to the Cabinet.

The decision was made during the committee's meeting on Thursday chaired by Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

A statement by the Ministry of Interior revealed that two individuals had their article (10) of the citizenship law stripped of due to dual citizenship, 66 people -- through forgery, fraud, and attaining the document via affiliation -- had their article (21 bis A) citizenship stripped of, while 375 individuals who obtained their citizenship through

Continued on Page 5

100K narcotic capsules seized

## Boxes of fashion ... layers of deception

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: The Customs Warehouses Department of the Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) thwarted an attempt to smuggle approximately 100,000 capsules suspected to be narcotics into the country, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to informed sources, customs inspectors became suspicious about a shipment belonging to a wholesale and retail clothing company that arrived from a Gulf country. Upon examination, they discovered 315 boxes cleverly concealed under the clothing. These boxes contained approximately 100,000 capsules, which they suspected to be narcotics.

Continued on Page 5

## 90% of businesses comply with beneficiary disclosure

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that the registration rate for the real beneficiaries of commercial licenses for companies has reached approximately 90 percent of all commercial registrations in less than one month, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry credited this achievement to the dedicated efforts of its teams through awareness campaigns and the streamlining of electronic procedures through the commercial registration portal.

It affirmed that achieving such a high rate in a short period is a regulatory success in line with transparency standards and efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, thereby enhancing the reliability of Kuwait's commercial environment.

The ministry urged the remaining commercial registration holders to complete the disclosure of their real beneficiaries.

Dr Al-Mashaan commits to sustainable infrastructure development

## Game changing road maintenance begins in Mangaf

By Mohammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan announced the continuation of extensive road maintenance work in Mangaf as part of the radical maintenance contracts for highways and internal roads.

In a press statement issued yesterday, the minister explained that maintenance efforts would begin in the most severely affected areas and then expand to those with lesser damage. Teams from the Ministry of Public Works would oversee the implementation of the work. Also, a committee has been formed to test and select engineers to ensure they have the necessary qualifications to supervise the maintenance quality.

She affirmed that the ministry will continue to carry out road maintenance projects in all areas, and ensure strict adherence to quality standards and global specifications.

Dr. Al-Mashaan also stressed that investing in infrastructure not only strengthens economic growth but also enhances the quality of life and supports sustainable development.

Meanwhile, the Supervisor of contract No. 15 for the first zone in Ahmadi Governorate Eng. Abdullah Al-Kandari stated that ministry teams are currently in Mangaf Block 3 to assess the latest developments in the radical



Workers from the Ministry of Public Works are seen actively engaged in a major road rehabilitation project in Mangaf, part of a broader initiative to enhance infrastructure and improve traffic conditions across the country.

road maintenance work under the new contracts.

He explained that the work involves laying an 8 cm thick layer of Type 1 asphalt, cleaning the sewage network in Dhafer, carrying out major maintenance works on roads No. 250

and 240, and laying asphalt in Egaila Block 1.

In a related development, Eng. Mohammed Al-Buraiki confirmed that cleaning and infrastructure repair work has been completed in Egaila, Fahad Al-Ahmad, and Mangaf.

He explained that asphalt laying has been finished in Egaila blocks 3 and 4, as well as on the main road of Jaber Al-Ali, No. 102. Major road maintenance work is set to begin soon in Mangaf Block 4, and Fahad Al-Ahmad Block 1.

## Hot air mass brings dust, rain chances to Kuwait



Wind and sand wage war across Kuwait's highways -- each mile a test of vision and resolve.

Photo by Samer Shiqr

KUWAIT CITY, April 10, (KUNA): The Kuwait Meteorological Department has forecast hot weather during the day and moderate, partly cloudy conditions at night over the weekend.

Director of the department Dirar Al-Ali, told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the country will be affected by a hot air mass that will result in high temperatures with active southerly winds, which could reduce horizontal visibility due to dust, especially in open areas, with chances of scattered rain.

Al-Ali said he expects the weather to start improving on Friday morning with a decrease in high temperatures, compared to Thursday.

He explained that there will be noticeable decrease in temperature during the day time on Friday. The weather will remain hot, but the dust will gradually settle. Winds will be northwesterly, light to moderate, occasionally active, ranging from 15 to 42 kilometers per hour. Some scattered clouds are expected, along with a chance of light, scattered rain. The expected maximum temperatures will range between 32 and 34 degrees Celsius, and the sea will have light to moderate waves, ranging from two to six feet.

Continued on Page 5

Modernization sets regional benchmark

## CEO of Bahrain Airport envisions stronger ties with Kuwait Airport

By Najeh Bilal  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bahrain International Airport Company Mohammed Yousef Binfalah confirmed that the company is keen on cooperating with Kuwait International Airport, particularly with regard to international regulations governing all airports through the Airports Council International (ACI).

He is hoping that Kuwait International Airport will become a member of the organization.

He said Bahrain International Airport catered to around 9.7 million passengers in 2024; indicating the airport has the capacity to handle 130,000 aircraft annually.

On the company winning the Abdullatif Yousef Al-Hamad Award for Development in the Arab World granted by the Arab Fund for

Continued on Page 5

## GCC security media meet in Kuwait to tackle key issues

KUWAIT CITY, April 10, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait hosted on Thursday the 19th meeting of the GCC security media departments with the aim to boost cooperation amongst the meetings' attendees.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement that the meeting was headed by Director General of Public Relations and Security Media Brigadier Nasser Abu Sulaib, who stressed in the opening statement the importance of security media in the stability of countries.

The integration and cooperation amongst security departments would lead to vanquishing crime, holding wrongdoers and boosting safety for all, he stressed, welcoming GCC attendees and their willingness to explore venues of cooperation.

The meeting will be focusing on a unified security campaign, in addition to a number of paramount issues such as countering rumors and misinformation, as well as find various tools to deliver security messages to the public via digital or traditional media.

### NewsWatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a letter on Wednesday from Iraqi President **Abdullatif Rashid**, which included an invitation to the 43rd Arab Summit and the fifth Arab Economic and Social Development Summit, scheduled on May 17 in **Baghdad**.

The letter also touched on bilateral relations and ways to enhance them, as well as recent regional and international developments. (KUNA)

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**KUWAIT CITY:** The Kuwait Water Association (KWA) praised the decision of the Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy **Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem** to form a committee for rationalizing electricity and water consumption, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

**K W A Chair Dr. Saleh Al-Muzaini** Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem affirmed the importance of including relevant civil society organizations like the Kuwait Water Association in the upcoming committee.



**5 Al-Seyassah: ... 56 years at the heart of events**

**8 Boursa Kuwait ends week on high note, General Index climbs 1.55%**



**11 A cultural bridge of connection: Kuwait, Canada mark 60 years of partnership**

## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 04:07 Asr ..... 15:23  
 Sunrise... 05:28 Maghrib .. 18:11  
 Zohr ..... 11:49 Isha ..... 19:30

# Local

## Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

**By Day:** A significant decrease in temperature, rather hot and dust will subside gradually with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-42 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear with

## Weather

a chance for scattered light rain.

**By Night:** Mild and partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind to northeasterly wind, with speeds of 15-40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait Airport	41	23
Abdaly	42	23
Jahra	42	26
Salmiyah	37	24
Jal Aliyah	41	25
Nuwaisib	40	25
Wafra	41	23



Kuwait Amir's Rep proudly holds the Kuwait emblem.



Kuwait Amir's Rep with Kuwaiti and German officials.



Kuwait Amir's Rep is briefed on procedural work.



Kuwait Amir's Rep inspects a new model.



Kuwait Amir's Rep on a tour of the facility.

PM Diwan photos

## Amir Rep attends Mercedes-Benz AG group partnership celebration in Stuttgart

BERLIN, April 10, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah attended on Thursday the 50th anniversary celebration of the partnership between the State of Kuwait and the German Mercedes-Benz AG group held in Stuttgart, Germany.

Accompanying His Highness Sheikh Ahmad a delegation gathering Minister of Oil and member of the Board of Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Tareq Al-Roumi, Chairman of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Basel Al-Haroon, and Undersecretary for Finance and

Administration at the Diwan of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.

The delegation also included KIA Managing Director Sheikh Saud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah, Kuwaiti Ambassador Germany Reem Al-Khaled, head of the Kuwaiti Investment Office in London Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem, Kuwaiti General Consul in the city of Frankfurt Adel Al-Ghunaiman, members of the board of KIA, and officials at the Diwan of His Highness the Prime Minister.

His Highness the Amir Representative and Prime Minister visited during the occasion Mercedes-Benz AG Group facility where he was briefed about the

group's plans for automobiles and production lines.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad commended in a press release the historic ties between Kuwait and Germany, commending the long and fruitful line of partnerships linking the two countries.

He deemed the long decades of partnership between Kuwait and the Mercedes-Benz AG Group as a great example of commercial and investment cooperation, which was based on mutual respect and benefit.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah affirmed that the partnership contributed immensely to Kuwait's Vision 2035 for development and sustainable economy.

### Other Voices

## My history with Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company

By Ahmad alsarraf

For personal reasons, I decided in 1964 to drop out of daytime school and take a part-time job along with my evening studies in high school.

For some reason, I decided to respond to an advertisement from the Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company, which was looking for Kuwaiti employees to be sent abroad for training in the operation and management of bread-making machines.

Something about the company caught my attention, perhaps because of my prior connection with it.

My father used to purchase large quantities of flour bags from the company to distribute to various bakeries.

During the summer months, I was responsible for handling sales during the day and collecting payments on weekend evenings. The driver would drop me off at those bakeries in the Capital and even in remote areas like Jahra and Fahheel. After these exhausting tours, I would return home feeling utterly drained.

I did not want to follow in my father's footsteps in business, and despite his repeated suggestions to work with him, I chose to pursue my own path. I decided to become financially independent, which was not easy, but it helped shape my identity and achieve personal growth.

On a stormy, dusty afternoon, I went for an interview at the Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company. I remember that Khaled Al-Saqr chaired the interview committee. I was informed that I would receive a call later. Not long after, Al-Saqr passed away, and, fortunately, that call never came. My life took a dramatic turn. A few days later, I landed a job at Gulf Bank with the support of Yaqoub Al-Jouan, who later became both my friend and business partner. That was 60 years ago, and since then, my bond with Yaqoub Al-Jouan, my lifelong friend and distinguished partner in several successful companies and banking projects, has only deepened, instead of me pur-



alsarraf

suing a career as a bread dough professional.

I was reminded of all of this when I read about the Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company's plans to open a branch in Dubai as part of its expansion strategy in the Gulf and beyond.

The Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company was established in October 1961 with full government ownership to ensure food security. Its founding decree was signed by the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem. The decree contained 14 simple clauses that reflected the legal situation at the time. The company's primary goal was not to generate profits, even though its founding law granted it a monopoly on wheat imports.

In 1988, the company merged with the Kuwait Bakeries Company, which solidified its position as a major player in the food industry. Its operations expanded to include the first vegetable oil factory in the Gulf region, the production and sale of animal feed, and other related products, in addition to bread, pasta, and biscuits.

From the very beginning, the company has been committed to encouraging and developing national labor. It may be the only industrial company in Kuwait with a workforce that is 16 percent Kuwaiti.

I believe, though I am not certain, that the late Ali Abdulrahman Al-Bahar was the first chairman of the company, having also served as vice chairman of Gulf Bank at the same time.

Al-Bahar was a model of integrity and honesty, as were most of his successors in the company's leadership. To my knowledge, the company has never been involved in any scandals or cases of corruption. Its profits have consistently been reasonable, with sales approaching KD 800 million and achieving a ten percent gain.

Expansion into other countries was never part of the company's plans, nor was it included in its founding law. While the idea is promising, it requires careful consideration. This move could be the first for a government-owned company to take such a bold step. We must ensure the experiment succeeds, especially given the company's 64-year history of success.



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## Kuwait hunts talent to curb cyber threat

KU contest to raise awareness

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, April 10: Chairperson of Kuwait Society for Information Security Dr Safaa Zaman revealed that the Deanship of Student Affairs at Kuwait University, in cooperation with the Society, is organizing the 'Cybersecurity Challenge' competition in a bid to raise awareness on cybersecurity issues and encourage students to be active in this vital field by providing innovative solutions to the challenges that various systems in the country are currently facing.**



Dr. Zaman

The competition focuses on providing plausible solutions to the challenges related to electronic breaches in networks, applications and equipment. It also aims to motivate students to engage in the field of cybersecurity, highlight their outstanding talents, and raise awareness on the importance of cybersecurity in protecting individuals and various sectors in the country.

Entries will be accepted through the link -- <https://forms.office.com/r/ciwHESzsrq?origin=IprLink> -- where applicants should submit a detailed presentation of their projects.

Entries will undergo an initial evaluation phase by a specialized team, followed by the announcement of 10 eligible teams for public voting through the university's official website and social media accounts.

Entries can be submitted individually or as part of a team of no more than four members. The project must be innovative, sustainable and never seen in other events or competitions. Participants must demonstrate the ability to communicate and present their projects in a distinctive manner.

The competition focuses on cybersecurity projects related to education, health, industry, management and other vital sectors.

The competition seeks to consolidate the role of academic institutions in strengthening information security, provide a platform for developing student talent, and build a local network of experts to solve cyber challenges; thus, ensuring the safety of society and the national infrastructure.

The competition includes hosting prominent local and international figures in the field of cybersecurity to provide insights and share valuable experience to participants. This is a pioneering step taken by the university to empower students and contribute to the development of effective solutions to address the cybersecurity challenges that the country is facing in the rapidly evolving digital age.

Registration is ongoing and it will continue until May 18, 2025; while the winners will be announced at a closing ceremony on June 23, 2025.



KUNA photo

Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah.

## 'Kuwait makes significant progress in human rights'

KUWAIT CITY, April 10, (KUNA): Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah reaffirmed, Thursday, "utmost" significance of highlighting Kuwait's tangible progress in promoting human rights.

This came in a speech delivered by Sheikha Jawaher during a meeting organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to prepare for Kuwait's report for the fourth cycle of the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review for 2024 next May.

The meeting is part of a series organized by the Ministry, aimed at preparing comprehensive reports reflecting national efforts and enhancing the role of state institutions in promoting human rights, noted a ministry statement.

## Kuwaiti engineers qualify for 'global finals' in China

BEIJING, April 10, (KUNA): Five newly-graduated Kuwaiti engineers have qualified for the global finals of the "Seeds for the Future" Competition, currently being held in Beijing.

Kuwaiti Ambassador to China Jassem Al-Najem stressed on Wednesday, after meeting with the delegation, the importance of Kuwaiti youth participating in such global events, which contribute to developing their skills in the fields of innovation, technology, and digital transformation, in line with the goals of the New Kuwait Vision 2035.

Ambassador Al-Najem praised the outstanding performance of the participating engineers, appreciating their victory in the regional qualifiers for the Middle East and Central Asia and their qualification to represent Kuwait in the global finals, alongside the UAE team and several other countries.

He pointed out that this competition, organized by Huawei Global with UNESCO's support for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aims to empower youth, promote a knowledge-based economy, and develop human capital.

The Competition is designed to help youth learn about the latest digital trends and explore how digital technologies can contribute to addressing social issues.

It would also raise students' awareness of local sustainable development challenges and support them in using their acquired ICT skills to explore technically and commercially viable solutions.

The global finals of the competition, which will run until April 11, feature teams from Kuwait, the UAE, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Argentina, Vietnam, Cambodia, South Africa, Morocco, Ireland, and Malawi. The program has seen 800 projects from 90 countries since its launch in 2021, with its projects achieving practical success in the markets.

The future engineers from Kuwait University included Sa'ad Al-Majidi, Ahmad Al-Qattan, Taleb Al-Refai, Maryam Al-Mutairi, and Ghanima Buabbas, in addition to an official delegation from the Ministry of Information and Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, Kuwait University, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, and the Public Authority for Youth.



Al-Najem

## KD 2.6 mln netted so far

## Co-ops chip in to help out debtors

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Union of Consumer Cooperatives Gharib Al-Adhan revealed that 22 cooperatives in various parts of the country have contributed to the National Campaign to Help Citizens Pay Debts, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Adhan said the total amount of donations from these cooperatives reached about KD2.6 million, indicating this amount is expected to increase as the campaign continues until April 14.

"Based on their national and societal role, cooperatives are permitted to donate from their annual zakat funds to the campaign; which aims to localize charitable work by helping and easing the burdens of debtors, expressing solidarity with them, and relieving their distress. A cooperative that wants to participate in the campaign must issue a check for the amount of the donation," he explained.

He added these cooperatives include Abu Halifa, Ahmadi, Farwaniya, Saad Al-Abdullah, Sabah Al-Nasser, Shuhada, Zahra, Qairawan, Omariya, Hittin, Khaitan, Al-Raqqa, Al-Shamiya, Abu Fatira, Sabah Al-Salem, Al-Adan and Al-Qusour, Ali Sabah Al-Salem, Al-Dhaher, Al-Wafra Residential Area, Al-Sulaibkhat, Ishbiliya and Mubarak Al-Kabeer. He disclosed that the donations ranged from KD7,900 to KD257,000; depending on the capacity of each cooperative.

The campaign has so far raised KD12.4 million from 20,530 donors.

It can be recalled that on March 14, the ministry launched the third national campaign to pay the debts of citizens. A link was set up to collect donations and the proceeds will be transferred to the Enforcement General Department at the Ministry of Justice to alleviate the suffering of many citizens who are facing difficulties in paying their debts.

# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## Obstacles on way to completing gov't projects cause for concern

"THE government is working on completing development projects with full executive capacity. However, many obstacles exist within the administrative procedures in line with the current regulations, many of which require urgent reconsideration. Among these challenges are procedures that cause delays in project completion. The private sector and businesses are frequently impacted by these delays due to specific requirements and regulations tied to each project", columnist Major General Faisal Musaed Al-Jazzaf wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"Efficient and streamlined procedures are of utmost importance for the timely completion of projects that serve the nation's interests. For this purpose, decisions must be made to eliminate obstacles and expedite the completion of projects.



Faisal Al-Jazzaf

"Furthermore, there is an urgent need to establish continuous monitoring teams for all ongoing projects. These teams would assess the progress of work and deal with any issues that cause delays. Such teams would serve as a reference point for the government's performance monitoring apparatus, with specific responsibilities to oversee and supervise projects, while reporting their findings to decision-makers.

"We hope the problem of tall trees along the streets and in residential areas will be fixed, as they obscure the street addresses displayed on light poles and make it difficult to identify street numbers.

"The ideal solution would be to reposition the numbers on the light poles to eye level so that they are more visible to drivers, rather than having them placed high up as they currently are.

"We pray for the protection of Kuwait and its people from all harm, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince (May God protect them)."

**Also:**

"We accept legitimate criticism, sharp opinions and deviant analysis; but we do not accept, understand or even reject those who ignite media incitement and incite personal animosity against promising cultural horizons, such as those spearheaded by our dear brother, Philosophy Professor at Kuwait University Dr. Abdullah Al-Jasmi," **Khaled Ahmad Al-Tarrah** wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"Dr. Abdullah Al-Jasmi is an advisor to the 'World of Knowledge' series published by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. This series is the dream of the world's intelligent and brilliant minds; therefore, it needs the likes of Professor Al-Jasmi, considering his scientific and cultural expertise, the precision of his intellectual work and the wealth of his contributions.

"The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters has its own errors, deviations and failures; but we applauded it when Dr. Abdullah Al-Jasmi was chosen and his assistance was renewed, so that the 'World of Knowledge' and other solid publications can enjoy a personality dedicated to culture, caring for it and developing it.

"Dr. Al-Jasmi's interests were not distracted by day, nor were his perceptions intoxicated at night by the influence -- directly or indirectly -- of narcissistic drugs, a passion for standing out, climbing, and leaping from one staircase to the other with a fleeting, not athletic, sycophantic speed, as it happens with some cultural intruders and newcomers to the world of Philosophy!

"Dr. Abdullah Al-Jasmi rarely appears on social media, as he does not have an account on the 'X' platform (formerly 'Twitter'). He is a man who has prioritized his intellectual work and philosophical specialization over his health, and whose blood pressure has risen due to the ignorance of some who claim to be philosophers. He is the same man who does not explode with hostility, but rather arms himself with intellectual courage in the face of ignorance and obfuscation.

"If the image and selection criteria for consultants at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters were reversed, such as imposing selective controls, satisfying individual desires, paying for advertisements, or requiring the consultant's appearance, voice and behavior; as well as his or her relationship with sources of intellectual intoxication, the council's publications and global reach would certainly not flourish!

"If the 'National Council', God forbid, or any cultural entity, were to publish classified advertisements for consultants; then surely only those practicing cultural quackery would be appropriate for this consulting profession. They do so under the guise of a false science and hollow vanity, using cheap methods, lowly work and ugly requirements that are completely unsuitable for Dr. Abdullah Al-Jasmi and his ilk.

"We have lost a great deal in the

field of culture and thought. Our backwardness has grown, not because of the presence of a consultant like Philosophy Professor Dr. Abdullah Al-Jasmi but because of the lack of those like him who understand the difference between financial compensation and cultural and intellectual value, and the practice of media quackery through cheap personal mouthpieces.

"These hired pens know how to crawl and climb. They know opportunism, submission and the methods of immorality in their personal dispute with Dr. Abdullah Al-Jasmi who does not need a false aura, an unjust opinion or the chatter of the ignorant!"

"The circle of culture in Kuwait is narrowing, but the circle of climbers and those who lament over culture is not, because they are not, in the first place, living beings that deserve the value of intellectual and cultural life.

"Anyone in this rabble can advertise themselves in classified ads under the heading, 'For Sale', and announce their desire to market their higher degrees as part of the recycling of scientific waste!"

"Amid global economic uncertainties and growing tensions between countries, reflected in tariff wars, supply chain disruptions, and intense technological competition, Kuwait has set itself apart by demonstrating much wisdom in navigating these challenges, adopting a balanced foreign policy that prioritizes its national interests and maintaining strong relationships with major economic powers," columnist **Dr. Ghadeer Mohammad Asiri** wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"As a nation closely integrated into the world economy, Kuwait relies heavily on foreign trade and investments. Recognizing the importance of maintaining stable relations with key global players, Kuwait enjoys strategic ties that cover security, defense, and economic cooperation. It also views these countries as trade and investment partners, particularly in light of recent projects that have created new opportunities for collaboration in infrastructure and renewable energy.

"Kuwait has emerged as a nation known for its wisdom and diplomacy in navigating the rapid changes and challenges at both the regional and international levels.

"The country has earned a reputation for its consistent vision, sound decision-making, and ability to balance economic and political interests. This success is rooted in its longstanding, moderate policies, which have been firmly established over decades by its leadership.

"One of the main challenges facing Kuwait, as a leading oil producer in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), is managing the volatility of oil prices with caution and intelligence. To address this, Kuwait has focused on rationalizing spending without compromising the core elements of social welfare. Furthermore, it has accelerated economic reforms and diversified its income sources by supporting the private sector, encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises, and expanding investments in areas such as renewable energy, technology, and financial services.

"Kuwait has continued to play a pivotal diplomatic role on the world stage by adopting a balanced approach that has made it a mediator in many regional crises. The country's diplomatic reputation remains strong, thanks to its neutral stances, consistent pursuit of dialogue, peace, and non-escalation. This approach has strengthened Kuwait's standing in international forums.

The nation has actively mediated disputes between regional parties, participated in efforts to resolve crises, and promoted Gulf unity, particularly during times of tension and economic challenges in some countries.

"In addition, Kuwait has been committed to providing both humanitarian and financial support, either through development funds or initiatives by Kuwaiti institutions and the state. The main priorities include regional and international cooperation to achieve economic integration, with close coordination alongside international organizations and the World Bank to ensure the sustainability of its economic policies.

