



Soccer
Pages 15 & 16



KUWAIT REMINDS CITIZENS, EXPATS TO BOOK APPOINTMENTS

Biometric fingerprint must for all transactions



Ministry of Interior photo
Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Saud Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, Minister of Interior, and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Nationality Affairs presides over a meeting of the Central Agency addressing the situation of illegal residents (Bedoun).

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf chairs meeting to address Bedoun issue

Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Saud Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, Minister of Interior, and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Nationality Affairs presided over a meeting of the Central Agency addressing the situation of illegal residents (Bedoun). The meeting was attended by Saleh Al-Fadala, President of the agency.

The General Department of Relations and Security Media at the Ministry of Interior released a statement Tuesday, detailing the event. Present at the meeting were Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain, Undersecretary of the

Interior Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and members of the agency's Board of Directors.

During the meeting, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef extended his gratitude and appreciation for the efforts and dedication demonstrated by the Central Agency. He emphasized the importance of upholding national identity and unity, aligning with the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The agenda included discussions on various topics, a review of the agency's ongoing efforts, and deliberation on emerging issues, leading to several key decisions. (KUNA)

Iranians mourn Raisi, other officials in funeral procession

Amir's representative heads to Iran for condolences

KUWAIT CITY, May 22, (KUNA): The Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, on Wednesday departed to Tehran to offer condolences on demise of the president, His Excellency the Ayatollah Dr. Ebrahim Raisi -- the President of the friendly Republic of Iran.

Meanwhile in Iran, thousands of Iranians took part on Wednesday in a funeral procession for the deceased president Ebrahim Raisi and other officials who met their fate in a helicopter crash over the weekend.

The waves of people including women clad in black chadors and carrying portraits of Raisi thronged the streets and roads around Tehran University paying respect to the deceased. Prayers for the dead were held at the university premises.

The coffin of the deceased president would be transported to the city of Mashhad, while the foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, who also died in the crash on Sunday, would be laid to rest in a cemetery in the Tehran region.

The president and the foreign minister lost their lives in a crash of a helicopter that transported them to the site of inaugurating a dam with neighboring Azerbaijan in the far north.

On Tuesday, members of Iran's Assembly of Experts for Leadership elected Mohammad-Ali Movahedi Kermani as the president of the council with a majority of 55 votes out of 88 for a duration of two years.

The official state television broadcasted the proceedings of the council's first session of the sixth term, during which Kermani, 93, was elected as the president of the council.

The 88 members of the council are elected directly by citizens for a term of eight years, the lat-



MoFA photo
Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya heads to Tehran to offer condolences.

est elections took place at the beginning of March, coinciding with the legislative elections.

The Assembly of Experts for Leadership Council -- a significant constitutional body -- is responsible for electing and removing the Supreme Leader of Iran in case of incapacity or loss of leadership qualifications, as well as supervising

his performance.

According to the law governing the elections of council members, they must be well versed in Islamic Jurisprudence and identify who meets the leadership criteria, additionally, the winning candidate must also be knowledgeable about politics and social issues.

EPA unveils new version of Beatona portal

KUWAIT CITY, May 22, (KUNA): The Environment Public Authority (EPA) launched on Wednesday the new version of Kuwait official environmental portal Beatona (Our Environment).

Acting Director General of the authority Dr. Samira Al-Kandari said that this portal includes reliable environmental information about the Kuwaiti environment, pointing out that the relaunch is a step towards achieving Kuwait's 2035 vision for environmental data.

She added that the authority launched an advanced environmental monitoring system based on geographic information (eMISK) in 2010 to monitor and evaluate Kuwait environment in accordance with the Environmental Protection Law Which the authority is working to develop in several stages to include

geographic database.

She stated that this database includes integrated data and information regarding the Kuwaiti environment and links decision-makers in all parts of the country through this system to enable them to access data, analyses, and maps of environmental indicators, direct monitoring stations, and a group of interactive web applications.

Al-Kandari affirmed the authority's commitment to achieve Kuwait 2035 vision for environmental data through concerted efforts between various entities in the public and private sectors to achieve sustainability and environmental balance.

The portal was launched for the first time in 2012 as part of the environmental monitoring information system.

Kuwait urges full implementation

'N-security vital for denuclearization'

VIENNA, May 22, (KUNA): Kuwait's Permanent Representative to UN Office at Vienna (UNOV) Talal Al-Fassam on Tuesday underscored the importance of ensuring nuclear security which is direct relation with the denuclearization effort.

Today's world witnesses accelerated and unprecedented developments that jeopardize the international peace and security, Ambassador Al-Fassam said in a speech to the closing session of the Ministerial Segment of the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future.

Over the past years, the emerging nuclear risks reached alarming levels in several parts of

the world that require effective solutions, Kuwait representative pointed out.

He reiterated Kuwait call for full and effective implementation of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the related amendment which are considered to be an important step towards countering counter the threat of nuclear terrorism and other malicious acts.

Recognizing the crucial importance of nuclear security, the State of Kuwait joined the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the amendment in 2016, and the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of

Continued on Page 5

Grace period updated

KUWAIT CITY, May 22, (Agencies): The Ministry of Interior announced on Wednesday that all transactions for citizens and expatriates will be stopped if the concerned persons have not done the biometric fingerprint.

Day by Day

THE words of HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah resonated with brilliance during the meeting with the Council of Ministers when he said, "I will oversee your performance and hold accountable any underachiever."

Such profound statements deserve to be etched in golden letters, as they stand unparalleled among the declarations of past leaders. States are founded upon the bedrock of justice, guided by the wisdom and efficiency of their leaders.

Today, Kuwait is embracing the epoch of modern state-building. It is an era characterized by decentralized decision-making centers, where the influence of dominance holds no sway.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

All must book an appointment via Sahel application and those who speak English should use Meta app before heading to the assigned fingerprinting centers.

Those who do not take an appointment in advance will be turned back.

The grace period for citizens' fingerprinting has been extended until September 30, 2024. For expatriates, the period expires on December 30, 2024.

First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Al-Sabah took this decision to ease and accelerate the biometric fingerprint process for citizens and expatriates.

To streamline the process, locations and working hours have been allotted at the personal identification sections in the Criminal Evidence General Department at the Interior Ministry.

The ministry urged all those concerned to book their appointment before visiting the designated centers.

No exit or legalization after June 17 deadline, says Mol

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Ministry of Interior has announced that it will not allow those who violated the Residency Law to leave the country or legalize their status after June 17 -- the humanitarian deadline it set for violators to leave or

amend their status without paying fines.

Security sources confirmed to the daily that the ministry will intensify its campaign against the Residency Law violators once the deadline ends, indicating it will pursue those who violated the law and then deport them.

Continued on Page 5

Contributions earn praise

Kuwait backs women's rights at UN discrimination session

GENEVA, May 22, (KUNA): Kuwait on Tuesday heaped praise on the contributions of its women as an ad hoc UN committee gathered to discuss the progress of global efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

The need for "constructive dialogue" is paramount to push forward efforts aiming to clamp down on all practices seen as discriminatory against women, Kuwait's permanent representative to the UN Ambassador Nasser Al-Hain told the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Geneva, in which he underlined his country's firm backing for women's rights and empowerment.

Kuwaiti women were feted just five days earlier on a special day dedicated to their accomplishments at home, which include, but are not limited to, their full-fledged political rights, the Kuwaiti diplo-



KUNA photo
Kuwait's permanent representative to the UN Ambassador Nasser Al-Hain.

mat underlined, highlighting the event as encapsulating state-wide efforts to establish gender parity.

Accounting for 51 percent of the national population and 58 percent of the workforce, respectively, Kuwaiti

Continued on Page 5

'Best development project'

KFAED honored at Cairo ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has been awarded the Abdlatif Youssef Al-Hamad Development Award for the best development project in the Arab world.

The award was presented by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development during the 2024 Annual Joint Meetings of Arab Financial Institutions held in Cairo.

In this regard, Mr. Waleed Shamlan Al-Bahar, Acting Director General of the Kuwait Fund, stated in his speech

to the attendees, "Receiving the Abdlatif Youssef Al-Hamad Development Award for the Bahr Al-Baqar project not only reflects the success of the Kuwait Fund in its developmental efforts in the Arab region but also represents a celebration of the collective efforts of Arab development and financial institutions that have contributed to changing the lives of millions of people in the Arab world and beyond."

Al-Bahar added, "Our development efforts are far from over, as developing countries still need the support of the international community to achieve their developmental ambitions. Furthermore, the environment still requires our care, innovation, and commitment to leave a legacy that will inspire future generations."

Additionally, Al-Bahar praised the achievements of Abdlatif Youssef Al-Hamad in the field of development work and the pioneering role he played in establishing the foundations of Arab joint collaboration over the past six decades in the field of economic and social development at the regional and international levels. He added that these contributions have enhanced Kuwait's international standing as one of the most significant supporters of development through the provision of developmental and emergency relief assistance to Arab and other developing countries.

Continued on Page 5



KUNA photo
Waleed Shamlan Al-Bahar -- Acting Director General of the Kuwait Fund, receiving the award.

Newswatch

MUSCAT: Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi affirmed Kuwait's interest in supporting the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to promote and develop tourism to contribute to sustainable economic development, as a promising investment opportunity.

This came in a speech delivered by Al-Mutairi, Wednesday, during his participation

in the 50th meeting of the Regional Committee for the Middle East of the UNWTO, hosted by the Omani capital, Muscat for three days. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: As Eid Al-Adha draws nearer, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced on Wednesday it would launch a humanitarian project ahead of Eid Al-Adha, benefiting thousands of families outside of Kuwait.

Speaking to KUNA, KRCS Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas underscored the importance of the project, saying that it would bring joy and happiness to families in need. (KUNA)

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:21 Asr 15:20
 Sunrise .. 04:52 Maghrib .. 18:36
 Zohr 11:45 Isha 20:05

Local

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

Kuwait wished further progress and prosperity

PM receives congratulations from Egyptian counterpart on assuming office

KUWAIT CITY, May 22, (KUNA): His Highness Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received a phone call from Egypt's Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouly congratulating him on assuming office and government formation.

The Egyptian premier wished His

Highness the Prime Minister all the success and for the state of Kuwait further progress and prosperity.

On his part, His Highness the Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to his Egyptian counterpart for his kind sentiments that reflect the depth of the brotherly relations between the two nations.

Other Voices

An offensive statement

By Ahmad alsarraf

In a previous article, we discussed Kuwait's genesis as a state, formed by immigrants who gradually developed their own distinct identities while remaining fundamentally human.

Among them were the successful, the unethical, the virtuous, the criminal, the honest, the deceitful, and more. Court-room lobbies, police records, prisoner lists, and even residents of nursing homes for the elderly serve as testament to our shared humanity, devoid of unique odors, eloquence, appearances, or injustices towards kin.

Throughout its relatively brief history, Kuwait primarily attracted Muslim Arabs, with smaller numbers of Christians and Jews drawn by what the country offered compared to their homelands. Then, by sheer coincidence, the oil boom occurred, followed by the advent of democracy, characterized by freedoms and equality for all.

As Kuwait's oil wealth spurred urban, industrial, commercial, educational, and service sector expansions, a significant influx of expatriates with specialized skills was necessitated, alongside low-skilled laborers to fill various roles. Subsequently, some of these individuals were granted citizenship by the state.

There is no room to enumerate the virtues and advantages of WhatsApp, but like the rest of social media, it is a double-edged sword, especially if it falls into the hands of an extremist or a semi-educated person who believes that he has the right to attack others, and to say that Kuwaitis do not behave badly, and that their smell is better than the smell of some residents. Then we discover that the

person who issued this nonsense is a citizen who claims to be knowledgeable, and describes herself as a writer and journalist!

What we see from these types of tweets and others is not only offensive to them, but to all of us, and to the country as a whole. Whoever describes the resident with ugly and inappropriate descriptions is supposed to know that there is someone among them who is better than her, in character, smell, knowledge, status, and manners.

