



New MoUs in environment and diplomacy strengthen relations

Deep historical ties anchor Kuwait-Saudi bonds: FM Al-Yahya

KUWAIT CITY, June 4, (KUNA): Kuwait Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya described Kuwaiti-Saudi relations as that goes beyond the concept of diplomacy; they are "a deeper and stronger relationship than those known between countries and are based on a long legacy, ties of blood, lineage, and a common history."

Minister Al-Yahya said, in a speech during the second Kuwaiti-Saudi Coordination Council meeting held in Kuwait, that unity of destiny and interdependence is a relationship that moves at a steady pace and with an insightful vision towards a prosperous future that establishes security and safety, perpetuates progress and prosperity for the two countries and peoples, and contributes to enhancing the sta-

bility and security of the region.

Al-Yahya noted that the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are linked to many agreements and memorandums of understanding in various fields, which in turn contributed to increasing the volume of investments and joint trade exchange between the two countries and raising them to advanced levels.

He added that encouraging direct investment contributes to strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries, pointing out that the volume of Kuwaiti investments in the Kingdom exceeded USD 2.218 billion.

Regarding the meeting held earlier, Minister Al-Yahya stated that it "confirms the determination of the two coun-

tries to continue efforts and make every effort to advance these distinguished relations to the highest levels."

He pointed to the outcomes of the second session of the coordination meeting, which witnessed the approval of a memorandum of understanding on the mutual recognition of seafarers' certificates, a memorandum of understanding in the field of environmental protection, rehabilitation and preservation, and a joint cooperation program between the Prince Saud Al-Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies and the Kuwaiti Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute.

Minister Al-Yahya expressed his thanks and appreciation to the work teams from both sides for the distinguished efforts made in preparing for this meeting, calling for continu-

ing joint work to achieve more achievements.

In turn, the Saudi Arabia, Prince Faisal expressed in a similar speech his thanks for efforts made to enhance cooperation and interconnection between the two brotherly countries in a way that contributes to achieving common interests.

The Saudi Foreign Minister added that the joint coordination committee reflects the interest given by the leadership in the two countries in terms of pushing relations to broader horizons in order to achieve the aspirations of our two countries and peoples.

Earlier, a joint statement gave due credit to the Kuwaiti-Saudi joint coordination committee for its contributions towards keeping relations on an upward trajectory, revealing that the next round of talks are slated for next year in the Saudi capital.



MoFA photo Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya receives Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud.

Cabinet greenlights 18 road maintenance bids

Minister Al-Mashaan amends construction regulations

KUWAIT CITY, June 4, (KUNA): The Kuwait Cabinet was apprised of the endorsement of Board Director of the Central Agency for Public Tenders to present all works totaling 18 submitted by the Ministry of Public Works to perform maintenance of roads and highways in various parts nationwide.

This was announced in a statement by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sharida Al-Maousherji after the Cabinet meeting held at Seif Palace, under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The move comes in implementation of the directives of His Highness the Prime Minister regarding the need of starting immediately maintenance of streets for the sake of motorists, Al-Maousherji said.

The Cabinet commended the official celebration of the full operation of the Al-Zour Refinery that was held last Wednesday, under the patronage and presence of His

Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

It is one of the most important oil refining projects in the world and a qualitative shift in environmentally friendly oil industry in the path of Kuwait's sustainable development, he noted.

The Cabinet expressed its sincere appreciation to Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Dr. Imad Mohammad Al-Ateeqi, and all national cadres who contributed to the completion of this development project.

It confirmed Kuwait's position as one of the most important countries producing oil and its derivatives, under the wise leadership and vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Moreover, the Cabinet was briefed on the report of the National Committee for Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorist Financing regarding the recommendations submitted by the Financial Action Task Force for the Mutual Evaluation of Kuwait (FATF).



PM Diwan photo Cabinet meeting in session at Seif Palace, under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Al-Mulla affirms benefits of employing AI in education

Kuwait ambassador highlights UNESCO AI ethics

RABAT, June 4, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait Ambassador to UNESCO Dr. Adam Al-Mulla on Tuesday affirmed the significant role played by the UN agencies particularly the UNESCO in enforcing ethics in the latest smart realm, the artificial intelligence.

Ambassador Al-Mulla noted importance of a UNESCO's (UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) recommendation on the AI ethics, declared in November 2021, and adopted by all of the 193 member states. He indicated that it was based on international laws.

He was speaking during the First Forum on Artificial Intelligence, co-organized by Morocco's International Center for Artificial Intelligence center, affiliated to Mohammed VI Polytechnique University, and the UNESCO.

Al-Mulla, who chaired a meeting of the AI ethics panel at the UNESCO, has affirmed that it is imperative for the member states and governments to heed the ethical regulations.

Elaborating, he affirmed benefits of employing the AI in education, alluding to a

UNESCO's call upon the governments to train teachers on the latest smart innovation.

The UNESCO, in September 2023, publicized guidelines for using generative AI in teaching, with precautionary terms for respecting privacy of individuals and institutions and setting the ages for using the technology.

The three-day forum that kicked off on Monday groups representatives of 30 states including 15 African countries and international experts.

Being keen to implement all measures to maintain Kuwait's position, the Cabinet decided to refer the report to the ministerial legal affairs committee to study all topics.

Aligning with eagerness to follow-up on carrying out the projects, the Cabinet was informed about a visual presentation on the latest developments regarding the project of establishing and operating Mubarak Al-Kabeer airport.

As of its follow-up to implementing bilateral agreements and memorandums of understanding with China, the Cabinet was briefed on the visual presentation on the executive case of these bilateral agreements and memos.

The Cabinet decided to refer all projects and deals to the economic affairs committee to prepare a report about them.

In addition, the Cabinet tasked Minister of Public Works, and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs to take required measures regarding changing the names of streets, roads and squares.

Finally, the Cabinet approved the minutes of meeting of the Supreme Committee for the Investigation of Kuwaiti Citizenship that includes cases of loss and withdrawal of some nationalities, in accordance with the law.

In latest development, Minister of Public Works and State Minister for Municipality Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan issued a resolution on Tuesday amending construction regulations, allowing for more flexibility and addressing recurring issues in private residence.

The amendment came for certain articles within ministerial resolution 206 for the year 2009 on regulations and specifications of private and model residences, specified a Ministry-issued statement.

This is to keep pace with architectural development, facilitate the construction process for citizens, and accommodate their needs and demands, and is also an implementation of municipal council decision, read the statement.

'Al-Adwani still minister'

25 employees suspended over Grade 12 exam leak

KUWAIT CITY, June 4, (Agencies): According to informed sources, the leakage of the Grade 12 Islamic Studies question paper on Monday constitutes a complete transgression, involving the leakage of both the exam paper and answer sheet, as well as a handwritten document containing model answers, reports Al-Rai daily.

The sources said, "As soon as the leakage of the question paper was discovered, a decision was taken to cancel the exam and delay it for another day." Such a decision is unprecedented in Kuwait. The question paper was circulated through Telegram on the early morning of the day of the exam, i.e., before the question papers were delivered to the schools.

Meanwhile, reliable sources explained that the Minister of Education and Higher Education Adel Al-Adwani cancelled his trip to Qatar where he was supposed to participate in the GCC forum for education and higher education. He instead went first to the head office of the Ministry of Education and then to the secret publishing house where he met with the senior staff of the publishing house. Al-Adwani then decided to suspend all of the 25 employees at the publishing house, referred them for investigations and appointed new staff.

Al-Adwani then issued a decision to cancel the exam papers prepared for the rest of subjects and assigned the technical directorates to prepare new exams in order to avoid any potential leakage of the remaining exams.

In a relevant development, the Kuwait Teachers Society expressed sorrow regarding the leakage of the exam papers.

It stressed the need to take tough procedures to punish those responsible and prevent any similar cases from occurring again.

Also, Chairman of the National Integrity Society Lawyer Mohammad Al-Otaibi praised the procedures taken by the Ministry of Education, stressing the need to adopt firm measures to prevent such cases from being repeated.

In addition, the Chairperson of the Education Integrity Committee at the National Integrity Society Dr. Amthal Al-Uraifan said a delegation of the committee visited the exam correction control rooms to follow up the process and ensure the process is carried out properly.

Kuwaiti Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Al-Adwani warned Monday that immediate action would be taken against any wrongdoing pertinent to exam paper leakage.

The minister's warning came in the aftermath of a decision to put on the back burner the exam of the Islamic education subject for the 12th grade of high schools, vowing that anyone, regardless of his or her post, involved in the matter would be brought to book.

The minister underlined that any attempt to tamper with students' future would be resolutely addressed, and negative phenomena be determinedly opposed, through the concerted efforts of the ministry's sincere officials, the ministry's Spokesman Ahmad Al-Waheeda said in a press statement.

Earlier in the day, the minister of education decided to postpone the exam of the Islamic education subject following the leakage of exam papers, warning that legal action would be taken against all those involved in the affair.

On Monday, spokesman of the Kuwaiti Government Amer Al-Ajmi dismissed social media allegations that Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Al-Adwani had resigned.

Al-Ajmi said in a press statement that legal action would be taken against those rumormongers, urging everyone to seek information from relevant official sources.

NewsWatch

DOHA: The 8th and 24th meetings of committees of GCC Education Ministers and Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministers respectively were held in Doha, with Kuwait partaking.

Speaking in the eighth meeting, Qatar's Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina Al-Nuaimi said the gathering discusses some key topics regarding the directives of GCC leaders that include the Riyadh Declaration of the 42nd session of GCC Supreme Council on boosting international cooperation and Al-Ula Declaration for the 41st session on education during crises.

Such declarations show the joint future vision of the GCC leaders and much attention paid to develop education in "our" countries, she said, referring to the connection between education future, and the ability to share expertise and develop capabilities.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Al-Budaiwi said the GCC founders and the current leaders

have paid much attention, since the council's establishment, to enhance the joint Gulf action in education for wider horizons to keep pace with developments and methods of education in the entire world.

He highlighted that the GCC leaders believe firmly that the real wealth is in youth and realize that education is the main pillar to build and develop societies. (KUNA)

CAIRO: The activities of the Third Arab Forum for Equality under the title "Addressing inequality in times of multiple crises," kicked off on Tuesday with the participation of Kuwait's delegation headed by Acting Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Dr. Maryam Al-Azmi.

In the opening speech, the Egyptian Minister of Social Solidarity Nevine Al-Kabbaj stated that the forum is held under difficult international and regional circumstances, mainly, the economic crises, armed conflicts and health emergencies. (KUNA)

Joint committee holds meeting

Efforts begin to revitalize Souq Mubarakiya

KUWAIT CITY, June 4, (Agencies): Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali, Governor of Kuwait City, said that the committee formed between the Capital Governorate and Kuwait Voluntary Work Center will start field work in the historical Souq Mubarakiya.

The joint committee held a meeting on Tuesday, attended by the Governor and Sheikhha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, chairperson of the voluntary work center, in which they discussed drawing a framework and placing systems regarding issues in Al-Mubarkiya, a statement from the governorate said.

Following a trip to the historical Souq, the committee was able to pinpoint issues regarding cleanliness, amenities, public facilities and start coming up with a plan to restore them and maintain the invaluable beauty of its heritage.

Last week, the governor explained that Souq Mubarakiya carries a historical fragrance and ancient heritage value. It is an area that combines architectural, tourism, marketing and entertainment styles, and is regarded as one of the most attractive areas for citizens, residents and visitors from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, as well as foreign tourists.

The Capital Governorate will spare no effort in supporting all efforts that would preserve the high style of popular heritage in Souq Mubarakiya, and cooperate with the relevant government institutions and private parties, in order to address all existing problems. This can be either at the level of public cleanliness or developing the necessary facilities and services, in addition to adding an aesthetic character while preserving the heritage value of that area.



KUNA photo The first meeting of the joint committee formed between the Capital Governorate and Kuwait Voluntary Work Center.

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:14 Asr 15:21
 Sunrise .. 04:48 Maghrib .. 18:44
 Zohr 11:46 Isha 20:15

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-50 km/h with a chance for rising dust.

Weather		Kuwait Airport	
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	45	35	27
			27
			31
			40
			34
			43
			30
			45
			29

BIOMETRIC/FINGERPRINT APPOINTMENT: <https://meta.e.gov.kw/En/>

Employees assigned to work overtime asked to fingerprint

Fingerprinting system launched for MoH head office staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Minister of Health Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi issued a decision to launch the implementation of the fingerprint attendance system for the employees of the headquarters and central directorates, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the decision, the concerned departments will carry out the registration of the employees' fingerprints from June 3 to July 4 when the enforcement of the fingerprint attendance system is launched.

Employees covered under Article 11 of Decision No. 8/2017 of the Civil Service Commission (CSC)

are exempted from this decision. In a related context, Dr. Al-Awadhi issued another decision to impose the fingerprint attendance system on employees who are assigned to work overtime.

Meanwhile, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health issued a decision to form a fact-finding committee to investigate the theft of medicines from the pharmacy of a health center.

According to the decision, the manager of that pharmacy will continue to be suspended until the end of the investigations, as stated by Article 30 of the Law No. 15/1979.

Congratulations continue to pour in for His Highness Crown Prince

KUWAIT CITY, June 4, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a phone call on Monday from the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, during which he expressed his deepest congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for choosing him as Crown Prince.

His Highness the Amir thanked the Amir of Qatar for this generous gesture, while His Highness asked him to convey his greetings to the Father Amir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, asking Allah Almighty to bless them with continued health and wellness.

Also, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah received a phone call from Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, congratulating him on assuming office.

The Qatari Amir wished His Highness the Crown Prince lasting health, success, and prosperity for him, Kuwait and its people.

In return, His Highness the Crown Prince expressed his sincerest gratitude towards the Qatari Amir for his kind sentiments that reflect the deep-rooted brotherly relations between the two nations and wished further prosperity for him and his people.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah received, Tuesday, a letter from Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, congratulating him on being appointed as Crown Prince by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In turn, His Highness the Crown Prince extended his gratitude towards Sheikh Dr. Mohammad's heartfelt letter, wishing him long-lasting good health and prosperity.

The President and members of the Supreme Judicial Council, along with all judiciary members, expressed their welcome for the Amiri decree appointing His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah as Crown Prince of Kuwait by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, wishing him success and prosperity for the benefit of the nation and its citizens.

In a statement Monday, the president and members of the Supreme Judicial Council extended their sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and the people of Kuwait on being named Crown Prince, praying for Allah Almighty's guidance and success in supporting His Highness the Amir and continuing the path of prosperity and progress.

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah extended his warmest congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the Amiri order appointing His Highness as Crown Prince.

Sheikh Athbi Al-Sabah told KUNA that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's order comes thanks to Sheikh Sabah Khaled's known competence, demonstrated through his posts as prime minister and foreign minister as well as other leading posts.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to help His Highness live up to the trust and direct his steps for the good of the country and its people under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Kuwait, Tajikistan Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador Zubaydzoda Zubayduillo Najot, congratulated Monday, on behalf of all heads of diplomatic missions and organizations accredited to the country with the highest expressions of congratulations and blessings to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on his appointment.

This appointment, a testament to the

HH Amir 'congratulates' Mexico's president-elect

KUWAIT CITY, June 4, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulations to President of Mexico Claudia Sheinbaum.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir congratulated President Sheinbaum on being elected as president, wishing her success and long-lasting health and for Mexico and its people more prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Claudia Sheinbaum, congratulating her on being elected as president.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Claudia Sheinbaum, congratulating her on being elected as president.



Claudia Sheinbaum, congratulating her on being elected as president.

great confidence that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has placed in him, this is a momentous occasion for Kuwait and its diplomatic community, Zubaydzoda said in remarks to KUNA.

Zubaydzoda also praised His Highness the Crown Prince's great experience in diplomatic work, first as an ambassador, then as Minister of Foreign Affairs, and then as Prime Minister.

He fondly recalled his meeting with Sheikh Sabah during his visit to Tajikistan in 2012.

The visit was a resounding success, recalled the ambassador.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah received Monday a phone call from Saudi counterpart Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the new post.

During the call, Prince Mohammad bin Salman expressed sincere congratulations and appreciation to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled on being appointed as Crown Prince by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, wishing him everlasting well-being and Kuwait further progress, prosperity and development, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir.

His Highness the Crown Prince thanked Prince Mohammad bin Salman for this good initiative and sincere sentiments that embody the deep-rooted relations between the two sisterly countries.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled wished Prince Mohammad bin Salman permanent good health, and Saudi Arabia further progress and development, under the wise leadership of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah received, Tuesday, a phone call from Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tariq, congratulating him on being appointed as Crown Prince by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In turn, His Highness the Crown Prince thanked Sultan Haitham, underscored the strong bonds that the two nations share, and wished Oman and its people lasting health and prosperity.

Lebanon's parliament speaker Nabih Berri congratulated on Tuesday His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on being appointed Crown Prince of Kuwait.

A statement from the Lebanese parliament revealed that Berri sent a cable to His Highness the Crown Prince congratulating him on being appointed on behalf of himself, the parliament and the Lebanese people.

DGCA prepares set of measures for pilgrims' hassle-free travel

Kuwait Airport to operate 76 flights during Hajj season



KUNA photo Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs receives Oman's Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Administrative and Financial Affairs.

Deputy FM receives Omani Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs

Kuwait's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Tuesday Oman's Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Administrative and Financial Affairs, Khalid Hashel Al Muselhi.

In a press statement, the ministry said that bilateral relations between the two countries and issues of common concern were discussed during the meeting. (KUNA)

By Mohammad Al-Misheh Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

By Mohammad Al-Misheh Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is preparing to implement a set of measures to overcome all obstacles facing the first batch of pilgrims who are departing for Makkah early next week.

According to sources at Kuwait International Airport, 76 flights will operate during the current Hajj (Pilgrimage to Makkah) season for the departure and return of Kuwaiti pilgrims.

The agencies operating at the airport, including DGCA, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the General Administration of Customs, representatives of Hajj expedition offices, and ground service providers, meet periodically to discuss the operational plans for the movement of pilgrims from the time of their entry to Kuwait Airport until their arrival in Makkah.

The pilgrims will be transported via four Kuwaiti and Saudi airlines. The Kuwait Airways flights will be operated from terminal T4, Jazeera Airways flights will be operated from terminal T5, and Saudi Airlines and Flynas flights will be operated from the main passenger terminal T1.

Minister in surprise visit to PADA office

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

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthah Hadi Al-Huwaila on Tuesday made a surprise visit to the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA); where she toured the reception halls for clients to personally look into the progress of work, and the obstacles that employees and clients are facing.

Acting Director of PADA Al-Humaidi Muhammad Al-Mutairi; acting Deputy Director General for Medical, Psychological and Social Services and Care Homes Amer Al-Enezi; and acting Deputy Director General for Educational and Rehabilitation Services Mubarak Baddah Al-Badah were present during the minister's visit.

Al-Huwaila confirmed that this is part of the surprise tours she undertakes to closely examine the progress of work, detect any problem that employees and clients may face, and then address it. She said she will continue the policy of direct access to the authority's conditions, which has a direct relationship with the public and focuses on their needs.

She briefed PADA officials on the latest developments that will have a positive impact on better serving patients, as well as overcoming the difficulties of people with disabilities and their families.

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Sheikh Athbi pledges action over bad road

Farwaniya residents voice their concerns to governor

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Sabah recently met with a number of Farwaniya residents at the headquarters of Farwaniya Governorate, reports Al-Anba daily.

During the meeting, Sheikh Athbi was informed by the citizens about the biggest problems they face such as housing of bachelors in private residential areas especially in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Khaitan, the bad condition of the roads, the lack of maintenance of public gardens, and the neglect of Ardiya Industrial Area for more than 20 years.

The governor stressed the need to care for the youth and help them spend their summer vacation in a beneficial manner through useful activities especially when considering the growing prevalence of negative phenomena.

During the meeting, the treasurer of Farwaniya Cooperative Society highlighted the issue of truck drivers using the parking lots allocated for the wedding hall in order to park their vehicles for several days.

A Kuwaiti citizen Fatima Fouad suggested enhancing volunteering work to serve the environment as part of contributing to the sustainable development in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Interior and the Public Authority for Youth Affairs.

It was announced during the meeting that the zoo will be opened soon in a renovated form. It was also announced that a committee was formed to conduct studies on the urgent issues, identify the reasons behind them and recommend the necessary solutions.

'Clear indications country will embark on goals set by Amir'

"LATELY, I've observed promising signs indicating that our country is poised to embark on a journey towards the ambitious objectives outlined by His Highness the Amir in his speeches. These objectives revolve around propelling Kuwait towards holistic development across economic, social, educational, and intellectual fronts," columnist **Abdullah Bishara** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"There's a strong emphasis on ensuring that this advancement is facilitated by the recruitment of skilled individuals who will contribute within the framework of our systems.

"This commitment aligns with the overarching vision of implementing a renewal program aimed at ushering Kuwait into a new era of comprehensive progress, a priority set forth by His Highness the Amir. The aim is to expedite the realization of Kuwait's lofty aspirations, which are eagerly anticipated and eagerly pursued.