"In a world characterized by rapid changes and complex economic and political transformations, Kuwait has proven that, despite its small geographical size, it holds considerable political and diplomatic influence. Its approach, marked by wisdom, moderation, and a balanced economic vision, not only ensures resilience in the face of crises but also empowers the country to positively impact its regional and global surroundings. This ongoing strategy is the key to securing a stable and prosperous future for Kuwait and its people."

— Compiled by Mahmoud Attiyeh/Simi K. Kutty



Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Major General Talal Mohammad Al-Roumi (center, top left picture) participates in the Global Crisis and Emergency Management Summit 2025.



KFF photos

## KFF chief attends Global Crisis, Emergency Management Summit

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Major General Talal Mohammad Al-Roumi participated in the Global Crisis and Emergency Management Summit 2025 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

According to a press release issued by KFF, the summit, which was held under the theme "Together Towards Building Global Resilience", had gathered a number of international officials and experts.

Major General Al-Roumi's participation,

which was based on directives from the acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, highlighted the importance of enhancing international cooperation, exchanging expertise, and developing the readiness of firefighters through modern technologies and artificial intelligence.

During his meetings with a number of leaders and experts, Major General Al-Roumi stressed the role of regional and international cooperation in confronting complex

challenges. He said such events provide an effective platform for exchanging best practices and exploring advanced technologies that strengthen societal resilience and improve crisis response times.

The summit included specialized exhibitions, including the "Crisis Management Technologies Exhibition 2025" and the "Generations Readiness Exhibition 2025", which highlight the latest innovations in the field of emergency management and civil defense.

# Ex-MP Majed Al-Mutairi, others get two years jail in vote-buying

Two acquitted in chalets fraud sale saga

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: The Court of Appeals sentenced former MP Majed Al-Mutairi and others to two years in prison with hard labor for vote-buying. The Criminal Court previously imposed imprisonment sentence on Al-Mutairi and others for buying votes in the Fifth Constituency during the National Assembly elections held on June 6, 2023.

The ruling included a similar prison sentence for other defendants, four-year prison sentence for another defendant and a fine of KD 2,000.

**Illegal sale of chalets:** In a landmark ruling, the Criminal Court of Cassation, presided over by Judge Sultan Bourseli, acquitted two individuals who were accused of fraud, deception, and money laundering through the illegal sale of chalets, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The court ruled that the crimes attributed to the defendants were not committed, clarifying that money laundering requires the investment of funds obtained through illegal activities into legal

businesses. The court explained that the allegation of fraud was not applicable in this case, as most of the chalets had already been built and delivered to the remaining buyers.

A breach of contract terms by one party does not automatically constitute fraud. The aggrieved party has the right to seek recourse through civil court to enforce the contract and seek compensation, if applicable.

The court referred to Article 231 of the Penal Code, which defines fraud as involving deceptive actions such as creating the illusion of a false project, altering the reality of the project, or concealing its existence, but these actions were not committed by the defendants.

## Teacher bagged pay for 16 years without going to job

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: The Criminal Court interrogated a music teacher accused of embezzling KD 182,000 by continuing to receive her salary although she did not report for work from 2008 to 2024, reports Al-Rai daily.

Case files revealed that the activation of the fingerprint attendance system in schools exposed the anomaly.

The accused admitted the crime in court, indicating she will pay the embezzled amount in installments.

discussed the security situation in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh during a meeting on Wednesday with several security leaders, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Important issues concerning the rest of Farwaniya Governorate were also discussed in the presence of the Director General of Farwaniya Security Command Brigadier General Mohammad Al-Mutairi, Director-General of the General Department of Residency Affairs Investigations Brigadier General Mishaal Al-Shanfa, Acting Director of Farwaniya Investigations Department Colonel Ahmad Al-Yassin, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh Security Commander Brigadier General Ayed Al-Subaie, and Lieutenant Colonel Ali Al-Hayyan from the

General Department of Residency Affairs. They highlighted the main challenges facing security agencies in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, which is one of the most densely populated and diverse areas in the country.

The governor affirmed the importance of coordinating efforts and intensifying collaboration among relevant agencies to tackle existing issues and improve the sense of security for residents.

At the end of the meeting, the security officials expressed their appreciation for the governor's commitment and ongoing efforts to support the security system and his diligent follow-up on matters affecting both citizens and residents.

**Jleeb security discussed:** Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah



KFF photo

Many cars were totally wrecked by the blaze.

## One injured in Shuwaikh garage fire as cars burnt

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: A fire broke out in a shop and spread to several vehicles in Shuwaikh Industrial, resulting in one reported injury.

In a press release issued by the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), it stated that firefighting teams from the Shuwaikh Industrial and Al-Shaheed fire stations rushed to the location and extinguished the fire. They handed over the injured individual to paramedics for treatment.



Dr. Ghadeer Asiri

## PAFN shuts down 12 food outlets, issues 30 citations

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) announced that the Capital Inspection Department (Mubarakiya Center) carried out an inspection campaign targeting food establishments, which resulted in the issuance of 30 citations and the immediate closure of 12 establishments, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

A video posted on PAFN's official X account revealed instances of frozen meat being thawed and sold as fresh refrigerated meat, in addition to beef liver of unknown origin, which PAFN classified as adulterated.

The authority also highlighted serious breaches of health and safety regulations, including improper handling of meat and food in general, as well as the presence of meat scraps and unsanitary conditions around the establishments.




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## LOCAL

## 2 tenders issued

## Al-Mishari calls for swift coordination

By **Mohammad Al-Enezi**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: Since the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has issued two tenders for the implementation of seven main 132/11 kV power stations for the Affordable Housing Project, Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari stressed the need for continuous coordination between the concerned government agencies to ensure that work proceeds according to the approved timetables.

Al-Mishari gave the directive when he presided over the second meeting of the Government Coordination Committee recently; with representatives from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy in attendance.

He affirmed that the Council of Ministers is closely monitoring the performance of government agencies in charge of implementing housing projects through weekly and committee meetings.

Meanwhile, acting Director General of the PAHW Rashid Al-Enezi revealed they discussed plans to overcome obstacles to infrastructure projects in new housing cities in order to find appropriate solutions. "A detailed report on the results of the work of government agencies will then be submitted to the Council of Ministers," he added.

He stated that this second meeting complements the efforts made to accelerate the implementation of housing projects and provide infrastructure services to operate them simultaneously with citizens' housing in the new cities.

He added the committee will hold successive meetings with all relevant government agencies in implementation of the Cabinet's decision and the directives of the minister.

Moreover, the State Ministry for Housing issued two tenders for the construction of seven power stations in the affordable housing project.

Contracting companies that meet the list of criteria and standards for both tenders are requested to submit the tender documents and all other required documents in accordance with the regulations.



Participation of Palestine Boys High School – Project Title 'Surface Temperature Monitoring Satellite'.



Participation of Munira Othman Al-Saeed Intermediate School for Girls – Project Title 'Launch of a satellite to monitor weather conditions'.



Participation of Um Habib Bint Al-Aas Al-Qurashiya School – Project Title 'Moon to the Moon'.

KUNA photos

Fair marks milestone with Emirati astronauts' visit

## Kuwait University hosts 'Journey to Space' science exhibition

By **Abdulrahman Al-Shammari**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: The Department of Physics at the College of Science in Kuwait University on Tuesday organized an exhibition of Science projects for middle and high school students under the patronage and in the presence of University President Professor Dina Musaed Al-Maillem, with the support of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

The exhibition marked the conclusion of the 'Journey to Space' program, in cooperation with the College of Education and General Technical Guidance for Science at the Ministry of Education.

The event, which was held at the College of Science in Sabah Al-Salem University City, hosted a group of Emirati astronauts, led by Minister of State for Youth Affairs and astronaut Dr. Sultan bin Saif Al-Neyadi, along with astronauts Mohammed Abdul Rahim Al-Mulla and Noura Issa Al-Matrooshi.

Also present at the event were Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Kuwait Dr. Matar Hamed Al-Neyadi, along with a number of academic officials at Kuwait University and representatives of supporting organizations.



KU photo  
Kuwait University President Professor Dina Musaed Al-Maillem, along with the Emirati astronauts during the exhibition 'Journey to Space' program.

Al-Maillem welcomed the Emirati astronauts to their "second home, Kuwait," affirming the commitment of Kuwait University to provide a supportive educational environment to develop the skills of the younger generation in the fields of Science, Technology and Space Science.

She said the university is keen on molding young people capable of keeping pace with rapid developments in Science, Tech-

nology, Alternative Energy and Artificial Intelligence; in line with Kuwait's vision to become a leading nation in Science and Technology. During the event, Dr. Sultan Al-Neyadi conducted a visual presentation in which he addressed the most complex challenges he faced during his six-month space mission; hence, achieving the recognition as the first Arab astronaut to spend the longest period in space.

Astronaut Mohammed Al-Mulla also called to mind the training they underwent in preparation for the mission.

The astronauts delivered a motivational speech to the students, encouraging them to pursue their scientific ambitions in the field of space.

On the other hand, Dr. Fahad Zaman, a faculty member in the Department of Physics, explained that this initiative aims to invest in and activate the school activity program in public schools by developing an interactive curriculum in Space Science in cooperation with the College of Education and the General Technical Guidance for Science at the Ministry of Education.

He added the program's supervisory team, comprised of academicians and experts in the field, has been conducting a series of training workshops for teachers since last October, with the aim of enabling them to teach Space Science using interactive methods that contribute to consolidating knowledge and stimulating scientific curiosity among students.

He pointed out that the program seeks to foster interest in Science and Technology, and establish a generation capable of learning about Space Science from the early stages of education, in line with the country's drive to invest in this vital field.

## Councils endorse ministry projects

Power line, reservoir plans advanced

By **Inaas Awadh**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, April 10: The Ahmadi Governorate Committee, chaired by Nassar Al-Azmi, met on Wednesday.**

During the meeting, the committee took the following decisions:

■ Approval of the request of the Ministry of Electricity to allocate overhead lines that are 700 meters long and 200 meters wide to connect the main transformer station in Wafra (Z2) to the overhead lines.

■ Approval of the request of the Ministry of Public Works to allocate a reservoir and a route, add the use of a power supply transformer (UDS), and cancel the allocation of previous reservoirs in South Sabahiya.

■ Return to the executive branch the proposal of council member Fahad Al-Khanin regarding the relocation of the street adjacent to the plots between sector 62-Block One, and Block One park in Abu Halifa for an update.

In addition, the Mubarak Al-Kabeer

Governorate Committee, chaired by Fahad Al-Khanin, took the following decisions in its meeting:

■ Approval of the request of the Ministry of Interior to create additional parking spaces next to Qurain Health Center in Qurain-Block Two.

■ Refer to the executive branch the letter of the Ministry of Interior regarding the traffic congestion in Sabah Al-Salem-Block One, and a proposal that a citizen submitted through Tawasul platform regarding the main exit to Qurain Markets.

■ Retain in the agenda the issue of deducting part of the site of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy located in the central region in North Subhan to allocate it as the headquarters of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry until the representatives of the ministries of Electricity, Water and Commerce attend the meeting.

■ Discuss the request of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to allocate a site for a mosque and parking lots in Messilah-Block Seven.

■ Reject the letter of the Ministry of Health regarding the sixth report of the Health and Social Affairs Committee.

## New licensing guidelines outlines

## KFF conducts safety checks on buildings across Governorates

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) announced that an inspection campaign was held recently of a number of buildings and facilities in various governorates, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release, KFF explained that the primary objective of the campaign is to assess the extent of compliance with established safety regulations.

During the campaign, several violations were identified, and citations were issued against facilities and buildings that failed to meet safety standards.

KFF affirmed its continued efforts to ensure the implementation of preventive measures in line with approved regulations to meet the goal of minimizing risks and preserving lives and property.

Meanwhile, sources revealed that the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) has set specific requirements for granting licenses to private housing buildings that are used as educational institutions for people with special needs, including schools, nurseries, centers, and rehabilitation facilities.

They explained that the requirements are divided into "architectural" and safety provisions. These include stipulations that accommodations for those with hearing and visual disabilities must be located on the ground floor, with at least two direct exits to the upper floors. Also, all building and finishing



KFF photo

Kuwait Fire Force during the campaign.

materials must be non-combustible.

The first basement of such buildings may be used for administrative offices, but only after obtaining the necessary approvals from the relevant authorities. It may only be used for treatment rooms if there is a "falling courtyard" in line with KFF guidelines. Furthermore, the use of cooking gas cylinders (LPG) is strictly prohibited.

In accordance with KFF regulations, the process for applying for a private residential building license is conducted manually. Applicants must submit two copies of the plans on an A3-sized paper for review and approval. These copies are then converted to A4-sized format for archiving, along with a digital copy of all relevant plans and documents.



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Walid Al-Nisf



Major General Mohammed Al-Sabr



Dr. Saad Al-Jadaan



Mohammed Al-Yassin

The oldest free platform for opinion and expression, and the most generous space for honest words and balanced positions

## Al-Seyassah: ... 56 years at the heart of events

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: The Al-Seyassah daily continues to receive congratulatory messages on the occasion of its 56th anniversary.

These messages came from the sheikhs and officials; as well as the media and cultural figures in Kuwait and the sisterly and friendly countries.

They expressed their appreciation for the pioneering role the daily plays in the Kuwaiti media landscape in particular, and the Arab world in general; while commending its ongoing contributions to consolidating the values of freedom of opinion and expression and defending national, Arab and humanitarian causes.

They lauded the daily's more than five and a half decades of professionalism, courage and commitment to champion social issues. They affirmed that the daily has established a distinguished journalism school and has become a reliable source of information and analysis over its long history, which has been replete with achievements and milestones in all fields.

Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Yousef Al-Sumait sent a congratulatory cable to the management of the daily stating, "I am pleased to extend to you my sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 56th anniversary of your distinguished newspaper, in appreciation of its pioneering media career that has established its distinguished presence in the Kuwaiti and Arab press landscape. Since its launch, Al-Seyassah has been a free platform for responsible speech and a broad space for bold opinions. Through its professional legacy and balanced positions, it has contributed to supporting the nation's causes and enhancing freedom of expression and public awareness. The inspiring leadership role you play in this journey deserves all appreciation, given your clear vision, steadfastness in principles and boldness in approach." He concluded by imploring Allah to "perpetuate the glow and influence of the daily, and to grant you good health and long service, wishing you further success and excellence in serving the free speech and national work."

Ahmedi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad sent a similar cable, saying "Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah, on the occasion of the new year of the esteemed Al-Seyassah daily, I am pleased to extend to you and the editorial staff my warmest congratulations and best wishes for further progress and prosperity. Al-Seyassah has become a media beacon illuminating the path to serving our beloved country, thanks to its balanced approach and sound insights on Kuwaiti and societal issues. We are confident that the newspaper will continue its distinguished media journey, enhancing its effective role in promoting its noble media message. We ask Allah Almighty to grant all of us success in serving our beloved country, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister, may Allah protect them."

Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Al-Sabah expressed his best wishes and sincere congratulations to Ahmed Al-Jarallah and all the staff of the daily; stressing that "this venerable newspaper has been and continues to be a platform for responsible media and a free voice that reflects the pulse of the street and the issues of the nation. As I greet you on this blessed occasion, I express my deep appreciation for your distinguished media career, wishing you continued success and further progress and prosperity."

Ministry of Oil Undersecretary Dr. Nimer Fahad Al-Malik Al-Sabah also sent a congratulatory cable to Editor-in-Chief General Ahmed Al-Jarallah and all the staff of the newspaper; indicating "Al-Seyassah has been a distinguished media beacon in the sky of Kuwaiti and Arab journalism. Thanks to your wise media leadership, it has been able to establish its presence as a model for responsible professional media. It continues to fulfill its noble journalistic mission with utmost commitment and objectivity, maintaining credibility and transparency, and always advocating for the issues of the nation and its citizens. We, at the Ministry of Oil, are proud of the newspaper's rich journalistic content, which reflects



Bouquets of flowers from well-wishers.

Photo by Rezk Tawfik

the spirit of national responsibility and supports the development process by highlighting economic and social issues, most notably those related to the energy and oil sector, which is a fundamental pillar of the national economy. I wish you further brilliance and success under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, may Allah protect them."

Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak extended his sincere congratulations to Dean of Kuwaiti journalism and distinguished writer Ahmed Al-Jarallah, and to the editorial staff of the esteemed newspaper. He said "for more than five decades, Al-Seyassah has been able to secure a prominent position for itself; thanks to its balanced editorial vision, solid professional approach, and effective role in consolidating the values of freedom and transparency. The newspaper has professionally kept pace with Kuwait's progress and developments, and continues to be a national voice that reflects the pulse of the street and responsibly conveys the truth. Its well-deserved successes are the result of a conscientious media leadership with extensive experience, which has made it a landmark in Kuwaiti and Arab journalism and a special school in the national media landscape. He concluded his greetings by saluting all the newspaper staff for their dedication and loyalty, wishing them continued success and excellence, and wishing Al-Seyassah further success in serving the free word, the nation and society."

Qatari Ambassador to Kuwait Ali bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud stated "we take this opportunity to express our sincere congratulations and best wishes to you and the editorial staff, wishing you continued success and brilliance in your media career. Over the years, Al-Seyassah has proven its position as a leading media platform and has continued its important role in covering issues that concern the interests of the nation and society, in order to enhance public awareness and disseminate

facts with transparency and objectivity. We ask Allah that Al-Seyassah will continue its successful media journey and remain a fundamental pillar of Arab media, supporting the causes of Kuwait and the region, and an important contributor to strengthening cooperation between sisterly countries."

Moroccan Ambassador to Kuwait Ali Ben Issa pointed out that Al-Seyassah has proven its position as a prominent media institution that effectively contributes to enriching the media landscape in the sisterly State of Kuwait and enhances the development of the distinguished cooperative relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the State of Kuwait. I can only express my deep appreciation for the newspaper's comprehensive and reliable media coverage of various political, economic, social and cultural fields at the national and international levels. I implore Allah Almighty to guide your steps, grant you health and wellness, and bless you in your noble tasks, as well as bless your efforts and journalistic career with further success and prosperity."

Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Kuwait Rami Tahboub praised the newspaper's "high credibility and media professionalism, which helped strengthen the trust of readers and officials. I wish you continued success in your media career, and that your newspaper remains a strong media edifice reflecting the values and principles which serve the interests of Kuwait and Palestine."

Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the State of Kuwait Emil Karimov believes that the "friendly relations between our two countries will continue to develop, serving the interests of both countries and the two friendly peoples. I take this opportunity to express to Your Excellency and to the esteemed editorial staff my best wishes for health, happiness and success in your tireless work."

Former Assistant Secretary General of Kuwait University Bader Al-Mudaris affirmed "Al-Seyassah holds a spe-

cial place in my heart. I make sure to read it daily, given its credibility and impartiality, as well as its balanced approach to presentation and accurate reporting. Thanks to your wise leadership, Al-Seyassah has emerged as a distinguished media institution and has contributed effectively to enriching Kuwaiti print media. It has always been present in interacting with Kuwaiti society, contributing to spreading awareness and promoting national values, making it one of the most prominent figures in Kuwaiti media. I am personally proud of Al-Seyassah and the purposeful media content it provides. I wish it further progress, prosperity and widespread popularity in and outside Kuwait under your balanced leadership. I also wish you and the editorial staff continued health and wellness, and that you achieve further success and excellence."

Editor-in-Chief of Al-Qabas daily Walid Al-Nisf sent a bouquet of flowers to the editor-in-chief of Al-Seyassah and its editorial staff, accompanied by his sincere congratulations on the occasion.

Retired Major General Mohammed Al-Sabr in his greetings asserted that "Al-Seyassah remains a cornerstone of Kuwaiti and Arab journalism, thanks to its committed and highly professional media message. I have deep appreciation and pride for its journey, which has been characterized by sophisticated approach and high professionalism in all forums; making it a milestone in the national media arena."

Secretary of Kuwait Public Relations Association and member of the Arab Network for Communication and Public Relations Mohammed Al-Yassin expressed his pride in the newspaper's distinguished media role and the high credibility and professionalism it has achieved throughout its media career. He emphasized that this prominent media institution has proven, over decades, its pioneering role in supporting the Kuwaiti media and upholding the values of professionalism, impartiality, and credibility.

He added, "Through your wise leadership, you have succeeded in consolidating the newspaper's position as a responsible national platform, reflecting a mature ideology and a distinct approach that keeps pace with local, Arab and international issues; interacting with them objectively and transparently, avoiding sensationalism, and adhering to the nation's constants and values."

He concluded "we highly appreciate your efforts and those of the entire editorial staff, for their tireless and professional work that enhances the role of journalism in serving Kuwait and its people. We pray to Allah to grant you further progress and success, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, may Allah protect them."

Dr. Saad Al-Jadaan, a specialist in international law, affirmed that "Al-Seyassah is one of the most prominent newspapers in the Arab world. Since its founding, it has been playing a significant role in reporting news and analyzing political, economic and social issues. We review the newspaper's history and achievements, which have made it a trusted platform for readers. Since its launch, it has adhered to the principles of neutrality and transparency in reporting news, contributing to the objective coverage of local and international events, and providing a platform for intellectual discussions and analytical articles that reflect developments in the political and economic landscape. For years, Al-Seyassah has been able to serve as a mirror for society; discussing various issues related to development, rights and international affairs, while offering in-depth analyses of political events and contributing to enriching public dialogue. With digital transformations, the newspaper has strengthened its online presence to keep pace with the modern era; offering fast and interactive content across its digital platforms, hence, allowing readers to easily follow the news. On this occasion, we can say that Al-Seyassah continues its journey of enhancing media awareness and providing reliable content that enriches public knowledge. Its founding anniversary is not merely a celebration of its publication date, but rather a testament to its pioneering role in the Arab media."

### Continued from Page 1

#### 'Kuwait's charitable

"We are subject to external evaluations of charitable work, not just within Kuwait but globally. Kuwait is part of the global community, whether at the level of Gulf countries, Arab nations, or countries worldwide. The world's eyes are on Kuwait, and we will not tolerate any harm to its reputation due to wrong practices, whether done in good faith or intentionally, that could damage Kuwaiti charitable work.

"Charitable work in Kuwait has been ongoing for over 300 years, and this history is evident, not just in Kuwait. The origins of charitable work began within Kuwait, where Kuwaitis have long supported each other. Over time, this path of charitable work expanded beyond Kuwait, and it is clear that Kuwait's history in this area is significant. Charitable work is deeply rooted in the Kuwaiti people, and we do not overlook the contributions of traders, state officials, and the government as a whole. This has allowed charitable institutions to highlight Kuwait's civilized image through the services provided both inside and outside the country.

"Kuwait was chosen as a center for humanitarian work, a global title

granted by the United Nations, and we all agree that Kuwait is recognized for its humanitarian efforts. However, there are many issues that need to be addressed and clarified. Some charitable organizations have strayed from their path, and we need your support to help correct the course of these organizations, whether in terms of collecting donations, handling external projects, or localizing charitable work. Some practices are harmful to charitable efforts, so it is necessary to establish regulations.

"We are here with you to discuss these matters because Kuwait's interests are our interests. Our top priority is the welfare of Kuwait, along with its reputation, both locally and internationally. This also includes localizing charitable work, as most Kuwaiti charitable efforts are outside of Kuwait, and most countries prioritize internal charitable work before expanding externally.

"I am fully confident and optimistic in this regard. Today, we are meeting to identify the areas we can overcome and agree upon in order to address any concerns or observations about the State of Kuwait."

During the meeting, the minister highlighted a number of issues related to the work of charitable societies and

the mechanisms for collecting donations, especially those from abroad, which could lead to complications or open doors to misinterpretation and misuse.

Dr. Al-Huwailah stressed the need for a review of existing legislation and amendments to ensure the continued success of Kuwaiti charitable work, in a manner that reflects Kuwait's leadership and humanitarian legacy.