What is the meaning of these sentiments that have no validity, scientific or logical basis, and are offensive and obscene words that should not come from someone who gives herself such lofty titles and expects everyone's scent to be acceptable to her?

It is unfortunate that this condescension and this treatment of expatriates with this disgusting spirit, which may resonate with some, who are similarly ignorant, for those who came or come to work for us did not come against our will, but rather with our full consent, and in a legal manner, and this applies to the overwhelming percentage of them, of whom we are in dire need.

Ninety percent of state services, such as electricity, water, cleaning, and hundreds of others, can only be performed by these people, either due to our lack of experience or our failure to perform them. Is it strange that we ask or expect a worker to do difficult and exhausting work, under a blazing sun, and then we are surprised and deplored by the smell of sweat coming from him?

Most of them came and worked with honor and worked hard to make our lives better. It is not permissible to blame everyone for the actions of others. If any citizen had performed the same jobs, they would have produced the same body odor, which she did not like... Hmmm!

□ □ □

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

MEW prepares for summer

Ministry of Social Affairs intends to push forward several long-pending draft laws

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Ministry of Social Affairs intends to push forward several draft laws that were prepared years ago but have yet to be ratified, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting sources.

Sources affirmed these draft laws are urgently needed, as some existing laws were issued about 50 years ago and are no longer suitable for the current situation. They stressed the importance of involving representatives of public benefit organizations in drafting laws. They then cited many laws that need to be amended, including Law No. 118/2013 regarding cooperative societies and Law No. 2/2011 regarding the provision of financial support to ensure that financial aid is distributed exclusively to deserving individuals.

Meanwhile, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Services at the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Eng. Aqoul Al-Aqoul has confirmed that the maintenance contract for diesel generators is still valid and maintenance works are ongoing in preparation for the summer, reports Al-Jarida daily.

He explained the diesel generators are only used in emergencies, asserting the ministry is keen on avoiding reliance on these generators by raising awareness about the importance of conserving water and electricity. He said there will be no planned power disruption this summer.

He affirmed that the ministry, in collaboration with the Public Authority for Industry (PAI), has played a significant role in determining the cost of construction materials and air conditioning systems. He revealed the concerned technical committee -- whose members are from the ministry, PAI and several other public institutions -- will soon specify the codes for these materials and systems. He stressed that the ministry is working hard to implement eco-friendly systems in new buildings, with the aim of setting an example for other public institutions and ministries. He also stated that the

Cooperation hailed

Association to help the underprivileged

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Jarrah Al-Saleh, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwaiti Association for Needy Families, highlighted the collaborative efforts between the association and the General Secretariat of Endowments, underscoring their ongoing constructive partnership across multiple projects within Kuwait, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This cooperation is geared towards providing clothing for underprivileged families and orphans in Kuwait as part of the clothing bank initiative for 2023.

It is anticipated to benefit over 525 families in need. Al-Saleh commended the General Secretariat of Endowments for its pivotal support towards the association's charitable endeavors, aimed at bolstering internal philanthropic efforts and alleviating the hardships faced by those most deserving within the community.

ministry is identifying areas with the highest electricity consumption in different governorates.

He went on to say that the booth installed in 360 Mall is intended to raise awareness among citizens and expatriates about the importance of conserving water and electricity. He underlined the fact that Kuwait is one of the countries with the highest water and electricity consumption due to the low cost of these services compared to the production cost. He added the booth in 360 Mall encourages and guides individuals to make changes in their homes to reduce electricity and water consumption, such as using energy-saving light bulbs.



Part of the seminar organized by the Kuwait Diplomatic Institute.

Dean of African diplomatic corps hails Kuwait's aid to Africa

The dean of the African diplomatic corps and Ambassador of the Republic of Togo, Mohamed Ouro, praised on Wednesday the pioneering role undertaken by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and aid for development in 51 African countries.

The ambassador was speaking to KUNA after partaking in a seminar organized by the Kuwait Diplomatic Institute, titled "Sixty years of Kuwaiti-African relations," attended by the Foreign Minister assistant for the Institute Af-

fairs, Ambassador Nasser Al-Sebeeh, and heads of foreign diplomatic missions.

Ambassador Ouro said the Kuwaiti-African relations are distinguished with brotherly and strong bonds, based on fruitful cooperation, citing the endorsement of various accords, visits' swaps by senior officials and diplomats.

The cordial dialogue organized by the institute on the 60th anniversary of the distinguished ties is a good opportunity to examine means of fostering these relations further, he

said. The State of Kuwait hosts 34 African diplomatic missions, the largest entity of the sector in the country. Kuwait, for its part, maintains up to 17 missions in the African continent.

He valued Kuwaiti investments in Africa at USD 28 billion and the trade exchanges volume at more than USD 10 billion.

KFAED, for its part, has contributed 500 loans worth USD 10 million to fund development projects in Africa. (KUNA)

Capital governor urges redoubled efforts for reform & development

Sheikh Abdullah Salem chairs first coordination meet

KUWAIT CITY, May 22, (KUNA): Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, the Governor of the Capital, reiterated the necessity of redoubling efforts on the path of reform and development to realize the vision of the political leadership for growth and progress. He emphasized that everyone is actively engaged in laying the groundwork and devising solutions to current challenges in strict adherence to laws and regulations.

These remarks were made in a statement issued by Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali following his chairing of the inaugural coordination meeting on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by officials from various government agencies within the governorate.

Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali underscored the importance of collaborative efforts and continuous coordination between the governorate and relevant government bodies to achieve concrete and practical solutions aligned with aspirations for the future. He emphasized the pivotal role of partnership and cooperation in expediting progress and shaping a promising tomorrow.

"We are confronted with significant challenges, and it's imperative to foster a unified team spirit to propel our capital, Kuwait, to its rightful position," Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali remarked. He expressed gratitude to all participants for their unwavering commitment to translating plans into tangible reality and overcoming obstacles to fulfill ambitions.

The meeting was attended by Major General Khaled Fahd, the Acting Chief of the General Fire Force, Engineer Muhammad Al-Adwani, the Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Industry, and several officials from the governorate, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Kuwait Municipality, Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, and Public Authority for the Environment.

Farwaniya 'governor' meets KFF delegation

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Azbi Al-Nasser recently met with a delegation from Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), reports Al-Jarida daily.

The delegation included Director of Farwaniya Department at KFF Brigadier Muaz Al-Hamadi, Director of Prevention Department Brigadier Abdullah Husain Al-Doussari, Brigadier Ali Al-Adwani, Brigadier Mohammad Al-Mehaimed, Brigadier Hesham Al-Banai, Brigadier Mohammad Jawad and Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Fairouz.



Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem chairs the meeting.



Ambassador of Iraq.



Ambassador of France.

First Deputy PM, envoys discuss developing ties

Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah discussed with ambassadors means of enhancing relations and developing

joint work with friendly countries.

In a statement on Wednesday, Chief of the General Staff said that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef separately received Ambassadors of Iraq, Tajikistan, Azer-

baijan, France, Spain, Hungary, South Korea and Turkey.

They discussed issues of mutual concern and the recent regional and international developments, it said. (KUNA)

'Arab financial institutes vital for joint Arab co-op'

Kuwait minister proposes 10 percent of Arab Fund profits directed to Palestine

By Mohammad Al-Mutairi

CAIRO, May 22, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait proposes that 10 percent of the profits from the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development would be dedicated to the support of Palestine, said a Kuwaiti minister on Wednesday.

Speaking to KUNA on the sidelines of the Joint Annual Meetings of Arab Financial Institutions 2024, Kuwait Minister of Finance, and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Dr. Anwar Al-Mudhaf indicated that the proposal was approved by the attendees.

He indicated that the meeting also discussed a score of issues including a paper from the 15th annual meeting of the Arab Finance Ministers, which touched on the challenges and dangers facing financial policies in the Arab region in general and Kuwait in specific.

Minister Al-Mudhaf is heading the Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting, which also includes executives and members from the Kuwait Arab Fund for Economic Development (KFAED).

Meanwhile, Director of the Arab Planning Institute Dr. Abdullah Al-Shami affirmed on Wednesday the importance of Arab financial institutes in achieving joint Arab cooperation.

This came in a statement for KUNA on the sidelines of the annual joint meetings for Arab financial institutes held in Cairo.

"The keenness of Arab financial institutes and organizations to participate in these meetings comes to achieve the purpose of integration, cooperation and development," said Al-Shami.

On scientific and economic planning, Al-Shami said that the planning is increasing according to

the vision of developed countries, whereas all existing agreements come as part of a scientific framework and strategies in that matter.

On his part, Chairman of the Board of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, Fahad Al-Dousari said that Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) is an active and supportive member of the bank's operations.

"KFAED is one of the important funds that we look for in any financing operations in the GCC. It is important to achieving sustainable development goals in the Arab countries, whether Asian or African," he said.

"The Arab Bank finances the public and private sectors in cooperation with funds in the GCC, the Arab Bank contributed to more than USD 13 billion to support African countries as well as to support Arab-African cooperation," he added.

KUNA photo

KUNA photo

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Decision to dissolve Assembly reflects strong leader's wisdom'

"FOLLOWING a period marked by escalating tensions, numerous political disputes, undemocratic rhetoric, and recent threats of unjust interrogations, coupled with the backdrop of parliamentary instability, citizens were unsurprised upon hearing the televised address by His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may God protect him, offering a solution."

Dr Ghadir Al-Asiri wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.



Dr Ghadir Al-Asiri

"The announcement regarding the dissolution of the National Assembly and the suspension of certain constitutional provisions was not unexpected.

"Among the key points emphasized by His Highness was the need for a comprehensive review of the democratic process, acknowledging the challenging times Kuwait has faced, which have led to a negative reality characterized by actions contradicting the established constitutional principles.

"His Highness made it clear that constitutionalism and democracy should not be exploited to undermine the state, stressing that the welfare of the Kuwaiti people is a sacred trust that must be safeguarded.

"The recent informal meetings held by newly elected representatives, prior to their oath-taking, in a manner inconsistent with the norms of a modern civil state, have raised concerns.

"These meetings, which often involved attempts at interference in decision-making processes and exclusion of elected female representatives, were deemed clear violations of political protocol.

"Furthermore, the recurring threat of unconstitutional interrogations aimed at excluding certain ministers added to the atmosphere of uncertainty.

"The decision to dissolve and suspend the Assembly, while not unprecedented, reflects a need for political reform, as witnessed in Kuwait's history, particularly following similar actions in 1976 and 1986.

"It is evident that democracy, as practiced, requires correction to align with modern principles of social justice and equitable representation.

"Many who champion democracy often restrict people's freedoms through legislation that serves narrow interests rather than the common good. Instances of premature victory declarations and celebrations, even before official election results are announced, highlight the need for a more civil and transparent electoral process, free from biases and factionalism.

"The decision to suspend the Assembly reflects the wisdom of a strong leader who understands the country's needs at this critical juncture.

"Amid regional competition and external security challenges, it is imperative that Kuwait prioritizes security, stability, and urgent development to enhance its standing on the international stage."

Also:

"In the previous article, I talked about the importance of informing children, the effects associated with the messages addressed to them, and the controls on the child's use of the tools to receive those messages," columnist **Shaima Nabil Al-Mulla**, wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Today, I discuss the phenomenon of the absence of Arab investment in media directed to children, as we notice a significant decline in the Arab programs, films, and magazines for children that we used to see previously, and I mention it here, for example, Iftah Ya Simsim, the Majid magazine, Al-Arabi Al-Saghir, and others, although I mentioned them previously.

"What is striking is that most of the Arabic magazines, programs, or series for children were and are still issued by governmental or official bodies, which has made them lose their flexibility and ability to keep pace with the rapid changes in the media space.