"In these times, His Highness the Prime Minister is delving into the intricacies of the blueprint for Kuwait's ambitious aspirations, while His Highness the Amir spearheads its execution, deliberating on the most effective strategies to propel Kuwait into a new era in line with global progress.

"The prevailing atmosphere exudes confidence in the earnestness of government leadership and its unwavering resolve to swiftly translate plans into action. There's no room for hesitation or complacency; negligence is simply not tolerated.

"The leadership is resolute and equipped to furnish all necessary resources for the realization of long-awaited projects critical for Kuwait's advancement. These words serve as a prelude, underscoring the determination to extricate Kuwait from the inertia that has lingered for years, steering it towards a position befitting its ambitions.

"Under his leadership, an all-encompassing initiative has emerged, addressing various avenues for innovation in Kuwait, spanning economics, commerce, culture, social affairs, and sports.

"Additionally, it extends to aspects of security and defense. Even the state's administrative machinery is undergoing transformation, embracing qualified talents adept at navigating the intricacies of renewal and development. Those who can seamlessly integrate with technological advancements and wholeheartedly embrace the vision of the renaissance project are being identified through ongoing discussions moderated by His Highness the Amir.

"Undoubtedly, the state is committed to nurturing a cadre of talented individuals well-versed in modern technology and equipped to contribute to the forthcoming changes in Kuwait.

"It's anticipated that the private sector will align with the evolving landscape of Kuwait's development, with financial institutions adapting to facilitate this transformative journey. These private entities must actively engage in these transformations, as the development project unfolding in Kuwait offers ample opportunities for collaboration with international firms, turning aspirations into tangible benefits for the Kuwaiti populace.

"As per this comprehensive plan, Kuwait may emerge as a desirable destination for international companies, closely monitoring Gulf countries' progress and their receptivity to leveraging international expertise.

"News surrounding Mubarak Port has gained momentum, with major companies being invited to prepare for its operation.

"Simultaneously, there's a concerted effort to address the educational landscape, recognizing the imperative of its renewal to align with Kuwait's aspirations.

"Similarly, Kuwaiti industry is

poised for transformations necessitating local industrialists to seize opportunities presented by the proposed development plan. While Kuwait's industrial sector has historically been modest in size and technology, change is on the horizon. This shift will impact not only industry but also other sectors that have operated within modest confines due to market limitations.

"In the realm of agriculture, Kuwait is poised to play a significant role within the overarching plan's expansive and diverse framework. Recognizing that products grown or manufactured in Kuwait can readily access markets within the Gulf Cooperation Council, this underscores the commitment to the comprehensive economic agreement signed in Riyadh in 1981.

"The ongoing negotiations between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union (EU) for a free trade agreement have gained momentum, signaling a serious intent to finalize an agreement in the near future.

"This agreement is expected to significantly boost trade volumes between the two parties. Furthermore, amidst these developments, Arab countries are actively pursuing a free trade agreement within the Arab world, demonstrating a commitment to resolving previous hurdles.

"Despite Kuwait's proactive measures to combat corruption, challenges persist, with corruption finding ways to infiltrate and undermine integrity efforts. As development initiatives unfold, corruption tends to thrive, particularly with inflated tender prices, necessitating continued vigilance to safeguard against malpractice.

"While Kuwait's commercial landscape remains open to major foreign companies eyeing Gulf markets, the risk of corruption persists, highlighting the need for stringent enforcement and accountability measures.

"Corruption remains a persistent challenge, requiring continuous vigilance and prosecution, especially given the strategic relationships Gulf countries maintain with major international partners.

"Amidst regional instability and uncertainty, the GCC countries find themselves in a precarious position, juxtaposed against longstanding turmoil.

"However, amidst these challenges, Kuwait remains steadfast in its commitment to development and renewal, cognizant of regional security dynamics. Prioritizing internal development and fortification, Kuwait endeavors to ensure security and stability not only for itself but also for its GCC counterparts.

"It's evident that His Highness the Amir is resolute in steering Kuwait towards a trajectory aligned with the changes embraced by GCC countries, rallying all energies for a collective implementation process driven by unprecedented vigor for the change advocated by His Highness.

"The passing of Minister Faisal Al-Khaled has deeply saddened me. Faisal was not only a friend but a beacon of optimism, radiating vitality in both his professional endeavors and his zest for life, evident in his extensive travels.

"As Minister of Trade and Industry, Faisal represented Kuwait with distinction in GCC meetings, contributing significantly to discussions on implementing economic agreements. His proposals were held in high regard, reflecting his expertise and boundless optimism.

"Naturally cheerful, Faisal was not only a capable minister but also an influential and beloved ambassador in Cairo, where he represented Kuwait with unwavering dedication and sincerity, drawing upon his extensive experience in trade and economics.

"May God grant him mercy and a place in Paradise among the righteous. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family, children, friends, and all who were touched by his warmth and kindness. In this moment of loss, we find solace in the knowledge that we all belong to God and will ultimately return to Him."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes



KUWAIT CITY, June 4, (KUNA): Kuwait's First Deputy PM and Defence, Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah returns home from Egypt.

Sheikh Fahad Yousef ends 2-day official visit to Egypt

Kuwait's Defence, Interior minister returns home

KUWAIT CITY, June 4, (KUNA): Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defence, Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah returned on Monday to Kuwait following an official visit to Egypt.

During his stay in Cairo, Sheikh Fahad Yousef discussed with the Egyptian ministers of interior and defense matters of mutual concern, military cooperation, and efforts to address any difficulties Kuwaiti nationals residing in Egypt are facing.

He also discussed ways of addressing the delay in private real estate registrations for Kuwaitis.

Earlier, Sheikh Fahad Yousef departed the Egyptian capital Cairo after wrapping up an official visit, in which he held talks with his Egyptian counterparts.

Amid his two-day visit to the Arab world's most populous nation, his first foreign trip since taking office, the Kuwaiti minister held talks with Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Mahmoud Tawfiq, which focused on matters of "mutual concern," and efforts to cater to the needs of Kuwaiti nationals residing in Egypt.

The Kuwaiti minister also held similar talks with Cairo's Defense Minister Lieutenant General Mohammad Zaki, aiming to ratchet up efforts to bolster military cooperation and the exchange of know-how.

The visit comes as part of efforts to propel Kuwait's "brotherly and historic" relations with Cairo to greater levels, Kuwaiti ambassador to Egypt Ghanim Al-Ghanim said in a statement.

Securitymen seize KD 2mn worth narcotic pills, arrest six persons

PADA recovers KD 452K from misappropriated funds

KUWAIT CITY, June 4, (Agencies): The Interior Ministry's criminal investigation department managed to foil on Tuesday the smuggling of six million Lyrica (Pregabalin) pills through Kuwait's international airport.

The ministry said in a statement that the Criminal Investigation's Drug Control General Department (DCGD) apprehended six individuals involved in the operation.

The value of the confiscated substance is about KD two million, added the statement.

The Interior Ministry will continue its efforts to prevent narcotics from being smuggled into the country, the statement affirmed.

It called on all citizens and residents to cooperate with the security authorities in the country, contacting the 112 emergency number or the DCGD's 1884141 hotline to report any suspicious behavior and crimes.

KD 452,000 recovered: Mubarak Al-Badah, Deputy Director of the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs for the Educational and Rehabilitation Services Sector, as well as Director of the Legal Affairs Department and the authority's official spokesman, disclosed the recovery of 452 thousand dinars from an educational institution under the authority's purview, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This sum was wrongfully spent, as revealed by internal administrative investigations. Those accountable for the improper disbursement have been referred to the appropriate legal authorities. Al-Badah emphasized that the mentioned amount was expended unlawfully due to the failure of the relevant committee to reassess the educational institution's fees after an increase in capacity.

He noted that had this discrepancy not been uncovered and investigated, the institution might have been eligible for an increase. Al-Badah underscored the authority's success in recovering significant sums of money, both historically and presently, which were unlawfully disbursed. This ongoing effort is vital, particularly considering the sacred nature of public funds.

Regarding lawsuits initiated by the authority to reclaim wrongfully disbursed funds, Al-Badah outlined the meticulous process undertaken by the Legal Affairs Department.

This involves verifying the sums through collaboration between financial and legal departments, followed by communication with indebted individuals. Whether it's the disabled person themselves, their caregiver, or heirs in the case of the disabled person's demise, efforts are made to retrieve these funds. Importantly, public funds are not subject to a statute of limitations. Al-Badah reiterated the authority's commitment to taking decisive legal action against any instances of violation, abuse, or fraud. This is done to ensure that individuals with special needs receive the financial and material benefits guaranteed by Law No. 8/2010, which safeguards their rights.

Warnings issued: The inspection team in the Kuwait Municipality in the Jahra Governorate issued 21 warnings for encroachments on state lands and illegal grazing in military areas in the Al-Adairah region of Al-Salmi, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The head of the Violations Removal Department in the Jahra Municipality, Engineer Abdullah Al-Dihaim, affirmed that "based on the directives of the Director-General of the Kuwait Municipality to remove all encroachments on state properties erected without permits, the removal campaign will continue. The daily added warnings will be issued with a specific deadline following which the structures will be demolished.

Bid to replace names of streets: The Council of Ministers has assigned Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan to take the necessary measures to replace the names of people on roads, streets and squares with numbers, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The council asked Al-Mashaan to present a draft decision in this regard; as well as to limit the naming of roads, streets and squares after the sultans, kings, rulers, princes and heads of State only. It also pointed out that naming roads, streets and squares after countries and capitals should be done through the principle of reciprocity in accordance with the relevant procedures and provisions.

Reckless motorist held: The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior said the video clip circulating on some social media sites, showing a driver making stunts and colliding with another vehicle has been arrested and referred to the concerned authority to take legal measures against him, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The daily did not give more details.

Crime Briefs

THEFT: The Ministry of Health has announced the formation of an investigation committee into the suspicion of seizure of medicines from a primary care center, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The ministry said in a statement, based on urgent instructions from the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi, the head of the pharmacy has been suspended from work until completion of investigation, in implementation of the provisions of Article 30 of Decree Law No. 15 of 1979 regarding civil service.

BURIAL: The Kuwait Municipality set the timings for laying to rest the departed souls in the morning at nine o'clock and the evening after the Maghrib and Isha prayers, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The municipality explained in a press statement that specifying these periods comes due to the high temperature during the summer and to make it easier for the families of the deceased to pray over them and bury them at night, saying all cemeteries will be fully lit during the burial periods.



One of the firemen extinguishing the fire at Al-Salmi scrapyard.

Al-Salmi scrapyard fire extinguished

Kuwait Fire Forces (KFF), led by General Director of KFF Lieutenant General Khaled Fahad, extinguished a blaze on Tuesday at a scrapyard in Al-Salmi area.

In a press statement, KFF said that the fire was rapidly extinguished without

any casualties and that the quick response of firefighters helped to prevent the spread.

It added that Director of the Fire Department of Al-Jahra Governorate Colonel Ali bin Redha was also at the scene as a supervising capacity.

DGFD, MEW discuss network integration

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Major-General Khaled Fahd, acting Chief of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD), held discussions, recently, with Abdullah Haji, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity for Water Projects, and

Fahd, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity for Water Operation and Maintenance, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The focus of their meeting was on the requirements for integrating the fire nozzle network with the public water network.

Officers submit requests for retirement

Lieut-Gen Sheikh Salem chairs Sa'ad Al-Abdullah Academy council meeting

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, reaffirmed the Ministry's support for the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences during the 37th meeting of the academy's council, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The meeting, attended by council members, focused on various agenda items, including admission and registration conditions for the academic year 2024/2025, grievances committee outcomes, and the approval of Police Institute student results.

The discussions also centered on modernizing academy operations and curriculum development in alignment with the latest international scientific methods.

Thirty-seven senior officials from the Ministry of Interior recently submitted their requests for retirement to take advantage of Resolution No. 171 of 2024, which amends the provisions of Ministerial Resolution No. 2012/500 regarding allowances, rewards, and additional personnel, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The amendment includes adding a second paragraph to Article 68, stipulating that officers transferred to the Ministry's office retain their position's allowance and special allowances for three months before they are discontinued. Under the directive of Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef, the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, all security personnel present in the office before this decision will be included in its application until 6/5/2024.

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Boushehri urges swift action in Al-Mutla'a Residential City

Tenders open for youth centers

By Muhammad Al-Musleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Dr. Mohammad Boushehri has stressed the need to speed up the operation of government facilities in Al-Mutla'a Residential City, whose construction has been completed in coordination with the concerned authorities.



Dr. Boushehri

In a press statement following a field tour in the city accompanied by an official from the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) to review the executive status of the infrastructure and public facilities therein, Boushehri called for adherence to the timetables for construction work in order to complete them as planned. He urged the concerned entities to ensure the readiness of mosques, start of cosmetic planting and afforestation of the city, as well as establish green spaces, public parks and youth centers. He affirmed the importance of

Al-Dabbous visits Al-Mutla'a Residential city for update on ongoing construction

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Credit Bank's Acting General Manager, Sultan Al-Dabbous, recently led an inspection visit to the Residential City of Al-Mutla'a, accompanied by the bank's technical team and several executive officials, reports Al-Jarida daily.

During the visit, Al-Dabbous engaged with citizens who own government plots under construction, discussing potential obstacles they might encounter during the construction process. He emphasized the bank's commitment to closely

monitor construction progress linked to government vouchers and ensure timely payments. Al-Dabbous highlighted that this field visit reflects the bank's dedication to implementing directives from the political leadership, emphasizing the importance of on-site inspections to streamline procedures and address any challenges citizens may encounter. The bank aims to facilitate all necessary procedures and provide support to citizens in completing their housing projects efficiently.

asking the citizens' opinions on the best ways to develop the city, stressing at the same time that Kuwait Municipality should be notified on the need to conduct regular inspection tours in the city to remove encroachments on State properties in order to preserve its urban framework.

He also met with the authority's officials and listened to a detailed explanation about the suburbs, number of residential areas included in each suburb and the designs of the residential areas; in addition to the nature of the public facilities that will be constructed, and the ongoing procedures to illuminate all main and internal roads and provide electricity and water services to citizens. He added it is expected that approximately 400,000 people will reside in this city.

On the other hand, reliable sources revealed to the daily that PAHW opened the envelopes for tenders for the establishment of

four centers for boys and girls in Sabah Al-Ahmad and Saad Al-Abdullah residential cities.

According to the sources, the bids submitted by the companies will be subject for study --financial, accounting and legal aspects -- before the awarding decision is issued. Sources confirmed that the Contracting Committee opened the tender envelopes for the establishment of a youth center in Sector E in Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City and the lowest bid amounting to KD 7.3 million, a similar tender in the same city for Sector C with the lowest bid amounting to KD 7.5 million, a tender for the establishment of a center for girls in Sector A with the lowest bid amounting to KD 8.2 million, and a tender for the establishment of a center for girls in Saad Al-Abdullah Residential City with the lowest bid amounting to KD 8.8 million.

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Saudi Arabia leads 2024 celebrations

Kuwait celebrates World Environment Day

By Amna Al-Shemmari

KUWAIT CITY, June 4, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait along with nations of the globe celebrate Wednesday, the World Environment Day, an international occasion aimed at enhancing communities' awareness of the necessity to preserve the ecosystem.

This year's occasion calls through its logo "Our land. Our future. We are Generation Restoration" for collective action to safeguard the Earth, its greenery and support efforts for restoring the global natural life.

The UN Environment Programme has declared that Saudi Arabia will host activities marking the 2024 Environment Day in affirmation of its leading role at the local, regional and international levels to protect the flora and fauna and elevate communities' awareness of the necessity of safeguarding the natural resources.

The United Nations on the occasion, been celebrated since 1973, promotes the global ecological consciousness with emphasis on the environmental aspects of sustainable development.

At the local level, the State of Kuwait has been exerting intensive efforts to maintain the ecosystem as part of the approach to attain the 2035 development strategy, the fourth structural masterplan 2040 (regarding regions' development in light of forecast population growth) and the government action plan (2022-2026) on improving air quality, using less polluting fuels, executing the national strategy for waste management in addition to the strategy aimed at attaining carbon neutrality by 2050.

The state had issued the environment protection law that encompasses policies and measures aimed at safeguarding natural resources and the ecosystem through cutting pollution to improve the living quality, ensure biodiversity and rehabilitate damaged regions.

Environment Public Authority had also drawn up a plan to improve air quality by renovating the national air monitoring network, installing more monitors, overhauling waste management techniques, adhere to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 2050 low carbon strategy.

Congratulatory messages

The Ambassador of Italy to Kuwait, HE Lorenzo Morini, has expressed his most sincere congratulations and best wishes to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah on his nomination as Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait and extended his warmest wishes for success under the guidance of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Morini

Austria congratulates His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Sabah on becoming the new Crown Prince of Kuwait.

In his message the Austrian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Maria Alexander Wrba said, "We extend our best wishes for his success in this significant role. Austria values her friendship with Kuwait and looks forward to further enhancing our cooperation. My country acknowledges Kuwait's crucial role as a mediator in the region and her dedication for a peaceful and prosperous Middle East.

"Kuwait has consistently demonstrated a commitment to peace, international solidarity, and humanitarian aid. We stand together in these efforts.

"On this special occasion, we wish His Highness and Kuwait enduring peace and prosperity. "Per-

sonally, I wish His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah health, strength, and success in his new duties," said the Austrian envoy.

□ □ □

On behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, HE Mr. Sarmen Baghdasarian would like to extend his best wishes to HH Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah for his appointment as Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, wishing HH good health and success in his new role.

We are confident that Kuwait will continue to prosper and develop under the leadership of HH Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah the Amir of the State of Kuwait. Armenia will continue to work closely with Kuwait to further enhance our existing solid bilateral relationship on all levels.

□ □ □

The message by the Belgian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Christian Dooms, reads: "On behalf of His Majesty the King and of the people of Belgium, I wish to extend my deepest and warmest congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on his nomination as Crown Prince of Kuwait, coupled with my best wishes for his good health and happiness.

"As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our diplomatic relations with the State of Kuwait, may I take this opportunity to extend my sincere wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Kuwait."



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EPA Acting General Manager Eng. Samira Al-Kandari touring the Arab Environment Forum.

Acting EPA chief Al-Kandari affirms focus on 'sustainable management' of food systems

RIYADH, June 4, (KUNA): Acting General Manager of Kuwait's Environment Public Authority (EPA) Samira Al-Kandari affirmed on Monday the significance of focusing on sustainable management of food systems to limit drought impacts and contribute to Arab sustainable development.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Kandari said during her participation in the third Arab Forum for Environment held in Riyadh that priori-

tizing food security comes as more challenges arise through climate change, water scarcity, and soil infertility.

Al-Kandari presented Kuwait's leading experience through a report that evaluates consumption and production sustainability in cooperation with UN Environment Programme for West Asia, which supports sustainable consumption, production, and developments.



KUNA photo
Part of the 15th session of the Committee for Social Development meeting.

Regional challenges highlighted

Kuwait reaffirms its commitment to Arab development at ESCWA meet

CAIRO, June 4, (KUNA): Kuwait has affirmed its support for the efforts made by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to achieve development in the Arab countries.

This came in a speech by the representative of Kuwait, President of the 14th session, delivered by the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Dr. Maryam Al-Azmi, during the 15th session of (ESCWA), which was held in Cairo.

Al-Azmi expressed appreciation for the efforts of the ESCWA Executive Secretariat over the past year in providing support to member states in their journey towards achieving comprehensive social development.

She affirmed Kuwait's support for Lebanon's presidency of the work of the Social Committee, saying, "We

count on the role of the Social Development Committee in ESCWA, especially with the great development challenges facing the region.

The 15th session of the Committee for Social Development discusses several topics, including the problem of worsening inequalities resulting from multiple and overlapping crises that have weighed heavily on some countries and population groups in the Arab region, hindering growth, and the importance of working to address these challenges.

The Kuwaiti delegation is scheduled to participate in the Third Arab Forum for Equality, organized by ESCWA in Cairo tomorrow under the auspices of Egyptian Minister of Social Solidarity Nevine Al-Kabbaj to discuss issues of addressing manifestations and forms of inequality in the Arab region.

Municipal Council approves various projects including fish farming site

Contracts for supervision endorsed

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: During its recent session chaired by Abdullah Al-Mahri, the Municipal Council approved several key proposals and projects put forth by various entities. Among these approvals was the al-

location of a fish farming site, named 'Fish and Shrimp', in the northern Subbiya area, as requested by the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Additionally, the Council gave the green light to various initiatives, including the establishment of a camping area in northern Kuwait, the conversion of municipal solid waste into alternative fuel (RDF) at the Abdullah Port landfill, and the addition of a kitchen and furniture activity in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area. Moreover, contracts for supervision between real estate stakeholders, offices, and engineering firms were also endorsed.

Furthermore, the Council addressed infrastructure matters such as the allocation of sites for rainwater collection basins and water channels, as well as the creation of entrances and exits northwest of Jahra. Additionally, approvals were granted for the establishment of a mosque and parking lots on the Jahra Expressway and the allocation of the Al-Khairan Health Center.