The minister insisted that charitable work must be in line with the state's overall policy, highlighting that Kuwait's history is deeply rooted in charitable work, with its rulers and citizens contributing to humanitarian causes for over 300 years.

#### CEO of

Economic and Social Development for 2024, Binfalah affirmed he is proud that the airport won such a major award as it will serve as a motivation for further development and innovation. He also stated that the award recognized the efforts exerted in developing and expanding the airport.

He disclosed that the fund's vision is for the award to encourage, honor and spotlight successful development projects that solved problems or con-

tributed to strengthening economic and social capabilities in the Arab world. "These projects should be disseminated to inspire creativity and promote effective project management," he asserted.

He clarified it is not easy to obtain this award; considering the several stages and comparisons between nominated projects, including a thorough review of technical, financial and administrative studies, evaluation, project selection criteria, budget, implementation phases, quality of work, and adherence to the best designs and required specifications.

He revealed that the modernization journey of the airport began in 2016 and continued until the new facility opened in 2021. He said the second phase was completed in 2022 within the allocated budget and in record time.

He affirmed this project was implemented according to the highest level of quality and sustainability standards; in addition to the environmentally friendly construction, reduction of energy and water consumption, waste management, and the use of more natural lighting in the design.

"As a result, the airport has become one of the most prestigious in the region and around the world. Bahraini

talent was developed during the implementation of this project," he added.

He said the modernization of the airport cost more than \$1 billion, making it one of the best airports in the world. He added the company is committed to work towards continuous development, not just achievements.

#### Hot air

On Friday night, the weather will be moderate and partly cloudy. Winds will shift from north westerly to north easterly, light to moderate, occasionally active, ranging from 15 to 40 kilometers per hour. There will be a chance of scattered rain, with thunderstorms at times. The expected minimum temperatures will range between 17 and 19 degrees Celsius, and the sea will experience light to moderate waves, rising sometimes between two and six feet.

On Saturday, the weather will be hot and partly cloudy during the day. Winds will be from the north to variable direction, light to moderate, occasionally active, ranging between 12 and 40 kilometers per hour, with a chance of scattered light rain. Maximum temperatures are expected to be between 30 and 32 degrees Celsius, and sea conditions will

remain light to moderate, with waves between two and five feet.

The weather on Saturday night will be moderate, with northwesterly to northerly winds, light to moderate, occasionally active, between 15 and 45 kilometers per hour. Minimum temperatures will range between 19 and 21 degrees Celsius, and the sea will be light to moderate, sometimes rising between two and six feet.

#### 640 individuals

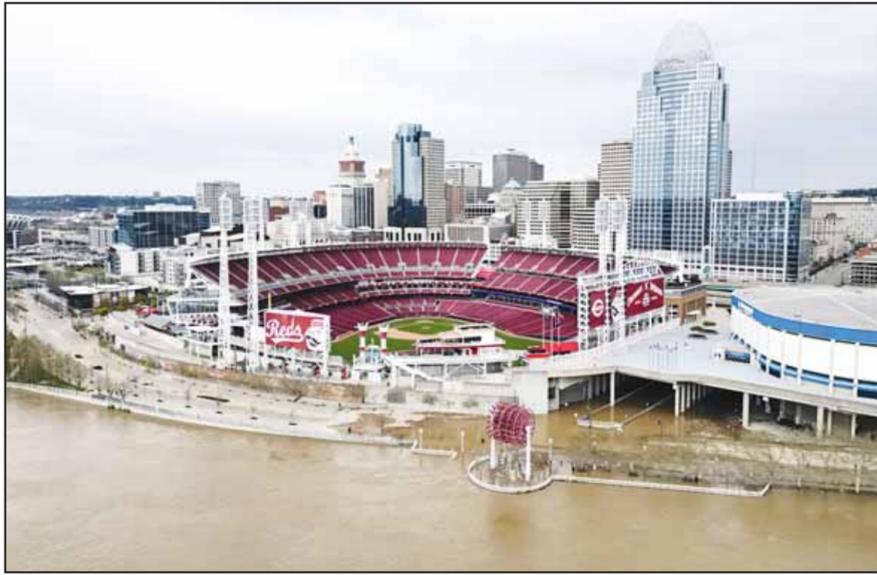
recognition of valuable services had their article (13) citizenship taken.

Some 197 individuals had their article (13) citizenship taken due to fraud, false statements and conflict with the state's supreme interest.

#### Boxes of

Samples of the capsules were sent to the General Department of Criminal Evidence, which confirmed that the capsules contained substances included in the list of banned psychotropic substances.

Necessary legal measures were immediately taken, and the case has been referred to the relevant authorities for further investigation.



The Ohio River floods the riverfront area of the Great American Ball Park, home to the Cincinnati Reds baseball team on April 9, in Cincinnati. (AP)

## NWS no longer translating products for non-English speakers

The National Weather Service is no longer providing language translations of its products, a change that experts say could put non-English speakers at risk of missing potentially life-saving warnings about extreme weather.

The weather service has "paused" the translations because its contract with the provider has

lapsed, NWS spokesperson Michael Musher said. He declined further comment.

Lilt, an artificial intelligence company, began providing translations in late 2023, replacing manual translations that the weather service had said were labor-intensive and not sustainable. It eventually provided them in

Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, French and Samoan.

The contract lapse comes as President Donald Trump's administration is seeking to slash spending in federal agencies, including cuts within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that have led to high employee vacancy rates at NWS offices. (AP)

## Whitmer appears with US president in Oval Office

# Trump offers rare praise for Michigan gov

LANSING, Michigan, April 10, (AP): Michigan Gov Gretchen Whitmer, a potential 2028 White House candidate, stood awkwardly in the Oval Office as President Donald Trump signed executive orders and assailed his political opponents on Wednesday, not long after she delivered a speech nearby that offered soft criticism of him but emphasized shared priorities.

At the top of his remarks, Trump praised the second-term Democratic governor as a "very good person" who has done an "excellent job" - a sharp departure from his tone in his first presidency toward Whitmer, once one of his fiercest opponents. She was feet from his desk when he later signed a pair of memoranda directing the Justice Department to investigate two of his critics and signed an executive order exacting retribution against a law firm whose work he opposed.

Whitmer's office later said in a statement that she was "surprised" that she was brought into the Oval Office and that "her presence is not an endorsement of the actions taken or statements made at that event."

Whitmer was in Washington to deliver a "Build, America, Build" address in which she called for bipartisan cooperation to strengthen American manufacturing. She was at the White House for her second one-on-one meeting with Trump in less than a month, this time to talk about tariffs that were expected to disproportionately affect Michigan, whose economy is closely tied to an auto industry reliant on trade with Canada, Mexico and other countries.

Whitmer's approach stands in stark contrast to that of other high-profile Democratic governors, many of whom are also seen as potential contenders for the party's 2028 presidential nomination. But Whitmer faces a more challenging political landscape than leaders such as Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker or California Gov. Gavin Newsom as she represents a state with a divided state legislature and that went for Trump in two of the last three elections.

But even Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, the Democratic governor of a state that voted for Trump in 2024, has taken a more critical approach toward

Trump, telling reporters Tuesday that Trump is "looking to screw over our farmers" with tariffs.

In her speech Wednesday, which came before Trump announced he was pausing tariffs in most nations except for China, Whitmer highlighted areas of agreement with Trump on tariffs but criticized how they had been implemented.

"I understand the motivation behind the tariffs, and I can tell you, here's where President Trump and I do agree. We do need to make more stuff in America," said Whitmer, before adding, "I'm not against tariffs outright, but it is a blunt tool."



Michigan Gov Gretchen Whitmer speaks with former television journalist Gretchen Carlson at an event on April 9 in Washington. (AP)

'We are experiencing constitutional crisis, a judicial coup d'etat'

# Republican-led House passes bill to limit nationwide orders from federal district judges

WASHINGTON, April 10, (AP): The House passed legislation Wednesday mostly along party lines that limits the authority of federal district judges to issue nationwide orders, as Republicans react to several court rulings against the Trump administration.

In many cases, the courts are questioning whether the firings of federal workers, freezing of federal funds and shuttering of long-running federal offices are unlawful actions by the executive branch and Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency.

The pace of nationwide injunctions has certainly increased during Donald Trump's presidency. Republicans are arguing that the increase is the result of "activist liberal judges." Democrats counter that the courts are simply striking down illegal executive orders and actions from the Trump administration. They also note that some of the judges issuing the injunctions were nominated by Republican presidents.

The bill passed by a vote of 219-213. It limits the scope of injunctive relief ordered by a district judge to

those parties before the court, rather than applying the relief nationally. But the bill is unlikely to advance through the Senate, where at least some Democratic support would be needed.

The Congressional Research Service said it's difficult to get an exact count on the number of nationwide injunctions. It's not a legal term with a precise definition, so counts vary based on methodology. But it identified 86 nationwide injunctions issued during the first Trump administration and 28 cases during Joe Biden's presidency. It found 17 nationwide injunctions as of March 27 in Trump's second term.

Republicans have rallied around the view that federal courts are overstepping and treating Trump's actions differently than those of previous presidents. Rep. Mark Harris, R-N.C., said that a single district court judge can hold the "America First agenda hostage indefinitely" and "this must end."

"We are experiencing a constitutional crisis, a judicial coup d'etat," added Rep. Bob Onder, R-Mo.



US Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., talks to reporters about his push for a House-Senate compromise budget resolution to advance President Donald Trump's agenda, even with opposition from hard-line conservative Republicans, at the Capitol in Washington on April 8. (AP)

Democrats said that Trump's reliance on executive orders to enact his agenda and purposefully sidestep Congress are part of why the courts have weighed in more frequently against Trump.

during the Biden presidency.

"Where were my colleagues when 14 federal judges appointed by Republican presidents issued injunctions against policies that the Biden administration was pursuing over the course of the last four years? Where were they? Nowhere to be found," said Rep. Joe Neguse, D-Colo. "Spare me the feigned indignation."

Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., who sponsored the bill, said it will deter forum shopping by groups that seek out a sympathetic district court judge most likely to block a president's actions. He also said that limiting the authority of district judges is not a partisan issue. Then-Rep. Mondaire Jones, D-N.Y., sponsored a similar bill in the last Congress.

"It may be a timely issue for this president, but that does not make it partisan," Issa said. "To do the right thing at this time is critical."

Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., has sponsored a comparable bill, but there's little chance it could overcome a Democratic filibuster. Lawmakers are also pursuing other actions targeting the courts. Rep. Jim

Jordan, the Republican chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, wrote a letter to colleagues who set spending levels and asked them to include language in upcoming funding bills that prohibits the use of taxpayer dollars to enforce "overbroad injunctions" beyond the specific parties in a case.

Jordan is also calling on them to block federal dollars from being used to compel compliance with nationwide injunctions, such as imposing fines or conducting contempt proceedings.

"These steps would reinforce the proper limits of judicial power and ensure that taxpayer resources support a judiciary that respects its constitutional role," Jordan said.

Such restrictions would also be unlikely to clear the 60-vote threshold necessary to advance spending legislation in the Senate, though it's possible Republicans would try to attach it to a must-spend bill to keep the government open or prevent a government default.

## Attacks against journos on the rise: MFRR

# 'Serbia press freedom faces critical situation'

BELGRADE, Serbia, April 10, (AP): Press freedom in Serbia has reached a "critical" situation, with attacks and threats against journalists on the rise amid massive anti-government protests, an international media monitoring group said on Wednesday.



Jasmijn de Zeeuw, from the Free Press Unlimited, (center), speaks during a press conference about the situation with the press and media freedom, in Belgrade, Serbia, on April 9. (AP)

"We came here because we observed an unprecedented crisis for media in Serbia," Jasmijn de Zeeuw, from the Free Press Unlimited group, said. De Zeeuw, who was part of a Media Freedom Rapid Response, or MFRR, delegation visiting Serbia this week,

urged a response from the European Union.

Serbia is formally seeking EU membership, but populist President Aleksandar Vucic has faced accusations of stifling democratic freedoms, including the freedom of the press.

De Zeeuw said attacks on journalists in Serbia have doubled compared to a year ago, while 56 incidents have occurred in response to the media coverage of a Nov. 1 train station tragedy in Serbia's north that killed 16 people and the protests that followed.

"The instances we recorded include physical attacks, threats, including severe death threats, online smear campaigns, raids of offices without search warrants and blockades of journalists and media," de Zeeuw said.

"We are strongly disturbed by the number of violations against press," she added.

Last week, Reporters Without Borders issued a similar verdict, saying: "Serbian journalism is being systematically repressed yet European political leaders remain locked in a state of guilty inaction."



Supporters of Poland's conservative party attend a memorial service in Warsaw, Poland on April 10 during the 15th anniversary of the plane crash in Russia that killed former Polish President Lech Kaczynski. (AP)

# Protesters in Russia try to disrupt Poland's commemoration of president's plane crash

WARSAW, April 10, (AP): Poland's ambassador to Russia said a small group of Russians tried to disrupt a commemoration on Thursday marking the 15th anniversary of the plane crash that killed Polish President Lech Kaczynski and 95 other people.

The protesters held banners and chanted anti-Polish slogans as Krzysztof Krajewski, the Polish ambassador to Russia, led the event in Smolensk, Russia, where the plane crashed on April 10, 2010, he told RMF FM radio.

"They questioned everything, in-

cluding the war in Ukraine. I heard slogans that were already familiar to me, that Poland is a sponsor of terrorism, that we are falsifying history," Krajewski said told the private broadcaster.

Back in Poland, observances were being held to remember what is widely considered the greatest tragedy in the nation's post-World War II history, one that has led to greater mistrust of Russia and deep divisions within Poland.

Immediately after the crash, gestures by Russian President Vladimir

Putin created hopes for better ties between Russia and Poland. But Russia's ensuing refusal to hand over the wreckage to Poland has instead engendered greater distrust as fears grow of Russian aggression in the region.

Among those who joined remembrance events in Warsaw was Jaroslav Kaczynski, the surviving twin of the late president and leader of the country's main opposition party, Law and Justice, who continues to have a prominent role in political life in the Central European nation of 38 million people.

# Defense chiefs from around 30 nations meet at NATO for talks on future Ukraine force

BRUSSELS, April 10, (AP): Defense ministers from around 30 countries gathered on Thursday to press ahead with plans to deploy troops to Ukraine with plans to police any future peace agreement with Russia.

The meeting at NATO headquarters - the first between defense min-

isters representing the so-called coalition of the willing - comes after a visit to Kyiv last week by senior British and French military officers. It's expected to work on fleshing out an agreement reached at an earlier meeting between leaders.

As usual with coalition gather-

ings, the United States will not take part, but the success of the coalition's operation hinges on U.S. backup with airpower or other military assistance. However, the Trump administration has made no public commitment to provide support.

The Netherlands, Sweden and Finland underlined the "crucial" role of the United States.

"The United States is a crucial player still in guaranteeing lasting security" in Ukraine, said Finnish Defense Minister Anni Häkkinen. His Swedish counterpart, Pål Jonson, said success in Ukraine requires "some form of U.S. engagement" while Dutch Defense Minister Ruben Brekelmans called American support "very important" but said the form it took might differ, depending on the chosen type of European mission in Ukraine.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said ministers were "trying to keep the United States on board."

Amid that uncertainty and U.S. warnings that Europe must take care of its own security and that of Ukraine in future, the force is seen as a first test of the continent's willingness to defend itself and its interests.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, (left), French President Emmanuel Macron, (right), and Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer speak during a trilateral meeting on the sidelines of a summit for 'coalition of the willing' at the Elysee Palace on March 27. (AP)

# US-Russian dual nat'l Karelina freed in prisoner swap

MOSCOW, April 10, (AP): A US-Russian dual national imprisoned in Russia on treason charges was freed Thursday in exchange for a Russian man jailed on smuggling charges in the US, a prisoner swap that comes as Moscow and Washington have made efforts to repair ties.

Ksenia Karelina, also identified in the media as Ksenia Khavana, is "on a plane back home to the United States," U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a post on social media platform X. She was arrested in the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg in February 2024 and convicted of treason on charges stem-

ming from a donation of about \$52 to a charity aiding Ukraine. American authorities have called the case "absolutely ludicrous."

Russia's Federal Security Service, the country's main security and counterintelligence agency, said that dual Russian-German citizen Arthur Petrov was released as part of a swap. Petrov was arrested in Cyprus

in August 2023 at the request of the U.S. on charges of smuggling sensitive microelectronics to Russia and extradited to the U.S. a year later.

Karelina was among a growing number of Americans arrested in Russia in recent years as tensions between Moscow and Washington spiked over the war in Ukraine. Her release is the latest in a series of high-profile prisoner exchanges Russia and the United States carried out in the last three years - and the second since President Donald Trump took office less than three months ago and reversed Washington's policy of isolating Russia in an effort to end the war in Ukraine.



Karelina

New Zealanders should all have the same rights and duties: Seymour

## NZ lawmakers reject proposed law to redefine country's founding Treaty of Waitangi

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, April 10, (AP) - New Zealand lawmakers dealt an overwhelming defeat Thursday to a controversial proposed law seeking to redefine the country's founding treaty between Māori tribes and the British Crown.

The Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi bill was rejected by Parliament in a 112 to 11 vote in Wellington, halting its progress to a third and final vote. Cheers and applause erupted before lawmakers and the public sang a waiata - a traditional Māori song - after the result was announced.

The sweeping reinterpretation of the 1840 treaty signed by British representatives and 500 Māori chiefs during New Zealand's colonization was never expected to become law. But the measures provoked a fraught debate about Indigenous rights and last November prompted the biggest race relations protest in the country's history.

But its defeat did not spell the end for scrutiny of Māori rights in New Zealand law.

The Treaty guides the relationship between the government and Māori,

with its meaning established through decades of legislation and court rulings. It promised tribes broad rights to retain their lands and protect their interests in return for ceding governance to the British.

But two versions of the document were signed - one in English and one in Māori - and while both promised Māori the rights and privileges of British citizens, the documents differed on what authority the chiefs were ceding. Crown breaches of both created steep disenfranchisement for Māori, who still face stark inequities.

Since an Indigenous protest movement surged in the 1970s, Treaty considerations have been a growing part of New Zealand law. Redress efforts have bolstered a dwindling Māori language and culture - now experiencing a resurgence - and resulted in billion-dollar settlements for stolen Māori land.

The bill sought to end the 185-year conversation about the Treaty's meaning by enacting in law particular definitions for each clause and specifying that any rights should apply to all New Zealanders. Its author - libertar-



Members of Parliament celebrate as the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi bill was rejected by Parliament in a 112 to 11 vote in Wellington, New Zealand on April 10. (AP)

ian lawmaker David Seymour, who is Māori - has decried what he said were special rights and privileges on the basis of race.

In his speech to lawmakers Thursday, Seymour said New Zealanders should all have "the same rights and duties."

He urged lawmakers outside his party to break ranks and endorse the bill. None did.

Parliamentary opposition leader Chris Hipkins lambasted the bill as "a stain on this country" and accused its supporters of spreading "the myth of Māori special privilege." He cited the disadvantage of Māori on almost every metric - including higher rates of poverty and ill-health and lower life expectancy.

The Treaty of Waitangi "is not about racial privilege or racial superiority," said opposition lawmaker Willie Jackson. "It is and always has been about legal rights Māori have in their contract with the Crown."

Parliament received 300,000 written submissions from members of the public - more than a proposed law had ever received before - 90% of them opposed to the measures.

"This bill has been absolutely annihilated," said Hana-Rāwhiti Maipi-Clarke, an opposition lawmaker from Te Pāti Māori, the Māori political party.

Maipi-Clarke faces disciplinary proceedings at Parliament for her protest

of the bill's first vote last November, when she tore up a copy of the measures while performing a haka - a Māori chant of challenge - as she and colleagues walked towards Seymour. The lawmakers refused to attend a hearing on their conduct this month, because they said Parliament does not respect tikanga - Māori cultural protocols.

Despite its unpopularity, the proposed law passed its first vote due to a quirk of New Zealand's political system that allows tiny parties to negotiate outsized influence for their agendas.

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon agreed his lawmakers would endorse the bill at its first reading to fulfil a political deal with Seymour that handed Luxon power. Without enough seats to govern after the 2023 election, Luxon negotiated support from two minor parties, including Seymour's, in return for political concessions.

They included Luxon's early support for the Treaty Principles bill, although the New Zealand leader always said he would later oppose it. Luxon's opponents on Thursday derided his political dealings.

## S.Korean opposition leader Lee opens presidential bid following Yoon's ouster

SEOUL, South Korea, April 10, (AP) - South Korean opposition leader Lee Jae-myung, widely seen as the front-runner in a presidential by-election triggered by the removal of Yoon Suk Yeol last week, announced his presidential bid Thursday, vowing to heal a starkly divided nation through economic growth. Lee, who narrowly lost the 2022 election to Yoon, led the liberal Democratic Party's campaign to oust the former president over his December declaration of martial law.

Lee recently stepped down as the party's chairman to focus on campaigning for the June 3 election. He is considered the clear front-runner in party's primary. Kim Dong-yeon, the Democratic governor of Gyeonggi province and a longtime financial policymaker, also told reporters Wednesday that he intends to run for president.

Yoon's downfall has left the conservative People Power Party in disarray, with roughly 10 politicians expected to seek the nomination, reflecting a split between Yoon loyalists, who still control the party's leadership, and reformists calling for a fresh start.

In a video message, Lee said that Yoon's martial law saga exposed the country's deep divisions and



South Korea's People Power Party former leader Han Dong-hun announces his bid to run in the presidential election at National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea on April 10. (AP)

social conflicts, and argued that the root cause was a widening rich-poor gap. He promised aggressive government spending to jolt economic growth and ease income polarization.

Former PPP leader Han Dong-hoon, head of the party's anti-Yoon faction, announced his presidential bid Thursday, positioning himself as a conservative who opposed martial law and appealing to centrist voters to stop the inauguration of a

populist "monster government" led by Lee. Among the conservatives' presidential hopefuls, former Labor Minister Kim Moon Soo is considered to be the most pro-Yoon.

Kim, Daegu Mayor Hong Joonyo and senior PPP lawmaker Ahn Cheol-soo - a former computer software entrepreneur who finished third in the 2017 presidential vote - have declared their intentions to run for president. Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon is expected to enter the race later.

## UN special envoy Julie Bishop makes trip to war-torn Myanmar after devastating quake

BANGKOK, April 10, (AP) - The UN special envoy for Myanmar has made a visit to the military-ruled nation, meeting Wednesday with the foreign minister as the country recovers from an earthquake that killed more than 3,600 people.

It is the second visit the envoy, Australia's Julie Bishop, has made since her UN appointment last year. She previously made a low-key visit that was made public only when she reported to the United Nations in October last year that she had met with the head of Myanmar's military government, Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing, in the capital Naypyitaw.

On Wednesday, Bishop met with Foreign Minister Than Swe and other officials at a temporary tented area outside of the ministry's damaged building in the capital Naypyitaw, which was hard hit by the 7.7 magnitude quake on March 28, Myanmar's MRTV state television said.

The earthquake caused significant damage to six regions and states, leaving many areas without power, telephone or cell connections and damaging roads and bridges, exacerbating hardships caused by the Southeast Asian nation's continuing civil war.

Maj Gen Zaw Min Tun, a spokesperson for the military government, said late Wednesday that the quake's death toll has reached 3,649, with 5,018 injured and 145 missing.



Australian Member of Parliament Julie Bishop talks at the opening panel of the World Economic Forum Global Future Council in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Nov 11, 2018. (AP)

The earthquake destroyed 48,834 houses, 3,094 Buddhist monasteries and nunneries, 2,045 schools, 2,171 departmental offices and buildings, 148 bridges and 5,275 pagodas, the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper reported, citing Vice Senior Gen. Soe Win, the vice chairman of the ruling military council. Wednesday night's MRTV report said Bishop and Myanmar officials discussed coordination between Myanmar and the United Nations on aid for quake-affected people, but did not

detail further plans.