"In addition, the majority of those who supervise these bodies are not specialists and are not prepared to supervise targeted work. Some of the successes achieved for children are attributed to some of them, such as the experience of the Joint Program Production Foundation for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries when it released the series "Open Ya Simsim" in full cooperation with private parties, as the foundation's primary role focused on financing and logistical facilities, while teams of specialists supervised the management of the work and its Arabization of culture, values, society and environment. And it's not just language, because the work is basically taken from an American series called Sesame Street.

"This opens the door to a wide question: Why this Arab failure to invest in the field of children's media and entertainment, and why this great failure by Arab official and private

bodies to fund institutions managed by specialists in childhood psychology, capable media professionals, veteran educators, and research centers working together to produce programs, series, and films... and other Arabic content, culture and social values?"

"What makes matters even more strange is that this field is a field that generates financial profit and large investments are pumped into it at the global level, while we see this suspicious reluctance in our Arab world despite the capabilities, to the point that most of these media messages directed at the Arab child have become Arabized messages with translation or dubbing only.

"Therefore, it transmits a value, social and cultural system that does not belong to their society and environment, which creates a shift or value confusion in them and negatively affects their psychological competence."

□ □ □

"The law of capitalism: let it work... let it pass. From the mid-1940s until the dawn of the 1990s, two equal powers ruled and controlled the world -- the Soviet Union and the United States of America. The Soviet Union collapsed and disintegrated in 1991, leaving the United States as the only superpower in a world that had become unilateral after being bilateral," columnist **Suad Fahd Al-Mojil** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Regardless of the agreement or disagreement on which of the two systems is preferable, the balance at that time is between a socialist economy based on the production of goods and services directly for use, and a capitalist economy in which goods are produced for profit, and indirectly, for use. This is in addition to an economy that calls for public ownership of the means of production, an economy in which all elements of production are privately owned. We say that between two such disparate economies, the world was living in a reasonable balance. However, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the fall of its economic project based on public ownership turned the entire world into a purely capitalist system, through which private ownership began. Then, huge and gigantic corporations started to run the world, instead of formal political systems.

"At the end of the 1970s and the beginning of the 1980s, the influence of giant multinational companies doubled and began to invade Europe. Great Britain had a large share here, as the Thatcher-Reagan project appeared at the time to privatize the public sector, resulting in high prices and deterioration of public services later.

"In that era, the term 'Americanization' of the world appeared, referring to the conquest of the world by major American companies. The term later developed and transformed from 'Americanization' to 'globalization', but the aim remained the same -- dominance of multinational corporations over the world's economy to later become the driving force in the economic system and international politics, with enormous material and human potential and influence linking the East to the West, and the North to the South.

"Today, in light of capitalist economic influence, in which people are evaluated according to their purchasing power and are considered commodities like all other consumer goods, the world is led and managed by several giant companies, which control the media, politics, economy, public and private sectors, political positions, international systems and organizations, social relations, and everything.

"These companies have no geographical locations, flags or national anthems, yet they have assets, money, real estate, stock exchanges, stocks and currencies. Some of these companies are virtual and some are tangible like Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Tesla, Google, Nestle, Coca-Cola, and others. They own the armies, most of which have become mercenaries that receive salaries from huge multinational companies. They are the ones who own all the audio-visual media and advertising companies. In other words, these companies own the entire world today, so they manage, govern and control it. Whoever imagines otherwise is either oblivious or ignorant.

"Today, capitalism has triumphed. With it, the idea of the superman was established in everything: superior in brands, superior in hamburgers and fast food, and superior in guided bombs. With them the first law of capitalism is established: 'Let him work, let him pass.' Or in other words, only the strongest survive in everything -- money, weapons, power and influence.

"As for others, they are no more than commodities that can be sold and exchanged, including political systems that we imagined were strong, powerful and influential. They are subject to the law of Tesla, Twitter and others."

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes**



Rescuing an injured person during the mock drill.

Al-Jarida photo

Move to test readiness to tackle fire incidents

DGFD conducts 'emergency drill' at Farwaniya specialized dental center

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: In a collaborative effort with the Ministry of Health's Medical Emergency Department, the Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) recently conducted mock drill at the Farwaniya Specialized Dental Center in the Ardhiya area, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Fire Department's Public Relations and Media Department revealed that the scenario for the drill simulated a fire outbreak on the ground floor of the dental center.

Upon receiving the simulated report, the Al-Ardhiya Al-Harfi Fire Station swiftly mobilized to the site.

Upon arrival, firefighters immediately initiated the evacuation process and commenced rescue operations for individuals injured during the incident.

Emergency medical technicians worked alongside firefighters to ensure coordinated efforts in attending to the injured and managing the situation effectively.

The exercise aimed to test the readiness and response capabilities of emergency personnel in dealing with potential fire emergencies in public facilities. Such drills are vital for enhancing preparedness, coordination, and response efficiency in safeguarding public safety and minimizing risks during real-life emergencies.

3 Kuwaitis among six to get assets frozen

Court jails Egyptian doctor to 5 years

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Criminal Court sentenced an Egyptian doctor to five years in prison for impersonating a Kuwaiti, entering Kuwait with the latter's passport, and changing her gender and features to resemble the face of the citizen.

According to the case file, the doctor was accused of stealing the citizen's passport, and then she changed her facial features to resemble those of the citizen's face. When she entered Kuwait, the passport officer got suspicious of her accent and the tone of her voice. She was arrested at Kuwait International Airport as she was returning from her country.

The lead investigation officer revealed that the doctor works in the gynecology field and opened a clinic to treat drug addicts. She received large sums from the families of her patients.

She also used the passports of some patients whose features are similar to hers and she used the passport of the citizen most of the time.

Investigations revealed that the doctor traveled to several countries on a Kuwaiti passport and she entered Kuwait once in this manner.

She was arrested during the second attempt and was referred to the Criminal Investigation Department, which referred her to the Public Prosecution. She was charged with illegal entry into the country, illegal use

of official documents and electronic forgery. Meanwhile, the Criminal Court has sentenced former Fourth Constituency candidate **Musaed Al-Qarifa** to four years in prison with hard labor for insulting the top leadership.

The Public Prosecution had earlier ordered putting Al-Qarifa in pretrial detention on charges of insulting the authority of the Amir in a symposium he held at his electoral headquarters when he ran for the 2024 National Assembly election.

The prosecution stated that it had interrogated the accused about the clips of his speech published on social media.

PP orders to freeze assets: Public Prosecutor **Saad Al-Safran** recently issued a directive to freeze the assets of three Kuwaitis, two Qataris, an Egyptian and three companies involved in Public Funds Embezzlement Case No. 19/2018, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Safran took this decision after the presentation of the case, completion of investigations; as well as the review of penal laws and their amendments, criminal procedures and trials and their amendments, protection of public funds, and combating money laundering and financing terrorism.

The decision stipulates freezing the accounts of the defendants in local and foreign banks operating in the State of Kuwait or will be deposited therein in the future, as well as the securities deposited in these accounts, investment funds, investment portfolios and entities licensed by the Capital Markets Authority or will be deposited therein in the future.

PAFN destroys 77 kg food items

158 'encroachments' on state property removed

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations Department has announced the removal of 158 encroachments on state property across the areas of Khaitan, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, and Al-Firdous. These encroachments included various awnings and barriers, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a related statement, the Governor of the Capital emphasized the commitment to intensify efforts in alignment with the political leadership's vision for growth and development. The municipality's supervisory bodies in all governorates will increase inspection tours to address encroachments in both investment and commercial areas.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) closed some food establishments and issued dozens of violation citations in various governorates over the past few days, reports Al-Jarida daily.

It added that the inspectors in Hawally Governorate issued nine violation citations, uncovered 10 miscellaneous violations and destruction of food items weighing 55 kilograms; while the inspectors in Salmiya issued nine violation citations, destruction of food items weighing 22 kilograms and closure of one food establishment.

Inspectors in the Capital Governorate issued 15 violation citations for non-compliance with public sanitation rules and regulations, employer's failure to provide the inspection record card to the authority's employees upon request.



Al-Rai photo

Some of the encroachments being demolished.

Appeal in case filed by Al-Tijari

Legal milestone: judicial ruling enhances investor safeguards

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: A significant judicial ruling, recently underscored the legal safeguards protecting investors' funds and shareholders' interests in Kuwait's financial market, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The ruling, issued on appeal in a case filed by Al-Tijari (Capital Markets) against a delisted company, marks a milestone in enhancing economic and investment security.

The ruling emphasizes the pivotal role of the Capital Markets Authority in ensuring strict supervision, with investors empowered to seek recourse through litigation in cases where their funds are jeopardized by board of directors' practices.

In this instance, the court ruled in favor of compensating an injured shareholder for violations committed by the delisted company's board, enhancing the market's reputation and bolstering investor confidence.

Crucially, the ruling establishes the principle of shareholders' right to hold board members accountable for mismanagement, as mandated by Article 201 of Law No. 1 of 2016.

This provision holds board members responsible for fraud, abuse of power, violations of law or company contracts, and managerial errors. Shareholders are entitled to seek compensation for financial and moral damages resulting from such actions.

Furthermore, the ruling clarifies that liability under Article 201 may be individual or shared among board members.

Those objecting to decisions leading to liability can be exempted from responsibility if their objection is recorded. Notably, joint-stock companies have the right to file liability lawsuits against board members for damages caused by fraud, abuse of power, or managerial errors.

This landmark ruling affirms shareholders' rights to pursue legal action against board members for clear errors or negligence in company management, ensuring maximum protection for investors and promoting compliance with regulatory standards.

□ □ □

Appeal hearing July 10: The Consultation Chamber of the Constitutional Court, has accepted the appeal submitted by **Muhammad Jassim Al-Saqr** demanding the invalidation of Law No. 122 of 2023 regarding the Chamber of Commerce, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The appeal will come up for hearing on July 10. The court also ruled not to accept the appeal demanding that voting in the elections be limited to Article 1 holders only, which was submitted by **Nasser Al-Nasrallah**.

In another case, the Constitutional Court ruled that the dispute in all electoral appeals have ended, with the exception of the appeal submitted against the membership of **MP Ahmed Al-Fadl**, which it ruled inadmissible.

Move to protect consumers

'Commerce' steps up efforts to combat trademark fraud

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: **Rashid Al-Owaihian**, the Controller of Trademarks and Patents at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, emphasized the detrimental effects of trademark imitation, citing its role in deceiving consumers and perpetuating commercial fraud through the sale of poor-quality, counterfeit, and non-original goods, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This not only harms consumers but also inflicts financial losses on original brand owners and companies.

Al-Owaihian underscored the pivotal role of trademarks in fostering competition and sustaining the commercial sector. Protecting trademark owners is essential for facilitating advertising and familiarizing the public with products, he explained, stressing the importance of trademark registration.

Al-Owaihian outlined the ministry's proactive approach to combating trademark imitation, including conducting inspection campaigns to identify and penalize offenders.

According to the law, imitation of trademarks can result in imprisonment for one month to three years or financial penalties to compensate for damages incurred.

Regarding the ministry's plans for enhancing its operations, Al-Owaihian revealed ongoing efforts to strengthen the monitoring and protection of industrial intellectual property. This includes the development of a comprehensive violations system to electronically track and prosecute offenders, ensuring strict adherence to legal provisions.

By implementing robust measures to safeguard trademarks and patents, the ministry aims to uphold consumer trust, promote fair competition, and safeguard the interests of original brand owners and businesses in Kuwait's market.



WEDDINGS, UPTO 140



AUDITORIUM



BUFFET



ANNIVERSARY



BIRTHDAY



KIDS CELEBRATION

WE ARE BUDGET-FRIENDLY

MUGHAL MAHAL

FAHAHEEL

Weddings | Seminars | Conferences | Celebrations

Sea view | Ample car parking

For more enquires Call: 23911174 / 23911175

Mr. Jack: 97644421

Email: fahaheel@mughalmahal.com

info@mughalmahal.com

Kuwait, UNHCR unite for global aid

Workshop boosts digital marketing for humanitarian assistance

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Protection Officer at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Amal Al-Baidh has confirmed, on behalf of UNHCR Representative Nisreen Rabiean, that the UNHCR is keen on working closely with the Kuwaiti governmental and private agencies and institutions in various fields.