In response to Member Dr. Hassan Kamal's inquiries regarding the Sabah Al-Salem region entrances and exits, the Reform and Development Committee will conduct further studies. Similarly, Member M. Alia Al Farsi's concerns regarding waste management have been referred to the Environmental Affairs Committee.

Member Abdul Latif Al-Daei highlighted the under utilization of water collection basins and rain streams, stressing the need for a comprehensive survey to explore their potential benefits and feasibility.

Sharifa Al-Shalfan expressed support for the RDF project in Mardam, Mina Abdullah, emphasizing its positive impact on sustainable development and environmental conservation.

Overall, the Municipal Council's proactive approach to endorsing these initiatives reflects its commitment to addressing various community needs and promoting sustainable development practices.



Al-Asfar during the visit to the elderly care facility.

MoSA's dedication commended

Governor of Hawalli visits elderly care unit, praises ministry efforts

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Governor of Hawalli Ali Al-Asfar recently visited the elderly care unit building in his Governorate accompanied by Dr. Jassim Al-Kandari, the Assistant Undersecretary for the Social Care Sector at the Ministry of Social Affairs, and Hamad Al-Khalidi, the Director of Elderly Care at the Ministry, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The visit highlighted the significance of the project within the region. This initiative is part of the government's broader action plan, Kuwait Vision 2035, focusing on development.

During the visit, Governor Al-Asfar commended the Ministry of Social Affairs for their dedication to implementing such vital projects.

These efforts are aimed at cre-

ating conducive environments for the elderly, ensuring their health, social, psychological, and cultural needs are met.

Dr. Al-Kandari emphasized the range of services available for the elderly, including preliminary cards and designated parking permits. The center also offers home mobile services and essential supplies. Currently, 880 elderly individuals are registered with the center.

Governor Al-Asfar expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Social Affairs and the individuals involved for their commitment to enhancing elderly care services. Special thanks were extended to Dr. Jassim Al-Kandari, Mr. Hamad Al-Khalidi, and all the workers for their dedication in providing comfort and care to the elderly.

Key decisions unveiled during Sunday session

Municipal Council green-lights dev proposals

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: The Municipal Council, during its session Sunday headed by Abdullah Al-Mahri, approved a number of items that were included in its agenda. They are:-

1. The proposal submitted by member Farah Al-Roumi regarding the supervision contracts concluded between property owners, offices, and engineering houses.

2. The proposal submitted by members Abdullah Al-Daei, Abdullah Al-Enzezi, Alia Al-Farsi, and Sharifa Al-Shalfan for establishing a camping area in North Kuwait.

3. The Amiri Diwan's request to expand the Arabian Horse site on the eastern and southern sides in the north of the central Subhan area.

4. The request of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to allocate a site for farming fish and shrimp in North Subbiya.

5. The procedures for implementing the ruling issued in case No. 56/2018 of the Public Prosecution's inventory of public funds related to its exemption from description certificate fees for the properties of Adel Al-Hashash who was convicted in the "Interior Hospitality" case.

6. The proposal submitted by the Chairman of the Municipal Council Abdullah Al-Mahri for adding a kitchen and furniture activity in Shuwaikh Industrial Area.

7. The request of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to allocate a mosque site and parking lots on the Jahra Expressway and the implementation of the ruling issued on March 27, 2018 for a case in favor of the Kuwait American Food Company in Shuhada.

8. The request of the Projects Sector



Al-Mahri

Proposal to build prayer halls near the highway gas stations

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: The Municipal Council member Nasser Al-Jadaan recently presented a proposal to establish a prayer hall next to the gas stations designated on the highways, and equip it for men and women, in addition to restrooms.

He said the decisions related to gas stations on the highways will later take into account the allocation of space to establish a prayer hall.

In the preamble to his proposal, Al-Jadaan indicated the reason

that prompted him to submit the proposal, which was the comments from a number of citizens regarding the dire need of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti highway users and travelers for prayer halls.

He said, "When the time for prayer comes, many of them walk tens of kilometers but do not find a single place of prayer. They then resort to holding prayers next to the road. This is what necessitated the proposal to be presented to facilitate them and for their service."

to amend clause Four of the Municipal Council's decision taken on June 25, 2012 for adding a development project with an area of 200,000 square meters to establish and operate a project to convert municipal solid waste into an alternative fuel that will be used in the kilns of cement production factories within the landfill located in the Zanif District in South Mina Abdullah.

8. The three requests of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation for allocating sites for open rainwater collection basins and open water canals, underground water connections, earth berms, and rainwater drainage paths around the Nawaf Al-Ahmad residential area, creating an entrance and exit in northwest of Jahra on Road 80 opposite the shooting club, and allocating nine basins, five water channels, and four connecting links to collect and drain rainwater between Wafra area and Qardan, Hafirah, and Fawwar areas to protect Khairan.

The Municipal Council retained the item related to the development of the intersection of the Liberation Tower and Safat Square, linking it to Muba-

rakiya, and proposing the presence of an electric tram (surface train) within Kuwait City.

It reserved the request submitted by a number of members of the Municipal Council regarding the continued closure of traffic at the Darwazat Al-Abdul Razzaq intersection. It also reserved the items related to the grievances submitted by a number of private schools in objection to the Municipal Council's decision regarding their eviction.

The Municipal Council referred to the Reform and Development Committee the executive body's response to the question submitted by member Dr. Hassan Kamal regarding studies and approvals for establishing the entrances and exits of Sabah Al-Salem.

It also referred the item related to the treatment of municipal solid waste and construction waste to the Environmental Affairs Committee for discussion.

The Municipal Council referred to the Engineering Professions Committee the question submitted by a member Abdullah Al-Daei regarding the classification of engineering offices.

KISR to launch summer training course for students

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Researches (KISR) will organize the 45th summer training course for secondary and preparatory level students as well as university students from July 14 to August 15, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to the head of the Manpower Development Department at KISR Mai Al-Failakawi, organizing training courses is part of the doctrine of KISR in consideration of the essential importance of human resources and in adherence to the Amiri decree on the establishment of KISR.

The training courses held in recent years have proven to be fruitful in providing scientific benefit to almost 6,278 students including students with disabilities.

Al-Failakawi explained that the upcoming training course is aimed at developing the skills of students. It includes scientific experiments, entertainment activities, field trips, classes on engineering, nanotechnology, genetic engineering, studying of birds and health and nutrition.

Regarding the admission requirements, Al-Failakawi revealed that stu-

dents of only grades 10 and 11 of science section are only allowed to register and their marks must be at least 75 percent.

As for the university students, she explained that only students of scientific colleges who passed the second year and the students of Life Sciences and Technical Studies College are allowed to register.

The average assessment of Kuwaiti University students must be "Good", and for those from GCC countries, their average must be at least "Very Good".



The Catholic Church in Kuwait extend our heartfelt congratulations to

His Highness

Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah

on being appointed as the Crown Prince of The State of Kuwait.

We pray that God grants you wisdom, strength, and compassion as you undertake your new responsibilities. May your leadership advance the peace, prosperity, and unity of The State of Kuwait and its honorable citizens.

With our best wishes and prayers
Bishop Aldo Berardi - O.S.S.T

Apostolic Vicar of Northern Arabia. Catholic Church – Kuwait.

Kuwait participates in Morocco's first high-level forum on Artificial Intelligence

'Ministry of Information prioritizes economic diversity with AI programs'

Other Voices

HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled: A beacon of hope for Kuwait

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, the newly appointed Crown Prince of Kuwait, emerges as a beacon of hope and leadership, bringing with him a wealth of experience and a proven track record of success. Born into the esteemed Al-Sabah family, His Highness's journey to the pinnacle of power has been marked by dedication, service, and a deep commitment to his country.



Al-Hajeri

With a distinguished background in diplomacy and governance, His Highness has been a formidable force in Kuwait's political landscape. His tenure as Kuwait's Prime Minister saw the nation navigate through unprecedented challenges, including the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Under his leadership, Kuwait emerged stronger and more resilient, demonstrating the ability to overcome adversity and chart a course towards a brighter future.

His Highness's diplomatic acumen and strategic vision have earned him respect both at home and abroad. As Kuwait's Foreign Minister, he played a pivotal role in shaping the country's foreign policy and strengthening its position on the global stage. His commitment to dialogue, cooperation, and consensus-building

has been instrumental in fostering positive relations with other nations and promoting Kuwait's interests on the international front.

As the Crown Prince, His Highness is poised to continue the legacy of his predecessors and uphold the principles of unity, stability, and progress that define Kuwait's identity. His Highness's leadership style, characterised by wisdom, compassion, and inclusivity, sets him apart as a leader who values the voices of the people and seeks to create a future that benefits all Kuwaitis.

His Highness's ascension to the role of Crown Prince comes at a critical juncture for Kuwait. His Highness is seen as a source of stability and continuity in a rapidly changing world where challenges and opportunities abound. With his steady hand and clear vision, he is positioned to guide Kuwait towards a future of prosperity and progress, building on the foundation set during his time as Prime Minister.

Above all, His Highness embodies a spirit of hope and optimism for the people of Kuwait. His Highness's dedication to serving his country, his commitment to upholding its values, and his vision for a brighter tomorrow inspire confidence and trust in his leadership. As Kuwait looks towards the future under his guidance, there is a sense of optimism and belief that His Highness's leadership will propel the nation towards greater heights of success.



KUNA photo

Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to UNESCO, Ambassador Adam Al-Mulla, during his participation in the forum.

KUWAIT CITY, June 4, (KUNA): Assistant Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information for Media Services and New Media Sector Saad Al-Azmi stressed Monday the need of economic diversity through varied programs like artificial intelligence (AI) and innovation as well as others.

Delivering a speech on behalf of Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi during the fifth virtual Gulf conference on backing innovation and AI, Al-Azmi said it is imperative to enhance innovation for economic growth through establishing a complete system by providing smart funding, building capabilities and encouraging partnerships.

Al-Azmi said that it is also necessary to share knowledge among entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized companies to achieve the goals of the 2021-2026 Ministry's strategy in this regard.

He also called for encouraging direct investment in research and development, and supporting outcomes of innovation like inventions and registering patents.

Meanwhile, Dr. Hanadi Al-Mubarak, head of the conference, said Kuwait, in light of its 2035 vision, has become an international capital of thought leadership and a pivotal destination for innovation and entrepreneurship as well as sustainable develop-

ment. The three-day conference is featuring 150 regional, Arab and Gulf experts who discuss innovation system and AI.

Also:

RABAT: In partnership with UNESCO, Morocco launched the first Forum on Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Monday, through the Moroccan International Center for Artificial Intelligence, bringing together 30 countries, 15 African and other Arab countries, including Kuwait.

In his remarks to KUNA, Kuwait's permanent representative at UNESCO Ambassador Adam Al-Mulla affirmed during his participation, the importance of holding such forums that act like an international platform to share expertise and updates in the field of AI.

The forum will discuss several topics regarding AI and its potential applications across different fields which can reinforce sustainable development through providing opportunities and solutions to different challenges especially in Africa and Arabia, he added.

This three-day international event is initiated by the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) through its Moroccan International Center for Artificial Intelligence "AI Movement", in partnership with UNESCO.

Al-Mutlaa Health Center (2) to provide high-quality health care for all: Awadi



The Minister of Health opens Al-Mutlaa Health Center (2) in the N10 suburb.

Facility includes seven public health clinics

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: The Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi, said that the opening of Al-Mutlaa Health Center (2) in the N10 suburb comes as a continuation of the health system and within the framework of providing comprehensive, high-quality health care for all.

Minister Al-Awadhi confirmed in a statement to reporters after the opening on Tuesday that the inauguration of the center comes within the framework of facilitating the city's residents' access to health services, pointing out that the expansion of primary health care centers is one of the pillars of the ministry's work plan as it is the basic pillar and first line of defense in health systems.

He pointed out that the center is provided with the latest medical equipment and staff, and its services include general medicine consultations, chronic diseases, preventive services, and health awareness. It contains a number of specialized clinics for nose, ear, throat, dermatology, and eyes, in addition to physical therapy, children, diabetes, dentistry, public health, and nursing services.

Assistant Undersecretary for Primary Health Care Affairs, Dr. Nadia Al-Jumaa, said in a similar statement that the center includes seven public health clinics, three chronic disease follow-up clinics, three dia-



Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi inspecting the facility.



Photos by Mohammad Morsi

betes clinics, a blood testing clinic, a healthy child clinic, and a healthy child nursing clinic.

It also includes six dental clinics and a dental x-ray room. She explained that the center includes three

rooms for the ear, nose, and throat clinic, four rooms for the dermatology clinic, four rooms for the eye clinic, fundus examination clinic, and diabetic foot clinic, three rooms for the physical therapy clinic, six rooms for the school health clinic, and four rooms for the preventive health clinic.

She pointed out that the center provides nursing services and includes two rooms for women, a room for men, another for children, a room for children's vaccinations, a room for tuberculosis vaccination, as well as two rooms for monitoring chronic diseases and diabetes, and an emergency room with six beds.

She pointed out that the center also contains a laboratory to conduct the necessary tests, a radiology department, a pharmacy that serves general and specialized clinics, and two general and specialized reception departments.

Director of the Jahra Health District, Dr. Jamal Al-Duaij, said that the opening of the new center comes after the opening and operation of Al-Mutlaa Health Center (1) and the Ambulance Center in the N11 suburb. Al-Duaij stressed the keenness of the Minister of Health and Undersecretary of the Ministry, Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, to continue operating the health facilities in Al-Mutlaa City in order to achieve the Ministry's work plan and to facilitate the city's residents.

He expressed his thanks to all the medical, technical, and administrative staff working in the center and in all health facilities in the Jahra Health District.

Municipal Council approves four out of seven items on its agenda

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, June 4: The Capital Committee of the Municipal Council, during its thirteenth meeting of the second term yesterday headed by Fahad Al-Abduljader, approved four out of the seven items on its agenda.

These approved items were:-

1. To return the remaining part of Sharq Block 3, which represents the remaining part of one of the properties.

2. To amend the boundaries of the property on Plot No. 72 specified as the JW Marriott Hotel, formerly known as "the Le Meridien" located in Kuwait City, Qibla, Block 13.

3. To add space to a modern laboratory building for water analysis in Shuwaikh, which will be affiliated with the Ministry of Electricity, Wa-

ter and Renewable Energy

4. Approved a company's request to add an area of 750 square meters to Plot No. 27 in Sharq Block 1, taking into account the provision of additional parking spaces for the added space according to the planned use of the plot.

The committee referred the proposal submitted by Mayor Abdullah Al-Mahri regarding the service street parallel to Street No. 85 in Shamiya Block 8 to the executive branch to coordinate with the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation for a response.

The committee reserved the letter of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil regarding the allocation of the land of the oil complex in Shuwaikh to be the headquarters of the offices of the Ministry of Oil and the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.



Group photo of AUK's team.

AUK men's basketball team secure impressive 5th place in EuroMilano

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) marked its fourth consecutive participation in the prestigious EuroMilano tournament, held recently in the vibrant city of Milan, Italy. This global sports event brought together 14 international colleges in spirited competition.

The AUK men's basketball team secured an impressive fifth place in the tournament. Their journey through the competition was marked by resilience, skill, and determination, reflecting the rigorous training and commitment of the team.

Invited by the esteemed Inter Universities Sport Federation (IUSF), AUK athletes seized the opportunity to demonstrate their prowess in a two-day tournament. Playing a total of six games, the AUK team showcased remarkable

consistency, engaging in a total of six games and emerging victorious in four of them.

Mohammad Al-Saleh, senior sports coordinator at AUK's Office of Student Life, emphasized the significance of such tournaments, "EuroMilano serves as a valuable platform for our students to showcase their talents on an international scale. These competitions play a crucial role in fostering growth and unity, promoting cultural exchange among participants from diverse backgrounds."

As AUK continues to uphold its commitment to excellence in academics and extracurricular activities, the men's basketball team's success at EuroMilano stands as a testament to the University's unwavering pursuit of athletic prowess and global engagement.

KEPS lauds refinery's exemplary environmental standards

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: The Kuwait Environmental Protection Society has lauded the exemplary environmental standards upheld by the Al-Zour Refinery, whose inauguration was graced by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a press release, the association highlighted the refinery's significance as a pivotal component of Kuwait's development plan and the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's 2040 strategic blueprint.

Characterized as a cornerstone of environmental consciousness, the Al-Zour Refinery aims to produce top-tier oil derivatives that meet stringent international environmental benchmarks. It plays a vital role in addressing the escalating demand for clean fuel in local power plants, spurred by population growth and urban expansion.

Notably, the refinery is an exemplar of integrated environmental stewardship. It boasts an expanded refining capacity of 1.415 million barrels per day,

complemented by innovative measures such as utilizing treated water for industrial and irrigation purposes.

Advanced monitoring stations ensure air quality is rigorously maintained, while cutting-edge furnaces and boilers work in tandem to minimize emissions, underscoring a holistic environmental management ethos.

This landmark project underscores Kuwait's commitment to staying abreast of advancements in the energy sector, positioning itself as a proactive

contributor to global sustainability endeavors. Al-Zour Refinery aligns with Kuwait's pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, a testament to its proactive approach in mitigating climate challenges.

Of significant note is the refinery's contribution to enhancing air quality by reducing sulfur oxide emissions from power plants by an impressive 75 percent compared to current levels, reflecting Kuwait's steadfast dedication to environmental improvement.

World News Roundup

Other Voices

'Mind filled with emotions'

Three-day spiritual journey in Kanniyakumari: PM Modi

By Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

My fellow Indians, The biggest festival of democracy, the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections, has concluded today in our nation, the Mother of Democracy. After a three-day spiritual journey in Kanniyakumari, I have just boarded the plane for Delhi. Through the day, Kashi and numerous other seats have been in the midst of voting.

My mind is filled with so many experiences and emotions... I feel a boundless flow of energy within myself. The 2024 Lok Sabha elections are the first in the Amrit Kaal. I began my campaign a few months ago from Meerut, the land of the First War of Independence of 1857. Since then, I have traversed across the length and breadth of our great nation. The final rally of these elections took me to Hoshiarpur in Punjab, the land of the great Gurus and a land associated with Sant Ravidas Ji. After that, I came to Kanniyakumari, at the feet of Maa Bharti.

It is natural that the fervour of the elections was echoing in my heart and mind. The multitude of faces seen in rallies and road shows came in front of my eyes. The blessings from our Nari Shakti...the trust, the affection, all of this was a very humbling experience. My eyes were getting moist... I entered into a 'sadhana' (meditative state). And then, the heated political debates, the attacks and counter-attacks, the voices and words of accusations which are so characteristic of an election...they all vanished into a void. A sense of detachment came to grow within me...my mind became completely detached from the external world.



Modi

Responsibilities

Meditation becomes challenging amidst such huge responsibilities, but the land of Kanniyakumari and the inspiration of Swami Vivekananda made it effortless. As a candidate myself, I left my campaign in the hands of my beloved people of Kashi and came here.

I am also grateful to God for instilling me with these values from birth which I have cherished and tried to live up to. I was also thinking about what Swami Vivekananda must have experienced during his meditation at this very place in Kanniyakumari! A part of my meditation was spent in a similar stream of thoughts.

Amidst this detachment, amidst the peace and silence, my mind was constantly thinking about the bright future of Bharat, the goals of Bharat. The rising sun at Kanniyakumari gave new heights to my thoughts, the vastness of the ocean expanded my ideas, and the expanse of the horizon continuously made me realize the unity, the Oneness, embedded in the depths of the universe. It seemed as if the observations and experiences undertaken in the lap of the Himalayas decades ago were being revived.

Kanniyakumari has always been very close to my heart. The Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanniyakumari was built under the leadership of Shri Eknath Ranade ji. I had the opportunity to travel extensively with Eknath ji. During the construction of this Memorial, I had the opportunity to spend some time in Kanniyakumari as well.

From Kashmir to Kanniyakumari... this is a common identity that is deeply ingrained in the heart of every citizen of the country. This is the 'Shakti Peeth' (seat of Shakti) where Maa Shakti incarnated as Kanya Kumari. At this Southern tip, Maa Shakti performed penance and waited for Bhagwan Shiva, who was residing in the Himalayas at the northernmost parts of Bharat.

Inspirations

Kanniyakumari is the land of confluences. The sacred rivers of our country flow into different seas, and here, those very seas converge. And here, we witness another great confluence - the ideological confluence of Bharat! Here, we find the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, a grand statue of Saint Thiruvalluvar, Gandhi Mandapam, and Kamara- jar Mani Mandapam. These streams of thought from these stalwarts converge here to form a confluence of national thought. This gives rise to great inspirations for nation-building. This land of Kanniyakumari gives an indelible message of unity, especially to any person who doubts Bharat's nationhood and the sense of unity.

The grand statue of Saint Thiruvalluvar in Kanniyakumari seems to be looking at the expanse of Maa Bharati from the sea. His work Thirukkural is one of the crown jewels of the beautiful Tamil language. It covers every aspect of life, inspiring us to give our best for ourselves and for the nation. It was my great fortune to pay my respects to such a great figure.

Swami Vivekananda once said, 'Every nation has a message to deliver, a mission to fulfil, a destiny to reach.'