Bishop, a former Australian foreign minister and current chancellor of the Australian National University, was appointed as Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' envoy to Myanmar in April last year.

Her appointment drew flak last month when a group opposed to military rule in Myanmar alleged that she had business links with Chinese companies with interests in Myanmar, amounting to a conflict of interest.

## US says, China's military presence in Western Hemisphere 'too large'

PANAMA CITY, April 10, (AP) - US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth focused again on China's presence in the Western Hemisphere Wednesday, one day after calling the world power a threat to the Panama Canal.

Speaking at a regional security conference, Hegseth said that China-based companies were controlling land and critical infrastructure in strategic sectors.

"China's military has too large of a presence in the Western Hemisphere," Hegseth said. "Make no mistake, Beijing is investing and operating in this region for military advantage and unfair economic gain."

He called on the region's governments to work together to deter China and address threats posed by transnational drug cartels and mass immigration.

Hegseth was speaking a day after meeting Panama's President José Raúl Mulino and touring the Panama Canal. The two countries agreed to step up security coordination and appeared to say they would work toward a way to pay back fees that US warships pay to pass through the Panama Canal.

The visit comes amid tensions over US President Donald Trump's repeated assertions that the U.S. is being overcharged to use the Panama Canal and that China has influence over its operations - allegations that Panama has denied.

Shortly after Hegseth and Mulino met, the Chinese Embassy in Panama criticized the U.S. government in a statement on X, saying Washington had used "blackmail" to further its own interests and that who Panama carries out business with is a "sover-



US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth speaks during a press conference in Panama City on April 9, 2025. (AP)

eign decision of Panama ... and something the U.S. doesn't have the right to interfere in."

On Wednesday, Hegseth said, "I don't know anything about blackmail."

The concern about China's influence over the waterway was provoked by Hong Kong-based consortium CK Hutchison holding a 25-year lease on ports at either end of the canal. The Panamanian government announced that the lease was being audited and late Monday concluded that there were irregularities, which CK Hutchison denied in a statement Wednesday.

CK Hutchison has already announced that it would be selling its controlling stake in the ports to a consortium including BlackRock Inc., effectively putting the ports under American control once the sale is complete.

## Gabon to hold presidential poll

DAKAR, Senegal, April 10, (AP) - The oil-rich central African nation of Gabon on Saturday will hold its first presidential election since a 2023 military coup ended a political dynasty which lasted over 50 years.

The interim president, Gen. Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, led the coup that toppled President Ali Bongo Ondimba, who many Gabonese accused of irresponsible governance.

Bongo was placed in house arrest after the coup but freed a week later due to health concerns. His wife and son were detained and charged with corruption and embezzlement of public funds. Bongo himself was not charged.

Following the coup, soldiers proclaimed Oligui Nguema, the Republican Guard chief and a cousin of Bongo, as president of a transitional committee to lead the country. He promised to "return power to civilians" through "credible elections."

In March, Oligui Nguema announced he would run in the presidential election. Seven others are running. Election observers from the African Union and European Union will be present on election day. Gabon's foreign ministry has said. Gabon's parliament in January adopted a new electoral code. The legislation was contentious. It allows military personnel to be candidates in all elections, which hadn't been possible in the past. It also paved the way for Oligui Nguema to run.



Ondimba

## S.Sudan's main opposition party shows rift after longtime leader's detention

JUBA, South Sudan, April 10, (AP) - Divisions emerged Wednesday in South Sudan's main opposition party after the detention of its longtime leader, as some voted to replace him with a government minister accused of conspiring with the country's president.

Riek Machar, whose political tensions with President Salva Kiir recently threatened to tip South Sudan back into civil war, remained in house arrest as Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In-Opposition party leaders loyal to him skipped the meeting. Other loyalists have fled the country.

The selection of Stephen Kuol Par, South Sudan's minister of peace building, as the party's interim chair came two days after the exiled party deputy suspended him and accused him of conspiring with South Sudan's president to replace Machar.

Oyet Nathaniel also suspended three other members, accusing them of fostering disunity. Party members had been warned not to attend Wednesday's meeting.

Par dismissed the suspension, calling it "the joke of the year" and saying the party "cannot be led or take orders from self-exiled leaders."

When asked if his appointment was a coup against Machar, Par said it wasn't. He said choosing an interim chair was a way to resolve the party's



South Sudan's minister of peace building, Stephen Kuol Par, (centre), addresses the media after being declared interim chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In Opposition (SPLM-IO), in Juba, South Sudan on April 9. (AP)

leadership crisis.

He also appealed for the release of Machar and other senior SPLM-IO members who were detained two weeks ago following deadly violence in the country's north.

"This act of detention undermines

the principles of peace and dialogue essential for our nation's recovery," Par said.

SPLM-IO spokesperson Lam Paul Gabriel in a social media post called Par and others who attended the meeting "betrayers."

## Mexican drug lord Fonseca released

MEXICO CITY, April 10, (AP) - Drug lord Ernesto "Don Neto" Fonseca Carrillo, who was convicted in the 1985 killing of a US Drug Enforcement Administration agent, was freed from prison after completing his 40-year sentence, a federal agent confirmed late Wednesday.

Fonseca, 94, had been serving the remainder of his sentence under home confinement outside Mexico City since being moved from prison in 2016. The federal agent, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the case, said he was released last weekend.

The co-founder of the Guadalajara Cartel along with Rafael Caro Quintero, Fonseca was convicted in the kidnapping, torture and murder of DEA agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena.



US Marine Corps pallbearers carry the casket holding the body of slain US Drug Enforcement agent Enrique Camarena after it arrived at North Island Naval Air Station, in San Diego, March 8, 1985. (AP)

## Hope of finding survivors fades in aftermath of Dominican Republic club roof collapse

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, April 10, (AP) - The number of dead in a roof collapse at an iconic nightclub in the Dominican Republic surged to 218 on Thursday, an official said. Juan Manuel Méndez, director of the Center of Emergency Operations, said crews at the scene were still looking for victims and potential survivors, although no one has been found alive since Tuesday afternoon.

"We've practically combed through ground zero," he said, adding that there's one very small area of rubble left that crews are focusing on. "This has been very difficult for us all."

Meanwhile, dozens of people in the capital of Santo Domingo still searched for their loved ones, growing frustrated upon getting no answers after visiting hospitals and the country's forensic institute.

Doctors warned that some of the two dozen patients who remained hospitalized were still not in the clear, especially the eight who were in critical condition.

"If the trauma is too great, there's not a lot of time" left to save patients in that condition, said Health Minister Víctor Atallah.

He and other doctors said that injuries include fractures in the skull, femur and pelvis caused by slabs of cement falling on those attending a merengue concert at the Jet Set nightclub in Santo Domingo, where more than 200 were injured.

The government said Wednesday night that it was moving to a recovery phase focused on finding bodies.

The legendary club was packed with musicians, profes-



Rescue workers carry the recovered body of a victim in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on April 10 who died when the roof collapsed two nights prior at the Jet Set nightclub during a merengue concert. (AP)

sional athletes and government officials when dust began falling from the ceiling and into people's drinks early Tuesday. Minutes later, the roof collapsed.

Victims include merengue icon Rubby Pérez, who had been singing to the crowd before the roof fell; former MLB players Octavio Dotel and Tony Enrique Blanco Cabrera; and Nelsy Cruz, the governor of the northwest province of Montecristi whose brother is seven-time Major League Baseball All-Star Nelson Cruz.

## Kuwait crude falls \$3.26 to \$64.33 pb

KUWAIT CITY, April 10, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil nosedived USD 3.26 during Wednesday trading to reach USD 64.33 per barrel compared with USD 67.59 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Thursday.

Brent futures rose USD 2.66 to USD 65.48 pb

and West Texas Intermediate gained USD 2.77 to USD 62.35 pb.

Oil prices rebounded more than four percent after US President Donald Trump announced yesterday a 90-day suspension of tariffs on all countries except on imports from China which rose to 125 percent.

# Business

## Supporting education and youth empowerment

### Gulf Bank concludes successful sponsorship of fourth 'Derasati' exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: In line with its ongoing commitment to education and youth empowerment, Gulf Bank successfully concluded its sponsorship of the fourth edition of the "Derasati" exhibition, held at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref from April 7 to 10, 2025. The event was held under the patronage of the Minister of Education, H.E. Dr. Adel Al-Mane, and brought together over 120 local and international universities, training institutes, educational service providers, and representatives from the banking and automotive sectors.

"Derasati" serves as a leading platform that connects students, experts, and educational institutions to explore and enhance academic and career opportunities. The exhibition featured a dynamic lineup of conferences and panel discussions led by prominent industry professionals, alongside engaging competitions and opportunities to win valuable prizes—offering participants a well-rounded glimpse into both current and future educational prospects.

Gulf Bank's booth attracted significant interest from visitors throughout the four-day exhibition. The Bank showcased a range of exclusive offers tailored for students, including the popular red account and the red plus prepaid card. Designed with youth in mind, the card offers a range of exclusive deals and benefits, including a generous cashback program of up to 15%, enabling cardholders to earn as much as KD 300 per year.



A remarkable turnout of students at the Gulf Bank booth.

The red plus Mastercard prepaid card is the first of its kind in the Middle East to offer cashback benefits specifically designed for youth. It features the most rewarding cashback program in Kuwait and stands out as the region's first vertically-designed Mastercard prepaid card.

Gulf Bank continues to play a pivotal role in supporting Kuwaiti youth, focusing on creating opportunities that nurture their development and unlock their potential. Through strategic alliances with youth-focused organizations, the Bank invests skill development, career opportunities, and tailored financial solutions—reinforcing its commitment to empowering the leaders of tomorrow.

Gulf Bank aims to be Kuwait's leading bank, fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace to deliver exceptional customer service while contributing sustainably to the community. Through its extensive branch network and innovative digital services, the Bank empowers customers to conduct banking transactions conveniently and efficiently, ensuring a seamless experience.

In alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035, "New Kuwait," and its commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships, Gulf Bank is dedicated to driving robust sustainability initiatives across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions. The Bank is committed to implementing strategically selected and diverse sustainability programs both internally and externally.

## Boursa Kuwait ends week on high note, General Index climbs 1.55%

Main Market Index rises 1.21% to 7,129.83

KUWAIT CITY, April 10, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Thursday's session on a strong note, with the General Index surging 119.65 points, or 1.55%, to reach 7,819.91. Trading activity was robust, with 422.3 million shares exchanged through 21,758

transactions, generating KD 118.7 million (approximately \$364.4 million) in value.

The Main Market Index climbed 85.25 points, or 1.21%, settling at 7,129.83. It saw 197.8 million shares traded across 9,316 deals worth KD 30.7 million (around \$94.2 million).

Meanwhile, the Premier Market

Index advanced by 134.16 points, or 1.63%, to close at 8,378.39, with 224.5 million shares traded through 12,442 transactions, totaling KD 88 million (about \$270.16 million).

The Main 50 Index also posted gains, rising 86.95 points or 1.29% to 6,840.68, with 160.9 million shares traded through 7,568 transactions, valued at KD 26.7 million (roughly \$81.9 million).

## Kuwait FDI doubles to \$2 bln

### GCC nations attract strong global investor interest, UAE leads region

DUBAI, April 10: GCC countries continue to attract strong global investor interest, according to Kearney's 2025 Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index® (FDICI). According to the survey, fielded in January 2025, the United Arab Emirates continues to lead the region, ranking 9th globally and 2nd among emerging markets, reaffirming its status as the GCC's investment frontrunner. Saudi Arabia follows closely, climbing to 13th globally and retaining its 3rd place among emerging markets. Kuwait also debuts on the Emerging Markets Index, ranking 18th - a sign of growing investor appetite across the Gulf.

Now in its 27th year, the FDICI provides a forward-looking view of FDI flows by surveying global business leaders on the markets they are most likely to invest in over the next three years. The Index captures a snapshot of investor sentiments amid a changing global environment. The GCC's strong performance reflects a long-term economic vision, consistent regulatory reforms, and targeted national visions to attract high-value investment across sectors.

Investor interest in the region is backed by robust data. In the UAE, the digital economy is projected to contribute over 20% to GDP by 2031, supported by national strategies and major infrastructure projects such as Etihad Rail and the expansion of data centre capacity. FDI inflows into Saudi Arabia's non-oil economy rose

by 10.4% in 2023, while its \$100 billion AI-focused "Project Transcendence" is positioning the Kingdom as a regional technology powerhouse. In Kuwait, FDI inflows more than doubled in 2023, reaching \$2 billion, driven by targeted investment incentives, improvements in ease of doing business, and a broader push for diversification under Vision 2035.

The 2025 Index also offers insights into investor rationale for investment decisions. For the GCC, the top reasons for investing in the region include strong domestic economic performance, ease of doing business, technological innovation, and access to natural resources. These drivers align with the region's reform agendas - from the UAE's tech-forward, low-tax business environment to Saudi Arabia's streamlined investment laws and growing innovation ecosystem, to Kuwait's reforms enabling foreign firms to operate without local sponsors in priority sectors such as Information and Communication Technology (ICT), healthcare, and renewables.

In a broader global context, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait stand out among emerging markets, alongside China, as top destinations for FDI over the upcoming three years.

"In a global climate marked by uncertainty and policy shifts, the GCC's ability to maintain investor momentum is no accident. It stems from consistent vision, bold reform,

and a clear commitment to economic transformation. Investors today are looking not only for opportunity but for clarity and resilience. The Gulf delivers both," commented Rudolph Lohmeyer, Senior Partner Global Business Policy Council & Head of the National Transformations Institute, Part of Kearney Foresight Network.

Investor sentiment for the year was captured before the sharp escalation of trade tensions in early April, but early indications already pointed to heightened investor concern over global instability, with commodity price increases and rising geopolitical tensions topping the list of anticipated developments. Yet, amid uncertainty, investors continue to prioritize strong fundamentals when selecting markets - citing legal and regulatory efficiency, economic performance, and innovation as key drivers.

"While the Middle East sees strong representation, developed markets dominate the global rankings, led by the US," added report co-author Erik R. Peterson, Partner and Managing Director of Kearney's Global Business Policy Council. "This speaks to a dynamic and evolving investment landscape, where investors are not only weighing opportunity but also navigating rising risks, including increasingly restrictive regulatory environments driven by a wave of industrial policy aimed at strengthening domestic resilience and national security."

## Private sector deposits in Kuwait rise to KD 37.6 bln

### Kuwait's M2 money supply grows by 1.2% in Feb

KUWAIT CITY, April 10, (KUNA): The Central Bank of Kuwait announced on Wednesday that the money supply in its broad sense (M2) increased by 1.2 percent and reached KD 41.1 billion (approximately \$ 135.6 billion) in February on a monthly basis.

In a statistical report sent to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the bank's Economic Research Department stated that private sector deposits with local banks in dinars rose by 1.2 percent to reach KD 37.6 billion (approximately \$ 124 billion) in February. The private sector deposits in foreign currencies fell by 2.9 percent to reach KD 1.7 billion (about \$ 5.6 billion). Meanwhile, the total balances of local banks' claims on the Central Bank, represented by (central) bonds, stood at KD 1.3 billion (about \$ 4.3 billion).

The total assets of local banks rose by 0.8 percent in February, reaching KD 92.3 billion (about \$ 304.6 billion). The net foreign assets of local banks rose by 1.3

percent to reach KD 15.6 billion (about \$ 51.5 billion).

Time deposits with the Central Bank remained stable in February at KD 700 million (about \$ 2.3 billion), while cash credit facilities (loans) fell by 0.1 percent to KD 57.2 billion (about \$ 188.7 billion).

Average interest rates on one-year treasury bonds remained stable in February at 4.375 percent, while financing Kuwaiti imports rose by two percent to KD 654 million (about \$ 2.2 billion).

In addition, the average exchange rate of the US dollar against the dinar increased by 0.1 percent to 308.6 fils.

Money supply, in its narrow sense, refers to the volume of current operations, including banknotes, coins, and money deposited in banks in the form of current accounts or demand deposits. Money supply, in its broad sense, includes term deposit accounts and savings accounts in addition to current money.

## Bank drives growth and trust in Islamic banking

### Warba Bank announces main sponsor of 9th Shura-AAOIFI Sharia Audit Conference

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: Warba Bank has announced its main sponsorship of the 9th Shura-AAOIFI Sharia Audit Conference, reaffirming its commitment to staying at the forefront of professional developments in Sharia auditing and to supporting the effective governance of Sharia supervisory frameworks in Islamic financial institutions. The sponsorship reflects the Bank's dedication to enhancing the efficiency of the profession and keeping pace with regulatory and supervisory advancements in this critical sector.

Executive Director of the Sharia Department at Warba Bank, Abdullah Abdul Rahim Fakhro, said: "We are proud to be the main partner of the 9th Shura-AAOIFI Conference, an important academic platform that brings together experts and practitioners in Islamic banking and Sharia auditing from across the GCC and beyond. We believe that such conferences play an important role in developing professional practices and strengthening Sharia governance, therefore contributing to the stability and growth of the Islamic financial industry."

Fakhro added that this sponsorship is part of Warba Bank's ongoing efforts to support initiatives that strengthen frameworks of Islamic banking and is a testament to the Bank's role as a leading financial institution that has integrated compliance Sharia principles with digital innovation. In recent years, Warba has taken steps to reinforce its local and regional presence by launching smart services and advanced governance frameworks, making it one of Kuwait's most prominent Islamic banks in terms of shareholder base and access to Sharia-compliant digital services.

He continued: "Our participation in this conference reflects our belief in the importance of institutionalizing Sharia audit practices and integrating them with the regulatory and supervisory environment of Islamic financial institutions. We view the development of Sharia governance tools as a cornerstone of our strategy to enhance performance and deliver



Abdullah Fakhro

Sharia-compliant financial solutions that meet our customers' aspirations."

Fakhro concluded by emphasizing Warba Bank's ongoing investment in the resources, knowledge and expertise needed to support the growth and impact of the Sharia audit sector. This, he noted, reinforces the integrity of the broader Islamic banking system and strengthens trust among customers and shareholders.

Held under the title of "Sharia Auditing between Reinforcing the Profession and Expanding New Horizons" from April 13 to 15, 2025, the conference is organized by Shura Sharia Consulting in collaboration with the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial

Institutions (AAOIFI).

The event will address a range of topics, including licensing mechanisms for the Sharia audit profession, integration between external Sharia auditors and Sharia supervisory boards, the role of artificial intelligence in advancing audit and consulting services, and applications of Sharia auditing in the Takaful insurance sector and charitable and humanitarian organizations.

The conference will feature speakers and experts from leading financial and regulatory institutions, government entities from Kuwait and abroad, and a broad audience of Sharia audit professionals. It offers a unique opportunity for the exchange of insights and best practices that can help raise performance standards across Islamic financial institutions.

**Building a Better Tomorrow**

Guided by its slogan, "We Hear You, Let's Own Tomorrow," Warba Bank is committed to redefining the future of Islamic banking through innovative services, a superior customer experience, and a sustainable, inclusive financial system. As one of the fastest-growing Islamic banks in Kuwait and one with the largest local shareholder bases, Warba Bank continues to embrace excellence, sustainability, and innovation, strengthening its role as a trusted partner for individuals and businesses alike.

## Future trends in digital operations explored

### The Investment Studies Center launches training program on 'innovation & digital transformation'

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: The Investment Studies Center -- the professional arm of the Union of Investment Companies -- launched a specialized training program on Wednesday with the theme, "Innovation and Digital Transformation in Operations."

In a press statement, the union revealed that the program was held at its headquarters, with the participation of a select group of executive and professional experts from different investment companies.

This is part of the efforts of the union to make sure that the investment sector is ready to meet the challenges of digital transformation, and empower its workforce with the tools and technologies of the future.

The program was presented by founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Revotips Technology Consulting Roland Abi Najm who has extensive experience in the fields of cybersecurity, digital transformation and combating cybercrime.

It provided a practical learning experience, distinguished by the comprehensive presentation that combined theoretical foundations with practical applications and the latest global trends.

The topics are as follows:

■ Understanding the basic concepts of innovation and digital transformation, and their importance in enhancing the efficiency of corporate operations.

■ Reviewing the most influential digital technologies in modern business environments, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things, Blockchain, Cloud Computing, and Robotic Process Automation.

■ Analyzing the direct impact of digital transformation on cost reduction, improving operational efficiency, and enhancing customer satisfaction.

■ Presenting global case studies from certain sectors such as manufacturing, retail, healthcare and logistics; while highlighting success stories in digital transformation.

■ Drawing a digital roadmap that illustrates the stages of organizational change -- from identifying areas for innovation to integrating digital solutions



Photo during the conference.

into growth strategies.

The program targeted executive officials; operation managers; supply chain, Information Technology and process improvement specialists; and business development teams, creating a highly interactive environment that enriched discussions and enabled the exchange of experience among attendees.

Participants talked about the common challenges in adopting digital transformation, ways to overcome resistance to change, and implementing the best practices in risk management and information security.

An interactive workshop was held as well in order to develop a customized roadmap for each organization and identify key performance indicators to measure digital success.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of the union Fawda Darwish clarified that this program falls within the vision of the union to support an innovation environment in the investment sector and build national capabilities for leading transformation processes and adapting to modern technology.

She said "developing human capital is no longer an option; it has become a necessity to keep pace with the global digital acceleration. We, at the union,

are committed to empowering our member companies with the tools for competitiveness and sustainability through quality training and investing in minds and talent."

At the end of the program, the future trends in digital operations were highlighted; such as generative AI, hyper-automation, smart supply chains, and environmental sustainability through digital solutions.

The program stressed that preparing for the future begins now through clear strategies and serious investment in digital capabilities.

Participants praised the quality of the content, competence of the lecturer and value of the information they obtained through the program.

Many also unveiled their intention to transfer the acquired knowledge to their teams and apply it practically within their organizations.

The union reaffirmed its commitment to provide more specialized and high quality programs that will enhance smart institutional transformation, create a more flexible and efficient investment environment, and contribute to the realization of the vision of Kuwait to transition in a sustainable and knowledge-based economy.

Aligning with its dedication to developing the skills of its human resources

## NBK organizes workshop for its employees on 'Driving NBK into the Future'

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: In keeping with consistent endeavors to increase employees' efficiency through the best-in-class training and development programs provided by global experts, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) organized a seminar titled "Driving NBK into the Future" by Warren Knight, the renowned global advisor and expert in digital transformation.

This seminar is designed to help businesses tackle this challenge by providing a comprehensive assessment and roadmap for successful digital transformation. It will equip attendees with the knowledge and tools they need to navigate the complex digital landscape and stay ahead of the competition.

Participating employees will learn how to strategically plan, organize people and resources, and foster a culture of agile innovation, collective responsibility, and customer-centricity. They will also gain insights into the impact of digital on the workplace, becoming the leader at the heart of transformational change, and learning how to enable and encourage new ways of rewarding. Furthermore, they will discover how to build and sponsor a digital culture that drives organizational success through a clear roadmap that is tailored to the organization's unique needs and goals.

The seminar will provide at-



Maryam Al-Nasrallah

### Al-Nasrallah:

Investing in our employees is a key strategic pillar for achieving sustainable growth and maintaining our excellence and leadership

Attendees with an in-depth assessment and understanding of each of the three building blocks of digital transformation leadership: Alignment - Optimization and Integration. Alignment refers to the harmonization and integration of various aspects of the organization to work cohesively towards the common goals and objectives of digital



Photos of the workshop.



transformation. This includes aligning strategies, processes, technologies, people, and resources to ensure they all support and contribute to the transformation journey.

Meanwhile, Optimization involves fine-tuning and maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of different elements within the organization, such as processes, technologies, data management, and support functions to ensure that each aspect is functioning at its best to drive successful digital transformation and achieve the desired outcomes.