In a statement on the sidelines of the workshop that UNHCR organized recently under the auspices of the Foreign Affairs Minister and with the theme, 'Digital Marketing in the Service of Humanitarian Issues: Strategies for Successful Campaigns,' Al-Baidhi asserted: "We look forward to strengthening partnership with the attendees in various projects of common interest; such as relief, shelter, food, water and sustainability, especially in protecting human dignity."

She said this cooperation is the continuation of the humanitarian journey of the State of Kuwait in line with the objectives of UNHCR. She affirmed that the State of Kuwait, with its governmental and private sectors, have always been the first in terms of humanitarian response to all vulnerable peoples around the world.

She added that in 2014, the United Nations granted the State of Kuwait the title, 'International Center for Humanitarian Work', and His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as the International Leader for Humanitarian Work.



UNHCR representative listens during the workshop. Photos by Rizk Taufiq



Photo during the workshop that UNHCR organized under the auspices of the Foreign Affairs Minister.

She pointed out that with conflicts and disasters on the rise over the past years, the latest estimates indicate that the number of refugees and forcibly displaced people has increased to approximately 110 million around the world.

She stated "the humanitarian situation in the Middle East is one of the largest crises at present, with more than 60 percent of forcibly displaced people around the world in our region and the vicinity of our region. The UNHCR calls for intensifying efforts to reach common solutions that provide assistance to these refugees."

On the other hand, Regional Head of Private Sector Partnerships for the Middle East and North Africa Nader Al-Naqeeb said the Kuwaiti society is a benevolent society. "We are proud to work with Kuwait, as evident in the titles it has obtained," he asserted.

He explained "the idea of our meeting is to frame this charitable work, as there are approximately 114 million displaced people around the world. Their number was less than half of the current number 10 years ago. This only shows that crises are continuing. We are here to exchange experiences and cooperate with each other."

He pointed out that UNHCR is present in more than 132 countries with about 18,000 employees -- 91 percent of whom work in the field and in disaster

and conflict areas. "This has enabled the commission to help more than 60 million refugees rebuild their lives. It would not have been possible without the help of the public and private sectors," he revealed.

He believes the workshop demonstrates the power of digital marketing in intensifying humanitarian efforts and the necessity of integrating modern tools into daily transactions to enhance the innovative strategies in order to communicate and interact with the target audience of donors and supporters more effectively.

He added that through initiatives and conferences, UNHCR looks forward to supporting the refugees and develop ways of cooperation with partners in Kuwait towards distinctive ideas that serve humanitarian work to alleviate the burdens under which many of the most needy refugees and displaced persons are suffering; as well as shedding light and raising awareness on the needs of refugees and displaced persons and the challenges they face daily.

Amir congratulates Yemen on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT CITY, May 22, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable to Yemen's President Rashad al-Alimi congratulating him on his country's national day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the Yemeni

President everlasting health, also wishing that security, peace and stability prevail throughout Yemen. Additionally, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable to Yemen's President Rashad al-Alimi congratulating him on his country's national day.

Kuwait envoy highlights key role

'Upcoming China-GCC forum will be crucial for enhancing cooperation'

TOKYO, May 22, (KUNA): The forthcoming China-GCC forum will be a crucial event for moving forward mutual cooperation between Beijing and the Arabian Gulf states, said the State of Kuwait Ambassador to China Jassem Al-Najem.

Al-Najem, in a statement to KUNA on Wednesday, said the China-GCC Forum for Investment and Industry, due to kick off on Thursday in the city of Chai Min, would involve Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar. The forum will substantially boost efforts for bolstering the GCC-China cooperation at the industrial and investment levels, the ambassador said.

Moreover, it will be in line with the initiative declared by the Chinese President Xi Jinping during the Gulf-China Summit, held in December 2023, that essentially called for boosting economic and business cooperation between the two parties.

Ambassador Al-Najem affirmed keenness of the State of Kuwait and the other GCC member countries to engage in the upcoming event for enhancing the strategic partnership with China.



KUNA photo H.E. Jassem Al-Najem, the State of Kuwait Ambassador to China.

GCC countries' ministers of finance, commerce and economy are scheduled to partake in the forum, signaling yet another step forward on the path of the developing relations between the two sides.

The GCC, established in the early 80s of the past century, comprises Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. The bloc was set up to enhance regional cooperation at diverse levels.

Al-Yahya emphasizes dedication and global awareness

Foreign Affairs Minister oversees diplomatic training

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya paid a visit to the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute to oversee the progress of the training course aimed at advancing diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from the rank of first secretary to advisor, reports Al-Jarida daily.

During the visit he engaged with the trainees to review the curriculum and training programs provided by the institute.

During discussions with those attending the course, Minister Al-Yahya underscored the importance of dedication, diligence, and the application of acquired knowledge and experience in their forth-

coming roles.

He emphasized the necessity for them to stay abreast of evolving regional political dynamics and global challenges and wished success in completing their course and entering a new phase of diplomatic service, promoting Kuwait's interests on the global stage.

Additionally, the Minister met with new recruits at the Kuwaiti Diplomatic Institute to familiarize himself with their training and qualification programs for future roles within the Ministry.

He encouraged them to persevere in maximizing the benefits of the Institute's programs, urging commitment towards achieving their educational goals.



KUNA photo The Minister of Foreign Affairs during his visits at the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Kuwaiti Diplomatic Institute.

823 participants engage in contests

MoE organizes annual tech competitions

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Ministry of Education's Technical Supervisory Department for Computer and Information Technology organized the annual competitions for the 2023/2024 academic year with four categories and participation of 823 students and teachers from 621 elementary, preparatory and secondary schools, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In the boys' competition titled "Movie Maker" for elementary schools, Mishal Al-Hejjawi took first place, followed by Ali Al-Shnawi in second place and Hassan Al-Qattan in third place.

In the girls' competition for elementary schools, Nada Al-Azmi came in first place, Nora Al-Anzi in second place and Fatima Al-Shemmari in third place.

The competition for preparatory schools for boys and girls centered around the GIMP program. In the boys' category, Nawaf Wazeer secured the first place, Abdullah Al-Badri came in second and Badr Mustafa claimed the third place. Among the girls, Malak Omar came in first, Hour Al-Rashedi in second and Wasan Al-Massoudi in third.

In the secondary schools' competition, Mubarak Al-Rashedi and Hadi Al-Rashedi took the first place for the boys. Abdulrahman Jad and Ibrahim Al-Otaibi secured the second place, while Badr Qasem and Houmad Al-Rashdan came in third. Among the girls, Fatima Ali and Mariam Al-Rashid claimed the first place, Yasmeen Al-Sayed and Hanin Abdulghafar secured the second place, and Remas Marafi and Mariam Shanaa took the third place.

In the innovative teacher competition, Dua'a Al-Sawi from Nouria Al-Sabeeh School for Girls and Munira Al-Shatti from Khawla Preparatory School for Girls came in first place.

In another development, the ministry

Int'l gold & jewelry exhibition kicks off

KUWAIT CITY, May 22, (KUNA): Kuwait International Fair Company (KIF) launched on Wednesday - continues until Monday - the activities of the 21st International Gold and Jewelry Exhibition at the International Fairgrounds with the participation of 200 local and international companies.

CEO of Marketing and Merchandise within Kuwait International Fairs, Basma Al-Duhaim said in a statement that the exhibition is considered as one of the most prestigious and successful annual gold and jewelry exhibition in the Middle East region.

The exhibition offers businesspeople and entrepreneurs to market their jewelry and connect with likeminded people and a good opportunity for competition to present a wide range of different and unique lavish designs.

She pointed out the participation of exhibitors from several countries besides Kuwait, including Bahrain, the UAE, Qatar, Lebanon, Turkey, Italy, the US, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong and India.

emphasized in a statement that the implementation of the flexible working hours system continues. It also clarified that there are no changes in the fingerprint system for employees, except for those assigned to tasks related to exams outside their schools.

albander
hotel & resort

May

Room Promotion

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

Promo period from 2nd May to 31st May 2024

Terms & conditions apply*

Modern rehabilitation facility redefines healthcare standards

Al-Awadhi inaugurates innovative physical therapy center at Adan Hospital

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi inaugurated the physical therapy building at the new Adan Hospital in the presence of a number of Ministry of Health officials and specialists in this field.

Al-Awadhi said the physical therapy building is one of the nine buildings in the new Adan Hospital project, indicating it is about 35 percent bigger than the current Physical Therapy Department.

He revealed the building consists of three main sections – men, women and children sections; with three floors, ground floor, basement, three hydrotherapy pools and three exercise halls for men, women and children.

He added the ministry started receiving the first stage of the project in January; which include the maternity and childhood building with 637 beds, 21 operating rooms, 16 facilities and a technical department; a building for general and specialized surgery; a building for physical therapy and rehabilitation; and a building for parking for visitors that can accommodate 580 cars.

He also confirmed receipt of Ahmadi Health District Administration Building, which includes a separate building for parking that can accommodate about 1,983 cars, a strategic storage building with an area of about 12,000 square meters, a building for engineering affairs and power generators, and a medical gasses building.

He said there is a separate multi-story building for parking with a capacity



Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, inaugurates the physical therapy and rehabilitation building at Al-Adan Hospital.

for about 1,083 cars and about 200 parking spaces for people with special needs.

Meanwhile, Assistant Undersecretary for Support Medical Services Affairs Dr. Abdullah Al-Faras disclosed that the Physical Therapy Department at the new Adan Hospital will provide physical therapy and rehabilitation services; such as treating and rehabilitating bone and joint pain, fractures and sports injuries through hydrotherapy or modern therapeutic methods and devices.

The department also provides therapeutic and rehabilitation services for

patients after suffering from stroke, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis (MS) and other medical conditions that may affect movement.

Al-Faras added that the department includes clinics for balance, women's health, rehabilitation of children who suffer from delayed growth, Down syndrome and fracture cases.

He confirmed that the department provides occupational therapy, speech therapy, gait analysis laboratories, spinal physical therapy clinics, therapeutic services, and research and educational services for researchers and specialists.

Municipal Council pushes subcontractor regulation

Proposal targets quality and protection for owners

By Enas Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Municipal Council member Abdullatif Al-Daei has submitted a proposal to license and classify subcontractors in private residential buildings.

In the preamble of the proposal, Al-Daei stated that the residential contracting sector is one of the most important economic sectors in the country and it is witnessing an active and permanent movement, especially with the establishment of new residential cities.

He confirmed that subcontractors play an important role in completing projects in this sector, as the finishing works and electro-mechanical services are not less important than the 'black framework' and constitute approximately 60 percent of the costs of building a house while it takes a longer period than the duration of implementing the black work.

However, most of the works in residential plot projects are carried out by individual contractors who do not have any classification or legal status at Kuwait Municipality. Many problems surface due to the lack of quality assurance, exploitation of plot owners and their exposure to fraud without oversight or penalties against subcontractors, Al-Daei

explained.

He called for amending Administrative Resolution No. 161/2009 regarding the classification and licensing of construction and demolition contractors in the Municipality, provided the licensing and classification of subcontractors includes various services and finishing works.

He said the classified subcontractor should obtain a special identity card to practice the profession stating the name, civil number, classification category, classification number, and a barcode that is linked to the contractors' register on the Municipality's website for the owner to verify the validity of his license and look into his previous work registered at the Municipality.

He stated this is in addition to coordinating with the Ministry of Commerce, Public Authority for Manpower, Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Ministry of Interior and other concerned authorities to develop a mechanism to license, classify and monitor subcontractors, set penalties, and impose penalties on violators.

He clarified that the goal of the classification in his proposal is for plot owners to have the option of contracting with licensed subcontractors who are classified according to experience, competence and financial capabilities.