For thousands of years, Bharat has been moving forward with this sense of meaningful purpose. Bharat has been a cradle of ideas for thousands of years. We have never considered what we have acquired as our personal wealth or measured it purely by economic or material parameters. Therefore, 'Idam-na-mama' (this is not mine) has become an inherent and natural part of the character of Bharat.

Bharat's welfare benefits our planet's journey to progress as well. Take the freedom movement as an example. Bharat gained independence on August 15, 1947. At that time, many countries around the world were under colonial rule. Bharat's independence journey inspired and empowered many of those countries to achieve their own freedom; that same spirit was seen decades later when the world came face to face with the once in a century COVID-19 pandemic. When concerns were raised about the poor and developing countries, Bharat's successful efforts provided courage and assistance to many nations.

Empowering

Today, Bharat's governance model has become an example for many countries around the world. Empowering 25 crore people to rise above poverty in just 10 years is unprecedented. Innovative practices such as Pro-People Good Governance, aspirational districts, and aspirational blocks are being discussed globally today. Our efforts, from empowering the poor to last-mile delivery, have inspired the world by prioritizing individuals standing at the last rung of society.

Bharat's Digital India campaign is now an example for the entire world, showing how we can use technology to empower the poor, bring transparency, and ensure their rights. Inexpensive data in Bharat is becoming a means of social equality by ensuring the reach of information and services to the poor. The whole world is witnessing and studying the democratization of technology, and major global institutions are advising many countries to adopt elements from our model.

Today, Bharat's progress and rise are not just a significant opportunity for Bharat alone, but also a historic opportunity for all our partner countries around the world. Since the success of the G-20, the world has been increasingly envisioning a bigger role for Bharat. Today, Bharat is being acknowledged as a strong and important voice of the Global South. The African Union has become a part of the G-20 group at the initiative of Bharat. This is going to be a crucial turning point for the future of African countries.

The development trajectory of Bharat fills us with pride and glory, but at the same time, it also reminds the 140 crore citizens of their responsibilities. Now, without wasting a single moment, we must step forward towards greater duties and larger goals. We need to dream new dreams, convert them into reality and begin living those dreams.

We must see Bharat's development in a global context, and for this, it is essential that we understand Bharat's internal capabilities. We must acknowledge Bharat's strengths, nurture them, and utilize them for the benefit of the world. In today's global scenario, Bharat's strength as a youthful nation is an opportunity from which we must not look back.

The world of the 21st century is looking towards Bharat with many hopes. And we will need to make several changes to move forward in the global scenario. We also need to change our traditional thinking regarding reform. Bharat cannot limit reform to just economic reforms. We must move forward in every aspect of life towards the direction of reform. Our reforms should also align with the aspirations of a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) by 2047.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to people as he arrives to cast his vote during the third phase of India's national election, in Ahmedabad, India on May 7. (AP)

India's PM Modi expected to retain power

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi's coalition led in a majority of seats Tuesday in India's general election, according to partial figures, but faced a stronger challenge from the opposition than expected after it pushed back against the leader's mixed economic record and polarizing politics.

Modi was still widely expected to be elected to a third five-year term in the world's largest democratic exercise - even as an ongoing count showed his Hindu nationalist party might not se-

cure a majority on its own, despite pre-election hopes of a landslide victory.

If that trend holds, it would be a stunning blow for the 73-year-old leader, who has never been in a position where he has needed to rely on his coalition partners to govern.

The counting of more than 640 million votes cast over six weeks was set to take all day, and early figures could change.

In his 10 years in power, Modi has trans-

formed India's political landscape, bringing Hindu nationalism, once a fringe ideology in India, into the mainstream while leaving the country deeply divided.

His supporters see him as a self-made, strong leader who has improved India's standing in the world. His critics and opponents say his Hindu-first politics have bred intolerance and while the economy, the world's fifth-largest and one of the fastest-growing, has become more unequal. (AP)

America

'Ex-prez now poses greater threat than in 2016'

Biden lays into Trump over convictions

GREENWICH, Conn., June 4. (AP) US President Joe Biden laid into his predecessor and likely opponent in November's election, Donald Trump, for being convicted by a Manhattan jury on 34 felony counts related to hush money payments, saying Monday night that "this campaign has entered uncharted territory."

Speaking at a fundraiser in Greenwich, Connecticut, Biden said the former president "wants you to believe it's all rigged. Nothing could be further from the truth."

Echoing comments he made in reaction to the verdict at the White House last week, Biden said, "It's reckless and dangerous and downright irresponsible for anyone to say that it's rigged just because you don't like the verdict."

He added that the justice system was a core of American democracy and "we should never allow anyone to tear it down."

Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, was convicted on all counts related to a scheme during his 2016 presidential campaign to pay off actor Stormy Daniels. The former president slammed the verdict as politically motivated, and has blamed it on Biden - while seeking to make himself a political martyr in the eyes of supporters, suggesting that if this could happen to him, similar things might befall them.

As he did last week, Biden noted that Trump's was a state case rather than a federal one, was heard by a jury chosen the same way all juries nationwide are chosen, and featured five weeks of evidence. He said the verdict was

unanimous and Trump can appeal.

But Biden went farther Monday, accusing Trump of equating the justice system and elections. He said the former president was "attacking both the judiciary and elections system as rigged."

"Nothing could be more dangerous for the country, more dangerous for American democracy," Biden said.

Asserting

The president made no mention of the federal gun case against his son, Hunter, which began Monday in Delaware. Jason Miller, a senior adviser for the Trump campaign, seized on that, responding to Biden's comments by asserting that the president "will do anything to distract from Hunter's trial."

Both Trump's convictions and his son's case aside, Biden added, "Here's what is becoming clearer and clearer every day: The threat Trump poses in his second term would be greater than it was in his first."

"This isn't the same Trump that got elected in 2016," Biden said. "He's worse."

Biden was attending a fundraiser hosted by Richard Plepler, the former CEO of HBO, and featuring Shonda Rhimes, who created such television smashes as "Bridgerton," "Scandal" and "Grey's Anatomy." Biden went on to reference a television ad his campaign has produced featuring another of his celebrity backers, actor Robert De Niro, narrating and asserting that Trump "snapped" after losing to Biden in 2020.

"Something snapped in this

guy - for real - when he lost in 2020," Biden said, suggesting the former president was "unhinged" and was the driving force behind a mob of his supporters overrunning the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

"He can't accept the fact that he lost, it's literally driving him crazy," Biden said. He added that the former president "wants to terminate the Constitution" and "says if he loses there will be a bloodbath in America."

"What kind of man is this?" Biden asked.

Also:

WASHINGTON: US Republican Vice **Fong of California** was sworn into Congress on Monday after winning a special election to complete the remainder of the term of departed former U.S. House Speaker **Kevin McCarthy**.

Fong was a member of the California State Assembly before running for the House. He was backed by former President **Donald Trump** and McCarthy, who watched the ceremony in person from the House floor. Fong's swearing-in gives Republicans a 218-213 majority.

Fong said that as he has traveled his Central Valley-based congressional district, he heard that Congress must do more to address the **US-Mexico** border, stop the rising cost of everyday essentials and work to keep communities safe, among other priorities.

"I know that our concerns are very familiar with the concerns that all of you have heard," Fong said. "We must do more to find solutions and deliver results."



Former US president Donald Trump arrives to speak at a news conference at Trump Tower on May 31 in New York. (AP)



Austin

Yoon

Asia

Indonesia's Ibu erupts: Indonesia's Mount Ibu spewed red lava and thick grey ash clouds that towered 5,000 meters (16,400 feet) into the sky during a two-minute eruption Tuesday morning.

The eruption spewed thick ash toward the volcano's west and northwest sides, said Muhammad Wafid, chief of Indonesia's Geology Agency.

A timelapse video distributed by Indonesia's Geological agency shows red sparks at the top of the volcano followed by a thick column of ash.

The video was recorded from an observation post located next to an evacuation site in a field at Gam Ici village. Several evacuation tents were erected nearby. (AP)

SKorea suspends army deal: South Korea on Tuesday took steps to suspend a contentious military agreement with North Korea and resume frontline military activities, as tensions between the rivals are rising over the North's recent launch of trash-carrying balloons.

North Korea didn't immediately respond, but South Korea's resumption of firing exercises or propaganda loud-speaker broadcasts will likely prompt North Korea to take similar or stronger steps along the rivals' tense border.

In the past week, North Korea has used balloons to drop manure, cigarette butts, scraps of cloth and waste paper on South Korea, prompting Seoul to vow "unbearable" retaliation. On Sunday, North Korea said it would halt its balloon campaign.

On Tuesday, South Korea's Cabinet Council and President **Yoon Suk Yeol** approved a proposal to suspend the 2018 inter-Korean agreement on lowering frontline military tensions. It will take effect once Seoul formally notifies the North. (AP)

Austin visits Cambodia: US Defense Secretary **Lloyd Austin** traveled to Cambodia on Tuesday to push for

stronger military ties with China's closest ally in Southeast Asia.

Austin met his Cambodian counterpart, Tea Seih, and Prime Minister Hun Manet during a one-day visit to Phnom

Penh, Cambodia's Defense Ministry said in a statement. It said Austin's visit would strengthen the ongoing good cooperation between the countries that has lasted more than 70 years.



Police officers watch over Tiananmen Gate in Beijing on June 4. Checkpoints and rows of police vehicles lined a major road leading to Beijing's Tiananmen Square on Tuesday as China heightened security on the 35th anniversary of a bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protests. Hong Kong police took at least two people off the streets as the effort to prevent any public remembrance extended beyond the mainland. (AP)

'Recruit some non-citizens': The Australian military will begin recruiting some non-citizens in a bid to boost troop numbers, the government said Tuesday.

Only people from other members of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing partnership who hold Australian permanent residency will be eligible.

The move is part of a push to build a military that can resist foreign coercion through blocked trade routes in the future, Defense Minister Richard Marles said.

Marles, who is also deputy prime minister, said the change was a major step toward addressing a 4,400-person shortfall in the Australian Defense Force, whose target strength is 63,600 full-time personnel. The government intends to increase that number to 80,000 by 2040.

Relatively low unemployment is one of the factors working against the Australian military attracting and retaining personnel. (AP)

Chinese, US and Kuwaiti firms to compete for KOC project

Companies from China, the United States and Kuwait are expected to submit bids on the Kuwait Oil Company's project to develop gas desalination and sulfur extraction facility in the west of the country, according to MEED sources.

These companies include the Chinese company Jira, the US-based SLB Company, and the Kuwaiti company Septco.

Contractors were given a brief scope of work for the project, which would use the build-operate-transfer contract model and was divided into two parts. In the instructions provided to the contractors, they were told that the two phases would be implemented indepen-

dently of each other.

The implementation phase will include: licensing, design, engineering, HSE services, project management, supply, shipment, procurement, construction, testing, mechanical completion, commissioning, and facility performance testing.

The operation and maintenance phase will include: operating and maintaining the facility, performing all associated safety, quality control and environmental protection services, and all other related obligations.

Kuwait Oil Company informed contractors that the planned project has a budget of about 110 million dinars (\$360 million).

Kuwait, China forge petrochemical cooperation

The State of Kuwait and China have freshly established cooperation in the petrochemical field, said the Kuwaiti Ambassador to China Jassem Al-Najem.

This statement came to KUNA on the occasion of inaugurating an office of the EQUATE Petrochemical Company in the city of Shanghai. This step mirrors keenness and concern of the Kuwaiti oil companies in the Chinese market, he added.

The envoy affirmed that bolstering the China-Kuwait partnership would pave the way for broader economic cooperation between the two

countries.

Kuwait was the first country in the Middle East to sign the "belt and road" initiative in 2013.

He affirmed that the close relations between China and Kuwait date to 50 years ago, noting that these ties had been capped with the landmark visit by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the Asian nation last September. The two sides had agreed during the visit on cementing the cooperation and signed a number of memoranda of understanding in various sectors. (KUNA)

Market Movements

04-06-2024

EGYPT	EGX 30	Change	Closing pts	SAUDI	TASI	Change	Closing pts
		+138.53	26,973.00	DUBAI	DFMGI	-7.06	3,985.97
				JAPAN	Nikkei 225	-85.57	38,837.46
				PHILIPPINES	PSEi	-84.32	6,386.42
				PAKISTAN	KSE 100	-923.59	74,661.13

Business

Oil minister reviews economic factors in oil market stability

OPEC+ efforts praised by minister Al-Atiqi

KUWAIT CITY, June 4, (KUNA): Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil Dr. Imad Al-Atiqi affirmed on Tuesday that the economic conditions and interest rates were two main factors in determining market stability and supply and demand rates.

In a ministry press release, Minister Al-Atiqi said that the OPEC and OPEC+ ministerial meetings that were held on Sunday came as part of OPEC+ efforts to help stabilize the oil market.

Al-Atiqi applauded the positive results of those meetings that would help restore balance in the oil market, in which they included the extension of voluntary output cuts until December 2025.

He called for being cautious during the revision of the oil market devel-

opments, pointing out that OPEC+ strategy towards the market will depend mainly on the pattern of those developments.

He stated that Kuwait's decision to extend its voluntary reduction of 135,000 barrels per day (bpd) until September 2024 instead of the end of the second quarter of this year will contribute to supporting the oil market and its stability, with coordination and cooperation with the countries participating in OPEC+, pointing out Kuwait's continued production at 2.413 million bpd.

He stressed that the commitment of the OPEC+ member states in the voluntary reduction in an integrated manner is vital, as it will ensure market stability and interacting proactively with the dynamics of global oil demand.

On June 2, OPEC and its allies, including Russia, agreed to prolong oil production cuts of up to 1.65 million bpd into the end of next year, with the aim to support market stability and balance.

Kuwait oil price surges

KUWAIT CITY, June 4, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 30 cents to USD 84.22 per barrel on Monday from USD 83.92 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

The price of the Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate globally went down by USD 2.75 and USD 2.77 respectively, settling each at USD 78.36 per barrel and USD 74.22 pb. (KUNA)

Annual oil and gas financing down 33.5%

Local bank facilities for oil & gas sector drop 61% in April

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Local banks' facilities to the oil and gas sector for residents declined in April by approximately 165.2 million dinars, or 61%, dropping to 105 million dinars from 271 million dinars in March. Annually, financing for the sector decreased by 53.4 million dinars, or 33.5%, compared to 159.2 million dinars in April 2023. Total bank financing for the sector in the first four months of 2024 reached about 671.6 million dinars.

The total balance of local banks' financing for the oil and gas sector, including residents and non-residents, increased in April by about 131 million dinars, reaching 2.442 billion dinars, compared to 2.573 billion dinars in March 2023. However, the annual balance of financing decreased by 172 million dinars compared to 2.614 billion dinars in April 2023.

Financing for the oil and gas sector varied throughout 2023, starting at 78.8 million dinars in January, rising to 243.3 million dinars in February, then sharply declining to 61.2 million dinars. It reached 159.2 million dinars in April, rose significantly to 252.8 million dinars in May, fell to 96.5 million dinars in June, reached 80 million dinars in July, and jumped to 293 million dinars in August.

Private sector deposits in local banks in dinars rose by 0.8% in April to 36.5 billion dinars (about 119.1 billion dollars), while private sector deposits in foreign currencies increased by 0.9% to 1.9 billion dinars (about 6.1 billion dollars). Government

deposits in banks declined by 32 million dinars in April, reaching 4.616 billion dinars, compared to 4.648 billion dinars in March. The total balances of local banks' demands on the Central Bank in dinars, represented by Central Bank bonds, stabilized at 3.3 billion dinars (about 11 billion dollars).

Statistics indicated that the total assets of local banks slightly increased by 0.2% in April to 87.8 billion dinars (about 286 billion dollars), while the net foreign assets of local banks decreased by 7% to 12.7 billion dinars (about 41.4 billion dollars). The total balance of credit facilities for residents and non-residents increased by 352 million dinars, reaching 54.873 billion dinars in April, compared to 54.521 billion dinars in March.

Oil prices fell on Friday, recording a weekly loss as investors focused on the upcoming OPEC+ meeting on Sunday to decide on production levels. Brent crude futures for July delivery fell by 24 cents, or 0.3%, to \$81.62 a barrel, while August futures fell by 77 cents, or 0.8%, to \$81.11. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures fell by 92 cents, or 1.2%, to \$76.99, according to Reuters.

Brent crude fell by 0.6% over the week, with a monthly loss of 5.2%, while West Texas Intermediate crude lost 1% during the week and about 5.3% in May. Markets are awaiting the OPEC+ alliance meeting on Sunday, where sources told Reuters that the OPEC+ alliance is drafting a complex agreement to extend some of the sharp cuts in oil production until 2025.

Gov't refutes rumors of minister Al-Adwani's resignation

Boursa Kuwait attracts KD 93.3 mln in foreign investments

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: New foreign investments totaling 93.3 million dinars flowed into the Boursa Kuwait during the first five months of 2024, supported by vigorous purchasing activities by institutions and companies.

Their net transactions amounted to approximately 96.1 million dinars, with purchases totaling 800.5 million dinars and sales amounting to 704 million dinars.

Individuals, on the other hand, recorded net sales of about 3.6 million dinars, with purchases of 140.9 million dinars compared to sales of 144.6 million dinars.

The Foreign investment funds saw net purchases of about 813 thousand dinars, following purchases of 3.4 million dinars and sales of 2.6 million dinars.

The Boursa Kuwait data revealed that Kuwaitis

exhibited net sales of approximately 56.9 million dinars, primarily driven by selling pressures from institutions and companies, which recorded net sales of 4.7 million dinars. Individuals registered net sales of 53.7 million dinars, while investment funds recorded net sales of about 923.7 thousand dinars.

The Gulf investors, on the other hand, witnessed net sales of around 36.3 million dinars during the same period. This was attributed to an increase in sales by institutions and companies, amounting to 44.2 million dinars, compared to net purchases by investment funds totaling 1.8 million dinars.

The Gulf individuals, however, recorded net purchases of Kuwaiti stocks amounting to 5.9 million dinars.

Transactions on the Kuwait Stock Exchange are categorized into individuals, institutions or companies, investment funds, and client portfolios, with transactions by the latter limited to Kuwaiti investors. Institutions and companies continued to domi-

nate trading, accounting for over 58% of transactions.

In market news, the Kuwait Stock Exchange experienced a decline in its general index by 40.3 points, closing at 7,025 points, a decrease of 0.5 percent. A total of 190 million shares were traded through 14,744 transactions, valued at 50.8 million dinars.

Despite this, the main market index rose by 24.14 points, reaching 5,997 points, while the First Market Index decreased by 59.3 points to 7,637 points. The (Main 50) index rose by 21.61 points to reach 5828 points.

In a separate development, Amer Al-Ajmi, Head of the Local Affairs Sector and official spokesman for the government, refuted rumors circulating on social media and news services regarding the resignation of Dr. Adel Al-Adwani, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Al-Ajmi emphasized that legal measures would be taken against those spreading false news and urged the public to verify information from official sources.

Experts from CMA illuminate violations and compliance measures

CMA hosts workshop on listed firm compliance

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: In a recent initiative, the headquarters of the Capital Markets Authority served as the venue for an awareness workshop targeting representatives of companies listed on the Boursa Kuwait, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The primary objective of the workshop was to shed light on common violations and recurring observations identified during field inspection missions conducted by the Authority's Field Control Department, particularly within listed companies.

Led by expert lecturers representing the Authority, including Muhammad Al-Dalqan, Direc-

tor of the Field Supervision Department of Listed Companies, Badr Al-Najdi, Senior Specialist in the Field Supervision Department, and Tariq Al-Toum, Specialist in the Field Supervision Department, the workshop aimed to elucidate mechanisms for preventing and rectifying these violations and observations.

The workshop delved into various aspects, commencing with a review of observations made during field inspections pertaining to Book Ten (Disclosure and Transparency) of the executive regulations.

These observations included instances where companies held board of directors meetings during trading hours, failed to include certain entities in the list of insiders, neglected to promptly inform the Authority and the Stock Exchange of changes to the list of insiders within the stipulated timeframe, or omitted disclosure of significant events.

By addressing these critical issues, the workshop aimed to foster a culture of compliance and transparency among listed companies, thereby promoting a healthier and more accountable stock exchange environment.

Current account surplus narrowed to KD 15.8 bln from KD 19.3 bln

Kuwait's external position remains strong in 2023 as investment income surges

By National Bank of Kuwait

Official provisional data show that Kuwait's external position remained extremely robust in 2023, despite some narrowing of the current account surplus amid reduced oil export revenues. Investment income receipts were strikingly robust due to the solid performance of overseas financial markets while remittance outflows were pared back, likely due to higher living costs and FX uncertainties in Egypt. On the flip side, the financial account continued to record sizeable net outflows, albeit lower than in the previous year on reduced outbound investments and a fall in resident deposits abroad. Current account surpluses at a solid level are expected in the medium term due to elevated oil prices, though lower international interest rates from H2 2024 could cut deposit returns, adversely affecting some investment income credits.