The seminar will cover the 5 pillars of the Everyday Transformation which include Human Centric, Process tools, Problem

Solving, Digital Strategy, Data-Driven Technology, Business Model, Communication, Intention and Agile Mindset.

Speaking on this, Maryam Al-Nasrallah, Talent Management Manager, Group Human Resources at National Bank of Kuwait, said, "We firmly believe that investing in our employees is a key strategic pillar for achieving sustainable growth and maintaining the bank's excellence and leadership. To this end, we are investing largely in developing their skills through advanced training programs, workshops and seminars for renowned international experts, to provide them with the required knowledge and expertise to keep pace with the

rapid-evolving financial landscape."

"We are constantly seeking to enhance our employees' technical skills and expertise, including leadership capabilities and personal and professional skills, aligning with our belief that continuous training magnifies employees' knowledge of the aspects of the changes and developments taking place in the banking industry, thus empowering them to tackle future challenges," she added.

Al-Nasrallah highlighted that NBK has a significant edge in leading digital transformation and innovation in the banking sector, thanks to its pioneering initiatives that encompass all as-

pects of digital transformation, including training and developing its employees to be prepared for next-generation technologies.

In this context, the bank recently launched the 'NBK Tech Academy', the first of its kind Academy focusing on digital and data technologies by providing a professional training program to train and qualify young Kuwaiti talents to join the banking sector.

Warren Knight has unwavering dedication spanning 15+ years. As the author of 'Think Digital First' and 'Everyday Transformation', he equips leaders with the confidence, skills, and tools to embed digital into their core of their transformation.

### Energy prices slide \$20

## Oil prices plunge to 4-year low, then rebound after tariff pause

WASHINGTON, April 10, (AP): Oil prices swung wildly on Wednesday, sinking to a four-year low in anticipation of slowing economic growth due to a burgeoning trade war, before jumping 2% after President Donald Trump announced a 90-day pause on most of his tariffs.

U.S. benchmark crude followed U.S. markets higher in the afternoon rising 2%, or \$1.20, to \$60.79 per barrel after the latest reversal by the Trump administration.

That's after it declined 4.3% to \$56.98 per barrel as late as midday on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices had fallen further earlier in the day to levels not seen since February 2021, the depth of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Energy prices mostly have been in decline since Trump's inauguration in January, with the cost of a barrel of oil sliding about \$20 since the start of the year. At this time last year, a barrel of U.S. crude cost \$85. A barrel was going for around \$71 at the beginning of April, before tariffs were launched.

Brent crude, the European standard, also climbed into positive territory Wednesday to \$63.90 per barrel.

The most recent swoon in energy prices arrived when Trump's latest round of tariffs kicked in after midnight, including a 104% tax on goods coming from China. The world's second-largest economy quickly retaliated, with Beijing saying it would raise tariffs on imported U.S. goods to 84% on Thursday.

European Union member states followed suit, issuing retaliatory tariffs on \$23 billion in goods. For now, the targeted items are a tiny fraction of the 1.6 trillion euros (\$1.8 trillion) in U.S.-EU annual trade.

Rapidly falling oil prices signal pessimism about economic growth and can be a harbinger of a recession as manufacturers cut production, businesses cut travel costs and families rethink vacation plans.

Delta Air Lines, which had anticipated a record year, pulled its financial forecasts for 2025 on Wednesday as the trade war scrambles expectations for business and household spending and depresses bookings across the travel sector.

"With broad economic uncertainty around global trade, growth has largely stalled," said Delta CEO Ed Bastian.

Shares of major U.S. oil companies fell as well Wednesday.

"We are going into a recession," Neil Dutta of Renaissance Macro Research wrote in a note to clients. "I don't think it is especially controversial to say so."

### Consumer prices rise 2.6% in March

## Inflation likely cooled last month as businesses braced for higher tariffs

WASHINGTON, April 10, (AP): Inflation likely declined last month as the cost of energy, used cars and hotel rooms may have fallen, though President Donald Trump's remaining tariffs could lift prices soon.

Consumer prices probably rose 2.6% in March from a year ago, the Labor Department is expected to report Thursday, according to economists' projections compiled by FactSet. That would be down from February's yearly gain of 2.8%. Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, prices are expected to have risen 3%, down from 3.1% in February.

The projected figures, if accurate, would suggest inflation is starting to cool again after remaining elevated for most of the fall and winter. Core inflation was stuck at 3.3% for five months before declining in February.

Still, inflation remains above the 2% target set by the inflation-fighters at the Federal Reserve. And on a monthly basis, core prices are forecast to rise 0.3% in March. If sustained, price increases at that pace would easily top the Fed's target. Overall prices are expected to tick up just 0.1% in March, however. Economists pay closer attention to the core figures because they provide a better guide to where inflation is headed.

Most economists had forecast higher inflation this year as a result of the sweeping tariffs on 60 nations that President Donald Trump announced last week. Yet on Wednesday, Trump paused those duties for 90 days. A universal tariff of 10% remains in place, as well as 25% duties

on steel, aluminum, cars and many items from Canada and Mexico.

And import taxes on China have been ramped up to 125%, after China retaliated against Trump's earlier decisions to place large duties on imports from China.

Even with the pause, many companies are still uncertain where trade policy will go next. Trump has also said that duties on pharmaceutical imports will be imposed.

Consumers will likely see some prices rise because of the existing duties, including the massive tariffs on China. The United States imports more than \$60 billion of iPhones and other mobile phones every year from China, as well as massive amounts of clothes, shoes and toys.

Many U.S. companies will likely shift production out of China, a process that had already started during Trump's first term when he slapped duties on some of its exports. Still, China remains the United States' third-largest trading partner.

Shifting supply chains out of China, however, will likely take time and come with its own costs, which could raise prices for U.S. consumers in the coming months.

Last week, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said that the central bank was likely to keep its key interest rate unchanged at about 4.3% as it waited to see how Trump's policies impacted the economy. Trump called for the Fed to cut rates on Friday.

"There's a lot of waiting and seeing going on, including by us," Powell said. "And that just seems like the right thing to do in this period of uncertainty."

## Trump suspends tariffs on most nations for 90 days, raises taxes on Chinese imports

Stock market surges after Trump's tariff reversal

WASHINGTON, April 10, (AP): Facing a global market meltdown, President Donald Trump on Wednesday abruptly backed off his tariffs on most nations for 90 days even as he further jacked up the tax rate on Chinese imports to 125%.

It was seemingly an attempt to narrow what had been an unprecedented trade war between the U.S. and most of the world to a showdown between the U.S. and China. The S&P 500 stock index jumped 9.5% after the announcement, but the drama over Trump's tariffs is far from over as the administration prepares to engage in country-by-country negotiations. In the meantime, countries subject to the pause will now be tariffed at 10%.

The president hit pause in the face of intense pressure created by volatile financial markets that had been pushing Trump to reconsider his tariffs, even as some administration officials insisted the his reversal had always been the plan.

As stocks and bonds sold off, voters were watching their retirement savings dwindle and businesses warned of worse than expected sales and rising prices, all a possible gut punch to a country that sent Trump back to the White House last year on the promise of combating inflation.

The global economy appeared to be in open rebellion against Trump's tariffs as they took effect early Wednesday, a signal that the U.S. president was not immune from market pressures. By early afternoon, Trump posted on Truth Social that because more than 75 countries had reached out to the U.S. government for trade talks and had not retaliated in meaningful ways, "I have authorized a 90 day PAUSE, and a substantially lowered Reciprocal Tariff during this period, of 10%, also effective immediately."

### Declines

Trump later told reporters that he pulled back on many global tariffs - but not on China - because people were "jippy" and "afraid" due to the stock market declines. He added that while he expected to reach deals, "nothing's over yet."

The president said he had been monitoring the bond market and that people were "getting a little queasy" as bond prices had fallen and interest rates had increased in a vote of no confidence by investors in Trump's previous tariff plans.

"The bond market is very tricky," Trump said. "I was watching it. But if you look at it now, it's beautiful."

The president later said he'd been thinking about his tariff pause over the past few days, but he said it "came together early this morning, fairly early this morning."

Asked why White House aides had been insisting for weeks that the tariffs were not part of a negotiation, Trump said: "A lot of times, it's not a negotiation until it is."

The 10% tariff was the baseline rate for most nations that went into effect on Saturday. It's meaningfully lower than the 20% tariff that Trump had set for goods from the European Union, 24% on imports from Japan and 25% on products from South Korea. Still, 10% represents an increase in the tariffs previously charged by the U.S. government. Canada and Mexico would continue to be tariffed by as much as 25% due to a separate directive by Trump to ostensibly stop fentanyl smuggling.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that the negotiations with individual countries would be "bespoke," meaning that the next 90 days would involve talks on a flurry of potential deals. Bessent, a former hedge fund manager, told reporters that the pause was because of other countries seeking talks rather than brutal selloffs in the financial markets, a statement later contradicted by the president.

"The only certainty we can provide is that the U.S. is going to negotiate in good faith, and we assume that our allies will too," Bessent said.

The treasury secretary said he and Trump "had a long talk on Sunday, and this was his strategy all



A view of the European currency Euro sculpture, at Germany's main financial district in Frankfurt, Germany, Wednesday, April 9, 2025. (AP)

along" and that the president had "goaded China into a bad position."

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick later seemed to contradict the president's account by saying it was "definitively" not the markets that caused Trump to pause the tariffs, saying that requests by other nations to negotiate prompted the decision.

Prior to the reversal, business executives were warning of a potential recession caused by his policies, some of the top U.S. trading partners were retaliating with their own import taxes and the stock market was quivering after days of decline.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the walk back was part of Trump's negotiating strategy.

She said the news media "clearly failed to see what President Trump is doing here. You tried to say that the rest of the world would be moved closer to China, when in fact, we've seen the opposite effect. The entire world is calling the United States of America, not China, because they need our markets."

### Fragmentation

The head of the World Trade Organization, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, said the trade war between the U.S. and China could "could severely damage the global economic outlook" and warned of "potential fragmentation of global trade along geopolitical lines."

Market turmoil had been building for weeks ahead of Trump's move, with the president at times suggesting the import taxes would stay in place while also saying that they could be subject to negotiations.

Particularly worrisome was that U.S. government debt had lost some of its luster with investors, who usually treat Treasury notes as a safe haven when there's economic turbulence. Government bond prices had been falling, pushing up the interest rate on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note to 4.45%. That rate eased after Trump's reversal.

Gennadiy Goldberg, head of U.S. rates strategy at TD Securities, said before the announcement that markets wanted to see a truce in the trade disputes.

"Markets more broadly, not just the Treasury market, are looking for signs that a trade de-escalation is coming," he said. "Absent any de-escalation, it's going to be difficult for markets to stabilize."

John Canavan, lead analyst at the consultancy Oxford Economics, noted that while Trump said he changed course due to possible negotiations, he had previously indicated that the tariffs would stay in place.

"There have been very mixed messages on whether there would be negotiations," Canavan said. "Given what's been going on with the markets, he realized the safest thing to do is negotiate and put things on pause."

The whipsaw-like nature of Wednesday could be seen in the social media posts of Bill Ackman, a hedge fund billionaire and Trump supporter.

"Our stock market is down," Ackman posted on X. "Bond yields are up and the dollar is declining. These are not the markers of successful policy."

Ackman repeated his call for a 90-day pause in the post. When Trump embraced that idea several hours later, an ebullient Ackman posted that Trump had "brilliantly executed" his plan and it was "Textbook, Art of the Deal," a reference to Trump's best-selling 1987 book.

Presidents often receive undue credit or blame for the state of the U.S. economy as their time in the White House is subject to financial and geopolitical forces beyond their direct control.

But by unilaterally imposing tariffs, Trump has exerted extraordinary influence over the flow of commerce, creating political risks and pulling the market in different directions based on his remarks and social media posts. There still appear to be 25% tariffs on autos, steel and aluminum, with more imports, including pharmaceutical drugs, set to be tariffed in the weeks ahead.

The tariffs frenzy of recent weeks has taken its toll on businesses and individuals alike.

On CNBC, Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian said the administration was being less strategic than it was during Trump's first term. His company had in January projected it would have its best financial year in history, only to scrap its expectations for 2025 due to the economic uncertainty.

### Chaos

"Trying to do it all at the same time has created chaos in terms of being able to make plans," he said, noting that demand for air travel has weakened.

Before Trump's reversal, economic forecasters said his second term has had a series of negative and cascading impacts that could put the country into a downturn.

"Simultaneous shocks to consumer sentiment, corporate confidence, trade, financial markets as well as to prices, new orders and the labor market will tip the economy into recession in the current quarter," said Joe Brusuelas, chief economist at the consultancy RSM.

Bessent has previously said it could take months to strike deals with countries on tariff rates. But in a Wednesday morning appearance on "Mornings with Maria," Bessent said the economy would "be back to firing on all cylinders" at a point in the "not too distant future."

He said there has been an "overwhelming" response by "the countries who want to come and sit at the table rather than escalate." Bessent mentioned Japan, South Korea, and India. "I will note that they are all around China. We have Vietnam coming today," he said.

# Business Plus



## Senators question Trump's tariff strategy

### Trump's tariff U-turn sparks investor relief, despite global economic chaos



President Donald Trump is displayed on a television on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Wednesday, April 9, 2025. (AP)

WASHINGTON, April 10, (AP): The stock market was soaring and the sun was shining when President Donald Trump stepped out of the Oval Office on Wednesday afternoon. Less than two hours earlier, he had retreated from his plans to increase tariffs on many U.S. trading partners, and investors were rejoicing after bracing for a global economic meltdown.

"You've got the markets seeing your brilliance," Sen. John Barasso, a Republican from Wyoming, told the president.

Trump agreed. "Nobody's ever heard of it," he declared.

It was a typical bit of hyperbole that, in this case, was true. Even by the standards of Trump's second term, the saga that had played out over the past week left the world struggling to catch its breath.

The president, of his own doing, had single-handedly pushed the global economy to the brink of chaos with new tariffs. The stock market cratered, businesses tore up their plans and foreign leaders prepared for a future without the world's richest nation at the center of international trade.

And then Trump backed down. Seven days after announcing what would have amounted to America's largest tax hike since World War II in an elaborate Rose Garden ceremony, he rolled back most of the tariffs in a surprise post on his social media website.

"I think the world would be flexible," he said later despite days of insisting that he wouldn't bend. "You have to be flexible."

It was unclear what the president had accomplished, beyond the satisfaction of, in his words, having other countries "kissing my ..." to try to talk him out of the tariffs. No

new trade deals have been reached, although administration officials said negotiations are underway.

However, real damage has been done. The back-and-forth over tariffs shook confidence in U.S. leadership, exposed fractures within Trump's team and rattled companies that rely on global sources for products and international customers for sales. Americans who use the stock market to save for retirement and college suffered days of angst.

The turmoil isn't over yet, either. Trump's 10% blanket tariffs initially imposed on Saturday are now applied to dozens of nations. He also jacked up tariffs to 125% on imports from China, leaving the world bracing for a showdown between the first and second largest economies. There are 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico, America's largest trading partners, as well as 25% taxes on imported autos, steel and aluminum.

Other tariffs - including 24% on Japan, 25% on South Korea, 20% on the European Union - are on hold for 90 days to allow for trade talks.

"This just accentuates the policy uncertainty and sense of unreliability Trump is creating," said William Reinsch, a former U.S. trade official now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. While Reinsch said it's good news that Trump didn't move forward with some of his highest tariffs, "how does anybody know that he won't change his mind on Friday or next week?"

U.S. flags were draped along the White House colonnade for a red-white-and-blue backdrop when Trump announced his tariffs on Wednesday, April 2.

"My fellow Americans, this is Liberation Day," he said. The president

held up a poster listing the tariffs that he would slap on each country - 32% for Thailand, 49% for Cambodia, 26% for India, and on and on. People around the world squinted to decipher the numbers that would reset critical economic relationships.

Trump has been fixated on international trade for decades, long before entering politics. His central concern is trade deficits, meaning the U.S. imports more than it exports.

But the focus puzzles mainstream economists, who don't view the situation with the same level of alarm. It's no surprise, they said, that a rich nation like the U.S. would buy more than it sells, and they're generally skeptical that tariffs alone would eliminate trade deficits.

However, Trump declared that it was a "national emergency" that would allow him to push tariffs without congressional approval. His tariffs were not based on the import taxes charged by other countries but by the size of each trade deficit, a calculation that instantly discredited the policy with many economists and investors. Also baffling were the tariffs placed on Heard and McDonald Islands, which are mainly populated by penguins.

The day after the announcement, Trump jetted to Florida for the weekend.

"The markets are going to boom, the stock is going to boom, the country is going to boom," he promised while leaving the White House, the whirring rotors of Marine One sometimes overpowering his voice. "And the rest of the world wants to see if there is any way they can make a deal."

But the market was crashing, posting its biggest single-day loss since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic five years earlier. And

it didn't get any better as Trump attended a Saudi-funded tournament at his Miami golf course and participated in a candle-lit dinner for an allied political organization.

On the flight back to Washington on Sunday evening, Trump told reporters that he won a club championship.

"It's good to win," he said. "You heard I won, right?"

But around the country and the world, the fallout was spreading.

Fulcrum Coffee Roasters in Seattle braced for rising costs for beans from Southeast Asia and espresso machines from Italy. Stellantis, the automaker behind brands like Jeep and Ram, announced it would pause production at plants in Mexico and Canada, leading to temporary layoffs at other facilities in Indiana and Michigan, a reminder of how interconnected vehicle supply chains have become.

The Dutch division of Tata Steel said it would cut 1,600 employees, about a fifth of its workforce. Ireland Prime Minister Michael Martin said "there is no way to sugar coat" the situation as business with the U.S. started tapering off. Sri Lanka worried that its economic recovery would be derailed as its clothing industry faced new tariffs from its most important export market.

The markets were still in a panic on Monday when an unverified report circulated that the president was considering a 90-day pause on the tariffs. Stocks briefly soared before investors realized the information was wrong.

"We're not looking at that," Trump said as hopes for the rumored reprieve vanished.

By Tuesday, with fears of a recession growing, Trump's closest

advisers began publicly sparring with one another. Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, who leads the administration's efforts to trim the size of government, openly questioned the wisdom of the tariffs, which would raise costs for his electric automaker Tesla. White House trade adviser Peter Navarro insisted that Musk "doesn't understand" the situation. Musk fired back that Navarro was "truly a moron" and "dumber than a sack of bricks."

Republican lawmakers returning to the Capitol for the workweek were peppered with questions about the tariffs and what they would do in response. Some began voicing support for legislation meant to rein in a president's tariff powers, before the White House struck back forcefully with a veto threat.

Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin was asked on Tuesday if he understood Trump's strategy, and responded by asking "does anybody?" Some of his state's premier companies like Kohl's expected higher costs, while its dairy farms expected to struggle to sell milk and cheese. Harley-Davidson was a target of planned reciprocal tariffs by the European Union.

Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina was even more blunt that day during a hearing with Trump's top trade representative, Jamieson Greer. If the tariff plans don't work, he said, "I'm just trying to figure out whose throat I need to choke." His state's farmers, who raise hogs and grow tobacco among other products, feared getting caught in the crossfire of a trade war, while local manufacturers and tech companies could face higher prices on what they export to foreign consumers.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, a former hedge fund manager with intimate knowledge of the financial sector, held a round of meetings on Capitol Hill, including a lunch with Sen. John Kennedy, a Republican from Louisiana.

Kennedy had grown concerned about the tariffs, and he said they "talked very frankly." He was part of a group of senators who sat down for an interview with Sean Hannity on Tuesday night in hopes of swaying Trump's mind through one of his favorite Fox News hosts.

Trump had been brushing off concerns about the tariffs and the market collapse by saying "sometimes you have to take medicine to fix something."

Kennedy wasn't convinced, even if he shared the president's concerns about unfair trade practices.

"We don't know if the medicine will be worse than the disease," he said.

The tariffs on allies like Japan, South Korea and the European Union took effect at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, and there were no signs that Trump would back down when the sun came up in Washington.

"BE COOL! Everything is going to work out well," he posted on Truth Social.

Trump also wrote: "THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO BUY!!!" - advice that turned out to be fortuitous. The president later said he'd been talking with his aides that morning about pausing the tariffs, an announcement that would send the stock market soaring.

## Mexican food prices could rise due to Trump's tariff threats

### Trump tariffs worry US shoppers who buy groceries at Asian supermarkets

LOS ANGELES, April 10, (AP): Loyal customers of Asian supermarkets and other grocery stores that specialize in selling imported food heaved a collective sigh of dismay when President Donald Trump announced extra-high U.S. tariffs on goods from dozens of countries.

What would happen to prices at 99 Ranch Market and H Mart?, wondered Asian Americans and immigrants who shop at the two American chains for preferred brands like Japan's Kewpie mayonnaise and China's Pearl River light soy sauce.

"We're all going to be crying in H Mart," a TikTok user commiserated, referencing the title of a bestselling memoir by Korean American musician Michelle Zauner as other posters shared videos of their "pre-tariff hauls" from Asian supermarkets.

The steeper tariff rates Trump set for imports from nations he accused of unfair trade practices took effect first thing Wednesday along with a 10% baseline tax on products from the rest of the world. Less than 14 hours later, the president paused the individually set tariffs for every country except China for 90 days.

Several countries in Asia had some of the largest "reciprocal" levies, including South Korea (25%), Vietnam (47%) and Cambodia (49%). After China approved counter-tariffs and said it would fight a U.S. trade war "to the end," Trump raised the rate on Chinese goods to 104% and then to 125%.

At a 99 Ranch Market less than a mile from the UCLA campus, one of the California-based chain's 58

stores, regular shopper Artis Chit-chamnueng said he won't be able to go anywhere else to find the foods he likes if prices skyrocket.

"I think (Trump's) just like playing a lot of like mind games of just trying to like take control of the market and stuff like that," Chit-chamnueng, a part-time worker and entrepreneur, said. Many customers have said on social media they don't know if they will be able to continue doing their routine grocery shopping at 99 Ranch Market.

Even if mainstream grocers stock some of the same items, a lot of imported items are less expensive at the specialty supermarkets. An 18-ounce bottle of Lee Kum Kee Panda oyster sauce, for example, retails for \$3.99 at 99 Ranch. The websites for Safeway and Walmart list the same bottle for \$4.79 and \$10.45, respectively.

The stores stocking a wide range of noodles, dried vegetables, herbs and skin care products from China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam can be a source of comfort for immigrants and foreign students craving the tastes of home.

Tony He, an international student at UCLA, said Trump's tariff policies confused him but he would continue shopping at 99 Ranch to get his groceries if prices increase. "As long as I need Asian food, I usually come here," he said.

Shopping for culturally specific foods, drinks and condiments in the U.S. has come a long way from the once-meager offerings found in the "ethnic food" aisles of American su-

permarkets. International supermarkets and small grocery stores across the country generated \$55.8 billion in revenue last year, according to market research firm IBISWorld.

The sector has recorded an annual growth rate of roughly 3% since 2019, and an IBISWorld forecast predicted revenue for grocery stores with international brands would go up to over \$64 billion by 2029.

Analysts attribute the increase in demand to the growth of Asian and Hispanic immigrant populations, as well as to the tastes of younger consumers who enjoy experiencing new flavors. Mass market stores and brands increasingly have stocked or created Americanized versions of Asian products to ride the trend.

The specialty rice used for sushi that mainstream supermarkets sell also is usually imported from South Korea, China or Japan, noted Nancy Qian, a professor of economics at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. She thinks tariffs may lead consumers to find alternatives for their favorite brands.

"When my parents first came to America in the '80s from China, they couldn't really get the same type of rice as they did in China, so they switched to a different type of rice," Qian said. "I think families and restaurants and people, they'll do what it takes to make ends meet. And they'll substitute foods. They'll buy new foods."