He affirmed this will improve the quality of finishing works and services, protect the rights of plot owners and subcontractors, regulate the residential contracting sector, establish a database of subcontractors, evaluate the competence and experience of contractors, and monitor them.

Turning neglect into opportunity

Municipal Council member Al-Jader advocates transforming yards into secure parking zones

By Enas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Municipal Council member Fahad Al-Abd Al-Jader has presented a proposal to put some yards in Shuwaikh Industrial Area under the management of the Public Facilities Management Company to be used as parking lots for neglected and damaged cars for a limited period until they are repaired or disposed by their owners.

He suggested that the use of these parking lots will be at nominal fees to encourage vehicle and garage owners to park their cars on these lots. He said the proposal will give more security to garage owners and prevent thefts of vehicles or their parts.

He explained that he thought of the proposal, because the dirt yards in the area are full of abandoned and damaged cars, as well as the indiscriminate use of the owners of garages, factories and other nearby shops, which distort

15 wedding halls will be handed over to individuals, cooperative societies

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: A total of 15 wedding halls will be handed over to individuals and cooperative societies to operate them in accordance with the regulations, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources from the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Sources revealed the ministry is currently accepting requests from individuals and organizations interested in managing the wedding halls in line with Ministerial Decision No. 41/2024. Sources confirmed that the ministry is coordinating with the State Properties

Directorate to start signing the contracts.

Sources added the requirements for running these halls include ensuring regular maintenance, installing surveillance cameras, prohibiting sub-renting and investments, using the halls only for relevant purposes, complying with the regulations set by the concerned institutions such as Kuwait Fire Force and Kuwait Municipality, and commitment to fair pricing for services provided to citizens in order to protect them from exploitation.

the general view. He pointed out that the large number of empty and unregulated lots in area, and the temporary closure of some of them by the Capital

Municipality branch until they are beautified or multiple parking lots are established, led to congestion of sidewalks and streets.



Members of the 'Partners to Employ Them' initiative flocked to the participating sectors.

Kuwait backs

Continued from Page 1

women have contributed immensely towards economic development and the local job market, he added, citing his country as among the longest-standing CEDAW members, having first signed back in 1994.

Kuwait has routinely compiled its national report on measures the country has taken against the discrimination of women, the last of which coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, which had seen women at the forefront of state efforts to curb the spread of the virus through their participation in various initiatives, he said.

In a testament to its unflinching belief in women's rights and empowerment, Kuwait has gradually modified relevant legislation in a bid to keep abreast of global developments on the matter, while simultaneously keeping intact the advancements made in the protection of women's rights, added the diplomat.

The Foreign Ministry initiated in 2019 a department for human rights affairs out of belief in the importance of prioritizing human rights issues on

national and international scales. The department is headed by Ambassador Jawaher Al-Sabah who was unable to join us today due to private reasons. The Ministry also set up the national standing committee for reporting, and following up, on recommendations related to human rights under ministerial decree No. 54 for December 19, 2019. The committee works out regular and irregular reports on human rights situations in the State of Kuwait.

The Ministry issued ministerial decree No. 191 for December 4, 2023, on setting up the national committee on the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on "women, peace, and security." The committee is tasked with drawing up the policies, programs and strategic plans for the implementation of the women's agenda. It aspires to work out regular reports and present them to the UN, which could include them in the Secretary General's annual report. The committee organized a number of workshops in this regard in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA).

In cooperation with the Kuwaiti Union of Women's Associations, the Ministry sponsored in February 2024 the regional conference on Arab women, security and peace - challenges facing

women in the Arab world, under the theme of "stop the aggression on Gaza now, not tomorrow."

In keeping with Kuwait's voluntary undertakings in the framework of its membership at the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2024, the Ministry organized an expanded meeting of the national committee on reporting and following up on human rights issues, and several civil society organizations in early 2024 to exchange views on human rights.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the Beirut-based UN Human Rights Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA), organized in May 2024 a training workshop for some NGOs to build their capacities regarding the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The State of Kuwait has been paying much attention to empowering Kuwaiti females in all fields, in light of combating all types of discrimination against women, Al-Hayen affirmed. The State's policy towards enabling women to get positions in all fields was shown in providing opportunities in oil, the State's main economic pillar, in which they have achieved tangible accomplishments and valuable contributions in this vital sector, Al-Hayen added.

UN commends Kuwait's empowerment efforts

National initiative launches 5th batch of career forum for people with disabilities

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Public Authority for Disabled Affairs, in partnership with the Human Construction Institute, launched the career forum for the fifth batch of the national initiative 'Partners for Employment' to support people with disabilities, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The event was held under the patronage of the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Like Al-Huwaila.

Acting Director of the Authority, Al-Humaidi Al-Mutairi, expressed the significance of this event as part of the ongoing efforts of the initiative for the training year (2023/2024).

He highlighted the mission of unifying visions and consolidating efforts to train, qualify, and facilitate employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Following a year-long training program,

100 graduates are now seeking suitable job opportunities, particularly in the private sector and banking institutions.

Al-Mutairi emphasized the initiative's objective to empower individuals with disabilities and integrate them into society as active contributors through strategic partnerships and quality training programs aligned with job requirements. Notably, the initiative has garnered support from various stakeholders including the General Authority for Minors' Affairs, the Union of Banks, Kuwait University, and the Ministry of Youth.

Looking ahead, Head of the Office of the Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Nasser Al-Shatti, expressed appreciation for the initiative launched five years ago, and underscored the importance of supporting the integration and empowerment of individuals with special needs through institutional partnerships.

House Living hospitality Group
Job Vacancy
Luxury Hotel staff Required
 Join our Pre-Opening team at our new Life style hotel in Kuwait City
 We are seeking the following positions:

Reception Manager
Requirements:
 • Proven experience as a Reception Manager or similar role in a luxury hotel.
 • Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
 • Strong organizational and leadership abilities.
 • Ability to work flexible hours, including weekends and holidays.

Executive Housekeeper
Requirements:
 • Previous experience as an Executive Housekeeper in a high-end hotel.
 • Excellent organizational and time management skills.
 • Ability to lead and work within a team.
 • Knowledge of cleaning products and procedures.

Accountant
Requirements:
 • Proven experience as an Accountant, in hotels.
 • Strong knowledge of accounting regulations and procedures and software

Maintenance Supervisor
Requirements:
 • Previous experience as a maintenance supervisor in hotels.
 • Ability to lead a team of maintenance officers.
 • Excellent service skills in dealing with guests and co-workers.

Interested candidates are invited to send their resume at hr@houseliving-kw.com

No exit or
 Continued from Page 1
 Sources pointed out that violators can amend their status through legal frameworks within the abovementioned deadline in order to avoid being pursued by security personnel. Sources also warned that those who will be deported during the intensified inspection campaign can no longer return to the country.
 Last year, the ministry arrested and deported about 40,000 Residency Law violators; and the number of violators before the amnesty was estimated at about 120,000, sources added.

KFAED honored
 Continued from Page 1
 It is worth noting that the Abdlatif Yousef Al-Hamad Development Award in the Arab World, presented by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, is awarded for the best economic and social development project in the Arab countries.
 The award aims to encourage, honour, and highlight successful development projects that have addressed existing problems and contributed to enhancing economic and social capacities in the Arab world. The first edition of the award was launched in 2022.

'N-security
 Continued from Page 1
 Nuclear Terrorism in March 2024, Ambassador Al-Fassam recalled. Since 2009, Kuwait has maintained cooperation with the IAEA and developed an integrated plan for nuclear security with all national agencies taking part.
 The plan constitutes a framework for effective implementation of an approach to nuclear safety that addresses the national needs and priorities in the short and long terms, Ambassador Al-Fassam said, noting that Kuwait attaches great importance to this plan.
 Concluding, he voiced hope that the conference will succeed in realizing its objectives for strengthening the nuclear security efforts in the face of emerging risks.

CONDOLENCES

The Owners, Management and Staff of

Al-Rashed International Shipping Co ksc

extend their heartfelt condolences to the family of

Ambady Narendran
 (Ex-Staff of Al-Rashed Shipping Co)

On his sad demise on 21st May 2024 in Kerala, India.

Let us keep the bereaving family in our prayers.

May his soul Rest in Peace

World News Roundup

Europe

'Russia waging shadow war on West': Perched on the open ramp at the rear of a British Chinook helicopter, Estonian Prime Minister **Kaja Kallas** flew home from the annual Spring Storm military exercises, pleased to see NATO allies cooperating. But she later said that other types of warfare were on her mind.

Her nation, which borders Russia, has seen a rise in sabotage, electronic warfare and spying - all blamed on Moscow.

As the war in Ukraine turns in Russia's favor, defenses are being bolstered in the front-line nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as in Finland and Poland.

Kallas says Russia is carrying out a "shadow war" against the West.

Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda urged vigilance, saying Tuesday he had information that "acts of sabotage can happen again."

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said at least nine people were recently arrested on suspicion of beatings and arson, allegedly directed by Russia's secret services, and described them as Ukrainian, Belarusian and Polish nationals, some "from the criminal world."

Not everyone sees the attacks as interconnected, Kallas told The Associated Press, despite NATO's assertion this month that Moscow is intensifying its campaign against the alliance from the Baltics to Britain. Russia dismissed that allegation. (AP)

Kyiv power grid attack causing blackouts: Sustained Russian attacks on Ukraine's power grid in recent weeks have forced leaders of the war-ravaged country to institute nationwide rolling blackouts. Without adequate air defenses to counter assaults and allow for repairs, though, the shortages could still worsen as need spikes in late summer and the bitter-cold winter.

The Russian airstrikes targeting the grid since March have meant blackouts have even returned to the capital, Kyiv, which hadn't experienced them since the first year of the war. Among the strikes were an April barrage that damaged Kyiv's largest thermal power plant and a massive attack on May 8 that targeted power generation and transmission facilities in several regions.

In all, half of Ukraine's energy system was damaged, Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said.

Entire apartment blocks in the capital went dark. The city's military administration said at least 10% of consumers were disconnected. (AP)

Russian military begins N-drills: Russia's military on Tuesday began drills involving tactical nuclear weapons that were announced by Russian authorities earlier this month in an apparent warning to senior Western officials who had spoken about the possibility of deeper involvement in the war in Ukraine.

It was the first time Russia has publicly announced drills involving tactical nuclear weapons, although its strategic nuclear forces regularly hold exercises.

According to a statement by the Defense Ministry released Tuesday, the first stage of the new drills envisioned "practical training in the preparation and use of non-strategic nuclear weapons," including nuclear-capable Kinzhal and Iskander missiles.

The maneuvers are taking place in the Southern Military District, which consists of Russian regions in the south, including on the border with Ukraine; Crimea, illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014; and four Ukrainian regions that Russia illegally annexed in 2022 and partially occupies. (AP)

Cameron hails 'progress': British Foreign Secretary David Cameron hailed progress in a UK-Albania joint effort to cut illegal migration before heading to Tirana on Wednesday.

Cameron said small boat arrivals from Albania to the UK fell by over 90% in 2023 as the two countries fought people smuggling gangs, and Britain has removed almost 6,000 Albanians, according to a Foreign Office statement.

While in Albania, Cameron will discuss the need for greater collaboration across Europe on the challenge of migration, including organized crime, Western Balkan security, and both countries' support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression, according to the statement.

The statement said "the partnership between the UK and Albania stands out as a leading example of disrupting the business models of callous people smuggling gangs, significantly reducing dangerous small boat crossings, and providing a more prosperous future for young Albanians." (AP)

Man charged with spying found dead: A man charged with assisting Hong Kong authorities with gathering intelligence in the United Kingdom has died in unexplained circumstances, British police said Tuesday.

Matthew Trickett, 37, was one of three men charged earlier this month with agreeing to engage in information gathering, surveillance and acts of deception that were likely to materially assist the Hong Kong intelligence service from late 2023 to May 2. Prosecutors also alleged that the men forced entry into a UK residential address on May 1.