The current account surplus narrowed to KD15.8 billion (31% of estimated GDP) from KD19.3 billion (35% of GDP) in 2022. (Chart 1.) This was the seventh consecutive year of surpluses and the second highest by value in ten years. The decline in 2023 came on the back of a marked reduction in the trade balance due to lower oil export revenues (oil production declined by 4.3% and oil prices fell by 20%), lower non-oil exports and surging imports (16.8%). Oil export revenues constituted around 93% of total exports.

As usual, the trade surplus was partially offset by a deficit in the services account, which widened to KD5.9 billion (11.6% of GDP), with growth in credits (+10.8%) outpacing growth in debits (+6.8%). (Chart 2.) Driving the increase in services debits was a near doubling of government goods & services purchases and rising transportation debits, as well as an increase in expenditures by residents on tourism.

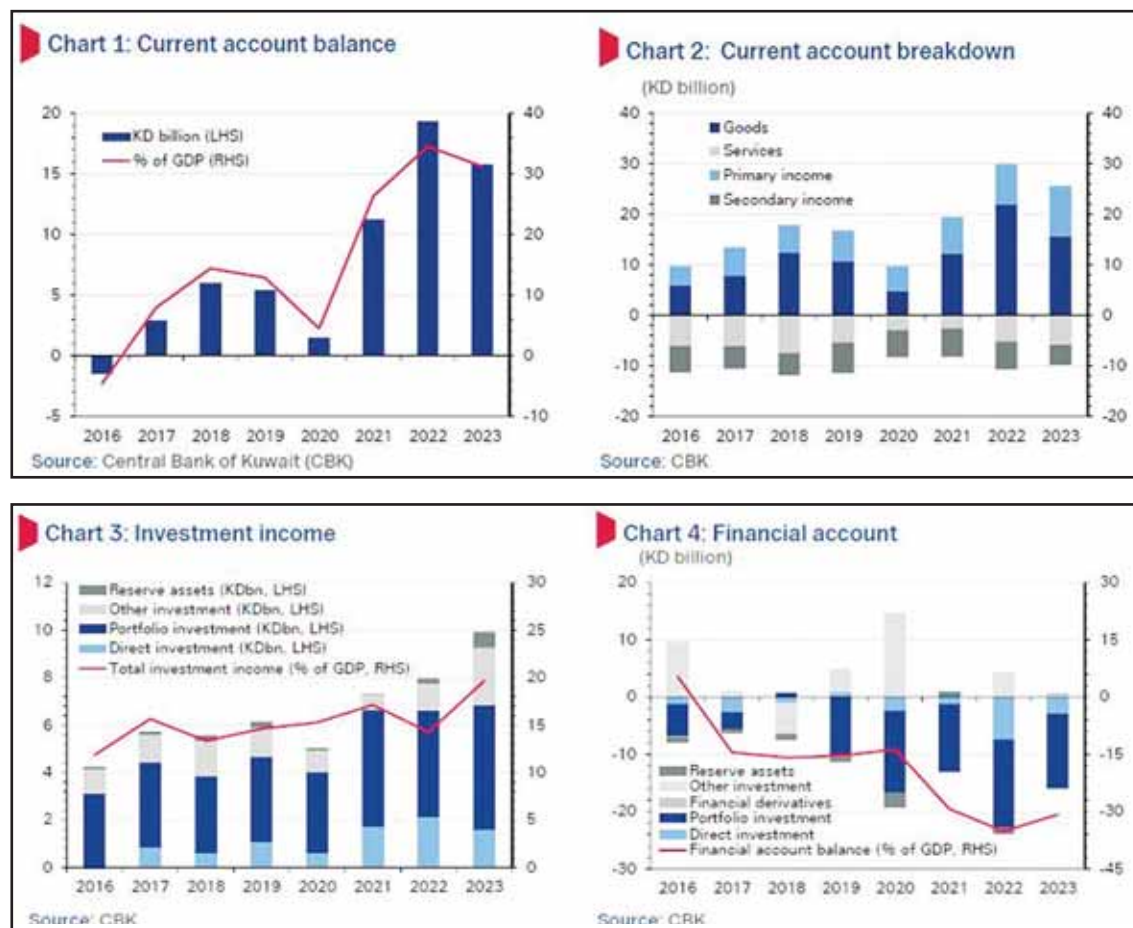
Investment income soars to record high in 2023 on strong financial market performance

Investment income, which captures income flows from capital deployed overseas, increased by almost 25% in 2023 to KD9.9 billion, the highest annual receipt in the available data. This is on the back of strong financial market performance. (Chart 3.) Income from portfolio investments and deposits held overseas surged by 16.5% y/y and 87% respectively, the latter benefiting from the hike in US policy rates that raised yields on bank deposits and

short-term treasuries. Gains were partly offset by a fall in receipts from direct investments abroad (-18.5%), though a fall investment income accrued to non-residents from assets in Kuwait (Kuwait's All-Share Index fell 6.5% in 2023) also lifted the surplus in the primary income account.

The magnitude of the investment income is significant

because it likely consists mostly of returns to the government on its massive investments overseas, managed by the Kuwait Investment Authority. Equivalent to an impressive 19.7% of estimated GDP, total investment income is worth around half the revenues the state makes from its net oil receipts and has more than trebled from a decade earlier. Note that this investment income is re-



invested by KIA and not included in the government's headline budget accounts, though easily exceeds the annual fiscal deficits of KD1-5 billion recorded in recent years with the exception of FY20/21.

Workers' remittances decline amid higher inflation and EGP volatility

The deficit in the secondary income account, however, which predominantly reflects monies transferred overseas by foreign workers in Kuwait, shrank significantly in 2023. Workers' remittances fell 29% to a multi-year low of KD3.9 billion. This decline likely stemmed from a combination of higher local living costs post-pandemic, a slowdown in expatriate migrant inflows in 2023 (and stronger enforcement of a deportation regime for illegal migrants) and instability in the official and unofficial Egyptian pound exchange rate that likely caused many Egyptian expatriates, the second largest overseas demographic in Kuwait, to pause remitting money back to their country.

Financial outflows down in 2023 but FDI inflows at more than a decade high

On the other side of the balance of payments, the financial account recorded net outflows of KD15.5 billion in 2023 (31% of GDP), down from KD19.7 billion in the previous year. (Chart 4.) This fall came mainly on a paring back of direct equity investments overseas, which more than halved to KD3.4 billion from KD7.8 billion in 2022 as investors looked toward interest gains on local deposits.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Kuwait, meanwhile, almost tripled in 2023, rising from KD232 million in 2022 to KD 649 million. This was the best inward FDI performance in more than ten years, though as a share of output, at 1.3% of GDP, the amount was still conservative compared to GCC peers. Meanwhile, portfolio investment outflows also declined, to KD13.1 billion (-7.6%), mainly due to a drop in outflows into overseas fixed income funds (debt instruments); outflows into foreign equities increased, to almost KD6.7 billion, in comparison. In 'other investment', outflows of residents' deposits abroad (mainly general government) fell to KD1.1 billion from KD2.4 billion in 2022. Finally, gross foreign reserves of the Central Bank of Kuwait declined by KD150 million (+KD1.1 billion in 2022). Gross reserves remained large at KD14.6 billion, covering well above three months of goods & services imports.

What's On

Branch network grows to 72 locations

NBK expands branch network with new 'Sabah Al-Ahmad City' branch

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Reflecting its dedication to provide top-notch banking services to customers anywhere within its strategy to be always closer to customers, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has opened its new branch in Sabah Al-Ahmad City, thus expanding its branch network, which is the largest domestically in terms of number and geographical breadth.

The opening of the new branch comes as part of the bank's efforts to solidify its leadership in the banking market and its continuous endeavors to ensure delivering an integrated banking experience to customers across all the areas of Kuwait. The operation of the new branch also comes to keep pace with the rapid urban developments and population growth in the city.

Keeping pace with the rapid banking developments, NBK has introduced in its new branches, including Sabah Al-Ahmad City Branch, radical changes from the traditional concept of branches to match international standards. This includes futuristic design, interactive services, and advanced banking solutions provided through these branches. These changes also come in response to the needs and expectations of customers, with whom the bank always maintains close communication to identify their needs through its various digital channels and advanced analytics using cutting-edge AI technology, to align its services accordingly.

On this occasion, Mr. Ali Al-Mulla, Head of Domestic Branches - Consumer Banking Group at National Bank of Kuwait said, "NBK always seeks to enhance customer banking experience by expanding its branch network, introducing innovative banking solutions and services that allow them quick and easy banking to ensure utmost convenience."

NBK's network of branches, ATMs and ITMs available across



Ali Al-Mulla

Al-Mulla:

Our branch network integrates with our various digital channels to deliver an integrated and exceptional banking experience to customers

all areas in Kuwait integrate with its various cutting-edge digital channels to deliver an integrated and exceptional banking experience to customers, while serving the bank's strategy to be always closer to customers," he added.

"The new Sabah Al-Ahmad City Branch will receive NBK Customers from the City's residents as well as other area of Kuwait from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM, 5 days a week from Sunday to Thursday," he mentioned.

It is worth mentioning that by opening the new branch, NBK has increased the number of its domestic branch network, which is the largest in Kuwait, to 72 branches, in addition to having the largest owned ATM network locally.



Sabah Al-Ahmad Branch

'New conditions for Sunbula draws'

Warba Bank unveils winners of 'Al Sunbula' weekly draw

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Warba Bank - the best bank in corporate and investment banking services in Kuwait - announced the winners of the weekly Al Sunbula draws. Warba Bank will continue to hold weekly draws for ten winners of Al Sunbula account, in the presence of a representative of Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

Each of the 10 lucky winners of the Sunbula weekly draw of Warba Bank received KD 1,000, and the winners are: Mishal Abdullah Al-Anezi, Laila Taqi Qambar Akbar, Asma Awaad Ghneim Al-Shammeri, Adnan Abdullah Al-Khaldi, Musaed Abdullah Ali Al-Halbi, Bader Abdulaziz Mohsen Al-Mutairi, Sara Khaled Mohammed Aneza, Mohammed Zahid Muqbil Al-Ajmi, Mohammed Muslet Thaar Al-Otaibi, and Hind Moath Mohammed Al-Jahush.

As for the Sunbula account, it is the ideal choice for all those wishing to save money and achieve appropriate financial returns on their accounts at the same time, in addition to the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year.

Regarding the conditions, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Bakhait, Area Manager Retail Banking Group said: "KD 100 is now required to enter the weekly Sunbula draws and major draws, and the client still gets one chance for every KD 10 in the account, and the chances are counted according to the lowest balance in the account during the month. Therefore, a full month must have passed in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the major draws to count the chances. There are no restrictions or limits for



Abdulaziz Al-Bakhait

withdrawal and deposit, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the client's chances to win."

Warba Bank launched its latest banking solutions service, "Customer Onboarding", in accordance with the terms of its ambitious five-year strategy, which enables non-Warba Bank clients to apply for opening a Sunbula account in an easy digital way via the Bank's website without the need to visit any of the Bank's branches, and within only five minutes - through the new and unique automated system used to enable this service - new clients will be able to complete the request to open an account at any time and any place.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that has achieved great successes in a short period, as it occupied a leading position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals, and it is one of the largest local banks in the number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent components that make the Bank close to all members of society.

Fahad AlSaad highlights KFH's CSR leadership in sustainability

KFH renews strategic partnership with Scientific Center

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has renewed its strategic partnership with the Scientific Center, a subsidiary of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), with the aim of collaborating in the field of environmental preservation and sustainability.

Signing the agreement, KFH Senior Manager PR and Event Management, Fahad AlSaad, said that this partnership aligns with KFH's strategy and its leadership in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for sustainability. He added that the partnership aligns with KFH's (Keep it Green) initiative, a collection of environmental and sustainability projects.

He pointed out that the partnership will include a comprehensive program of activities, events, and initiatives focusing on the challenges of climate change. The program aims to raise awareness on environmental preservation and maintaining a sustainable future. Starting this month, it will coincide with World Environment Day (June 5th), themed "We Are Generation Restoration" and geared towards restoration of lands, combating desertification and drought.

AlSaad added: "KFH has always been an avid participant in similar partnerships and initiatives that solidify its standing in social responsibility. This is achieved through supporting environmental protection programs and awareness campaigns in Kuwait, in line with KFH's sustainability strategy and (Keep it Green) campaign, which encompasses multiple events, activities, and programs dedicated to fostering sustainability and a healthy environment across various fields throughout the year."

As part of the partnership with the Scientific Center, AlSaad revealed that it involves an array of courses and events for individuals and families. These include beach and island cleaning, a series of workshops, in addition to KFH's social media awareness campaign on agriculture and reforestation.

"KFH customers will also enjoy a 20% discount on Scientific Center entry tickets throughout the month of June," he noted.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Scientific Center Deputy General Manager - Visitors Engagement, Mohammad AlSanousi, expressed his pleasure with the renewal of the partnership with KFH for the second year in a row. He stressed that



Photos during the event.

KFH is one of the leading institutions in Kuwait in terms of sponsoring environmental preservation and sustainability projects.

AlSanousi mentioned that the "We Are Gen-

eration Restoration" environmental month sheds light on desertification and biodiversity and includes scientific and practical workshops to enhance environmental awareness.

Pay link service offered via Gulf Bank mobile app

Gulf Bank extends 'Ayadi' service for Eid Al-Adha

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Gulf Bank is spreading the joy of Eid Al-Adha with its customers and the public, by extending its "Ayadi" service to most of its branches and ITMs across Kuwait.

The "Ayadi" service is now available at majority of Gulf Bank branches across Kuwait. Additionally, interactive teller machines (ITMs) are available at various locations, including Head Office - Mubarak Al Kabeer Street, Crystal Tower, Al-Adan, Al-Salam, Fahheel Xcite, Hawally, Kuwait International Airport (T1), Mishref, Al-Fanar Mall, Al-Khiran Mall, and Sabah Al-Ahmad branch.

The "Ayadi" service provides customers with fresh banknotes in denominations of KD20, KD10, KD5, and KD1, addressing the increased demand for new banknotes during



Gulf Bank's 'Ayadi' service.

the Eid Al-Adha celebrations.

Additionally, Gulf Bank offers its customers the Pay Link service via its mobile application featuring easy

and simple steps.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging

and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties to achieve it.

Company promotes physical well-being and out-of-office bonding

Zain organized fifth padel tournament for staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Zain organized the fifth padel tournament for its employees, closing yet another successful edition of the competition in the popular sport. The thrilling event promoted physical well being and fostered out-of-office bonding between Zain employees and the executive management team. It was joined by Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO Bader Nasser Al Kharafi.

Employees and executives from across the company's departments joined the exciting fifth season of the competition, where 16 teams signed up to compete for the championship title. The matches continued for one day at OCEAN Padel Academy's courts in Salmiya. Returning champions team ZAIN won the title, while team Heavyweights came in second place and team KOBE came in third place.

The company continues to organize engaging activities like this one to promote physical activity, empower competitiveness, and further grow the strong bonds between members of the Zain family. By fostering a culture of health and friendly competition, the company strengthens its community and inspires its members to achieve their best.

Zain spares no effort to organize activities and programs that cater to its employees' talents and interests. The company is keen on encouraging employees to pursue healthier lifestyles and take part in different sports and health programs all year round.



Bader Al Kharafi with the winners and Zain's team.



The competition strengthened bonding between employees.

What's On



Chinese Ambassador Zhang Jianwei addressing the audience.



A group photo from graduation ceremony of students from the Chinese Learning and Testing Institute.

Ambassador Zhang Jianwei congratulates graduating students and parents

Graduation of students from Chinese Learning Institute celebrated

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: The China Cultural Center recently held an event titled "Award ceremony of the 3rd Kuwait Chinese Language Recitation Competition" for the third batch of Chinese language students of the Chinese Learning and Testing Institute, in the presence of the Ambassador of China to Kuwait Zhang Jianwei, his spouse, and Sheikhha Anoud Al-Sabah.

During the event, Ambassador Zhang Jianwei delivered a speech in which he congratulated the students and their parents.

He praised the growing interest in learning the Chinese language, especially among Kuwaiti students.

The ambassador announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Kuwait University and the Linguistic Cooperation Center in China in order to start teaching the Chinese language at Kuwait University.

He revealed that the memorandum of understanding was signed during the ministerial meeting for Kuwaiti-



Chinese cooperation held a few days ago in the presence of His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya.

Ambassador Jianwei stressed the importance of such a step, and highlighted Kuwait's keenness to provide opportunities for citizens who wish to learn the Chinese language, which will in turn help them enroll in Chinese uni-

versities and obtain scholarships.

He indicated that students who succeed in studying the Chinese language are eligible to travel to China to complete their studies.

Ambassador Jianwei concluded his speech by highlighting the determination of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Excellency Chinese President



Photos from the event.

Xi Jinping to develop strategic relations between the two friendly countries, revealing that the coming period will witness strengthening of cooperation in all fields.

Meanwhile, the Director of the China Cultural Center in Kuwait Xia Jianfeng gave a speech during the event in which he revealed his awareness of the increasing desire among many Kuwaiti

citizens to learn the Chinese language.

He indicated that such a dream is no longer far-fetched in light of the establishment of specialized centers that offer an appropriate educational environment for learning and mastering the Chinese language.

He emphasized the Cultural Center's keenness to provide full support to the Chinese Learning and Testing Institute

and provide facilities for the students.

In addition, Director of the Chinese Learning and Testing Institute Ms Sophie revealed that the number of students registered at the institute is 50, and about half of them are Kuwaiti citizens including three students belonging to Al-Sabah Family, adding that this number is constantly increasing.

She explained that the institute provides different curricula that suit the level of each student. Students who pass the fourth level can apply to Chinese universities to complete their studies. The institute receives students of all ages, with the youngest student being five years old, and the oldest being over sixty. The success rate among students this year reached 80 percent.

It is worth mentioning that certificates were distributed to the graduating students during the graduation ceremony, and poems and songs in the Chinese language were presented by both teachers and students. Student Faisal Al-Bassam gave a presentation in Chinese language on how to cook fish in the Chinese way, and expressed his fondness for Chinese culture.



Royal Britannia Kindergarten for Special Needs students celebrate graduation with water conservation theme.

Dr. Al Mutawa drives innovative education

Royal Britannia Kindergarten graduation ceremony highlights water conservation

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Royal Britannia Kindergarten (RBK) for Special Needs proudly celebrated its annual graduation ceremony, emphasizing the vital theme of water conservation. Dr Hanan Al Mutawa, Chair and Co-founder of Royal Britannia, continues to be the inspiration behind the institution's mission and values, leading the way for innovative and meaningful education.

Ms Elisa R Isaac, Headteacher, led the event with the Royal Britannia team, ensuring the ceremony was both inspiring and educational. The auditorium was beautifully decorated with colorful umbrellas, cascading water drops, and impressive waterfalls at the entrance.

Dr Hanan Al Mutawa visionary leadership was evident throughout the event. Her dedication to foster-



RBK officials honor one of the students.

ing a nurturing and forward-thinking educational environment has profoundly influenced the students'

engagement with important global issues like water conservation.

The highlight of the ceremony was the children's heartwarming performances. Dressed in creative costume, the young graduates sang and presented skits such as "Rain drops", "Roll over the ocean" and "Graduation Dynamite", delivering a powerful message about the necessity of preserving water for future generations.

Royal Britannia Kindergarten continues to lead by example, integrating essential environment themes into their curriculum to nurture responsible citizens.

For more information about Royal Britannia Kindergarten for Special needs, please visit RB website at www.rb.edu.kw and follow RB on Instagram rbkedu.

2024-2025 executive committee formed

IAK Women's Forum elects new leaders

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: The Idukki Association Kuwait Women's Forum has announced its executive committee for 2024-2025. The Chairperson is Mrs. Raji Mathew Shaji, with members including Mrs. Lancy Babu, Mrs. Joice Jiji, Mrs. Ancy Chacko, Mrs. Anit Xavier, Mrs. Bini Joseph, Mrs. Shiji P. Chacko, Mrs. Elizabeth Siljo, Mrs. Smitha Baby, Mrs. Biji Benny, Mrs. Anisa Jinto, Mrs. Manu Baiju, Mrs. Ambily Paul, Mrs. Vineetha Ouseppachan, Mrs. Sheeja Shyju, and Mrs. Smitha Binoy.

"The Women's Forum plays a leadership role in empowering, validating, educating, and including all the women from the Idukki area," said Chairperson Mrs. Raji Mathew Shaji. They discussed the challenges, clarified the problems, and acknowledged the achievements. The IAK Women's Forum Chairperson expressed her admiration and enthusiasm for the position.

The Women's Forum was established to utilize the leadership, organizational, and artistic abilities of women for the welfare of society. The Forum pays special attention to identifying and appreciating women who tackle community issues. Seminars and discussions are conducted on various topics such as nature, healing of the affected, digital literacy, leadership for tomorrow, food and safety, education, and career guidance.

The Women's Forum has also formed a Children's Forum as a platform to encourage, motivate, unify, and strengthen the voices of children and young people as they learn to work hand-in-hand with their communities. The leaders of the Children's Forum are Ashita Mary Binoy (Main Convenor), and Devika Nadeparambil Shiju, Ron Emmanuel Shaji, and Deepandev Nadeparambil Shiju (Joint Convenors).