Independent shops that are integral to smaller Asian American communities also braced for a hit. The owner

of Not Just Spices, a tiny South Asian grocery in Providence, Rhode Island, said he was concerned about rising costs for staple products such as basmati rice from India and Pakistan, or the smaller-grained Kalijira rice from his native Bangladesh.

The import duties that kicked in before Trump announced the 90-day delay including a tariff of 37% on goods from Bangladesh, 26% on neighboring India's products, 29% on items from Pakistan and a whopping 44% on imports from the island country of Sri Lanka, known for its cinnamon and other spices.

Mohammed Islam, who has run Not Just Spices since 1998, trusts his customers won't blame him if the tariffs affect supplies and he has to raise prices.

"People don't complain because it's already in the news," Islam said. "It's not like I'm the one who is raising the price."

Customers at Hispanic supermarkets also may be shopping more carefully. Trump has repeatedly threatened to impose a 25% tariff on most imports from Mexico.

In Phoenix, roommates Andrew Colvin and Mario Aviles typically patronize Los Altos Ranch Market, where they say the bulk of the produce and snacks they buy are from Mexico. The sprawling supermarket, which includes a deli and a bakery, is one of the 115 stores the Heritage Grocers Group operates in six states.

"We expect pretty much everything to go up," said Colvin, who was stocking up on Parrot canned coconut water, his favorite drink, in

case the price goes up. "I probably eat 14 avocados a week. There'll be a lot less of that." Aviles doesn't want to shop elsewhere. If tariffs result in serious sticker shock, he is prepared to restrict himself instead. "No more avocados, no more mangoes, no more orange," Aviles said.

Some experts say it wouldn't hurt to stock up on non-perishables within limits and individual household budgets. But shoppers need to avoid the "panic buying" that accompanied the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which could create shortages and cause additional price increases, Qian said.

While it's not yet clear how much of the tariffs will get passed onto U.S. consumers, researchers say any price increases would disproportionately affect low-income households. "These are regressive taxes."

And for the elementary reason that affluent people do not spend 100% of their incomes and disadvantaged people do," Steven Durlauf, director of the University of Chicago's Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility.

Northwestern University's Qian said the cumulative economic impacts of Trump administration tariffs may hold one possible silver lining if they bring people back to the cultural enclaves of major cities.

"If you think about the old Chinatowns, or the old, like, Little Italys of America," she said. "The reason that those places became really important for their communities was because that was the only place where you can get the thing you wanted."

BE COOL! Everything is going to work out well.

We expect pretty much everything to go up.

Kuwaiti, Canadian artists showcase shared history

## A cultural bridge of connection: Kuwait, Canada mark 60 years of partnership



An artwork by Reza Doust.

**By Chaitali B. Roy**  
Special to the Arab Times

Art and culture serve as powerful instruments of diplomacy, offering a universal language that transcends political and linguistic barriers. Cultural initiatives foster mutual understanding and goodwill between nations by showcasing shared values, diverse perspectives, and creative expression. They also build bridges of empathy and dialogue, reinforcing the foundation of international relationships.

In a vivid display of creativity and diplomacy, the Embassy of Canada, in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, has launched a fascinating art exhibition celebrating 60 years of Kuwait-Canada diplomatic relations.

The "Kuwait-Canada: Celebrating 60 Years of Connection" exhibition opened on April 7 at the Kuwait Museum of Modern Art and runs through April 11. Featuring moving works of Kuwaiti visual storyteller Thuraya Al Baqsmi and celebrated Canadian painter Reza Doust, it reflects on shared values, cultural richness, and enduring friendship.

"It is the perfect time to reflect on our partnership and decades of connections forged between our countries and people," said Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait, Aliya Mawani.

Blending Al Baqsmi's vibrant narratives, who is known for championing women in art, with Doust's soulful portraits and deep appreciation for Kuwait's heritage, the ex-

hibition serves as a cultural bridge. It reminds visitors that beyond diplomacy and trade, it is often art that truly binds people together.

"This exhibition explores the essence of human expression, featuring the works of esteemed Kuwaiti artist, Thuraya Al Baqsmi – an inspiring figure in Kuwait's art scene, and a champion of women's contribution to the country's artistic landscape, and renowned Canadian artist and portrait master Reza Doust, whose deep connection to Kuwait is reflected in his passion for its heritage, environment and people," noted Aliya Mawani, in her welcome speech.

"It is fitting that the exhibition focuses on human expression, because diplomacy at its heart is first and foremost about people," she continued. "In their works, Thuraya and Reza beautifully capture the diversity and distinctiveness of our people, as well as what we have in common, what we hold dear, and what binds us together."

Emphasizing the crucial role of arts and culture in diplomacy, Aliya Mawani suggests they foster understanding and cooperation among nations by reflecting shared hopes, fears, and dreams. She argues that arts and culture enable better problem-solving and relationship-building by providing a medium through which diverse identities can be explored and communicated.

"Art and culture is central to diplomacy, because diplomacy is really about relationships and solving problems," she observed. "We can do that so much better if we understand each other, and arts and

**'It is the perfect time to reflect on our partnership and decades of connections forged between our countries and people' – Aliya Mawani, Canadian Ambassador**  
**'Art and culture is central to diplomacy, because diplomacy is really about relationships and solving problems' – Aliya Mawani, Canadian Ambassador**  
**'I am more than happy to collaborate. It is a great way to focus on the relationship between two countries' – Thuraya Al Baqsmi, Kuwaiti artist**

**'It's a meaningful collaboration – viewers get to experience two very different approaches to figurative art in one space' – Reza Doust, Canadian portrait artist**

culture help us do that, because it reflects our hopes, fears, dreams, and identity."

Additionally, she says, these cultural expressions create safe spaces for open dialogue and the exchange of ideas, which is essential for diplomatic connections and cultural unity. "I believe art and culture allow us to have conversations. It creates spaces for conversations that we can't have in other ways. It also creates safe spaces where we can explore ideas and possibilities. I think it's integral to diplomacy and connecting people, cultures, and nations."

Ambassador Mawani shared her admiration for the collaboration between Thuraya Al Baqsmi and Reza Doust. She highlighted their exceptional creativity, focus on humanity, appreciation for details, and strong power of observation.

"I love the collaboration between the two artists. I know each of them separately and admire their work. They're both exceptional artists and creatives, and I love that humanity is at the core of their work. They put so much wonderful detail into their work. What I also find compelling is that they challenge the idea of what is worth painting, who is worth painting, because their stories, the people they focus on, and their work is about the power and the beauty in each person."

Highlighting cultural ties between Canada and Kuwait, Thuraya Al Baqsmi said, "I am more than happy to collaborate. It is a great way to focus on the relationship between two countries. Apart from politics and commerce, art and culture also play a big part in this relation. And when the Canadian Embassy chose me to represent Kuwaiti artists in this exhibition, I was delighted. It is a big honor for me."

Al Baqsmi was especially happy to present her work alongside Doust, a noted Canadian artist of Iranian descent from British Columbia with whom she has a personal and professional connection.

"Doust is an old friend. It is easy for me to exhibit my work with a friend. He lived many years in Ku-



Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait, Aliya Mawani (third from right), Kuwaiti artist Thuraya Al Baqsmi (second from right) and Canadian portrait artist Reza Doust (left) during the opening of 'Kuwait-Canada: Celebrating 60 Years of Connection' exhibition.



Thuraya Al Baqsmi's paintings



Reza Doust's paintings on display.

wait. He knows our society and way of life well. He is well known in Kuwait and has often shown his work here. I love his art, and this love and friendship is reflected in this exhibition."

Underscoring the importance of art in bridging cultures, she says, "This exhibition is a good sign that both countries are interested in promoting art and culture."

Thuraya Al Baqsmi also expressed her enthusiasm for the international exchange of art and culture, suggesting that Kuwaiti embassies should host similar exhibitions to foster deeper international relations and enhance the perception of Kuwaiti artists abroad. "I wish our embassies abroad would do something similar. Exchanging art and culture can only make relations between countries deeper and stronger. It will also enhance the

image of Kuwaiti artists abroad. I wish more embassies in Kuwait would engage in similar activities and strengthen cultural relations by collaborating with Kuwaiti artists."

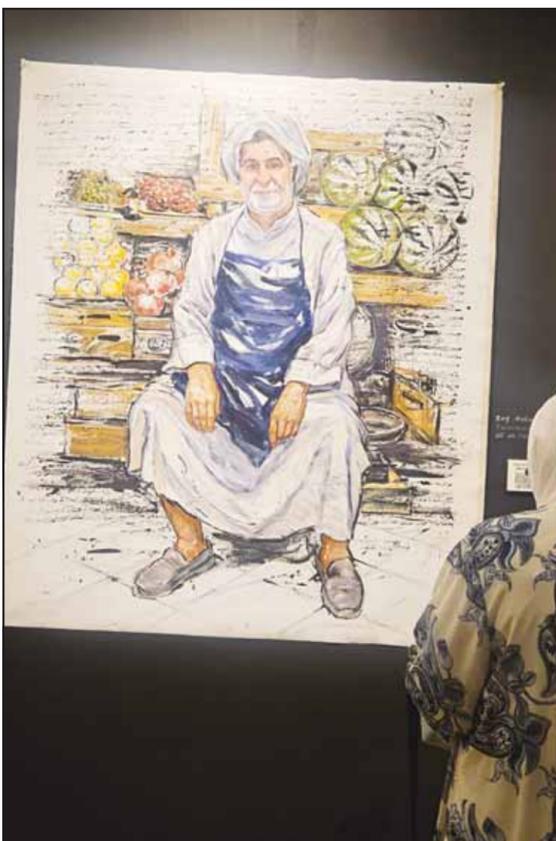
She was quick to praise the significant support provided by the NCCAL in facilitating the event, which affirmed the government's commitment to encouraging cultural activities in Kuwait.

Canadian portrait artist Reza Doust brings more than paint to canvas—he brings connection. Born in Esfahan in 1960 and based in British Columbia since 1998, Doust has spent decades using his art to build cultural bridges, particularly between Canada and the Arabian Gulf region. His deep bond with Kuwait, the first foreign country he visited, has shaped much of his creative journey. "Kuwait feels like a second home," Doust shared.

"There's a natural cultural closeness with Iran, and I've always felt understood and supported here." Known for his expressive figurative works, Doust draws inspiration from the complexity of human emotion—a glance, a smile, or a moment that speaks volumes. "Every portrait I exhibit begins with a powerful emotional spark," he says. Now, in his first-ever two-artist exhibition, Doust joins Thuraya Al Baqsmi, blending their unique visual languages in a compelling artistic dialogue. "It's a meaningful collaboration—viewers get to experience two very different approaches to figurative art in one space," he notes. Doust continues to champion cultural exchange through his art, proving that a portrait can do more than capture a face—it can connect hearts across borders.



Paintings by Kuwaiti artist Thuraya Al Baqsmi



Reza Doust's painting

Johansson's 'Eleanor the Great' to screen at Cannes

Cannes sets lineup with Aster, Linklater and Anderson

PARIS, April 10, (AP) — New films from Wes Anderson, Ari Aster, and Richard Linklater will compete for the Palme d'Or at the 78th Cannes Film Festival, organizers announced Thursday.

Coming off a 2024 edition that produced the Academy Award best-picture winner "Anora," as well as a number of Oscar contenders in "Emilia Pérez," "The Substance" and "The Apprentice," the French film festival responded with a 2025 lineup bursting with big-name auteurs.

Thierry Frémaux, Cannes' artistic director, announced the selections in a news conference in Paris with festival president Iris Knobloch.

Entries include Aster's "Eddington," a pandemic-set Western starring Joaquin Phoenix, Pedro Pascal and Emma Stone; Anderson's "The Phoenician Scheme," starring Benicio Del Toro as a European profiteer and Linklater's appropriately French-language "Nouvelle Vague," about Jean-Luc Godard and the French New Wave.

Julia Ducournau, whose "Titane" won the Palme d'Or in 2021, making Ducournau only the second female filmmaker to ever receive Cannes' top honor, will return to the festival with the 1980s New York-set "Alpha," about an 11-year-old with a parent who



Cannes film festival president Iris Knobloch, Cannes film festival delegate general Thierry Frémaux and Cannes film festival president Iris Knobloch pose after a press conference to announce the International Cannes film festival line up for the upcoming 78th edition of the Cannes Film Festival, Thursday, April 10, in Paris. (AP)

has AIDS.

Other previously Cannes regulars coming back include two-time Palme winners Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne. The Belgian filmmaking brothers'

latest is titled "Young Mothers." Joachim Trier, whose "The Worst Person in the World" was a highlight of the 2021 Cannes, is back in competition with "Sentimental Value," which likewise stars Renate Reinsve.

Playing outside of competition is Scarlett Johansson's "Eleanor the Great" - the actor's directorial debut.

Among the films some had hoped might show up in Cannes but that weren't announced were Terrence Malick's long-awaited Jesus drama "The Way of the Wind" and Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another."

Cannes earlier announced that "Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning" will launch at the festival, which three years ago bestowed an honorary Palme d'Or on Tom Cruise. This year, Robert De Niro is set to receive one during the festival's opening ceremony.

Following in the footsteps of Greta Gerwig, Juliette Binoche will head the jury that decide this year's Palme d'Or. Knobloch said it's the first time in 60 years that two women succeed each other in this role.

The festival runs May 13-24.

Television



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Amanda Peet, left, and Jon Hamm in a scene from 'Your Friends & Neighbors.' (AP)

Wealth and crime collide in 'Your Friends & Neighbors'

Hamm steals hearts with dark charisma

NEW YORK, April 10, (AP) — "Your Friends & Neighbors" begins with a once high-flying hedge fund manager waking up in someone else's luxurious house, next to a dead body and in a pool of blood.

How he ended up there consumes the first season of this compelling Apple TV+ series, which stars Jon Hamm and takes a peek at the lives of the ultrarich in a leafy New York suburb.

"I was interested in writing about the status symbols, about the way wealth informs community," says creator, showrunner and producer Jonathan Tropper. "And then at the same time, what I really wanted to do is subvert it a little bit and talk about how impermanent it all is."

Like "White Lotus" and "Big Little Lies" before it, "Your Friends & Neighbors" revolves around the woes of the wealthy and questions why we chase social status.

"Why is more always better?" asks Hamm. "Is the only metric really the accumulation of these larger and larger piles of stuff, whether it's money or goods or houses or wives or what have you? We're kind of arrived at this time where this story is particularly resonant."

Hamm plays Princeton-educated hedge fund star Andrew Cooper, who finds himself divorced and unemployed. Drowning in debt, he turns to petty crime: Breaking into neighbors' homes to steal \$350,000 watches, Hermès handbags and \$32,000 bottles of chardonnay.

He rationalizes the thefts are just a quick fix until he figures out a way to get his money faucet back on. Plus, he'd never be a suspect. "I figured, 'What's the worst that can happen?'" he thinks.

"It's the old story about what happens when you go bankrupt. It happens very slowly and then all of a sudden," says Hamm. "Coop's at the all-of-a-sudden part."

Tropper says his show is exploring the notion of entitlement and how self-worth can be wrapped up in what people own. He's also showing how close to disaster we all really are.

"We're all handed a script: Do well in school, go to these colleges, get these jobs, and you'll be set. And you can do all that and excel and get it all right

and the system may still spit you out. That's really what this show is about. It's about this man who is in a simmering rage that the system he bought into spit him out."

There's a perverse delight in watching Hamm's Cooper saunter into mansions when he knows the owners are away and make off with luxury goods, becoming a sort of down-on-his-luck burglar sticking it to the rich.

Cooper becomes acutely aware that life in this well-to-do suburb is fueled by conspicuous consumerism and country club boasting. "It's not like I'd never noticed," he says as the narrator. "But I guess now I was seeing it differently."

Among the things he sees are the ways people have monetized the emptiness some men feel when they reach the top of the mountain - career, marriage, kids and prestige - and yet feel unfulfilled.

Desperation

"Scotch, cigars, smoked meats, custom golf clubs, high-end escorts - entire industries built to cash in on the quiet desperation of rich, middle-aged men," Cooper notes.

Cooper soon grapples with the underworld to fence his stolen merchandise while also hooking up with a divorcee (Olivia Munn) and scheming to get his old job back. His kids resent him and his unstable sister needs him.

Munn says it's great to see Hamm tap into one of his most loved roles - Don Draper in "Mad Men," a complex character with a flawed personal life.

"In this case, he's this like finance bro, for whom everything has come so easily. And he's sort of despicable, but you kind of feel sorry for him at the same time, somehow," she says. "It's really fun to go on the spiral with him."

Tropper came up with the premise after living for many years in New York's Westchester County, in which communities like Scarsdale and Larchmont are among the nation's wealthiest.

Tropper was in a community adjacent to the kind of super wealthy one depicted in the series and watched the financial upswings where "people started to make stupid amounts of money."

"I was a novelist. I was just feeling that it can't possibly be sustainable," he says. "As a non-finance person living amongst financial people, I had an insider's access, but an outsider's point of view."

He'd drive down the pristine blocks and wonder what troubles were going on behind the closed doors of the mega-mansions: "What you realize is a lot of these are built on foundations of rot."

Tropper pitched the series to Hamm and didn't write the show until the actor was on board. In his head, Cooper was always played by Jon Hamm.

"He's an actor who really walks the line perfectly between comedy and drama. And, as a result, he can behave badly and you will still sympathize with him," says Tropper.

"Hamm is a classically handsome man who people still find relatable. And maybe that's because everyone's delusional, or maybe it's because he has a certain quality that he exudes that still makes him an Everyman, even though he's an Everyman who looks like Jon Hamm."

Hamm, who was a fan of Tropper's novels and TV shows that include "Banshee," "Warrior" and the science fiction drama "See," calls the writer a gifted storyteller and jumped aboard.

"He pitched this idea to me, which I thought had a lot of potential, not just to be an entertaining vehicle but to think about where we are as a culture and society," says Hamm.

Season two of "Your Friends & Neighbors" was greenlit even before the first episode premiered. Tropper doesn't know how far the series will go but it can't stand still.

"I don't believe we do five seasons of a man robbing houses," he says. "Once we've got the viewer buying into this neighborhood, in this world, Coop's survival tactics will change."

"I think the important thing with his journey is that he will never trust the system again. So we watch him struggle between wanting to keep up this lifestyle but rejecting the traditional ways of achieving it," he adds.

"I think we'll continue to be able to explore this community in this neighborhood and the wealth divide in our country."



Malaysian film director Chong Keat-aun, from left, Hong Kong actress Fish Liew and Hong Kong actor Ben Yuen arrive at the red carpet for the 49th Hong Kong International Film Festival in Hong Kong, Thursday, April 10. (AP)

'Warfare' is raw, real

'Civil War' director, Ex-SEAL built a new kind of war film

LOS ANGELES, April 10, (AP) — Filmmaker Alex Garland wanted to make a different kind of war film. Would it be possible, he wondered, to take 90 minutes of a real incident involving combat and recreate it as faithfully as possible?

He posed that question to former Navy SEAL Ray Mendoza, who served in Iraq and had in recent years built a second career in filmmaking, advising on sequences like the assault on the White House that ends Garland's last film, "Civil War."

Mendoza had a personal experience in mind, from November 2006, when he and a group of Navy SEALs were assigned to surveil a residential area in the Ramadi Province in Iraq. The mission went south when they were discovered and attacked by a grenade through a sniper hole. Then while attempting to extract several wounded soldiers, an I.E.D. exploded. The injuries became even graver.

This incident is recreated with a journalistic rigor unheard of in a Hollywood movie in "Warfare," opening in theaters nationwide this weekend. There's no editorializing. No sentimental music. No revealing monologues or flashbacks or newscasts giving context. Everything that the audience sees and hears in the film is something that has come directly from someone who was there, recreated in near real time.

"It's why the film opens not with the standard 'based on a true story,' but with a different, more truthful, promise: 'This film uses only their memories.'"

"If someone's telling you something as honestly as they can, it has a power. And it's a power that cinema doesn't typically exploit," Garland said. "When Ray told me this story for the first time, I felt quite overwhelmed by many things at once."

Combat

That included an expanded understanding of combat, the nature of soldiering and decisions that have to be made. Garland was rapt and felt sure that it would make for compelling cinema. And he and Mendoza got to work reconstructing that day in Ramadi through first-hand accounts of those who were there.

"Warfare" is dedicated to Elliott Miller, a medic and sniper who was one of the severely injured and has no memory of the day. Memory, of course, is imperfect under normal circumstances let alone combat situations from 20 years ago. Mendoza himself was disoriented after the I.E.D. blast and remembers things only in fragments. The reconstruction thus became a group effort.

"It really makes you confront what the relationship is between memory truth and film truth," Garland said. "It's particularly interesting when you have two people with a conflicting memory, but they're both telling the truth."

There are gaps where the conflicts are so complex that you have to either omit something because you can't rely on it sufficiently or you just have to choose one version."

There was, Garland said, a "Rashomon" version you could make of "Warfare" but "we did the 'Rashomon' bit before we shot it."

The film was made inexpensively, on sets constructed in a suburb north of London on a former WWII airfield that's now a film and television studio. Mendoza worked closely with the young cast of bright young Hollywood stars, including D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai (who plays Mendoza), Will Poulter, Charles Melton, Kit Connor, Noah Centineo and Cosmo Jarvis. The actors underwent a three-week training based on a SEAL program designed to prepare soldiers for moments of intense stress and fatigue. Mendoza would also give the guys playing the leaders impossible tasks and timelines that he knew they would fail, then critique and drill them for it.

Exposing

"They all thought I hated them," Mendoza said. "But it was just to apply that pressure. It's exposing them to elements and principles and putting them in a situation where they will fail and be forced to rely on each other."

The memory rule was strict, too, meaning no studio notes or suggested additions from anyone who wasn't there. It extended even to something that might seem like a quirky stylistic choice: Opening the film with the men bouncing up and down to Swedish DJ Eric Prydz's club ready anthem "Call on Me" and the silly music video set in an aerobics class. It was a video they really had on a thumb drive, one of the few entertainment options available.

Charles Melton's character would put it on before they went out.

"It kind of became a ritual," Mendoza said. "We were just silly. And it was a way for me to show, I think, how young we were."

For Garland, the film in a way demystifies the idea of Navy SEALs as supermen, presenting them instead as young men.

"Well-trained, but subject to concussion, stress, confusion, just the physical difficulty of pulling on a bit of equipment as things are intense and oppressive around you," he said.

And, similar to the discourse around "Civil War," what "Warfare" is not is a political statement or commentary on Iraq.

"Why does reality need something bolted on alongside it?" Garland said. "If everything has an agenda, where's the discussion? Where is the discussion if everybody is planting flags? As we can see in our lived life for the last few years, it doesn't lead to discussion, it just leads to encampment. And I don't want to participate in that."



Ray Mendoza, (left), and Alex Garland, co-writers and co-directors of the film "Warfare," pose together for a portrait at the London Hotel, March 28, 2025, in West Hollywood, Calif. (AP)

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Jillian Lauren, author and wife of Weezer bassist Scott Shriner, was shot and injured by Los Angeles police and arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after pointing a gun at officers from her front yard, authorities said Wednesday.

The 51-year-old Lauren, identified by police as Jillian Shriner and listed as Jillian Lauren Shriner in jail records, had injuries that were not life threatening after the shooting in the northeast Los Angeles neighborhood of Eagle Rock on Thursday, the LAPD said in a statement.

Her representatives did not immediately respond to requests for comment and there is no indication Scott Shriner was involved in the incident. Weezer is scheduled to play the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival on Saturday.

Police said they were assisting California Highway Patrol officers in their search for three suspects from a misdemeanor hit-and-run. Lauren was not among the suspects. But while pursuing one of them who had reportedly been running through a backyard, police came upon Lauren in the front yard of her neighboring residence, holding a handgun.