The men had all been bailed and were next due to appear at London's Central Criminal Court for a hearing on Friday. They haven't yet entered pleas. (AP)

UK lawmaker back at work: A British lawmaker was returning to work Wednesday, six months after sepsis put him in a coma and forced the amputation of his hands and feet.

Conservative legislator Craig Mackinlay was due to take his seat in the House of Commons for the weekly Prime Minister's Questions session, with his wife and 4-year-old daughter watching from the public gallery.

Mackinlay, 57, recounted in a series of interviews how he was taken to hospital on Sept. 28 after feeling ill. At the hospital, he said, he turned "bright blue" as sepsis caused clotting that stopped blood getting to his limbs.

Mackinlay, who has represented the South Thanet district of southeast England in Parliament since 2015, said he plans to run to become a member of Parliament again when an election is called later in the year. He said he wants to be known as "the bionic MP." (AP)

Slovak Parliament votes to condemn violence: Slovakia's Parliament voted unanimously on Tuesday to condemn politically motivated violence following an assassination attempt on Prime Minister Robert Fico, who is recovering from multiple wounds from last week's shooting, hospital officials said.

Fico "remains conscious and communicative" and "further actions are being taken to improve his health condition," said the hospital treating him in the central city of Banská Bystrica.

The hospital says that Fico, 59, is no longer in life-threatening condition after being shot in the abdomen as he greeted supporters last Wednesday in the town of Handlova, about 140 kilometers (85 miles) northeast of the capital, Bratislava. (AP)

Germany politically motivated crimes up: Politically motivated crime in Germany last year reached its highest level since the government started tracking it more than 20 years ago, with the greatest threat coming from people with far-right motivations, the country's top security official said Tuesday.

Overall, Germany registered 60,028 politically motivated crimes in 2023. The government considers numerous acts as political including intent to hinder democracy and crimes aimed at members of certain ethnic, religious or other groups.

Right-wing politically motivated crimes increased by 23% in 2023 to 28,945 cases, of which 1,270 were violent. Left-wing crimes increased by 11% to 7,777, of which 916 were violent. (AP)



Workers search through the remains of tornado-damaged homes on May 21, 2024, in Greenfield, Iowa. (AP)

Tornado kills multiple people in Iowa as storms again tear thru Midwest

Multiple people were killed when a tornado tore through Greenfield and left a wide swath of obliterated homes, crumpled cars and splintered trees, while outside the small Iowa town, massive wind turbines were buckled and twisted to the ground by the howling winds.

After devastating the town of 2,000 residents on Tuesday, the storms moved eastward to pummel parts of Illinois and Wisconsin, knocking out power to more than 130,000 customers in the two states.

Greenfield's hospital was among the buildings

that were damaged in the town, which meant that at least a dozen people who were hurt had to be taken to facilities elsewhere, according to Iowa State Patrol Sgt. Alex Dinkla.

"Sadly we can confirm that there have been fatalities," Dinkla said at a news conference Tuesday night, without specifying how many. "We're still counting at this time."

He said he thought they had accounted for all of the town's residents but that searches would continue if anyone was reported missing. The Adair County Health System said in a Facebook post Tuesday

night that it had set up a triage center at the Greenfield high school and that people who need medical attention should go there.

The tornado destroyed much of Greenfield, which is located about 55 miles (90 kilometers) southwest of Des Moines, during a day that saw multiple tornadoes, giant hail and heavy rain in several states.

Authorities announced a mandatory curfew for the town and said they would only allow residents to enter Greenfield until Wednesday morning. They also ordered media representatives to leave the city Tuesday night. (AP)

Politics

Calif lawmaker Fong wins special election

Biden, Trump win Kentucky, Ore primaries

WASHINGTON, May 22. (AP) — US President Joe Biden and his Republican rival, Donald Trump, piled up more delegates Tuesday as both presumptive nominees won primaries in Kentucky and Oregon.

The symbolic decisions provide a few more delegates to the national conventions and a gut check on where the Democratic and Republican bases stand toward their standard-bearers as the presidential nominating season nears its end.

Even after they secured the nominations and their rivals dropped out, Biden and Trump have continued facing dissent from within their own parties. Biden has faced protest votes over his handling of the Israel-Hamas war while Trump is still seeing thousands of people voting for long-vanquished rival Nikki Haley.

Race

That trend continued Tuesday in Kentucky with about 18% of the Democratic vote going to "uncommitted" with roughly 80% of the vote counted. In the GOP race, Haley was winning about 6%.

After Tuesday, eight presidential nominating contests will remain: Democrats in Idaho, the District of Columbia, Guam and the Virgin Islands, and both parties in Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico and South Dakota.

Voters in Kentucky, Oregon, Georgia and Idaho also held state primaries Tuesday to choose nominees for the US House and other contests.

In Georgia, Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, who is leading the prosecution of Trump in a 2020 election interference case, defeated challenger

Christian Wise Smith in the Democratic primary. The judge in the case, Scott McAfee, also won his election.

In Oregon's Multnomah County, home to Portland, the progressive district attorney who took office during the social justice movement of 2020 is being challenged by a candidate vowing to be tough on crime.

Also:

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's presidential campaign said Tuesday it would begin accepting donations in cryptocurrency as part of an effort to build what it calls a "crypto army" leading up to Election Day.

The Trump campaign launched a fundraising page that allows "any federally permissible donor the ability to give" to its political committees using any crypto asset accepted through the Coinbase cryptocurrency exchange.

The announcement promotes Trump's message that he is a crypto-friendly candidate, and also appeals to a core group of young male voters who are increasingly likely to dabble in digital assets. It came as Trump's defense rested in his hush money case in New York.

Cryptocurrencies are a digital asset that can be traded over the internet without relying on the global banking system.

Trump's campaign is accepting a range of popular cryptocurrencies that include Bitcoin, Ether and US Dollar Coin, and also include the low-value coins that tend to be popular with Internet personalities like Shiba Inu Coin, and Dogecoin.

Billionaire **Elon Musk**, most notably, is considered a fan of the latter

two, traded on markets as DOGE and SHIB.

It's not clear whether the Trump campaign will hold onto the crypto or will immediately sell it, and what sort of fees it may pay to liquidate. While the campaign says it plans to follow U.S. election laws, the anonymous nature of cryptocurrencies can make it tricky to confirm the funds are coming from who they say they are.

Trump has already received millions in cryptocurrency personally through his Trump Digital Trading Cards non-fungible token projects and his MAGA coin, which was released last August.

Julia Krieger, a spokeswoman for Coinbase, told The Associated Press that "crypto is nonpartisan and moves money forward because it's cheaper and faster," adding that the Coinbase platform is open to all candidates this election season.

LOS ANGELES: Vince Fong, a California State Assembly member backed by former President **Donald Trump**, won a special election Tuesday to complete the remainder of the term of deceased former U.S. House Speaker **Kevin McCarthy**, which runs through January.

A McCarthy protegee who also had the former speaker's endorsement, Fong defeated fellow Republican and Tulare County Sheriff **Mike Boudreaux** in the 20th Congressional District, in the state's Central Valley farm belt.

Because of Trump's involvement, the race will be watched as a possible proxy vote on the former president's clout as he heads toward an all-but-certain matchup against President **Joe Biden** in November.



A cuisine creation is seen during the 9th World Championship of Chinese Cuisine in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on May 21. The 9th World Championship of Chinese Cuisine kicked off on Tuesday, gathering chefs from around the world to compete in Chinese culinary skills in the three-day competition. (Xinhua)



Giuliani



Menendez

North America

Giuliani pleads not guilty: Former New York City mayor **Rudy Giuliani** pleaded not guilty Tuesday to nine felony charges stemming from his role in an effort to overturn Donald Trump's 2020 election loss in Arizona to Joe Biden.

Ten others, including former Arizona Republican Party Chair Kelli Ward, also pleaded not guilty to conspiracy, forgery and fraud charges related to the case. Giuliani appeared remotely for the arraignment that was held in a Phoenix courtroom. His and Ward's trials are scheduled for Oct. 17, about three weeks before the US election.

The indictment alleged Giuliani spread false claims of election fraud in Arizona after the 2020 election and presided over a downtown Phoenix gathering where he claimed officials made no effort to determine the accuracy of presidential election results. (AP)

Judge dismisses convictions: A federal judge on Tuesday dismissed the felony convictions of five retired military officers who had admitted to accepting bribes from a Malaysian contractor nicknamed "Fat Leonard" in one of the Navy's biggest corruption cases.

The dismissals came at the request of the government - not the defense - citing prosecutorial errors.

Retired US Navy officers Donald Hornbeck, Robert Gorsuch and Jose Luis Sanchez, and US Marine Corps Col Enrico DeGuzman pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of disclosing information on Tuesday, while US Navy officer Stephen Shedd's entire case was thrown out. Their defense lawyers could not be immediately

reached for comment. (AP)

Menendez trial takes break: The trial

of Sen **Bob Menendez** grinded to a week-long break on Tuesday after federal court jurors who were treated to a brick-by-brick build of the prosecution's bribery case got

stuck in an elevator a day after they were forced from their usual assembly room because of flooding.

Judge Sidney H. Stein said jurors were trapped in an elevator for several minutes during what was supposed to be a 10-minute late-afternoon break that lasted almost a half hour.

The elevator breakdown came as jurors were shuttled between floors to an assembly room because carpeting in their usual assembly room just outside the courtroom was found to be soaked on Monday after somebody left sink faucets on over the weekend. As jurors left for the day, Stein humorously warned them: "Don't all get into one elevator." (AP)

Serial killer assaulted: Convicted Canadian serial killer Robert Pickton, who brought female victims to his farm during a crime spree near Vancouver in the 1990s and early 2000s, was assaulted in prison and has been hospitalized in life-threatening condition, authorities said Tuesday.

A 51-year-old inmate was in custody for the assault Sunday at a prison in Quebec, police spokesman Hugues Beaulieu said.

The 74-year-old Pickton was convicted of six counts of second-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison in 2007, with the maximum parole ineligibility period of 25 years, after being charged with the murders of 26 women. (AP)



Denmark's Queen Mary, right, and the director of Global Fashion Agenda, Federica Marchionni, explore textiles made from seaweed during the Global Fashion Summit: Copenhagen Edition at the DR Concert Hall in Copenhagen on May 22. (AP)

Lat/Am

'I can defend myself'

Ex-mayor struggles to 'construct' own image

MEXICO CITY, May 22, (AP): As she runs to replace outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, Claudia Sheinbaum is struggling to construct her own image, leaving many wondering whether she can escape the shadow of the larger-than-life incumbent.

The former Mexico City mayor and frontrunner in the June 2 presidential election has had to unquestioningly adopt the programs of the popular López Obrador as candidate of the Morena party he created and dominates. Parts of her background, however, suggest a different vision for the presidency.

Sheinbaum could turn out to be more of a "leftist" than López Obrador has been if she beats out opposition candidate Xóchitl Gálvez and Jorge Álvarez Máynez of the small Citizen Movement party on June 2.



Sheinbaum

She comes from an older, more solidly left tradition that pre-dates López Obrador's nationalistic, populist movement.

Her parents were leading activists in Mexico's 1968 student democracy movement, which ended tragically in a government massacre of hundreds of student demonstrators in Mexico City's Tlatelolco plaza just days before the Olympics opened there that year.

"She went to these schools where the 'children of '68' went, they were active-learning schools run by Spanish Republican exiles, they were free-thinking schools," recalls Antonio Santos, who has known Sheinbaum since the mid-1980s, when both were leaders of a leftist university student movement.

Popular

One of the first scenes from the documentary film about Sheinbaum - produced by one of her two children - is footage of her as a pre-teen, playing a mandolin-style instrument in one of the "folk-style" musical groups popular on the left in the late 1960s and 70s.

Sheinbaum is touchy about anyone who questions her credentials as a progressive.

Clara Jusidman, a longtime human rights activist, tried to give a presentation to her about eight years ago when Sheinbaum was serving as a borough president on Mexico City's southside.