Women's Forum committee

New executive committee elected

IEI Kuwait hosts 26th annual meeting

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: The Institution of Engineers (India) Kuwait chapter has stepped into the 26th year of its glorious existence in the oil-rich Gulf state of Kuwait. The IEI - Kuwait Chapter's General Secretary had served general body meeting notice to its members regarding the 26th AGM, which was conducted on Monday, May 29 at Mövenpick Al Bidaa, Kuwait. The members assembled to attend the AGM organized by the chapter.

Dr. Mahendhran, A/Chairman (2019-24) IEI Kuwait chapter welcomed the members, dignitaries, guests and briefly outlines the activities of the Executive Committee over the past five years and expresses appreciation for the work carried out by its EC members despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and lock downs. The EC maintained its support and successfully organized numerous events and technical seminars throughout this eventful five-year journey. He requested all the members to extend their support to the activities of the chapter and to benefit from the technical seminars organised by the chapter to enrich themselves with the new technologies and knowledge shared.

Report

Hon. General Secretary Eng. Sudhir Kumar Sahoo presented his report and listed the activities carried out during the year 2019 - 2024.

The Secretary report was passed by the General body. The Treasurer Engr. Sam Ananth presented his Annual report on the Income and Expenditure statements for the year 2019-2024 and The Assets and Liabilities statement which were audited by Engr. Gopalakrishnan.

Dr. Mahendhran, A/Chairman dissolved the current Executive Committee and invited Dr. Rumane Dr. Mahendhran and Engr. Rishabh Zain to be the election officers to conduct the election process for electing the new Executive Committee members for the year 2024-2025.

Nomination forms were invited from the members for the post of the chairman, Hon. General Secretary, Treasurer, and committee members. After the submission of the nominations papers, which were scrutinized by the election committee members, Dr. Mahendhran declared the following members unanimously elected to their respective posts, excluding the chairman position. There was an election between Engr. Sudhir Kumar Sahoo and Engr. Sam Ananth Kumar for the chairman position, with Engr. Sam Ananth Kumar being elected by the current members with a significant margin in the vote count.

Engr. Sam Ananth Kumar - Chairman; Engr. Sudhir Mengan - General Secretary; Engr. Karthikeyan - Treasurer; Engr. Rajendra Kannan, Engr. Kumanar Pramadayalan., Engr. Agnel Stanley Charles., Engr. Krishna Jagan., Engr. Upendra Kumar Behura., Engr. Anu Kurian, Engr. Arulselvan, Engr. Subha Lakshmi, Engr. Rajalakshmi., Engr. Sekar B., Engr. Shankar Chinnathambi and Engr. Gopalakrishnan V - Executive Members

The new committee nominated Engr. Gopalakrishnan as the Auditor for the period 2024-2025.

After the new committee was elected Engr. Sam Ananth Kumar the new elected Chairman for the period 2024-25 thanked the members for the confidence posed in him by electing and his team by international conferences, etc." electing them unanimously to lead the IEI Kuwait chapter.



Photos from the event



A photo from the event.

Event display cultural vibrancy

Kuwait Kannada Koota celebrates 'Marala Mallige Day' with success

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Under the esteemed leadership of the 2024 Executive Committee President Anant Mangalgi, Vice President Praveen Shetty Shankat, Secretary Chethan Cheluvarej, and Treasurer Sharan Gouda Patil, the Kuwait Kannada Koota (KKK) hosted its much-anticipated Sahithya Sankalpa Parva - Marala Mallige Day on May 17, 2024, at ICSK Khaitan.

The event was a grand success, marked by cultural vibrancy and community spirit.

The Marala Mallige Committee, led by Convenor Dr. Guruprasad Subbarao and Co-Convenor Girish Sheno, orchestrated a well-coordinated series of events that included a variety of Kannada literature competitions.

These competitions ranged from traditional activities such as "Chin-

nara Chilipili" and "Janapada Dance" to innovative contests like "Best out of Waste."

A major highlight of the evening was the enthralling performance by Miss Ananya Bhat and her talented ensemble. Accompanied by Manjunath Sattayasheel on drums, B.S. Venugopala Raju on tabla, Sharan Rao on keyboard, and Abhishek MB on flute, Miss Ananya Bhat's captivating vocals created an enchanting atmosphere that mesmerized the audience.

The audience was so moved by Miss Ananya Bhat's musical talent that she and her team received a standing ovation, marking the highlight of the Marala Mallige Day and adding an unforgettable touch to the event. The diverse musical styles and her enchanting voice left an indelible mark on everyone present.

Legendary actor died of natural causes

Janis Paige, star of Hollywood and Broadway, dies at 101

NEW YORK, June 4, (AP): Janis Paige, a popular actor in Hollywood and in Broadway musicals and comedies who danced with Fred Astaire, toured with Bob Hope and continued to perform into her 80s, has died. She was 101.

Paige died Sunday of natural causes at her Los Angeles home, long-time friend Stuart Lampert said Monday.

Paige starred on Broadway with Jackie Cooper in the mystery-comedy, "Remains to be Seen" and appeared with John Raitt in the smash hit musical "The Pajama Game."

Her other films included a Hope comedy, "Bachelor in Paradise"; the Doris Day comedy "Please Don't Eat the Daisies" and "Follow the Boys."

In 2018, she added her voice to the #MeToo movement, alleging an assault when she was 22 by the late department-store heir Alfred Bloomingdale.

"I could feel his hands, not only on my breasts, but seemingly everywhere. He was big and strong, and I began to fight, kick, bite and scream," she wrote. "At 95, time is not on my side, and neither is silence. I simply want to add my name and say, 'Me too.'"

Paige's big break came in wartime when she sang an operatic aria for servicemen at the Hollywood Canteen. MGM hired her a day later for a brief role in "Bathing Beauty" - she spoke two lines in the film, which starred Esther Williams and Red Skelton - then dropped her.

The same day, Warner Bros. signed her and cast her in a dramat-

ic segment of the all-star movie "Hollywood Canteen." Her contract started at \$150 a week. "I earned more per week than my mother had made in a month during the Great Depression," she recalled in The Hollywood Reporter in 2018.



Paige

Her salary rose to \$1,000 weekly as the studio kept her busy in lightweight films such as "Two Guys from Milwaukee," "The Time, the Place and the Girl," "Love and Learn," "Always Together," "Wallflower" and "Romance on the High Seas," which marked Doris Day's film debut.

Meanwhile, she had changed her name from Donna May Tjaden, adopting her grandfather's name of Paige. She took her first name from Elsie Janis, famed for entertaining troops in World War I.

Talent (cross head) Paige's contract expired in 1949, at a time when studios were unloading talent because of the roads of television. "That was a jolt," she remarked in 1963. "It meant I was washed up at 25."

She took her talents to Broadway, where she starred in "Remains to Be Seen" (her role would be snatched by June Allyson for the screen adaptation), and starred as Babe opposite Raitt as Sid in the original production of "The Pajama Game," directed in 1954 by George Abbott.

(Doris Day would take her role in the film version.) MGM producer Arthur Freed caught her nightclub act at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles and offered her a part opposite Astaire in "Silk Stockings," also co-starring Cyd Charisse. The film is famous for her and Astaire spoofing the newfangled movie gimmicks in the Cole Porter number "Stereophonic Sound," including swinging from a chandelier.

"I was one mass of bruises. I didn't know how to fall. I didn't know how to get down on a table - I didn't know how to save myself because I was never a classic dancer," she told the Miami Herald in 2016.

In May 2003, Paige resumed entertaining after a long absence. She opened a show she called "The Third Act" at San Francisco's Plush Room. She told stories about Astaire, Frank Sinatra and others and sang tunes from her films and stage musicals.

Chad Jones, reviewer for the Alameda Times-Star, commented that at 80 "the charming Paige shows a vitality, verve and spirit that performers half her age would envy."

Paige grew up in Tacoma, Washington. Her father deserted the family when she was 4, and her mother eked out a living at the Bank of Tacoma.

"We always had enough to eat," Paige told the Saturday Evening Post in 1963, "but nothing to spare. My mother worked so hard. And she used to keep saying that she wished I'd been born a boy, so I could help out more. I always wanted to be a success for her, to make up for my father."

Variety



This image released by National Geographic shows actor Francesco Di Rauso, portraying combat medic Waverly Woodson Jr., who served with the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion on D-Day, in a scene from 'Erased: WW2's Heroes of Color.' (AP)

Television

WWII soldiers of color honored in new docuseries

Elba shines light on WWII's forgotten heroes

NEW YORK, June 4, (AP): One of Idris Elba's grandfathers fought in World War II, but he doesn't know what he endured. No pictures or stories survive. "That part of my family's history has been erased somewhat," says Elba.

That helped fuel the actor's push to narrate and executive produce the four-part National Geographic docuseries "Erased: WW2's Heroes of Color," which premiered Monday ahead of the 80th anniversary of D-Day on June 6. Episodes will also later be available on Disney+ and Hulu.

More than 8 million people of color served with the Allies, and the series digs deep to focus on how some fared at D-Day, Dunkirk, Pearl Harbor and the Battle of the Bulge.

It tells the story of the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, the only all-Black combat unit to fight on the D-Day beaches, and Force K6, a little-known Indian regiment of mule handlers from the British army trying to evacuate at Dunkirk.

The series uses archival footage, descendant interviews, soldier journals and actor portrayals - a mix that Elba says he found visceral and moving.

"It really did actually impact me just in the narration booth, watching the imagery, looking at the faces, wondering about my own personal connect. Could my grandfather be one of the people in one of the pieces? That was what I thought about. So, it did definitely resonate with me."

The series also highlights stories like that of Doris Miller, a mess attendant aboard the USS West Virginia who after the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor raced to an unattended anti-aircraft gun and fired at the planes until forced to abandon ship.

He had never been trained to use the gun because Black sailors serving in the segregated steward's branch of the Navy were not given the gunnery training received by white sailors. Miller's bravery earned him the Navy Cross.

"It just feels like a privilege and an honor to be able to shed some light on their stories," says director Shianne Brown, who helmed the D-Day episode.

Her episode highlighted Waverly Woodson, Jr., a medic who was wounded by shrapnel during the landing but nevertheless spent the next 30 hours treating the wounded and the dying on Omaha Beach. He would note: "There's no such thing as a color barrier in action."

Brown says that observation proved so powerful. "If your leg has just been blown off, you need a medic to help you. At that moment, you're not going to say to Waverly, 'No, I don't want you to treat me.'"

The series points out that many soldiers of color who fought the Nazis in Europe went home - the Indians back to British colonization and Black Americans to bitter racism - and began agitating for change because of what they'd witnessed and earned. Civil rights icon Medgar Evers, after all, was at D-Day.

Experience

"A lot of these men and women never felt like they were human before going to Europe and then being treated like a normal human being by the white population," says Brown. "I can't even imagine how that would have felt for them. You've been fighting against Hitler and the Nazis and against fascism and hate, and you go home and you experience racial terror."

The filmmakers found very little footage of non-white soldiers in the archives and so were moved when they finally came across images of a Black unit marching in central England before D-Day or Black soldiers cheering the fall of the Nazis. "It was just very odd to see a Black man in Nazi Germany," says Elba.

Elba urged the directors and editors to try to put the audience into the action, like the films "Saving Private Ryan" or "Dunkirk." That meant filming recreations of bombings in villages in France, wading into the ocean with heavy gear and soldiers enduring beach strafing.

"I was really encouraging of the filmmakers

to really go for it," he says. "Giving you a little glimpse of, from a fictional perspective, what it might have looked like and how heroic these soldiers were."

At the same time, the filmmakers wanted to show how horrible and frightening combat can be, the randomness of casualties and the agonizing wait before deployment.

"We don't want to glorify what's going on, but we actually wanted to paint the heroism in a way that was relatable to the way we've seen films of this nature," Elba says.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: A ninth season of "Below Deck Mediterranean" sailed onto Bravo on Monday with a 75-minute premiere episode. Aboard a luxury charter yacht led by Capt. **Sandy Yawn** and her chief steward, Aisha Scott, cameras catch the crew's conflicts with each other while they also cater to their guests. The show streams the next day on Peacock.

Meanwhile, since her release from prison in late December for conspiring to kill her abusive mother, **Gypsy Rose Blanchard** has remained in the public eye. She's walked red carpets, been the topic of tabloid gossip and even met **Kim Kardashian**. Lifetime cameras have followed Rose as she acclimates to freedom in a new docuseries, "Gypsy Rose: Life After Lockup" debuts Monday.

While, in a new FX limited series called "Clipped," Ed O'Neill ("Modern Family"), "Married with Children") plays former Clippers team owner, Donald Sterling, who was recorded making racist comments that were leaked to TMZ. It led to Sterling stepping down as owner of the Clippers and to being banned for life by the NBA. "Clipped" also stars Laurence Fishburne as Doc Rivers and Jacki Weaver as Sterling's wife, Shelly. The series is based on an ESPN 30-for-30 podcast called "The Sterling Affairs." "Clipped" debuts Tuesday on Hulu.

per **Young Dolph** in a daytime shooting ambush at a cookie shop in his hometown of **Memphis, Tennessee**.

Shelby County Judge **Jennifer J. Mitchell** set a Sept. 23 trial date for **Justin Johnson**, 26. He has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder in the fatal shooting of **Young Dolph**, who was buying cookies when he was gunned



Kingston



Dolph

down in November 2021 at a bakery located near his childhood home.

Johnson's trial had been set to start Monday. However, prosecutors and Johnson's lawyer filed a joint motion May 14 asking the judge to delay the trial to allow them to present expert witnesses to discuss cellphone location records. Mitchell ruled in February

that the trial jury will come from outside of Memphis because of intense media coverage of the 36-year-old rapper's slaying, which shocked Memphis and the entertainment world.

Authorities have said two men got out of a stolen Mercedes-Benz and fired shots into **Makeda's** Homemade Cookies before fleeing. As they searched for the

suspects, police released photos taken from surveillance video that captured the shooting.

Cornelius Smith Jr. also has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder charges in the shooting. A trial date for Smith has not been set. Young Dolph, whose real name was **Adolph Thornton Jr.**, was a rapper, producer and independent music label owner. (AP)

MEMPHIS, Tenn.: A judge on Monday reset the trial date for a man charged with killing rap-



The rise of telemedicine: Benefits and challenges

How to find right balance between virtual, in-person care

NEW YORK, June 4, (AP): Patients can now see an array of doctors without leaving their recliner thanks to telemedicine. But that doesn't mean trips to the office should end.

Finding the right balance between virtual and in-person visits can be a key to getting good care.

Here's what you need to know about which form of care may be right for you and when.

This generally refers to diagnosing and treating patients remotely. It's often done over a secure video connection provided by the doctor's office. You can use your smartphone, tablet or computer.

But telemedicine also can involve telephone calls or trading secure messages with someone from your doctor's office to discuss test results or follow-up steps after an appointment.

It can be used to diagnose new health problems and monitor existing, long-term issues like diabetes.



A patient sits in the living room of her apartment in the Brooklyn borough of New York during a telemedicine video conference with a physician on Jan. 14, 2019. (AP)

These virtual visits can save time and give patients more doctor choices. That's especially important for

those who live where in-person care options are slim or for patients who can't take time off work to get to the

doctor or lack transportation.

Telemedicine use exploded after COVID-19 hit in 2020. It has cooled since, but it remains more popular than it was before the pandemic, particularly in specialties like dermatology or mental health care.

Amazon now offers a telemedicine option in every state. And many companies sell subscription-based plans centered on virtual care. For those, patients pay a regular fee for doctor visits and mail-order prescriptions to treat high blood pressure, anxiety or hair loss, among other issues.

Test your phone or tablet before the visit starts. You will want to make sure both audio and video work properly. You may need time to adjust your device settings.

Make sure you're in a room or location that offers privacy, especially for therapy sessions. That's usually not a work cubicle, library or restaurant with public Wi-Fi.

Don't drive, walk or eat while talking to the doctor. Aside from being unsafe, those habits also can be distracting for both the patient and physician, noted Dr. Jay Lee, a family physician who does both in-person and virtual visits.

Telemedicine needs a secure, fast internet connection, and some patients or doctors may lack the technology to do a virtual visit.

Sometimes physical exams are necessary.

Someone seeking help for a urinary tract infection - which can be treated by telemedicine - might actually have gallbladder problems. That could require an ultrasound during an in-person visit, noted Lee, a board member with the American Academy of Family Physicians.

There also may be limits to receiving telemedicine from doctors outside your state. Pandemic emergency declarations that made this easier have ended.

That can make follow-up care challenging if a patient travels to see a specialist.

"There aren't that many pediatric specialists in all of the different conditions that can affect kids," said Krista Drobac, founder of the Alliance for Connected Care, which advocates for telemedicine use.

That can depend on the patient's comfort with telemedicine and the treatment they need.

In some cases, there is no balance if a patient lacks an in-person option or that visit is tough to schedule.

If possible, Lee recommends an initial visit in person and then telemedicine follow-ups. He says that first visit is important for any doctor or specialist you expect to see again.

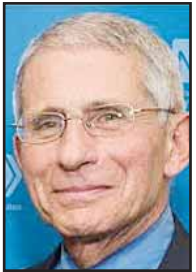
Both the physician and patient need to determine whether they "have a vibe, that they can get along and that they can work together," he said.

Lab-leak theories refuted

Fauci denies COVID origin 'cover-up', defends action

WASHINGTON, June 4, (AP): Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top US infectious disease expert until leaving the government in 2022, was back before Congress on Monday, calling "simply preposterous" Republican allegations that he'd tried to cover up origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A GOP-led subcommittee has spent over a year probing the nation's response to the pandemic and whether US-funded research in China may have played any role in how it started - yet found no evidence linking Fauci to wrongdoing.



Dr. Fauci

He'd already been grilled behind closed doors, for 14 hours over two days in January. But Monday, Fauci testified voluntarily in public and on camera at a hearing that quickly deteriorated into partisan attacks.

Republicans repeated unproven accusations against the longtime National Institutes of Health scientist while Democrats apologized for Congress besmirching his name and bemoaned a missed opportunity to prepare for the next scary outbreak.

"He is not a comic book super villain," said Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., saying the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic had failed to prove a list of damaging allegations.

Fauci was the public face of the government's early COVID-19 response under then-President Donald Trump and later as an adviser to President Joe

Biden. A trusted voice to millions, he also was the target of partisan anger and choked up Monday as he recalled death threats and other harassment of himself and his family, threats he said still continue. Police later escorted hecklers out of the hearing room.

The main issue: Many scientists believe the virus most likely emerged in nature and jumped from animals to people, probably at a wildlife market in Wuhan, the city in China where the outbreak began. There's no new scientific information supporting that the virus might instead have leaked from a laboratory. A U.S. intelligence analysis says there's insufficient evidence to prove either way -- and a recent Associated Press investigation found the Chinese government froze critical efforts to trace the source of the virus in the first weeks of the outbreak.

Fauci has long said publicly that he was open to both theories but that there's more evidence supporting COVID-19's natural origins, the way other deadly viruses including coronavirus cousins SARS and MERS jumped into people. It was a position he repeated Monday as Republican lawmakers questioned if he worked behind-the-scenes to squelch the lab-leak theory or even tried to influence intelligence agencies.

"I have repeatedly stated that I have a completely open mind to either possibility and that if definitive evidence becomes available to validate or refute either theory, I will readily accept it," Fauci said. He later invoked a fictional secret agent, decrying a conspiracy theory that "I was parachuting into the CIA like Jason Bourne and told the CIA that they should really not be talking about a lab leak."

Terminally ill man creates AI voice legacy

Can AI versions of loved ones ease grief?

BERLIN, June 4, (AP): When Michael Bommer found out that he was terminally ill with colon cancer, he spent a lot of time with his wife, Anett, talking about what would happen after his death.

She told him one of the things she'd miss most is being able to ask him questions whenever she wants because he is so well read and always shares his wisdom, Bommer recalled during a recent interview with The Associated Press at his home in a leafy Berlin suburb.

That conversation sparked an idea for Bommer: Recreate his voice using artificial intelligence to survive him after he passed away.

The 61-year-old startup entrepreneur teamed up with his friend in the US, Robert LoCascio, CEO of the AI-powered legacy platform Eternos. Within two months, they built "a comprehensive, interactive AI version" of Bommer - the company's first client.

Eternos, which got its name from the Italian and Latin word for "eternal," says its technology will allow Bommer's family "to engage with his life experiences and insights." It is among several companies that have emerged in the last few years in what's become a growing space for grief-related AI technology.

Interact

One of the most well-known startups in this area, California-based StoryFile, allows people to interact with pre-recorded videos and uses its algorithms to detect the most relevant answers to questions posed by users. Another company, called HereAfter AI, offers similar interactions through a "Life Story Avatar" that users can create by answering prompts or sharing their own personal stories.