Lauren

They ordered her several times to drop the gun, but she refused, and pointed it at them, police allege. They did not say whether she fired the gun, but said she was hit by police gunfire and fled into her home, where they took her into custody then took her to a hospital. (AP)

NEW YORK: A New York jury on Wednesday awarded \$1.68 billion in damages to 40 women who accused writer and director James Toback of sexual abuse and other crimes over a span of 35 years, according to lawyers representing the plaintiffs.

The decision stems from a lawsuit filed in Manhattan in 2022 after New York state instituted a one-year window for people to file lawsuits over sexual assault claims even if they took place decades ago.

It marks one of the largest jury awards since the advent of the #MeToo movement, as well as in New York state history, said attorney Brad Beckworth, of the law firm Nix Patterson LLP, in an interview. The

plaintiffs, he said, believe such a large verdict will send a message to powerful individuals "who don't treat women appropriately."

The court had not yet released documentation of the verdict as of Wednesday night. Beckworth said the verdict included \$280 million in compensatory damages and \$1.4 billion for punitive damages to the plaintiffs. (AP)

NEW YORK: A woman who says Harvey Weinstein trapped her in a Manhattan hotel room and sexually assaulted her in 2013 can use the word "force" when she testifies at his retrial even though the disgraced movie mogul was acquitted of using physical force against her, a judge ruled Wednesday.

Judge Curtis Farber reversed his earlier decision to forbid Jessica Mann from telling jurors that Weinstein used force against her, explaining that after a review of case law he decided it would be unreasonable to put limits on how the former aspiring actor describes what she says happened.

Mann is one of three accusers whose allegations form the basis of the charges in Weinstein's trial. Nearly a year ago, New York's highest court overturned his 2020 convictions. Jury selection is set to begin next Tuesday. (AP)

## Expert explains why screens alone aren't the main culprit

## Social media before bedtime wreaks havoc on our sleep

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

By Brian N. Chin  
Trinity College

“Avoid screens before bed” is one of the most common pieces of sleep advice. But what if the real problem isn't screen time – it's the way we use social media at night?

Sleep deprivation is one of the most widespread yet overlooked public health issues, especially among young adults and adolescents.

Despite needing eight to 10 hours of sleep, most adolescents fall short, while nearly two-thirds of young adults regularly get less than the recommended seven to nine hours.

Poor sleep isn't just about feeling tired – it's linked to worsened mental health, emotion regulation, memory, academic performance and even increased risk for chronic illness and early mortality.

At the same time, social media is nearly universal among young adults, with 84% using at least one platform daily. While research has long focused on screen time as the culprit for poor sleep, growing evidence suggests that how often people check social media – and how emotionally engaged they are – matters even more than how long they spend online.

As a social psychologist and sleep researcher, I study how social behaviors, including social media habits, affect sleep and well-being. Sleep isn't just an individual behavior; it's shaped by our social environments and relationships.

And one of the most common yet underestimated factors shaping modern sleep? How we engage with social media before bed.

Beyond simply measuring time spent on social media, researchers have started

looking at how emotionally connected people feel to their social media use.

Some studies suggest that the way people emotionally engage with social media may have a greater impact on sleep quality than the total time they spend online.

In a 2024 study of 830 young adults, my colleagues and I examined how different types of social media visits and emotional investment were stronger predictors of poor sleep than total screen time. Additionally, presleep cognitive arousal and social comparison played a key role in linking social media engagement to sleep disruption, suggesting that social media's effects on sleep extend beyond simple screen exposure.

## Connected

I believe these findings suggest that cutting screen time alone may not be enough – reducing how often people check social media and how emotionally connected they feel to it may be more effective in promoting healthier sleep habits.

If you've ever struggled to fall asleep after scrolling through social media, it's not just the screen keeping you awake. While blue light can delay melatonin production, my team's research and that of others suggests that the way people interact with social media may play an even bigger role in sleep disruption.

Here are some of the biggest ways social media interferes with your sleep:

■ **Presleep arousal:** Doomscrolling and emotionally charged content on social media keeps your brain in a state of heightened alertness, making it harder to relax and fall asleep. Whether it's political debates, distressing news or even exciting personal updates, emotionally stimulating content can trigger increased cognitive and physiological arousal that delays sleep onset.

■ **Social comparison:** Viewing idealized social media posts before bed can lead to upward social comparison, increasing stress and making it harder to sleep. People tend to compare themselves to highly curated versions of others' lives – vacations, fitness progress, career milestones – which can lead to feelings of

inadequacy and anxiety that disrupt sleep.

■ **Habitual checking:** Social media use after lights out is a strong predictor of poor sleep, as checking notifications and scrolling before bed can quickly become an automatic habit. Studies have shown that nighttime-specific social media use, especially after lights are out, is linked to shorter sleep duration, later bedtimes and lower sleep quality. This pattern reflects bedtime procrastination, where people delay sleep despite knowing it would be better for their health and well-being.

■ **Fear of missing out, or FOMO:** The urge to stay connected also keeps many people scrolling long past their intended bedtime, making sleep feel secondary to staying updated. Research shows that higher FOMO levels are linked to more frequent nighttime social media use and poorer sleep quality. The anticipation of new messages, posts or updates can create a sense of social pressure to stay online and reinforce the habit of delaying sleep.

Taken together, these factors make social media more than just a passive distraction – it becomes an active barrier to restful sleep. In other words, that late-night scroll isn't harmless – it's quietly rewiring your sleep and well-being.

You don't need to quit social media, but restructuring how you engage with it at night could help. Research suggests that small behavioral changes to your bedtime routine can make a significant difference in sleep quality. I suggest trying these practical, evidence-backed strategies for improving your sleep:

■ **Give your brain time to wind down:** Avoid emotionally charged content 30 to 60 minutes before bed to help your mind relax and prepare for sleep.

■ **Create separation between social media and sleep:** Set your phone to “Do Not Disturb” or leave it outside the bedroom to avoid the temptation of late-night checking.

■ **Reduce mindless scrolling:** If you catch yourself endlessly refreshing, take a small, mindful pause and ask yourself: “Do I actually want to be on this app right now?”

A brief moment of awareness can help break the habit loop. (AP)

## ‘Minimize data when traveling’

## Expert advice on ‘protecting’ your device privacy at border crossings

LONDON, April 10, (AP): Planning an international trip? Travelers should prepare for the possibility of extra scrutiny of their phones when crossing borders, especially when entering the United States.

The Canadian government warned travelers in a recent travel advisory that US border agents are entitled to search your electronic devices and “don't need to provide a reason when requesting a password to open your device.”

Some recent cases have made travelers nervous about their privacy, such as when a Brown University professor with a US visa was deported to Lebanon after border agents found a photo of Hezbollah's leader on her phone.

“While 100% privacy may be impossible in these situations, there are a few things you can easily do that make it much harder for someone to see your private data even with physical access to your device,” said Patricia Egger, head of security at encrypted service Proton Mail.

Here are tips on protecting your device privacy while travelling:

Experts say the best strategy is to reduce the amount of information you're carrying while traveling.

If possible, leave your phone at home. If you need one on your trip, borrow a tactic used by corporate executives looking to avoid hackers: get a temporary or “burner” device. It can contain just the information you need for your trip. Download anything else from the cloud when you need it.

## Information

If you have to bring your phone or laptop, upload sensitive information to a cloud storage service that uses end-to-end encryption, then delete the originals from your device.

Also, encrypt your phone or laptop's storage drive and protect it with a strong password. Be aware this is different from merely having a device passcode lock, which is more easily cracked, or the end-to-end encryption on your favorite communication platforms.

Turn off fingerprint or facial recognition features and use the PIN or passcode instead.

There are two kinds of searches, according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website.

In a basic search, an officer scrolls

through your phone's photos, emails, apps and files. No suspicion of wrongdoing is needed to conduct this type of search.

In an advanced search, the contents of your device could be copied for analysis. But a senior manager needs to sign off and there needs to be “reasonable suspicion” of a legal violation, except if there's any concern for national security, according to the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF).

“It's hard to say,” says Sophia Cope, senior staff attorney at the EFF, which offers an extensive online guide to border privacy. Warrants are not needed to inspect devices belonging to anyone entering the country.

## Searches

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents carried out a total of more than 47,000 electronic device searches last year, up tenfold from a decade ago.

Basic searches “can be for no reason at all, totally random, or based on a mere hunch about someone – maybe based on how they look or an answer they gave to a preliminary question,” said Cope.

Travel history can also be relevant, for example, if a traveler originates from someplace where terrorism, drug trafficking, or child sex tourism is common, she said. Border agents can also search devices “at the behest” of other agencies like the FBI or if they're associated with someone else of interest, such as a journalist's source, a business associate or a family member.

Best to power off your devices when you touch down.

Under current policy, US border agents are only allowed to look at information stored on the device, and not anything that's kept in the cloud. So if you have to leave your phone on, make sure it's kept in airplane mode or otherwise disconnected from the internet by Wi-Fi or cellular data.

“Before crossing the border, put your device in airplane mode to ensure remote files don't get downloaded accidentally,” the Canadian government warns.

But keep in mind there might be cached data that still remains on your phone, such as files in the trash that haven't been emptied.

American citizens can't be denied entry to the United States for refus-

ing to consent to device searches. The same should apply to lawful permanent residents such as green card holders, the American Civil Liberties Union says.

But agents can make things difficult if they're refused. Travelers could be questioned, detained temporarily or have their devices seized and not returned for days or even weeks, rights groups say.

Foreign travelers could be turned back if they say no.

If you're forced to unlock your device, Egger advises that “where you can, log in yourself rather than divulging any PINs or passwords, and if forced to share passwords, change them as soon as you can.”

Experts say the reason you should not use your device's fingerprint or facial recognition feature is that it's easier to compel you to unlock your device with biometrics. A border agent could simply hold your phone up to your face or force you to press your finger onto your device. There are also fears that police could use fingerprints stored on government databases.

Powering off your devices is another way to protect against sophisticated attacks in case you don't consent to a search.

## Encrypt

Most modern phones and some laptops encrypt their data using a strong cryptographic key only accessible when the user unlocks it with the passcode, said Will Greenberg, the EFF's senior staff technologist.

If the device is locked but not turned off, the key remains loaded on the device's memory. Powerful hacking tools made by companies like Cellebrite can recover the key and decipher the data.

But if the device is off, the key is unloaded and can't be accessed until it's turned on again and unlocked with the passcode.

“This is why a border agent can't simply turn a device on to use a tool like Cellebrite,” Greenberg said.

To be on the safe side, delete your social media apps and reinstall them later. Even though content is mainly stored on a social media company's servers, Cope says some posts or images might remain on your phone's memory cache and therefore viewable even in airplane mode.

## Fluoride and IQ concerns spark policy shift

## Why water fluoridation, once praised, is now under scrutiny

NEW YORK, April 10, (AP): US Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has said he wants communities to stop fluoridating water, and he is setting the gears of government in motion to help make that happen.

Kennedy said that he plans to tell the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to stop recommending fluoridation in communities nationwide. And he said he's assembling a task force of health experts to study the issue and make new recommendations.

At the same time, the US Environmental Protection Agency announced it would review new scientific information on potential health risks of fluoride in drinking water. The EPA sets the maximum level allowed in public water systems.

Here's a look at how reversing fluoride policy has become an action item under President Donald Trump's administration.

Fluoride strengthens teeth and reduces cavities by replacing minerals lost during normal wear and tear, according to the CDC. In 1950, federal officials endorsed water fluoridation to prevent tooth decay, and in 1962 set guidelines for how much should be added to water.

Fluoride can come from a number of sources, but drinking water is the main one for Americans, researchers say. Nearly two-thirds of the US population gets fluoridated drinking water, according to CDC data.

The addition of low levels of fluo-



A public water fountain is seen March 28, 2025, in Grosse Pointe Park, Mich. (AP)

ride to drinking water was long considered one of the greatest public health achievements of the last century. The American Dental Association credits it with reducing tooth decay by more than 25% in children and adults.

About one-third of community water systems – 17,000 out of 51,000 across the US – serving more than 60% of the population fluoridated their water, according to a 2022 CDC analysis.

The CDC currently recommends 0.7 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water.

Over time, studies have documented potential problems when people get

much more than that.

Excess fluoride intake has been associated with streaking or spots on teeth. And studies also have traced a link between excess fluoride and brain development.

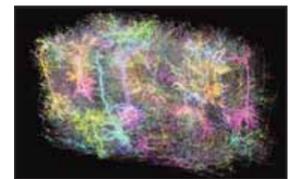
A report last year by the federal government's National Toxicology Program, which summarized studies conducted in Canada, China, India, Iran, Pakistan and Mexico, concluded that drinking water with more than 1.5 milligrams of fluoride per liter – more than twice the CDC's recommended level – was associated with lower IQs in kids.

## Experts map mouse brain that looks like a galaxy

WASHINGTON, April 10, (AP): Thanks to a mouse watching clips from “The Matrix,” scientists have created the largest functional map of a brain to date – a diagram of the wiring connecting 84,000 neurons as they fire off messages.

Using a piece of that mouse's brain about the size of a poppy seed, the researchers identified those neurons and traced how they communicated via branch-like fibers through a surprising 500 million junctions called synapses.

The massive dataset, published Wednesday by the journal Nature, marks a step toward unraveling the mystery of how our brains work. The data, assembled in a 3D reconstruction colored to delineate different brain cir-



This image shows a digital representation of neurons in a section of a mouse's brain. (AP)

cuitry, is open to scientists worldwide for additional research – and for the simply curious to take a peek.

“It definitely inspires a sense of awe,

just like looking at pictures of the galaxies,” said Forrest Collman of the Allen Institute for Brain Science in Seattle, one of the project's leading researchers. “You get a sense of how complicated you are. We're looking at one tiny part ... of a mouse's brain and the beauty and complexity that you can see in these actual neurons and the hundreds of millions of connections between them.”

How we think, feel, see, talk and move are due to neurons, or nerve cells, in the brain – how they're activated and send messages to each other. Scientists have long known those signals move from one neuron along fibers called axons and dendrites, using synapses to jump to the next neuron.

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## Alcaraz advances as Medvedev overcomes Muller

## Djokovic upset by Tabilo in 2nd round at Monte Carlo Masters

MONACO, April 10, (AP) — Novak Djokovic's latest bid to win a 100th career title ended in another upset defeat to a familiar face.

Alejandro Tabilo, who handed the 24-time Grand Slam champion a surprising loss at the Italian Open last year, beat Djokovic 6-3, 6-4 in the second round of the Monte Carlo Masters.

Back on clay for the first time since winning the Olympic gold in Paris last August, Djokovic said he didn't have high expectations going into the match.

"I knew I'm going to have a tough opponent and I knew I'm going to probably play pretty bad," Djokovic said. "But this bad, I didn't expect."

Djokovic, who recently lost the Miami Open final to Jakob Mensik, turns 38 next month - shortly before the French Open starts on May 25.

French Open champion Carlos Alcaraz started his clay-court season by rallying for a 3-6, 6-0, 6-1 victory over Francisco Cerundolo.

The second-seeded Alcaraz was coming off a surprising loss to Belgian veteran David Goffin in his first match at the Miami Open.

Another upset seemed possible when Cerundolo, ranked No. 22, took the first set but Alcaraz dominated the rest of the match and converted five of his seven break points across the second and third sets.

Alcaraz is seeking a second title of 2025 and to finetune his clay-court game ahead of a bid to retain his title at Roland Garros starting next month. Tabilo clinched victory on his second match point when Djokovic hit a service return too long.

Djokovic had saved one match point in the ninth game when he was

trailing 5-3 and 30-40 on his serve, producing a neat drop shot over the net which his Chilean opponent couldn't reach.

No. 13 Lorenzo Musetti beat Jiri Lehecka 1-6, 7-5, 6-2 to set up a last-16 match against fellow Italian Matteo Berrettini, who beat top-seeded Alexander Zverev on Tuesday.

Daniil Medvedev overcame Alexandre Muller 7-6 (6), 5-7, 6-2, and fourth-seeded Casper Ruud beat Roberto Bautista Agut 6-2, 6-1.

Richard Gasquet and Gael Monfils, a pair of 38-year-old Frenchman, were eliminated by Daniel Altmaier and seventh-seeded Andrey Rublev, respectively.

The Monte Carlo Masters is the first big clay-court tournament of the year on the ATP Tour.

## Gujarat goes top of the IPL



Gujarat Titans' Sai Sudharsan successfully completes a run during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India. (AP)

## Sudharsan smashes 82 off 53 balls

**AHMEDABAD, India, April 10, (AP):** Batter Sai Sudharsan and bowler Prasad Krishna led Gujarat Titans to a 58-run victory over Rajasthan Royals as the 2022 champions notched their fourth straight win in the Indian Premier League to go top of the 10-team standings.

Left-handed opener Sudharsan smashed 82 off 53 balls -- his third half century of the season -- and spearheaded Gujarat to 217-6 after Rajasthan won the toss and bowled.

Right-arm fast bowler Krishna then picked up 3-24 in four overs with his sharp, short deliveries and spinner Rashid Khan took 2-37 as Rajasthan was bowled out for 159 in 19.2 overs.

Shimron Hetmyer of the West Indies top-scored in the chase with 52 off 32 balls and captain Sanju Samson made a 28-ball 41, but both fell to Krishna, who impressed with the old and new ball.

Gujarat has eight points with four wins in five games. It fell short by 11 runs in the only loss against Punjab Kings in the opening game run-fest at home. Gujarat has a two-point lead over second-placed Delhi Capitals, which has played two few-

er games. Delhi has won all three of its games and is the only unbeaten team in the tournament.

Rajasthan, which came into the game on the back of successive wins against Chennai Super Kings and Punjab, is seventh after five matches.

Arshad Khan and Mohammed Siraj took the sting out of Rajasthan's run-chase inside the first three overs when they dismissed Yashasvi Jaiswal and Nitish Rana cheaply.

Jaiswal timed the ball confident-

ly, only to see Rashid not moving an inch at third man for the catch, and Rana's ramp shot flew to Kulwant Khejroliya, also at third man, as Rajasthan slipped to 12-2.

Samson and Riyan Parag (26) revived the chase briefly with Parag smashing three sixes. Parag was convinced he didn't edge impact player, left-arm fast bowler Khejroliya, after Gujarat went for a successful television review.

Rashid, who picked up just one wicket in the last four matches, struck when Dhruv Jorel misread

the googly and Sudharsan gobbled a low catch at deep mid-wicket.

Samson was undone by Krishna's extra pace and got caught at short third man before Hetmyer made a brisk half century. He was eventually caught at deep backward square in the 16th over off another Krishna short ball to end Rajasthan's slim hopes.

Sudharsan continued his sublime form. He and Jos Buttler laid the foundation for a big Gujarat score with an 80-run, second-wicket stand.

That came after captain Shubman Gill (2) had his off stump clattered by Jofra Archer's 147 kph (91 mph) delivery before Sudharsan and Buttler took the total to 94.

Buttler, who moved to Gujarat after playing seven IPL seasons for Rajasthan, made 36 off 25 balls against his long-time franchise before falling lbw to Maheesh Theekshana (2-54) off a delivery that spun back sharply.

Shahrukh Khan hit a quick-fire 36 off 20 before Theekshana had him stumped off a full delivery.

Sudharsan kept Gujarat going at more than 10 an over by smashing three sixes and eight fours but missed out on a century. He was caught behind off a thin inside edge against Tushar Deshpande (2-53) in the penultimate over as Rahul Tewatia (24 not out in 12 balls) carried Gujarat over the 200-run mark.



Gujarat Titans' Rashid Khan celebrates the wicket of Rajasthan Royals' Shubham Dubey during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India. (AP)

## Golf to get a mixed-team event for LA Games

AUGUSTA, Ga., April 10, (AP) — Mixed teams are coming to golf at the Los Angeles Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee made it official Wednesday when it released the official program for the 2028 Games, in which female athletes are expected to have a slight majority for the first time.

Golf only returned to the Olympic program at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games after a 112-year absence, and it has awarded medals to only one competition - 72 holes of stroke play - for men and for women.

The International Golf Federation had been lobbying for a mixed-team competition for the last several years without taking away too much time from golfers' schedules on various tours.

Still to be determined are how many teams will compete and the qualification process.

"The International Golf Federation is thrilled with the IOC Executive Board's decision to approve the addition of a mixed-team event to the Olympic Golf program," the IGF said in a statement. It said more details would be released next week.

The IOC had an online board meeting Wednesday that was co-chaired in Lausanne, Switzerland, for the first time by Kirsty Coventry since she was elected IOC president last month. She takes over in June for Thomas Bach and will be the first female IOC president in its 131-year history.

The men's competition would start on Wednesday - one day earlier than before - and end on Saturday. The mixed teams would be held on Sunday and Monday, with foursomes (alternate shot) used for one round and fourballs (better ball) the other.

Tuesday would be a practice day for the women, and their competition would start Wednesday

through Saturday, one day before the Summer Games come to a close.

The golf competition is scheduled for Riviera Country Club, a revered PGA Tour stop that has hosted major championships. Riviera is to host the U.S. Women's Open for the first time in 2026, and the U.S. Open returns in 2031.

A mixed team event would require only two more days for the players who qualify for the Olympics. It's unlikely any of the top players would be competing the following week at a regular PGA Tour or LPGA Tour event.

Scottie Scheffler won the men's gold medal at the 2024 Paris Games by closing with a 62 at Le Golf National. Lydia Ko won the women's gold in Paris - she won the silver in Rio and the bronze in Tokyo in 2021 - which also gave her points required for the LPGA Hall of Fame.

tenure has seen numerous senior officials leave or be replaced.

"I took on this role to help deliver greater transparency, stronger governance, and more collaborative leadership," Reid posted on social media.

"Over time, those principles have been increasingly set aside and I can

no longer, in good faith, remain part of a system that no longer reflects them."

The FIA has also clashed with F1 drivers over Ben Sulayem's plans to crack down on swearing. New rules introduced for 2025 make it possible for the FIA to suspend drivers who repeatedly swear or make political

statements.

F1 champion Max Verstappen kept his answers to a minimum at an FIA news conference last year after he was punished for swearing. Drivers in the world rally championship last month boycotted interviews to protest a fine issued to a driver who used an expletive in an interview.

## Redemption story

## Francesco keeps shutting down Europe top strikers

ROME, April 10, (AP) — Harry Kane, Erling Haaland, Romelu Lukaku, Mateo Retegui, Moise Kean.

Across Europe and Serie A, Inter Milan center back Francesco Acerbi has held all five of those center forwards scoreless this season.

The latest defensive exploit from Acerbi came in the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals at Bayern Munich on Tuesday, when the 37-year-old cancer survivor conceded only one shot to Kane - which the England striker curled onto the post.

Otherwise, it was the relentless man-to-man lockdown effort reminiscent of the job that Acerbi did on Haaland in Inter's Champions League opener at Manchester City in September, which ended 0-0.

Acerbi also held Haaland scoreless in the 2023 Champions League final.

In all, Inter has conceded three goals in 11 Champions League games, but only two with Acerbi on the field - he missed the 1-0 loss to Bayer Leverkusen in December.

Acerbi, whose career was put on hold briefly due to testicular cancer more than a decade ago, has been just as effective in the Italian league.

He has held Lukaku and Serie A scoring leader Retegui scoreless twice each - two 1-1 draws with Napoli (Lukaku) and 4-0 and 2-0 wins over Atalanta (Retegui) that have been decisive in helping Inter to first place.

Actually, Acerbi has held Lukaku scoreless all four times they've faced each other since the Belgium forward left Inter, including two matches when Lukaku played for Roma last season.

Retegui (22 goals) and Kean (17) stand 1-2 in the Serie A scoring



Bayern's Leroy Sane, front, duels for the ball with Inter Milan's Francesco Acerbi, left, during the Champions League quarterfinals first leg soccer match between FC Bayern Munich and Inter Milan, at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany. (AP)

chart.