"She answered me along the lines of 'what, do you think I haven't read anything? Do you think I don't come from a human rights background?' something like that, a very, very ugly answer," recalls Jusidman.

Analysts say such a "who do you think you're talking to?" response reflects a "respected old left family" attitude common in López Obrador's Morena party, where a few well-placed clans have captured top jobs based on how long they've backed the president, or their family history.

Sheinbaum's challenge has been to construct her own image, while not stepping outside of the long shadow of López Obrador, a legendary campaigner known for his rousing speeches and chuckling, folksy charisma.

It's been tough for the former academic with a graduate degree from Berkeley.

Reference

What her campaign has come up with so far is a single graphic image (her trademark straightened ponytail, in profile), and a couple of slogans: the straightforward "Es Claudia (It's Claudia)" and the somewhat catchier "Es Tiempo de Mujeres" (Now is the Time of Women). That's a reference to the fact that whether she or opposition candidate Xóchitl Gálvez wins, Mexico will get its first female president in June.

But to what extent can she be her own woman? López Obrador built his powerful movement around himself and his nostalgia for government-run oil, railways, and subsidy programs.

Sheinbaum has had to completely adopted these programs. But she's an energy-engineering specialist who would like to see more renewable power. As a former academic, she would probably like to see more focus on science-based solutions, rather than the outgoing president's reliance on folk knowledge and tradition.

She would like to see more police work, rather than López Obrador's near-total reliance on the army. She would like to combat the still-high levels of violence against women.

Also:

MEXICO CITY: Nicaragua's National Police appeared to confirm Tuesday that retired Gen. Humberto Ortega, brother of President Daniel Ortega, has been under guard since local media reports emerged two days earlier that police had surrounded his home.

The police said in a statement that the Health Ministry had visited 77-year-old Humberto Ortega, who suffers from heart problems, in his home and evaluated his health without ever saying why he was under police guard.

Local media reported that police showed up Sunday, the same day online news outlet Infobae published a lengthy interview with Humberto Ortega, who led Nicaragua's army during the 1980s. In it, he discussed his at times tense relationship with his brother, which more recently has included more casual conversations.

He also characterized his brother's current administration as "authoritarian, dictatorial" in explaining that when the leader of such a government dies, it is very difficult for there to be continuity with the immediate group in power.

Daniel Ortega has increased his grip on power since putting down street protests in 2018. Hundreds of thousands of Nicaraguans have fled or been forced into exile since.

GUATEMALA CITY: José Rubén Zamora has spent nearly two years locked in a dark 16-by-13-foot cell in a Guatemalan prison, allowed only one hour a day in the sunlight.

The journalist's money laundering conviction was tossed out, and last week a judge finally ordered his conditional release to await a new trial. But the 67-year-old founder of the newspaper El Periodico never made it out. Two more cases against him include detention orders.

In a jail house interview Tuesday, Zamora told The Associated Press that he had heard he would be arrested in July 2022 a week before agents came for him. But, he said, "it never crossed my mind to flee. I have to face justice because I can defend myself, because I am innocent."

International press freedom organizations have labeled Zamora's arrest and detention a political prosecution. Zamora concurs.



To Lam swears in as the Vietnamese president at the National Assembly in Hanoi, Vietnam on May 22. Vietnam's top security official Lam was confirmed Wednesday as the nation's new president. He oversaw police and intelligence operations over a period when rights groups say basic liberties have been systematically suppressed, and its secret service was accused of violating international law. (AP)

Asia

Aviation experts to begin probe of turbulence incident

Vietnam names To Lam as new president

BANGKOK, May 22, (AP): Vietnam's top security official To Lam was confirmed Wednesday as the nation's new president. He oversaw police and intelligence operations over a period when rights groups say basic liberties have been systematically suppressed, and its secret service was accused of violating international law.

Lam was confirmed by Vietnam's National Assembly after his predecessor resigned amid an ongoing anti-corruption campaign that has shaken the country's political establishment and business elites and has resulted in multiple top-level changes in government.

Vietnam's presidency is largely ceremonial, but his new role as head of state puts the 66-year-old in a "very strong position" to become the next Communist Party general secretary, the most important political position in the country, said Nguyen Khac Giang, an analyst at Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Seek

Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong was elected to a third term in 2021, but at age 80, he may not seek another term after 2026.

Trong is an ideologue who views corruption as the gravest threat facing the party. As Vietnam's top security official, Lam has led Trong's sweeping anti-graft campaign.

Lam spent more than four decades in the Ministry of Public Security before becoming the minister in 2016. His rise took place while Vietnam's politburo lost of six of its 18 members amid the expanding anti-graft campaign, including two former presidents and Vietnam's parliamentary head.

Lam was behind many of the investigations into high-profile politicians, said Giang.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh is seen as the other major contender to possibly succeed Trong, Giang said.

The current vice-speaker of Vietnam's parliament was confirmed Monday as the National Assembly speaker after his predecessor, Vuong Dinh Hue, resigned amid the anti-graft campaign. Until his resignation, Hue was also widely seen as a potential successor to Trong.

This unprecedented instability in Vietnam's political system has spooked investors as the country tries to position itself as an alternative for

companies looking to shift their supply chains away from China.

A flood of foreign investment, especially in manufacturing of high-tech products like smartphones and computers, raised expectations it could join the "Four Asian Tigers" - Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan, whose economies underwent rapid industrialization and posted high growth rates.

But the scandals and uncertainty - including the death sentence for a real estate tycoon accused of embezzling nearly 3% of the country's 2022 GDP - have brought with them uncertainty and bureaucratic reticence to make decisions. Economic growth slipped to 5.1% last year from 8% in 2022 as exports slowed.

During Lam's years heading the Public Security Ministry, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and other watchdog organizations have strongly criticized Vietnam for its harassment and intimidation of critics.

In 2021, courts convicted at least 32 people for posting critical opinions about the government and sentenced them to multiple years in prison, while police arrested at least 26 others on fabricated charges, according to Human Rights Watch.

Under Lam's watch as Vietnam's top security boss, civil society faced further curbs, foreign aid restrictions introduced in 2021 were tightened in 2023, the country jailed climate activists, and laws were introduced to censor social media, said Ben Swanton of The 88 Project, a group that advocates for freedom of expression in Vietnam.

Also:

BANGKOK: Aviation investigators arrived in Bangkok Wednesday to learn how and why severe turbulence sent a Singapore Airlines plane into a sudden dive that tossed passengers and crew around the cabin, leaving a British man dead and dozens others injured.

Twenty people remained in intensive care in hospital after Flight SQ321, which was flying from London's Heathrow airport to Singapore, hit the turbulence Tuesday over the Andaman Sea. The Boeing 777, which carried 211 passengers and 18 crew members, descended 6,000 feet (around 1,800 meters) in about three minutes, the carrier said.

The captain diverted the plane to

Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, where medical teams evaluated those aboard and sent over 80 to hospital. Singapore Airlines sent a special flight to Bangkok on Tuesday night to pick up those well enough to travel. The airline said that 131 passengers and 12 crew members arrived shortly after 5 a.m. at Singapore's Changi Airport.

Six crew members and 79 passengers stayed in Bangkok, where the majority remained in hospital, said Singapore Airlines CEO Goh Choon Phong.

Samitivej Srinakarin Hospital, where most of the injured were taken, said 20 people were being treated in intensive care while 27 others have been discharged. The ICU patients include six Britons, two Malaysians, three Australians, two Singaporeans and one person each from Hong Kong, New Zealand, and the Philippines, it said.

ELBOURNE, Australia: The Australian military has flown 115 passengers on two flights from the restive French Pacific territory of New Caledonia and a French government flight was expected to evacuate another 100 stranded passengers on Wednesday, an Australian government minister said.

Six people have been killed, including two police officers, and hundreds have been injured during recent armed clashes, looting and arson in New Caledonia.

The unrest erupted May 13 as the French legislature in Paris debated amending the French Constitution to make changes to New Caledonia voter lists. Opponents fear the measure will benefit pro-France politicians in New Caledonia and further marginalize Kanaks, who once suffered from strict segregation policies and widespread discrimination.

French President Emmanuel Macron is expected to land Thursday in New Caledonia, where Indigenous people have long sought independence. The unrest has raised new questions about Macron's handling of France's colonial legacy.

Australian citizens accounted for 84 of the passengers who were flown on two Royal Australian Airforce C-130 Hercules from the capital Noumea to the Australian east coast city of Brisbane late Tuesday, Pacific Minister Pat Conroy said.



Police escort Guatemala journalist Jose Ruben Zamora, founder of El Periodico newspaper, to court in handcuffs for a hearing in Guatemala City on May 15. Zamora has served almost two years of his six-year sentence in a money laundering case that press freedom groups decry as political persecution aimed at silencing a critical voice. Zamora denies the charge and seeks his release. (AP)



Itno



Masra

Africa

Chad transitional PM resigns: Success Masra, Chad's transitional prime minister, announced the resignation of his government on Wednesday.

The resignation, which paves the way for the formation of a new government, came a day before the swearing-in ceremony of interim president Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, who was declared winner of the May 6 presidential election.

Masra came in second with 18.54 percent of the votes.

"In accordance with the constitution, today, I have just submitted to the president of the transition my resignation as well as that of the transitional government, which has come to an end after the proclamation of the results of the May 6 presidential election," he said in a post on social media early Wednesday.

Masra was appointed prime minister of the central African country in January. (Xinhua)

'Dozens killed in clashes': Dozens of civilians have been killed so far this month in intercommunal clashes over land in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a UN humanitarian agency said on Tuesday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said aid workers are helping the injured and displaced from the deadly clashes in the northeastern province of Tshopo.

Since February 2023, the clashes have killed 740 civilians and displaced 75,000 people in Kisangani, the capital of Tshopo, according to OCHA.

The office said an OCHA-led assessment team found that food, shelter and health care are the most pressing needs for the displaced people.

It called on all involved to work together to end the violence, protect civilians and find a sustainable solution to the conflict in the country. (Xinhua)

Tunisia arrests 3 people: Tunisian authorities detained three people in a joint counter-terrorism operation in the Tunisian capital Tunis, the Tunisian National Guard

said on Tuesday in a statement. The statement, posted on the National Guard's Facebook page, said the three people were wanted by various security and

judicial agencies for being involved in a terrorist organization.

The three individuals have been taken into custody, added the statement without



A passenger, (center), arrives from Bangkok at a Singapore airport on May 22. A Singapore Airlines flight from London's Heathrow airport to Singapore was diverted and landed in stormy weather in Bangkok on Tuesday. (AP)

giving further details. Tunisia has witnessed increased terrorist activities since 2011, in which dozens of security and military personnel, as well as civilians and foreign tourists, were killed. (Xinhua)

40 villagers killed in Nigeria: Armed men attacked remote villages in north-central Nigeria, killing at least a dozen villagers during a late-night raid, authorities said Tuesday.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack which follows a similar pattern to yearslong violence in the region blamed on the fight for control over water and land between nomadic herders and rural farmers. These raids have so far killed hundreds in the region.

The local Punch newspaper cited witnesses as saying at least 40 people were killed in Plateau's Wase district on Monday night. However, government officials told The Associated Press only 12 casualties have so far been confirmed.

It is common for official figures to be less than that of witness accounts in such attacks. The attackers opened fire on villagers in Wase's Zurak community, forcing many to flee into nearby bushes, Musa Ashom, the state commissioner for information said. (AP)

oil plunges

The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by 97 cents to USD 85.36 per barrel on Tuesday vis a vis USD 86.33 pb on Monday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday. At the global level, the price of the Brent crude went down by 83 cents to USD 82.88 per barrel and the West Texas Intermediate crude went down by 54 cents to USD 79.26 pb. (KUNA)

Kuwait electric car market set for growth

A recent report by Asteut Analytica projects significant expansion in Kuwait's electric car market, with the market value expected to soar to \$1.12 billion by 2032 from \$51.2 million in 2023, representing a staggering cumulative annual growth rate of approximately 42 percent, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Several factors are driving this anticipated growth, including government initiatives promoting sustainable transportation, rising consumer

awareness of the environmental benefits of electric vehicles, and technological advancements making electric cars more accessible and appealing to a wider audience.