There's also "Project December," a chatbot that directs users to fill out a questionnaire answering key facts about a person and their traits - and then pay



Michael Bommer, who is terminally ill with colon cancer, answers questions during a meeting with The Associated Press at his home in Berlin, Germany, May 22, 2024. Bommer, who has only a few more weeks to live, teamed up with friend who runs the AI-powered legacy platform Eternos to 'create a comprehensive, interactive AI version of himself, allowing relatives to engage with his life experiences and insights,' after he has passed away. (AP)

\$10 to simulate a text-based conversation with the character. Yet another company, Seance AI, offers fictionalized seances for free. Extra features, such as AI-generated voice recreations of their loved ones, are available for a \$10 fee.

While some have embraced this technology as a way to cope with grief, others feel uneasy about companies using artificial intelligence to try to maintain interactions with those who have passed away. Still others worry it could make the mourning process more difficult because there isn't any closure.

Katarzyna Nowaczyk-Basinska, a research fellow at the University of Cambridge's Centre for the Future of Intelligence who co-authored a study on the topic, said there is very little known about the potential short-term

and long-term consequences of using digital simulations for the dead on a large scale. So for now, it remains "a vast techno-cultural experiment."

"What truly sets this era apart - and is even unprecedented in the long history of humanity's quest for immortality - is that, for the first time, the processes of caring for the dead and immortalization practices are fully integrated into the capitalist market," Nowaczyk-Basinska said.

Bommer, who only has a few more weeks to live, rejects the notion that creating his chatbot was driven by an urge to become immortal. He notes that if he had written a memoir that everyone could read, it would have made him much more immortal than the AI version of himself.

"In a few weeks, I'll be gone, on the other side - nobody knows what to expect there," he said with a calm voice.

Robert Scott, who lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, uses AI companion apps Paradot and Chai AI to simulate conversations with characters he created to imitate three of his daughters. He declined to speak about what led to the death of his oldest daughter in detail, but he lost another daughter through a miscarriage and a third who died shortly after her birth.

Characters

Scott, 48, knows the characters he's interacting with are not his daughters, but he says it helps with the grief to some degree. He logs into the apps three or four times a week, sometimes asking the AI character questions like "how was school?" or inquiring if it wants to "go get ice cream."

Some events, like prom night, can be particularly heart-wrenching, bringing with it memories of what his eldest daughter never experienced. So, he creates a scenario in the Paradot app where the AI character goes to prom and talks to him about the fictional event. Then there are even more difficult days, like his daughter's recent birthday, when he opened the app and poured out his grief about how much he misses her. He felt like the AI understood.

"It definitely helps with the what ifs," Scott said. "Very rarely has it made the 'what if's' worse."

Matthias Meitzler, a sociologist from Tuebingen University, said that while some may be taken aback or even scared by the technology - "as if the voice from the afterlife is sounding again" - others will perceive it as an addition to traditional ways of remembering dead loved ones, such as visiting the grave, holding inner monologues with the deceased, or looking at pictures and old letters.

Benefits of RSV vaccine outweigh risks: CDC

Guillain-Barre syndrome cases reported post-RSV shot in older adults

NEW YORK, June 4, (AP): Reports of a rare nervous system disorder were "more common than expected" in older US adults who got the new RSV vaccines, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report released recently that's similar to what the organization said earlier this year.

Government officials still say the benefits of the shots outweigh the risks.

The CDC and the US Food and Drug Administration say they're evaluating any risks, but do not plan to change their recommendation for the RSV shots, which is that patients 60 and older should talk to their doctor and then decide whether to

be vaccinated.

More than 10 million older adults have gotten either Pfizer or GSK single-dose shots since early August to protect against respiratory syncytial virus, which is a common cause of cold-like symptoms and can be dangerous for infants and older people.

Health officials have estimated about two cases of Guillain-Barre syndrome in every 1 million people who receive the RSV vaccine within three weeks of getting the shot.

The new CDC report focused on 28 cases of the syndrome in people who were vaccinated, and all but one developed symptoms within 21 days. That translated to

1.5 cases per million in people who got the GSK RSV vaccine, and five cases per million in recipients of the Pfizer shot.

CDC officials presented similar findings on the RSV shots and Guillain-Barre syndrome at a February public meeting.

An estimated 3,000 to 6,000 people develop Guillain-Barre syndrome in the US each year - either after being infected by a virus or linked to a vaccination - and it's more common in older people, according to the CDC. Most people fully recover, but some have permanent nerve damage.

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Kidd passes on vindication as he leads Dallas to Finals a year after chaotic finish

Injured Porzingis on track for return as Celtics prep for NBA Finals vs Mavs

BOSTON, June 4, (AP) — Whether injured Celtics center Kristaps Porzingis will be ready in time for the start of the NBA Finals this week is still to be determined.

But signs are pointing to him being able to return to the court sooner rather than later during Boston's matchup with the Dallas Mavericks.

The 7-footer hasn't appeared in a game since sustaining a strained left calf in Game 4 of Boston's first-round playoff series against Miami on April 29.

But 4-1 victories over the Heat and Cleveland in the second round, followed by a 4-0 sweep of Indiana in the Eastern Conference finals, have given the Latvian extended recovery time.

Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla has refrained from making predictions on when he expects Porzingis to be available. But he was clear that his team is better with Porzingis in the lineup, de-

spite compiling a 9-1 record without him this postseason.

"When KP is at his best, he's been tremendous for us and we expect that from him and we know he'll give that to us," Mazzulla said.

Porzingis last spoke publicly on May 4, saying of the injury, "It's something, it's not nothing," and adding that it would take "a little bit of time" to recover from.

His official status since then has been day to day as he slowly began rehabilitating for a chance to face the Mavericks team he played for from 2019-22.

Porzingis took to social media this week to provide his most significant update, posting on the X platform, "I'll be back in the lineup very soon. See you in the finals."

Two days later, when the doors were opened to the media Friday after a practice session, Porzingis was one of only a handful of players still on the court,

going through extended 3-point shooting drills with assistant coaches and trainers. He wore a compression sleeve on his injured left leg.

Then, on Saturday he participated in light 5-on-5 play with his teammates - his most extensive on-court workout since sustaining his injury.

Mazzulla said Porzingis "did everything the team did" during Saturday's practice and was expected to go through a more intense session on Sunday.

BASKETBALL

practice and was expected to go through a more intense session on Sunday.

Assuming he clears that benchmark, it would mark the most promising sign yet that the Celtics could soon get back the scorer and rim protector that Boston traded longtime stalwart Marcus Smart for this past offseason.

When healthy, Porzingis has pro-

vided on both ends of the floor, averaging 20.1 points, 7.2 rebounds and 1.9 blocks during the regular season while appearing in 57 games. Before his injury in the Miami series, he averaged 14.0 points, 5.7 rebounds and 1.5 blocks.

Porzingis missed seven games earlier this season with what the team called left calf injuries. He also missed time with a smattering of other issues this season, from inflammation and bruises in his right knee, right hamstring problems, a sprained left ankle and a sore back.

Those ailments added up to 25 missed games in which Boston went 21-4.

Celtics guard Derrick White, who was voted to the NBA All-Defensive third team along with teammate Jrue Holiday, said Porzingis' presence on the defensive end is hard to replicate.

Jason Kidd isn't big on personal vin-

dication.

Leading the Dallas Mavericks to the NBA Finals as their coach 13 years after he was the point guard on the franchise's only championship team means more to Kidd than proving he was right about Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving needing time to grow into a title-seeking tandem.

There's part of the 51-year-old, a Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame player, who believes he doesn't have much to prove at all.

"I know how to win," Kidd said. "Done that since elementary school, to the highest level. I've won gold medals. I've won championships. And I've won a championship as a coach, assistant coach. Now I get the opportunity to do it as a head coach."

When the Mavericks tip off at the Boston Celtics in Game 1 on Thursday night, they'll be three months removed from a 1-6 slide that once again had

pundits questioning how much longer Kidd would be the coach in Dallas.

The Mavs will be almost 14 months removed from Kidd dealing with questions about his job security and the club's curious decision to quit with two games left, still with a chance to make the postseason.

The Doncic-Clark pairing had faltered in the two months after the blockbuster trade that brought Irving from Brooklyn in 2023. Never mind that just a year earlier, Kidd's coaching debut in Dallas ended with Doncic's first trip to the Western Conference finals.

"You have to go through some failures I suppose to really believe it's going to work," said Kidd, whose title as an assistant came with the Los Angeles Lakers in the 2020 playoff bubble. "We weren't very good. But it's OK. As much as people feel like they should be traded or fired because of failures, it's sometimes sad. We had to go through it."

Paris Olympics

Opening athlete parade tops 'list' of innovations

GENEVA, June 4, (AP) — Exactly 100 years since the Olympics were last staged in Paris, and 128 years since its modern revival in Athens, the Summer Games can still deliver fresh looks for its 33rd edition.

Here is a look at the innovations the Paris Olympics will showcase:

This historic first for any Summer Games will launch the Paris Olympics and can be its defining image: Thousands of athletes in a flotilla sailing westward along the River Seine at sunset toward the Eiffel Tower on Friday, July 26.

The ambitious idea was to bring the tone-setting spectacle out of an expensively ticketed stadium and into the city where many more people can see it.

A crowd of 320,000 people is expected on the riverbanks along the 6-kilometer (3.7-mile) route from Pont d'Austerlitz to Pont d'Iéna.

Tickets will be free for about 220,000 invited and security-screened spectators watching from the upper river bank.

About 100,000 paying spectators, including lavish hospitality packages, will watch from the lower riverside and around the Trocadéro plaza -

OLYMPICS

where the parade will end looking across to the Eiffel Tower.

It is the most audacious plan for a main Olympics ceremony - the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics tested a non-traditional opening in downtown Buenos Aires - and its most fraught security risk.

The original plan for 600,000 spectators allowed for more spontaneity in the city but less security.

French President Emmanuel Macron has acknowledged the riverborne parade could be moved if the city is struck again by terrorists as it was in 2015. The closing ceremony on Aug. 11 is scheduled in the Stade de France national arena after it hosts track and field in the final week.

"Since we are professional, there are obviously plan Bs, plan Cs, et cetera," Macron said in December.

Ideally, Paris will bring its A-game. Paris was where women first competed at the Olympics - in 1900 with 22 of the 997 athletes in competition.

Women competed in tennis and golf, plus as part of team events in sailing, croquet, and equestrianism.

Charlotte Cooper of Britain became the first female individual gold medalist by winning the tennis singles event.

This time, for the first time, women have an equal share with men of an entry quota that is now 10,500 athletes across 329 events.

"This is our contribution to a more gender-equal world," IOC president Thomas Bach has said.

That 2.2% proportion of female athletes in 1900 had risen to 23% at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, where American Joan Benoit won the first women's Olympic marathon.

There were debuts in Los Angeles for rhythmic gymnastics and what was then called synchronized swimming. It is now artistic swimming and men will make their Olympic debut in the event in Paris.

Euro hosts Germany warm up with 0-0 draw against Ukraine



Germany's Thomas Muller (left), fights for the ball against Ukraine's Oleksandr Swatok (center), and goalkeeper Anatolij Trubin, during an international friendly soccer match between Germany and Ukraine in Nuremberg, Germany. (AP)

England, Croatia ease to 3-0 prep wins

BERLIN, June 4, (AP) — Host Germany and England kicked off the true buildup to the European Championship with their first warmup games on Monday, only after Real Madrid capped the club season by signing Kylian Mbappé.

About 90 minutes after France captain Mbappé finally confirmed he was joining the new Champions League winner, Germany put national team action on midsummer's center stage in an enterprising 0-0

search for some rhythm in their play and debuts given to several emerging talents ahead of rosters being finalized on Friday.

Germany's 21-year-old forward Maximilian Beier almost scored with his first shot in international soccer, striking the underside of the bar in the 60th minute. It was one of 26 attempts on the Ukraine goal by coach Julian Nagelsmann's team.

The roster deadline is one week before Germany opens its home tournament against Scotland in Munich on June 14.

Scotland stepped up its preparations with a modest 2-0 win against Gibralt-

tar, which extended its run of losses to 13 games.

Albania, which is in the same Euro 2024 group as Croatia, cruised past Liechtenstein 3-0.

Hoffenheim forward Beier somehow did not score as a second-half substitute in his Germany debut. After immediately rattling the crossbar, Beier was denied three minutes later by goalkeeper Anatolij Trubin's diving save, then he sent a stooping header wide of the goal.

Nagelsmann also gave a debut to Bayern Munich's 20-year-old midfielder Aleksandar Pavlović.

The head of Germany's federal govern-

ment, Chancellor Olaf Scholz, was at the game in Nuremberg, which is not among the 10 Euro 2024 venues.

Both Germany and Ukraine start their tournament in Munich. Ukraine begins against Romania on June 17, three days after Germany meets Scotland in Bayern's home stadium.

Scotland took time to find an edge against minnow Gibraltar, missing a slew of first-half chances, and got second-half goals from Ryan Christie and Ché Adams. They have more responsibility after regular No. 9 Lyndon Dykes was ruled out of Euro 2024 last week after being injured in training.

Harry Kane has 62 more goals for England than Cole Palmer but the emerging Chelsea playmaker scored the first of what should be many for the Three Lions.

Palmer has been a penalty specialist for his club and was able to take a 60th-minute spot kick to open the scoring as Kane was still on the bench.

Trent Alexander-Arnold in midfield for England has been an experiment Liverpool fans want to see, and the long-time right back was advanced in the Bosnian penalty area to score with a volleyed shot in the 85th.

Kane pounced to score in goalmouth congestion in the 89th to seal a good outing in Newcastle for the Euro 2021 beaten finalist.

Coach Gareth Southgate gave first appearances to Crystal Palace midfielder Adam Wharton - whose club teammate Eberechi Eze impressed in the first half - and Everton defender Jarrad Branthwaite.



England's Ollie Watkins (right), attempts a header at goal during an international friendly soccer match between England and Bosnia and Herzegovina at St. James Park in Newcastle, England. (AP)

SOCCER

draw with Ukraine.

England got off to a slow start before a second-half surge in a 3-0 win over Bosnia-Herzegovina, including a national record-extending 63rd goal for Harry Kane, who went on as a substitute.

Croatia, another of the European powers, eased to a 3-0 win over North Macedonia.

All three Euro 2024 contenders were without their Madrid stars - Toni Kroos, Jude Bellingham and Luka Modrić - who are resting this week after their title win on Saturday against Borussia Dortmund.

It was a night for untested lineups to

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China's fencing team announces foil roster for Paris Oly

GUANGZHOU, June 4, (Xinhua) — A trial to allocate China's remaining quota places in men's and women's foil at the Paris Olympic Games was held on Monday, with Wang Yuting securing a women's team and individual spot, while Wu Bin and Jiao Enqi earning men's and women's reserve spots, respectively.

According to the selection criteria published by the Chinese Fencing Association (CFA), Chen Qiangyuan and Huang Qianqian were granted the Paris Olympic women's foil team and individual berths directly based on their performance and world rankings during the selection period, which runs from April 2023 to date. Mo Zhiwei, Chen Haiwei, and Xu Jie were directly granted the men's foil team and individual quota.

As some athletes had neck-to-neck performance, the trial took place during the ongoing 2024 National Fencing Championships Tournament (second leg) in Qingyuan, Guangdong Province, with Shi Yue, Wang, and Jiao competing for a women's team spot

(automatically qualifies for the individual event) and a team reserve, while Wu and Zeng Zhaoren vying for the men's team reserve.

In the men's match, 19-year-old Zeng emerged as a rising star during the Paris Olympic cycle, having clinched a silver in the men's foil team event at the Hangzhou Asian Games as a reserve, while Wu has

OLYMPICS

more international experience. The two fencers exchanged the lead until it was tied at 9 before Wu scored four consecutive points en route to win 15-10.

"I'm very excited now, but I was overwhelmed before the match and couldn't sleep well," said Wu. "I was quite nervous at the beginning, but I managed to adjust and find my pace, calming down and starting to perform better." Wu revealed that he suffered a serious injury at the International

Fencing Federation (FIE) Foil Grand Prix Washington D.C. in March. However, he is slowly recovering as he strives to get a ticket to Paris. "I need to deal with my foot injury first, then devote myself to training." On the women's side, Wang eased past Shi 15-8 in the first match, while 18-year-old Jiao overcame Shi 15-13 next, making the final match between Wang and Jiao directly determining the starting and reserve spots. Wang eventually claimed the team and individual spot with a score of 15-10.

China's women's foil team head coach Lei Sheng said that the results well-reflected the athletes' current competitive state. "We will prepare for the Asian Championships next, which will be the first time for this team to come together and the first time for Jiao to participate in a team event." "Wang has been competing with the team this season since the Hangzhou Asian Games, and I hope she can build more self-confidence through her victory today," Lei added.



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SPORTS

Capital Governorate honors athletes for 'achievements' in World Championship



Players fighting for the ball.

AUK team shines in Milan

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) recently marked its fourth consecutive participation in the renowned Euro Milano Championship, held in Milan, Italy. Fourteen colleges from across the globe took part in

proress in six matches, of which they triumphed in four. Their performance underscored their athletic prowess, skillfulness, adaptability, and unwavering dedication throughout the competition.

Muhammad Al-Saleh, the Senior Sports Coordinator in the Student Life Office, emphasized the significance of such participations, stating, "The Euro Milano competition serves as a platform for our students to exhibit their talents on an international scale. These events are pivotal in fostering sports development, nurturing teamwork spirit, and facilitating cultural exchange among participants from diverse backgrounds."

BASKETBALL

this prestigious sports event, with AUK's men's basketball team securing a commendable fifth place.

Invited by the Inter-University Sports Federation (IUSF), the university's athletes engaged in a two-day tournament, showcasing their



Ahmed Al-Shahoumi, former President of the Handball Association and Honorary President of Al-Qurain Club with Faisal Siwan.

Youth team prepares for Championship

Kazma Club's Omar Al-Mulla commends handball team outstanding performance

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Omar Al-Mulla, the Treasurer of Kazma Club and Head of the Handball Authority, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Orange players for their outstanding performance in the season. Despite the season being extremely challenging and exhausting, the players maintained their faith and represented Kazma with great dedication, making every effort to compete for the title.

Al-Mulla also commended the team's goalkeeper, Abdulaziz Al-Dhafiri, for his exceptional performance and his role as a formidable barrier. He extended his praise to both the professional and local players for their contributions.

When questioned about the absence of goalkeeper Turki Al-Khalidi, Al-Mulla explained that Al-Khalidi had shown high-level performance at the beginning of the season but had to step away due to personal circumstances involving his family's medical treatment abroad. Al-Mulla wished him a swift recovery and hoped for his return in even better form.

Al-Mulla expressed his gratitude to Asaad Al-Banwan, President of Kazma Club, for his unwavering support for the handball team and acknowledged the backing from the Board of Direc-

tors. He noted that with three rounds remaining in the Premier League, the "Orange" team is striving to reach the podium. He urged the players to secure the runner-up position in the league, which would allow the team to participate in the Asian Club Championship and represent Kuwaiti sports and handball with distinction. On another note, training for the national youth handball team, led by Coach Saed Hegazy, has commenced in prepara-

HANDBALL

tion for the 18th Asian Championship for youth teams, a qualifying event for the World Cup finals in Poland 2025. The championship, scheduled to be hosted by Jordan from July 16 to 26, will feature the "Blue" team in the second group alongside the Iranian and Chinese teams.

Additionally, Ahmed Al-Shahoumi, former President of the Handball Association and Honorary President of Al-Qurain Club, will sponsor the retirement festival for former national team and Sulaibikhat Handball Club star Faisal Siwan on June 9.

In Gulf handball news, the Omani Club of Oman has officially requested to host the 41st Gulf Handball Club Championship in Muscat from February 14-25, 2025, which will feature participation from eight Gulf clubs.

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: In a collaborative effort between the Capital Governorate and the Commercial Bank, aimed at recognizing Kuwait's distinguished individuals across various domains, Governor Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah recently bestowed honors upon champion Kuwaiti athletes Faisal Mutlaq Al-Rajhi and Faisal Sorour. Al-Rajhi clinched the gold medal in the 5000-meter wheelchair race at the World Athletics Championships for People with Special Needs in Japan, while Sorour secured the silver medal in the shot put competition.

A ceremony, attended by Amani Al-Wara, Deputy Director General of the Corporate Communication Sector at the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, saw the governor commending their remarkable achievements, which have significantly elevated Kuwait's reputation on the global stage. He emphasized that recognizing such accomplishments serves as both motivation for Kuwaiti youth to aspire for international success and a tribute to the nation's sporting achievers.

Furthermore, the governor expressed gratitude to the Commercial Bank for its continuous support of events and initiatives aimed at honoring Kuwait's exceptional individuals.

Best of the Rest

Watford to sell shares: English soccer team Watford has offered fans the chance to buy shares in the club in a bid to help sign new players and return to the Premier League.

The second-tier Championship club was last in the top flight in 2022 and was once owned by Elton John.

It is offering supporters the chance to buy a total stake of around 10%, saying the money will partly be used to fund transfers.

Watford said in a statement on Tuesday that it had been exploring investment opportunities and was aiming to raise 17.5 million pounds (\$22.4 million).

"Part of the funding will be channeled into recruitment to strengthen the plan to issue shares, it also warned fans of the risk in investing.