Kean scored twice when Fiorentina stunned Inter 3-0 in Serie A in a match that Acerbi missed. When the defender returned for a rematch four days later, Kean was held scoreless and Inter won 2-1.

While Acerbi could be rested on Saturday for a league match against Cagliari, he'll surely be used against Kane again in the return match with Bayern at the San Siro next week.

If Inter can maintain or add to its 2-1 first-leg advantage against Bayern, there could be another top center forward to face in the semifinals or final.

Then Italy opens World Cup qualifying at Haaland's Norway in June, although it remains to be seen whether or not Haaland will return from injury in time for that match. If he does, Acerbi should be waiting for him.

## Best of the Rest

**BJK finals moved to September:** The finals of the Billie Jean King Cup were brought forward two months on Thursday to September.

The new Sept. 16-21 schedule in Shenzhen, China, better aligns with the calendar for top women's tennis players, organizers said. Shenzhen hosts the finals each year through 2027.

After the U.S. Open ends on Sept. 7, the WTA tour moves to Asia for the China Open from Sept. 24 in Beijing. The tour then stays in China for the Wuhan Open.

Billie Jean King Cup defending champion Italy and host China will be in the eight-team lineup. Italy won a 12-nation tournament last November in Malaga, Spain.

The other finalists will be winners of six qualifying groups played this weekend in Australia, the Czech Republic, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland and Slovakia. (AP)

**Ex-world snooker champ suspended:** Former world snooker champion Graeme Dott was suspended by the sport's governing body on Wednesday after being accused of abusing children.

The 47-year-old Dott is facing two charges of abuse against a boy and a girl. According to court papers seen by the Associated Press, the alleged abuse took place from 1993-96 and from 2006-10.

A hearing has been assigned for June 11 at Glasgow High Court. A statement published by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association read: "Graeme Dott has been suspended by the WPBSA due to a case which is scheduled to be heard before the High Court in Scotland."

"Whilst court proceedings are ongoing, it would be inappropriate for the WPBSA to make any further comment."

Dott won the world snooker championship in 2006 after beating Peter Ebdon in the final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. The Scottish player also reached the final on two other occasions, losing to Ronnie O'Sullivan in 2004 and Neil Robertson in 2010.

Dott is currently ranked No. 56 in the world and was set to enter qualifying for the world snooker championship, which started this week. (AP)

**Villa, Legends announce partnership:** Aston Villa FC today announced a multi-year partnership with Legends, a global premium experiences company, to support the strategic growth of the club as it modernises and transforms Villa Park into a world-class sports and entertainment venue. The partnership with Legends, a leader in delivering exceptional fan experiences and driving commercial revenue, aligns with Aston Villa's long-term strategic vision to create the best supporter experience in English football and establish multiple robust and diverse revenue streams.

Premium hospitality space at Villa Park. Following the redevelopment of 17 premium hospitality spaces and strong renewals in the 2024/25 season, Aston Villa has appointed Legends to support the sales and strategic vision of the premium hospitality offerings at Villa Park. Presenting a wide range of hospitality offerings not only enhances the fan experience but also strengthens critical revenue streams, a crucial factor in ensuring Aston Villa's continued success on the pitch. (AP)

## Change Name

I, FATEMA SHAIK, holder of Indian Passport no. M6256771, having permanent address: Andhra Pradesh State, India, Pin Code no. 516269, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under: Given name: PRAMEELA And Surname: CHINTA Husbands name: CHINTA RAMMOHAN REDDY

## Change Name

I, KHADER BASHA SHAIK SHAIK holder of Indian Passport no. N9723740, having permanent address: Andhra Pradesh State, India Pin Code no. 516269 Residing in Kuwait at present hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under: Given name: RAMMOHAN REDDY And Surname: CHINTA Father's name: CHINTA PEDDI REDDY

## FIA deputy president Robert Reid resigns in protest

PARIS, April 10, (AP) — Turmoil at the FIA, the governing body for Formula 1 and other auto racing, has deepened after its deputy president for sport resigned in protest at how it is run.

Robert Reid's resignation is the latest sign of discontent with the direction taken by the FIA under President Mohammed Ben Sulayem, whose

## SPORTS

## 10th IBA mega basketball tournament continues in full swing



Officials of the tournament pose for a group photo.

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: The 10th IBA basketball tournament 2025 organised under the umbrella of Indian Basketball Association is continuing in full swing, with sky high enthusiasm and sportive fervour in the blessed indoor court of United International Indian School from the 29th of March till the 11th of April.

The basketball tournament is carried out in memory of our most beloved Thomas Chandy Memorial Ever Rolling Interscholar Trophy and Susamma Elanjickal Memorial Ever Rolling trophy. The tournament is open to all sports enthusiasts and well wishers. The school level tournament was officially inaugurated by United Indian School Purchase Manager Mr John Thomas on the 29th of March

Saturday.

Men and Women Open category matches were officially chaired by Mr Vipin Thukattu, Student Recruitment Director Canadian College of Kuwait.

The schools vying for the Thomas Chandy Memorial Ever Rolling Trophy are Bhavans, Indian School of Excellence, Indian Community School, DPS, last year champions United Indian School, Don Bosco, Carmel School. The Open Category teams competing are Decibelz, Lob City, Raptors A-Team, Crusaders and Women teams DonBosco, Decibels and IASC REBOUNDERS.

The tournament is embellished with the presence of national and international

players vying with each other in the most awaited finals on the 11th of April Friday. The closing ceremony function will take place on the 11th April with the presence of our most beloved and treasured Mr. Joel Jacob Executive Administrative Manager United Group of Schools who will applaud and acknowledge the winners and the Guest of honor the most benevolent Mr Kahalef Al Khalaff the head coach of Kuwait Basketball Team and a sportive basketball player will give away the prizes for the Open category matches respectively. The IBA family invites all sports enthusiasts and well wishers to the closing ceremony and to witness the finals and be part of an enticing journey of basketball down the lane.

## Kuwaiti players ready to compete for top spots at the Arab Squash Championship

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: The draw for the 29th Arab Squash Championship for Juniors and Youth (under 15 and under 19) took place at the Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah International Squash Center. The tournament, which features seven participating nations, will showcase some of the best young squash talents in the Arab world.

Abdullah Al-Subaie, head of the Kuwaiti delegation, expressed confidence in the Kuwaiti players' readiness to compete for top honors. Notable contenders from the Kuwaiti team include Abdullah Hani, Khaled Al-Fawzan, Issa Al-Najada, and Saleh Al-Kandari.

Representatives from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar, and Yemen, along with a Kuwaiti representative, attended the draw ceremony. Walid Al-Sumaie, President of the Arab Squash Federation, was also present to oversee the proceedings.

The Secretary General of the Kuwait Squash Federation, Hamed Al-Omran, extended a warm welcome to the participants, emphasizing the importance of the championship and wishing everyone success in the spirit of friendship and peace.

In the tournament's draw, Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Al-Nusfan was placed at the top of Group 1, while Kuwait's Abdullah Hani led Group 2. The singles competition kicked off with 20 thrilling matches across the under 19 and under 15 categories, showcasing intense competition among the players. The quarterfinal matches are set to begin today, with the first rounds sched-



Kuwait's Abdulrahman Al-Sanea with Iraq's Wissam Adel

uled from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. The semifinals will take place in the evening, followed by the finals tomorrow, Saturday evening.

## TEC Challengers Cup set to thrill at KOC Cricket Grounds

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: The Thrissur Engineering College Alumni Association, under the banner of the Kuwait Engineers Forum (KEF) announced the TEC Challengers Cup 2025, a highly anticipated amateur cricket tournament. Scheduled for April 10th and 11th, 2025, this exciting event will take place at the KOC Cricket Grounds in Ahmadi, promising two days of electrifying cricket action for fans across Kuwait.

Following the success of last year's event, the TEC Challengers Cup 2025 will continue in the fast-paced T10 format, ensuring non-stop excitement for cricket enthusiasts. This year's tournament will feature six talented teams: Black Panthers, Kerala Tuskers, Venad Warriors, White Elephants, Kuwait Super Kings, High Range Blasters, all vying for the prestigious TEC Challengers Cup title.

The tournament commenced on April 10th. The matches will continue on April 11th with a vibrant opening ceremony at 10.15 am, then continue throughout the evening, with the semi-finals and finals scheduled for the afternoon of April 11th, culminating in a thrilling conclusion to the two-day event.

"The TEC Challengers Cup has become a celebrated platform for showcasing Kuwait's amateur cricket talent, and we're thrilled to bring this exciting T10 format



TEC logo

back for 2025," said Abdul Jabbar, a representative of the Thrissur Engineers College Alumni Association and Convenor for the Event. "We invite cricket fans to join us at the KOC Cricket Grounds for an unforgettable experience filled with competitive spirit and camaraderie."

The TEC Challengers Cup 2025 promises to deliver high-energy cricket action, ensuring rapid game play and intense competition. Spectators can look forward to a festive atmosphere, with opportunities to cheer for their favorite teams and witness some of the best cricket talent in the region.

## Al-Musallam leads historic change for swimming



Husain Al-Musallam

KUWAIT CITY, April 10: In a groundbreaking achievement that further elevates his impressive legacy, Kuwaiti Husain Al-Musallam, President of the International Swimming Federation (FINA), has successfully secured a transformative shift for aquatics in the Olympic program. He officially announced the inclusion of 50-meter races across all swimming styles in the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, marking the integration of short-course swimming as a key feature of global competition.

This monumental change has led to a remarkable expansion in the number of Olympic medals awarded for swimming, bringing the total to 55 gold medals, alongside an equal number of silver and bronze medals.

For the first time in Olympic history, two new women's water polo teams were approved, increasing the total number of national teams to 12 for both men and women.

In just four years under Husain Al-Musallam's leadership, FINA has grown into the world's largest swimming federation in terms of Olympic medals, underscoring Al-Musallam's pioneering efforts in advancing aquatics worldwide and solidifying Kuwait's prominent role in international sports.

## Mbappé's legal team says he has seized 55 million euros from PSG's accounts

PARIS, April 10, (AP): Kylian Mbappé's legal team is going on the attack to try and resolve the legal dispute between the World Cup winner and his former club Paris Saint-Germain.

The France striker argues PSG owes him 55 million euros (\$61 million) in unpaid wages, and his lawyers said they have asked the Paris court to start proceedings.

Legal expert Thomas Clay said Mbappé has been authorized by a Paris court to make a precautionary seizure of the money from PSG's bank accounts and that he proceeded with the move on Thursday. A legal hearing is scheduled for 26 May, he said.

"This story has been going on for just over a year now. One year was the deadline for trying to resolve this dispute as peace-

fully as possible," Mbappé's main lawyer, Delphine Verheyden, said. "As the months went by, Kylian Mbappé still hasn't been paid the missing 55 million euros. A decision has been taken, this time to go on the attack."

Verheyden said they were also asking the French sports minister to intervene and to legally challenge a decision by the appeals commission of the French Football Federation, which ruled that Mbappé's appeal against PSG was not receivable.

She said she will also ask UEFA to look into the matter, arguing that PSG is in breach of its salary obligations. Verheyden suggested that PSG, if found responsible, could lose the licence allowing the club to play in the Champions League.

## Orlando clinches 7th spot

ORLANDO, Fla., April 10, (AP): Franz Wagner scored 23 points, Cole Anthony came off the bench with 18 points and the Orlando Magic beat the Boston Celtics 96-76 to clinch seventh place in the Eastern Conference and the top spot in the play-in tournament.

Baylor Scheierman and Payton Pritchard scored 15 points each to lead the Celtics, who did not use their top six players and made 7 of 40 3-point shots.

Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown, Kristaps Porzingis, Derrick White, Jrue Holiday and Al Horford did not play for the Celtics.

Paolo Banchero had 15 points and six assists for the Magic. It was Wagner's 12th straight game of scoring 20 or more points.

## Spurs 114, Warriors 111

In San Francisco, Harrison Barnes made a 3-pointer at the buzzer after committing a foul moments earlier that could have cost his team, and San Antonio stunned Golden State.

Draymond Green made two free throws with 3.1 seconds left to make it 111-all after Barnes fouled him, then the veteran guard let it fly over Jimmy Butler and was immediately swarmed by his teammates when the horn sounded.

Curry scored 30 with five 3-pointers and grabbed eight rebounds, but this loss could jeopardize Golden State securing a top-six playoff seed and avoiding the play-in tournament.

## Lakers 112, Mavericks 97

In Dallas, Luka Doncic scored 45 points in his first game in Dallas since being traded to Los Angeles, helping the Lakers wrap up a playoff spot with a victory over the Mavericks.

Doncic's emotional return came two months after a seismic trade out of nowhere that sent the five-time All-Star to Los Angeles. The 26-year-old star from Slovenia spent his first 5 1/2 seasons with the Mavericks, and still had two seasons left on his contract.

## Bulls 119, Heat 111

In Chicago, Josh Giddey dominated with 28 points, 16 rebounds and 11 assists and Chicago beat Miami in a game with heavy seeding implications.

Giddey extended a career high with his seventh triple-double as the ninth-place Bulls (37-43) moved a game ahead of Miami in the Eastern Conference. They also pulled within a half-game of Atlanta for the eighth seed. The ninth-place team gets a home game against the 10th seed in the play-in tournament. The winner then visits the loser of the game between the seventh and eighth seeds.

## Thunder 125, Suns 112

In Phoenix, Jalen Williams scored 33 points, Chet Holmgren added 22 and short-handed Oklahoma City beat Phoenix, eliminating the Suns from the playoff race.

Phoenix will miss the playoffs for the first time since 2020 despite having a roster that included the high-priced All-Star trio of Kevin Durant, Devin Booker and Bradley Beal.



Houston Rockets guard Nate Williams, right, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers guard Kobe Brown defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

## Nuggets 124, Kings 116

In Sacramento, Nikola Jokic had his 32nd triple-double of the season with 20 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists and Denver beat Sacramento in the Nuggets' first game since head coach Michael Malone was fired.

Christian Braun scored 25 points and Aaron Gordon and Michael Porter Jr. each had 21 points to help Denver end a four-game losing streak and complete a season series sweep of Sacramento.

With two regular-season games remaining, the Nuggets (48-32) are tied with the Clippers for the No. 4 playoff seed in the Western Confer-

ence.

## Clippers 134, Rockets 117

In Inglewood, James Harden had 35 points and 10 assists and streaking Los Angeles beat playoff-bound Houston for their sixth straight win.

The Rockets had already locked up the No. 2 seed in the West and will be making their first playoff appearance since the 2020 bubble in Florida.

## 76ers 122, Wizards 103

In Washington, Jeff Dowtin Jr. scored a career-high 30 points and Philadelphia snapped a 12-game losing streak with a victory over Washington.

Lonnie Walker IV had 24 points for the 76ers, who won despite a lengthy list of injured players that included Joel Embiid, Paul George, Eric Gordon, Kyle Lowry, Tyrese Maxey, Jared McCain and Andre Drummond.

## Jazz 133, Trail Blazers 126

In Salt Lake City, Kyle Filipowski scored 30 points including a dunk that sent the game into overtime and grabbed 18 rebounds as Utah snapped a nine-game losing streak with a win over Portland.

## Raptors 126, Hornets 96

In Toronto, Jonathan Mogbo had 17 points, a career-high 11 assists and 10 rebounds for the first triple-double by a rookie in the NBA this season, helping Toronto beat short-handed Charlotte.

Jared Rhoden scored 23 points in the Raptors' ninth straight home victory over the Hornets. Scottie Barnes added 17 points and 11 rebounds as the Raptors finished 18-23 at home.

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Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi (10) brings the ball up the field against the Los Angeles FC during the second half of a CONCACAF Nations League Quarterfinal Match at Chase Stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (AP)

# Sports

## Kuwait shines in tent pegging with 2 medals

Daihani clinches silver

**MUSCAT, April 10:** The Kuwaiti tent pegging team secured silver and bronze medals during the third edition of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Beach Games, currently being held in Muscat, Oman.

Rider Abdullah Al-Daihani clinched the silver medal in the individual saber competition, while the Kuwaiti national team earned the bronze medal in the team saber event following a strong overall performance.

The tent pegging competitions featured individual, pair, and team saber events.

The final day saw intense contests in the "ring and lemon" challenges, as well as saber and javelin relay events.

The Kuwaiti tent pegging squad includes riders Hussein Al-Ajmi, Abdullah Al-Hindi, Ibrahim Al-Enezi, Abdullah Al-Daihani, and Ghannam Al-Ajmi, led by coach Rashid Al-Marri and assistant Ali Al-Bin Ali.

With these results, Kuwait's medal count at the GCC Beach Games has reached six medals:

1 silver: Abdullah Al-Daihani (individual saber)

5 bronze:

Khaled Al-Masoud (high jump)

Mohammed Ashkanani (triple jump)

Ali Anki, Hamad Al-Masoud, Badr Bu Hamad, and Abdulaziz Al-Mansour (Optimist sailing team)

Talal Al-Mutawa, Ibrahim Al-Rashoud, Mohammed Al-Dosari, and Ahmed Al-Mas (paragliding team)

Kuwait tent pegging team (team saber)

These achievements reflect Kuwait's growing presence and competitive spirit across a range of events at the regional multi-sport tournament.



Kuwait tent pegging team celebrates after winning bronze.

KUNA photo

220 shooters from 17 countries set to compete

## Amir's Grand International Shooting Championship begins on Saturday

**KUWAIT CITY, April 10, (KUNA):** The Grand Annual International Shooting Championship of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will commence this Saturday at the Kuwait Shooting Club, bringing together approximately 220 archers from 17 Arab and international nations.

The seven-day event is poised to be one of the most significant sporting events in Kuwait.

Duaj Al-Otaibi, Chairman

of the Supreme Organizing Committee and President of the Kuwait Shooting Club, expressed on Thursday that Kuwait is honored to host the championship, which has become one of the largest and most prominent shooting events in the region and across Asia.

He also extended his deepest gratitude to His Highness the Amir for his kind patronage of the event.

This annual championship features competitions for

both men and women in shotgun shooting and has established itself as a key sporting gathering for archery enthusiasts.

Al-Otaibi noted the strong participation of international delegations, including the President and Secretary-General of the International Shooting Federation, as well as heads of national federations taking part in the tournament.

All preparations have been completed for the event, with the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad



KUNA photo  
Chairman of the tournament's organizing committee and head of the Kuwait Shooting Club, Duaj Al-Otaibi.

shooting fields at the Kuwait Shooting Club ready to host the competition.

The opening ceremony will be attended by the representative of the sponsor, Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

The competition will feature approximately 120 Kuwaiti archers across five different events. Al-Otaibi emphasized that the Kuwait Shooting Club aims to involve as many local shooters as possible to enhance

their experience and prepare them for upcoming global, continental, and regional tournaments.

He expressed confidence in the ability of Kuwaiti archers to compete effectively and achieve top rankings against world champions.

He also commended the continued support from the General Sports Authority and other state agencies, highlighting their essential role in the tournament's success, as well as the efforts of the volunteers.

## Kuwaiti athletes showcase impressive performances in Doha Championship



Kuwaiti athletes display their medals on the podium as an official looks on after the awarding ceremony.

**DOHA, April 10, (KUNA):** Kuwaiti athletes showcased impressive performances at the West Asian Athletics Championship, which took place in Doha, Qatar.

Haya Al-Tawajar of Al-Fatat Club claimed the gold medal in the 3,000m steeplechase. Aisha Al-Khudher from Salwa Al-Sabah Club won the bronze in the discus throw, setting a new Kuwaiti record with a throw of 40.63m.

Additionally, the 4x100m relay team from Al-Qadsia Club, consisting of Hussein Khamis, Nasser Ismail, Jassim Al-Qenaai, and Abdullah Al-Munais, secured the bronze medal in their event.

Kuwait is represented by four clubs - Al-Qadsia, Kazma, Al-Fatat, and Salwa Al-Sabah - in the championship, which has attracted around 400 athletes from 22 clubs across 11 West Asian countries.

## Messi and Miami pull off 3-goal rally to top LAFC

**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., April 10, (AP):** Down 1-0 on the scoreboard, down 2-0 in total goals in the series and needing three goals to advance, Inter Miami needed a most unlikely rally.

Lionel Messi made it happen.

Inter Miami is headed to the CONCACAF Champions Cup semifinals for the first time, after Messi - the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner - led a dramatic three-goal comeback. He had two goals, including the clinching penalty kick in the 84th minute, to lift Inter

Miami past LAFC 3-1 on Wednesday night and a 3-2 aggregate win in the two-leg series.

For Messi, the series clincher was a bit reminiscent of how he led Argentina past France in the World Cup final in 2022. He scored two goals in that match, one on a penalty kick - then also converted in the penalty-shot shootout that decided the final after it ended in a 3-3 tie. Those goals came against France's Hugo Lloris, who was also in net for

LAFC on Wednesday night.

Lloris couldn't solve Messi in the World Cup final - and couldn't in this one, either. Messi simply waited for Lloris to move a bit on the penalty that put Inter Miami up 3-1, essentially freezing the keeper before gently sending the ball into the right side of the net.

And when the final whistle sounded, Mascherano punched the air in celebration.

"They believed," Mascherano said.

## Barcelona edges closer to Champions League semis

PSG beats Villa 3-1 in first leg

**BARCELONA, Spain, April 10, (AP):** Raphinha and Robert Lewandowski struck again to lead Barcelona to a commanding 4-0 win over Borussia Dortmund in the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals.

Lewandowski scored twice and Raphinha had a goal and an assist, leaving the Catalan club in a strong position to reach the semifinals for the first time since 2019.

Lamine Yamal also scored as Barcelona dealt a commanding blow to the German side's hopes of advancing.

The return match is next Tuesday at Dortmund, which was last year's runner-up in a final against Barcelona rival Real Madrid.

Raphinha added to his Champions League-leading tally by poking the ball into the open net in the 25th minute for his 12th goal in the competition this season. He then helped set up Lewandowski's first goal of the night in the 48th.

Lewandowski scored his 11th Champions League goal with a one-timer in the 66th before Yamal closed the scoring in the 77th.

He entered the match with 11 goals, one more than Dortmund's Serhou Guirassy and Bayern Munich's Harry Kane.

A wonder goal from Khvicha Kvaratskhelia upstaged a brilliant curling shot from teammate Désiré Doué as Paris Saint-Germain beat Aston Villa 3-1 in the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals.

After Morgan Rogers gave Villa the lead in the 35th minute, the 19-year-old Doué drew PSG level four minutes later with the 12th goal of his break-

through season.

Kvaratskhelia put PSG in front four minutes after the break and left back Nuno Mendes added a third goal in stoppage time with a fine finish of his own.

Kvaratskhelia's was the goal of the night.

He sprinted down the left from just over the halfway line and then mesmerized Villa's defense in a blizzard of quick feet and superb balance.

Advancing at pace with the ball seemingly glued to his right foot, he then wrong-footed defender Axel Disasi with a sudden change of direction, before rolling the ball onto his left foot in one smooth motion and blasting an unstoppable shot over the head of goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez.

Kvaratskhelia belongs in such elite

company.

His goal was exactly the kind of effort that earned the flying Georgia winger the nickname "Kvaradona" when he was playing for Napoli, in reference to soccer maestro Diego Maradona - the Italian club's greatest ever player - and prompted PSG coach Luis Enrique to spend 70 million euros (then \$72 million) on him in the winter transfer window.

Shortly after Kvaratskhelia's goal, Martinez made a great save low to his right against Achraf Hakimi's powerful shot as PSG poured forward looking for a third goal.

Villa was at this stage of the competition for the first time since 1983 and dealt well with early pressure before taking the lead with a well-worked goal.



Dortmund's Serhou Guirassy, right, duels for the ball with Barcelona's Jules Kounde during the Champions League quarterfinals first leg soccer match between Barcelona and Borussia Dortmund, at the Lluís Companys Olympic stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)