"Don't invest unless you're prepared to lose all the money you invest," it said. "This is a high risk investment and you are unlikely to be protected if something goes wrong." (AP)

Kenya intensify training: Kenya's U17 women's team has intensified training this week ahead of the fourth and final round of the FIFA U17 World Cup qualifier first-leg clash against Burundi this weekend.

The team is seeking to make history as the first Kenyan national side, male or female, to qualify for a World Cup, and will play the first leg in the neutral venue of Ethiopia on Sunday.

The Junior Starlets will then host Burundi in Nairobi a week later on June 16, with the aggregate winner qualifying automatically to represent Africa at the Women's U17 World Cup that will be played in the Dominican Republic in October.

Speaking on Tuesday in Kenya's capital Nairobi, team members said they were wary of the threat carried by their east African rivals, but were inspired by the prospect of making history.

"The opportunity to qualify for the World Cup is immense for our careers. The scouting opportunities are immense, and it will be a game-changer for both my life and my family," said midfielder Halima Imbachi.

Defender Lorine Ilayonga echoed the sentiments, declaring that the team is determined not to blow the opportunity of playing at a global stage. (Xinhua)



The distinguished athletes display their awards.

Injured Nole withdraws from the 'French Open'

Gauff, Swiatek to meet in semifinals

PARIS, June 4, (AP) - Novak Djokovic withdrew from the French Open with an injured right knee on Tuesday, ending his title defense and meaning he will relinquish the No. 1 ranking.

The tournament announced the news, saying Djokovic has a torn medial meniscus in his right knee. The extent of the injury was found during an MRI exam a day after Djokovic was hurt during a fourth-round victory against No. 23 Francisco Cerundolo that lasted five sets spread across more than 4 1/2 hours.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion was supposed to face two-time French Open runner-up Casper Ruud in the quarterfinals on Wednesday. Instead, Ruud gets a walkover into the semifinals, where he will face No. 4 Alexander Zverev or No. 11 Alex de Minaur.

TENNIS

Djokovic's knee had been bothering him for a couple of weeks before he arrived at Roland Garros - something he kept to himself until after the win against Cerundolo. Early in the second set Monday, Djokovic tweaked his knee and took a medical timeout. A trainer worked on the joint then and during subsequent changeovers, and Djokovic took what he said a tournament doctor told him was the maximum dose of pills allowed to dull the pain and reduce any inflammation.

"I don't know what will happen tomorrow - or after tomorrow, if I'll be able to step out on the court and play," the 37-year-old Djokovic said after Monday's win. "You know, I hope so. Let's see what happens."

He needed to get back to the title match in Paris to retain his hold atop the ATP rankings.

Coco Gauff and defending champion Iga Swiatek will meet in the French Open semifinals after victories Tuesday.

No. 3 seed Gauff came back to defeat Ons Jabeur 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 to reach the final four at a third consecutive Grand Slam tournament. No. 1 Swiatek followed in Court Philippe Chatrier with a 6-0, 6-2 victory against Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova to stretch her Roland Garros winning streak to 19 matches as she seeks a third trophy in a row in Paris and fourth in five years.

Gauff won her first major title at the



Poland's Iga Swiatek plays a shot against Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic during their quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

Swiatek said. "But I guess Coco is not easy. She really likes playing on clay, especially here. I'll just focus on myself and I'll prepare tactically and we'll see."

Overall, Swiatek has won 10 of 11 meetings against Gauff, including a 6-4, 6-3 semifinal win on clay last month en route to the Italian Open title.

Other than a tough three-set triumph over four-time major champion Naomi Osaka in the second round last week, Swiatek has been at her dominant best in this French Open, showing why she has led the WTA rankings nearly every week since April 2022 and is a popular pick to leave with another title.

Take away the 17 games Osaka managed, and Swiatek has dropped a total of only 11 games in her other four matches so far.

Swiatek followed up her 6-0, 6-0 shutout of Anastasia Potapova in the fourth round by grabbing the initial seven games against Vondrousova.

"I felt," Swiatek said, "like I was in the zone."

And make no mistake: Vondrousova is no slouch. In addition to being a Grand Slam champion, she was a finalist at Roland Garros in 2019, won a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics and is currently ranked No. 6.

But she never stood a chance against Swiatek, who compiled 25 winners to just 10 unforced errors. Swiatek, a 23-year-old from Poland, faced just one break point - and, naturally, she saved it.

"Everything worked. I feel like I've been serving better than in previous rounds, so that gave me an extra boost of confidence," Swiatek said. "I could just play my game and really go with my tactics and not really overthink anything."

Jabeur's mix of speeds and spins gave Gauff fits at times. And as well-known as Gauff is for her ability to cover the court and play defense, Jabeur managed to keep coming up with winners, finishing with 30 in all.

"She was playing really well the whole match. She was hitting a lot of winners on me, which is something I'm not used to against anybody," Gauff said. "So today I was just trying to just be aggressive toward the end."

Gauff pulled away to a 5-2 lead in the last set, then needed a trio of match points to close things out, acknowledging afterward that maybe she grew a little tight down the stretch. In the last game, Gauff needed to save a break point, before Jabeur dismissed one match point with a disguised drop shot that earned a roar from the stands. The 29-year-old Tunisian responded by putting her right index finger to her ear.



Serbia's Novak Djokovic clenches his fist after holding his service game and reaching 5-5 in the fourth set during his fourth round match of the French Open tennis tournament against Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

U.S. Open in September, then made it to the semifinals at the Australian Open in January. The 20-year-old American was the runner-up to Swiatek at the French Open in 2022.

"It's good to just keep going and not think about this match as something huge - just another match - to not put too much baggage on your shoulders."

Oaktree's era begins in earnest

Marotta named new Inter president

MILAN, June 4, (AP) - Inter Milan's new American owner Oaktree appointed veteran director Giuseppe Marotta as the club's president on Tuesday as the investment firm began its reign in earnest.

Marotta is one of the most experienced directors in Italian soccer and has served as Inter's chief executive since joining the club in December 2018. That was shortly after leaving Juventus following eight highly successful years with the Bianconeri as CEO and director general.

Oaktree also appointed six new members to the club's board of directors at a shareholders' meeting in Milan.

"I would like to thank Oaktree for the trust they have shown in giving me this opportunity to work alongside them and the board," Marotta said in a statement. "This appointment is an acknowledgement of the fantastic work of the many people who have run the club over the last three years. I am proud to be part of Inter and remain committed as ever to the club."



Marotta

SOCCER

ing failed to meet a deadline of repaying a debt of nearly 400 million euros (\$434 million), stemming from a three-year loan.

The American fund now owns 99.6% of Inter, with the rest belonging to minor shareholders.

"Our goal is to ensure the long-term prosperity of the club by focusing on stable operational and financial management and sustainable growth," new board member Alejandro Cano said in his opening speech at the shareholders meeting, as representative for Oaktree.

"In this sense, the last few years of great victories provide us with a solid foundation. This AGM is the starting point for a new program of work."

Mbappé is arguably European Championship biggest scoring threat

Depleted leadership, new-look defense make France vulnerable

PARIS, June 4, (AP) - Leadership never used to be an issue for France.

Les Bleus lined up at major tournaments with a designated leader in each position: Goalkeeper Hugo Lloris, defender Raphaël Varane, midfielder Paul Pogba and forward Antoine Griezmann.

They played together at every major tournament from 2014 onward, with the exception of the 2022 World Cup which Pogba missed because of ongoing right knee problems. As well as being top-level players, the foursome ensured a vocal presence in each area of the field.

Only Griezmann remains. The long-serving captain Lloris and Varane have retired from international soccer and Pogba - who scored in the 2018 World Cup final win - has seen his career plummet.

Once so inspirational, Pogba was banned for four years by Italy's anti-doping court this year after testing positive for testosterone. Being without Lloris, Varane and Pogba deprives coach Didier Deschamps of a combined 329 international matches.

At least he still has Griezmann for the European Championship.

The 33-year-old Griezmann was voted the best French player playing abroad, beating Real Madrid midfielder Aurélien Tchouaméni and Arsenal

defender William Saliba.

Griezmann scored a hat trick for Atletico Madrid on May 15 and enjoyed his best season for goals at club level since 2018, the year he scored in the World Cup final along with Kylian Mbappé.

Mbappé, who will join Real Madrid next season after seven seasons at Paris

Saint-Germain, has been France's captain since Lloris retired from Les Bleus. But in the minds of many observers Griezmann - an ever-present under Deschamps - is the natural leader.

But the support he needs from the rest of an uneven lineup remains in flux. New bodies have replaced Lloris, Varane and Pogba in the lineup but not

their authority. Not yet, anyway.

At least scoring shouldn't be a problem.

Griezmann's passing, shooting ability and 44 international goals provide extra ammunition to go with Mbappé's considerable firepower.

Mbappé is arguably the tournament's biggest scoring threat. He already has 46 international goals and after friendly games against Luxem-

SOCCER

bourg and Canada he may be closer to Thierry Henry's tally of 51. Olivier Giroud is France's all-time leader with 57 goals but the 37-year-old striker is no longer a guaranteed starter in his last international tournament.

Meanwhile, the uncapped Bradley Barcola offers a speedy threat from the left wing.

"He has the ability to make a difference," Deschamps said.

Not conceding goals could be a bigger issue. It's the first time Deschamps enters a major tournament without the reassuring presence of Lloris. AC Milan's Mike Maignan should start a major tournament as the No. 1 goalie for the first time, although he is nursing a finger injury.



In this file photo, France's N'Golo Kante controls the ball during the World Cup 2022 Group D qualifying soccer match between France and Kazakhstan at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France. (AP)



South Africa's captain Aiden Markram throws the ball towards the stumps after fielding it at the boundary during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match between South Africa and Sri Lanka at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in Westbury, New York. (AP)

Sports

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

Bowlers dominate in big wins for South Africa, Afghanistan

Sri Lanka blown away for 77

WESTBURY, New York, June 4, (AP): Sri Lanka was blown away for 77 by South Africa and Afghanistan skittled Uganda for 58 as the bowling attacks dominated in lopsided wins Monday at cricket's Twenty20 World Cup.

Anrich Nortje's career-best 4-7 set South Africa up for a six-wicket opening victory and Fazal Haq Farooqi's maiden five-wicket haul - he returned 5-9 - helped Afghanistan to a 125-run win over tournament newcomer Uganda.

South Africa overcame its own hiccups on the two-paced pitch to reach 80-4 with 3.4 overs to spare at the purpose-built Nassau County Stadium on Long Island.

South Africa's best bowling per-

formance in tournament history also included pace bowler Kagiso Rabada's 2-21, spinner Keshav Maharaj's 2-22, and fast bowler Otneil Baartman's 1-9 in his second T20.

Opener Kusal Mendis top-scored for Sri Lanka with a 30-ball 19, one of only three scores in double figures. The Sri Lankans were dismissed in 19.1 overs.

Skipper Wanindu Hasaranga took 2-22 but South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen remained calm to finish off proceedings for the Proteas with an unbeaten 19.

"We did well to restrict them to a low score," man-of-the-match Nortje said. "It was an up-and-down wicket, so it was important to get early wickets. These drop-in pitches are tough to bowl on."

Tougher to bat on. Sri Lanka opted to bat first and misread the variable bounce.

Baartman had Pathum Nissanka caught behind for 3. Nortje removed

Kamindu Mendis, caught at square leg on 11. Hasaranga was surprisingly promoted to No. 4 but was stumped for a two-ball duck. Next ball, Maharaj bowled Sadeera Samarawickrama for a golden duck. Sri Lanka lost its last four wickets for nine runs across 27 deliveries.

In hindsight, on a pitch that didn't

CRICKET

allow for the usual big T20 hits, Sri Lanka would have been competitive with a total of 100.

"To be honest this was a 120-run wicket, especially with our bowlers," Hasaranga said.

South Africa made a poor start in front of the crowd of 12,562, losing opener Reeza Hendricks (4) in the second over.

Quinton de Kock scored 20 runs off 27 balls before Klaasen and David Miller combined for 22 off 21 balls.

At only 4.2 runs per over, the match featured the lowest run-rate in a T20 World Cup.

At Providence, Guyana, openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz (76) and Ibrahim Zadran (70) put on a 154-run opening stand that set Afghanistan on course for 183-4. Farooqi took two wickets on consecutive balls in the first over and narrowly missed another chance for a hat-trick as Uganda tumbled to the fourth-lowest total at a T20 World Cup.

The contrast between the teams was starkly demonstrated with the second ball of each innings

Gurbaz drove the second ball of the match for a six.

Ronak Patel was bowled on the second ball of Uganda's reply by Farooqi. Uganda captain Brian Masaba had won the toss and decided to field in the hope that an early tournament trend would continue - chasing teams won the first four matches. That streak has ended.



Kuwaiti players hold final training session in Kolkata.

Kuwait hold final training in Kolkata ahead of key qualifier against India

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KOLKATA, June 4: Kuwait will hold its final training session at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata this evening, ahead of its crucial match against India on Thursday, in the fifth round of Group A of the joint Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico, and Canada, and the 2027 Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia.

The Kuwaiti recently concluded a week-long training camp in Bangkok, Thailand. During this camp, Portuguese coach Rui Pinto focused on preparing all players and testing multiple tactics to ensure the team is ready to achieve a positive result and continue their journey in the qualifiers successfully.

Qatar has already secured the first qualification spot for the decisive stage of the World Cup qualifiers and a place in the Asian Cup finals, leading the group with a perfect score of 12 points. Kuwait, with 3 points, is competing with India and Afghanistan (also 3 points each) for the second qualification spot.

Tonight's training session is expected to reveal the lineup Pinto will use against India. The coach has emphasized maintaining secrecy during this sole practice session.

Pinto has selected 26 players for the

national team roster, including Mohamed Dahham, Faisal Zayed, Youssef Nasser, Al-Hoshan, Sami Al-Sanea, Fahd Al-Hajri, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Reda Hani, Mashari Ghanam, Rashid Al-Dossari, Khaled Ibrahim, Abdul Aziz Wadi, Eid Al-Rashidi, Mubarak Al-Fannin, Bandar Bouresli, Hamad Harbi, and Salman Buramiya.

SOCCER

Salman Al-Awadi was excluded from the list due to receiving a red card during the recent Asian Cup finals in Qatar, and Moaz Al-Asmaa has been chosen to replace him.

Jamal Al-Otaibi, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Football Association and head of the national team delegation in Bangkok, confirmed that the camp proceeded according to plan. Al-Otaibi expressed confidence that the players are aiming for a satisfactory result against India to please Kuwaiti fans eager to see their team succeed internationally.

He also extended his gratitude to the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Thailand, Muhammad Al-Failakawi, for his support in facilitating the team's mission during the camp and for visiting the training sessions to ensure everything was progressing as planned.



Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz plays a shot against Uganda during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana. (AP)

'A dream come true'

Real complete signing of Mbappe on 5-year contract

MADRID, June 4, (AP): Kylian Mbappe is finally a Real Madrid player.

Madrid said on Monday it reached a deal with the France star for the next five seasons, bringing together one of soccer's top talents and its most successful club.

Madrid did not release any financial details. It also didn't immediately say when it will officially introduce Mbappe, who is with France preparing for the European Championship.

The announcement came after years of flirtation by Madrid with the player who inherited the status of the best in the game from Lionel Messi.

"A dream come true," Mbappe said on X. "So happy and proud to join the club of my dream. Nobody can understand how excited I am right now. Can't wait to see you, Madridistas (Madrid fans), and thanks for your unbelievable support. ¡Hala Madrid!"

SOCCER

The post, with the message written in English, Spanish and French, was accompanied by photos of a young Mbappe wearing a Madrid jacket while visiting the club. One photo was with Madrid great Cristiano Ronaldo.

The club also posted a video on its website showing Mbappe highlights. At the beginning, a voiceover says, "Are you watching closely?"

The 25-year-old World Cup winner joins a Madrid team that is already loaded with talent and still celebrating its latest European triumph - and sixth in 10 seasons.

Just two days ago, Madrid won a record-extending 15th European Cup title when it beat Borussia Dortmund 2-0 in the Champions League final in London.

Mbappe joins a team that already features young stars in Vinicius Junior,

Al-Saraawi raises concerns over funding delays

KUWAIT CITY, June 4: Muhammad Al-Saraawi, the General Secretary of the club and the Kuwait Diving and Rescue Federation, voiced concern over the Sports Authority's delay in disbursing financial allocations and sports sabbaticals. He highlighted the potential negative impact on diving teams' participation in world championships and the players' ability to engage in tournaments. Al-Saraawi emphasized the pivotal role of securing adequate funding and providing sports sabbaticals for players in fostering the development



Al-Saraawi

Rodrygo and Jude Bellingham.

His signing could revive Madrid's "galatico" squads, when it had some of the world's top players including Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane, Brazil's Ron-

aldo, David Beckham, Luis Figo and Karim Benzema, among others.

The current Madrid players were quick to welcome their newest teammate.



PSG's Kylian Mbappe celebrates after the French Cup final soccer match between Lyon and PSG at the Pierre Mauroy stadium in Villeneuve d'Ascq, northern France. (AP)

national diving teams adequately. He concluded by urging the Sports Authority to prioritize providing financial support and fulfilling sports obligations for national teams, given the significance of diving as a sport, with players representing the nation in global championships.

Furthermore, Al-Saraawi called for athletes and national teams to be prioritized, stressing the importance of allocating all necessary resources to enable them to achieve success and represent the country effectively on the international stage.

"Welcome to the best club in the world," forward Brahim Diaz said.

"I don't know if we won the Champions League on Saturday or if we won it today with Mbappe's signing," former Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas said.

Until now, Mbappe has played club soccer only for French teams - first at Monaco and for the past seven seasons at Paris Saint-Germain, which he left as a free agent after it failed to persuade him to renew his contract. Mbappe didn't take the option for an extra year on the deal he signed two years ago.

Monaco wished Mbappe success and posted a photo of the player as a youngster holding Monaco's jersey in front of several posters of Madrid players, including Ronaldo.

The Spanish league said "a new star in the universe of Real Madrid."

In 2021, Madrid was rejected after offering PSG a bid of 180 million euros, the same amount PSG paid Monaco for a teenage Mbappe earlier.

Al-Kandari attends conference

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

RIYADH, June 4: Rashid Al-Kandari, President of the Kuwaiti Triathlon Federation, represented Kuwait at the recent General Assembly of the Asian Triathlon Confederation and the Asian Confederation Conference. The assembly, chaired by His Highness Prince Faisal bin Jalawi, President of "Asian Triathlon," also included the West Asian Triathlon Meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, held from early June to the 4th of the same month.

Al-Kandari described his participation in these triathlon assemblies as positive and successful, emphasizing their aim to foster the development of triathlon across Asia and the Western region. Key figures such as Mrs. Marisol, President of the International Triathlon Federation, Mrs. Zita, Head of the Technical Committee, and Antonio, Chairman of the Competitions Committee, were present to support this endeavor.

During the meetings, the location for the upcoming Asian Championship was determined to be in Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia, while the date and venue for the West Asian Championship,



Rashid Al-Kandari - President of the Kuwaiti Triathlon Federation

slated for December, was set for Fujairah, UAE.

Al-Kandari further noted Kuwait's candidacy for membership in the competitions committee of the Asian Triathlon Federation, affirming the Kuwaiti Federation's unwavering support for triathlon tournaments across Asia. He also highlighted the signing of a cooperation agreement with Central Asian countries, aligning them with the West Asian Federation.

Best of the Rest

Vinicius deserves Ballon d'Or:

Neymar has backed Vinicius Junior to win this year's Ballon d'Or after the Real Madrid forward played a leading role in his club's UEFA Champions League and La Liga triumphs.

Vinicius was named the Champions League's player of the season after scoring six goals and assisting five in 10 matches.

The 23-year-old also netted 15 times and provided six assists in 26 La Liga appearances in 2023-2024.

"We have a wonderful relationship, I love Vini," Neymar said during a fundraising event for his Neymar Institute in Sao Paulo on Monday.

"He's a great friend that football has given me and he had a great season, he played so well. I'll definitely be rooting for him to win the Ballon d'Or, I don't think there's any other player that has matched him." Neymar also spoke of his frustration at spending months on the sidelines as he recovers from a serious knee injury.

The 32-year-old Al Hilal star has not played since suffering a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament and me-

nisus of his left knee in October. (Xinhua)

Essex cricket charged: Essex County has been charged by England's cricket regulator with failing to address alleged "systemic" racist language and conduct at the club for a decade.

"It is alleged by the cricket regulator that there was systemic use of racist and/or discriminatory language and/or conduct at Essex, during the period between 2001 and 2010, which Essex failed to address," the cricket regulator said in a statement on Monday.

Essex said on Monday it had fully cooperated with the cricket regulator, and it intended to "participate willingly" with the cricket discipline commission which will hear the case on dates yet to be decided.

In 2021, allegations of racist language and conduct made by Jahid Ahmed, Zoheb Sharif and Maurice Chambers were investigated by King's Counsel Katherine Newton, who gave her commissioned report to Essex. (AP)