Kuwait's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and adopting renewable energy sources is evident in its substantial investments in electric vehicle infrastructure, such as the development of charging stations nationwide and incentives for electric vehicle purchases.

Bursa sees decline for third consecutive session

The red streak persisted for the third straight session in the Bursa Kuwait indices, accompanied by significant trading activity, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The general market index dipped by 0.19%, shedding 13.68 points to close at 7138.55 points, with liquidity totaling 58.5 million dinars while trading saw 323.6 million shares exchanged through 18,897 transactions. Of the 127 shares traded, 51 gained, 65 lost, and 11 remained unchanged.

The Premier Market Index also experienced a downturn, decreasing by 0.26%,

or 19.96 points, to settle at 7,791.36 points, with liquidity amounting to 40.3 million dinars. Trading volume reached 143.5 million shares through 9,775 transactions. Among the 33 shares traded, only 10 gained, 20 lost, and 3 remained unchanged.

Meanwhile, the Main Market index bucked the trend, edging up by 0.13%, or 7.51 points, to reach 5,976.48 points, with liquidity totaling 18.2 million dinars. Trading involved 180 million shares through 9,122 transactions. Of the 94 shares traded, 41 gained, 45 lost, and 8 remained unchanged.

Market Movements

22-05-2024

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
SAUDI	- TASI	+34.55	12,157.03	DUBAI	- DFMGI	-17.31	4,057.87
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+2.64	27,227.44	JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	-329.83	38,617.10
				PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	-26.44	6,607.22
				PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-193.21	74,912.50

Business

Enhanced technology infrastructure to drive innovation and efficiency at Burgan Bank

Burgan Bank signs core banking deal with TCS BaNCS as part of its transformation strategy

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: In continued efforts to enhance and fortify its technology infrastructure, Burgan Bank announced signing an agreement with market-leading Tata Consultancy Services to upgrade its core banking system by implementing the TCS BaNCS™ suite of products. This monumental deal marks a significant leap in Burgan Bank's expansive technology and digital transformation strategy, which aims to facilitate a smooth transition from traditional to digital banking.

It also confirms Burgan's commitment to technology and digital transformation as a primary pillar of its strategy and a core tenet of its vision to become Kuwait's most modern and progressive Bank, where customer service and employee productivity are always on an upward trajectory.

"We have embarked on a very broad technology and digital transformation journey that will create an integrated banking ecosystem; one that not only meets the current market expectations but also exceeds them," said Mr. Tony Daher, Group Chief Executive Officer at Burgan Bank. "Modernizing our core systems will support our ongoing focus on innovation and delivering value to our customers through defining personalized offerings and intuitive, streamlined experiences. This will pave the way for sustainable growth."

Mr. Venkateshwaran Srinivasan, Global Head, Financial Solutions, TCS, said: "We are pleased to partner with a progressive institution such as Burgan Bank in their transformation journey.



A group photo of Mr. Tony Daher and Mr. Fadel Abdullah with the Tata Consultancy Services team during the signing of the agreement.

TCS BaNCS has a strong presence in Kuwait and the larger GCC region in the form of multiple mission-critical deployments of our solutions at leading institutions. This selection by Burgan Bank is a testament to our continued investments

in the TCS BaNCS product suite to make it market-ready, compliant with regulations, and our commitment to successful execution."

The Bank's decision to deploy TCS BaNCS reflects its commitment to adopting the latest technology to enhance customer service and employee productivity, which resonates with Burgan's strategy and vision to become the most modern and progressive Bank in Kuwait.

With the new centralized core banking platform, the Bank has a greater capacity to innovate and launch products faster, standardize processes, enhance customer journeys, and significantly optimize operational efficiency by enhancing digitization and automation. It also enables the Bank to build better and stronger relationships with its customers, ensuring that it remains a reliable financial partner.

It serves to note that Burgan Bank remains one of the most dedicated champions of technology and digital transformation in the Kuwaiti banking and financial sector.

Under the umbrella of its digital transformation strategy, the Bank has launched numerous products and services that offer customers faster and safer ways to fulfill their everyday banking needs.

This includes the development of Burgan's flagship product, "Tijarati", an unprecedented one-stop-shop platform for merchants.

Other efforts include the introduction of virtual cards, an enhanced AI-powered chatbot assistant, and the constant development of the Bank's digital banking platform.

Zain amends articles of association at extraordinary general assembly

Quorum exceeds 81% at Zain Group assembly

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Zain Group today held an Extraordinary General Assembly with a quorum exceeding 81% that witnessed the Assembly's approval of the Board of Directors' recommendation to approve the amendment of Article 15 of the Company's Articles of Association in accordance with the requirements of Article 2-2 of Module Fifteen "Corporate Governance".

Following the Assembly's approval, Article 15 now stipulates:

"The Company shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of ten members. Each shareholder, whether a natural person or a legal entity, may appoint representatives to the board in proportion to the shares that they own. The General Assembly shall elect the remaining members by secret ballot. The number of Board members appointed in said manner shall be deducted from the aggregate number of Board members that are elected.

Shareholders having representatives on the Board of Directors may not participate with other shareholders in electing the remaining members of the Board of Directors, except in relation to those shares that exceed the percentage used for the appointment of their representatives to the Board of Directors. Subject to compliance with the provisions of the law, any number of shareholders may collaborate to jointly appoint one or more representatives to represent them on the Board of Directors in



Zain Headquarters

proportion to their joint shareholding. Appointed representatives shall have the same rights and duties as those of elected members, and each shareholder shall be responsible towards the Company, its creditors, and shareholders for the acts of its appointed representatives.

The term of membership of the members of the Board of Directors shall be three years and can be renewed. Independent Board Members shall be elected according to applicable laws and regulations whereas independent members must meet the requirements of the regulatory bodies and their number shall not exceed half of the total number of Board members. Independent members need not be shareholders in the Company. If it is not possible to elect a new Board of Directors by the scheduled date, the existing Board shall continue management of the Company's affairs pending the resolution of the relevant issues and election of a new Board of Directors."

This Extraordinary General Assembly meeting is to be followed by a call to hold an ordinary general assembly in order to elect an additional member of the Board of Directors, as a second independent member, in order to fulfill the regulatory requirements.

Zain Group recently held its annual Ordinary General Assembly, which approved the Board of Directors' recommendation to distribute cash dividends of 25 fils per share, for the second half of the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2023, noting that the group distributed semi-annual cash dividends of 10 fils per share, thus total 35 fils for 2023. This reflected a 70% payout ratio, one of the highest in the region. In 2023, Zain adopted a minimum cash dividend policy of 35 fils per share for three years.

Following the successful achievements of Zain's 4SIGHT strategy over the past five years, the company has plans to launch of a new operational strategy by the end 2024, accelerating

the opportunities in the digital arena and creating value for shareholders in new business verticals.

Zain's Board of Directors and executive management teams have worked tirelessly to overcome socio-economic regional challenges across its markets, where the company maximized value creation by investing heavily in our networks, technologies, and people. This resulted in Zain extending market leadership in many highly competitive and evolving markets.

The multiple digital transformational initiatives and expansion of new business verticals has driven business growth and positioned Zain firmly as a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle communications, delivering meaningful connectivity that empowers societies.

Zain's focus on catering to the evolving requirements of its individual, enterprise, and government customers has seen its sustainability-conscious mindset develop and proactively act with a sense of urgency, innovating to enhance the digital experiences and introduce appealing, demanded services.

Today through its state-of-the-art offering of Wholesale carrier and submarine cable services coupled with Cloud services, Cybersecurity, IoT, AI, Big Data, Smart Cities, Drones, Robotics, and other emerging technologies, Zain is paving the way to becoming the digital transformation partner of choice for governments and enterprises across the region. As a result of its efforts in offering the full spectrum of mobile, fixed, data and ICT services complemented by exceptional customer experience on all touch points, Zain saw its brand valuation increase 11% from USD 2.7 billion to USD 3 billion by Brand Finance in its 2024 global valuation report.

Rail bookings available via website & app

Kuwait Airways partners with Flex Flight to offer German Rail Services

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: As part of Kuwait Airways' efforts to develop and include new services for its esteemed customers, the company announces the signing of an agreement with Flex Flight (W2), which will enable the Blue Bird customers to book German Rail Services operated by Deutsche Bahn AG (DB) and number of cities that Kuwait Airways operates starting from 1st June 2024. This includes rail routes: Munich, Bremen, Munster, Hannover, Cologne, Duesseldorf, Stuttgart, Basel Bad, Dresden, Leipzig, Berlin, Hamburg, and Nuremberg via Frankfurt, and rail routes: German Rail (QYG) via Frankfurt or Munich or Amsterdam.

In this regard Kuwait Airways stated, "As part of its relentless endeavours to provide exceptional and diverse services to its valued customers, Kuwait Airways is pleased to announce that it has signed this important agreement with Flex Flight to book on the German Rail Services operated Deutsche Bahn AG (DB). This agreement will enhance the tourism and commercial relations between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Germany."



Kuwait Airways logo

The company added that Kuwait Airways passengers will be able to book rail services directly through the company's website or electronic application or the various reservation channels of travel agents.

Kuwait Airways reaffirms its keenness to provide the best services to its valued passengers and to enhance their experiences to reach the highest-level of qualitative services provided to them.

Private sector deposits rise by 2.9%

Kuwait sees surge in total loans, reaching KD 1.316b

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Total loans surged by 2.4%, reaching 1.316 billion dinars from the start of the year until April's end, marking an increase from 53.55 billion in December 2023 to 54.873 billion in April 2024, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Personal facilities, including housing, saw a modest 0.3% uptick, rising from 18.7 billion to 18.8 billion. Consumer facilities witnessed a notable 1.8% growth, reaching 2.004 billion dinars in April compared to 1.967

billion previously, attributed to increased employment and new market segments.

Private sector deposits soared by 2.9% since the year's onset, totaling 1.120 billion dinars, climbing from 37.34 billion in December to 38.463 billion by April's close. Conversely, government deposits in public institutions dwindled by 7.8%, decreasing from 11.3 billion in December to 10.5 billion by April's end, totaling a decline of 877 million dinars.

Council adopts decisions at 51st meeting in Egypt

Dhaman appoints Rashed Al-Haroun as Director-General of Corporation

CAIRO, May 22: At its 51st meeting in Egypt, the Shareholders' Council of the Arab Investment and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (Dhaman), chaired by the head of the Qatari delegation, adopted a set of decisions, including appointing Mr. Rashed Ahmed Al-Haroun as Director-General of the Corporation for five years from early June 2024. Nominated by the State of Kuwait and supported by the council's member states, Al-Haroun succeeded Mr. Abdullah Ahmed Al-Sabeeh, who had held the post since 2019.

The council also approved the agenda items and adopted the auditors' report for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2023, and ratified the general budget, income and expenditure.

Addressing the session, Dhaman's Board Chairman Dr. Naif Abdulrahman Al-Shammari thanked, on behalf of the council's members, Mr. Abdullah Ahmed Al-Sabeeh for the achievements he had made during his tenure, mainly the strategic plan, the growth of operations, fostering cooperation

and alliance with mediators and insurers and maintaining high credit ratings A+ from S&P Agency in March 2024. Al-Shammari also wished Mr. Rashed Al-Haroun the best of luck in further developing the corporation since he has considerable experience, skills and knowledge in the corporation's business areas, especially finance, investment and economic ones.

Al-Shammari revealed that the total value of trade, investment and finance insurance operations for Arab countries continued to rise by 3% to more than \$3 billion in 2023, bringing the cumulative value of the insured operations from the establishment of the corporation to the end of 2023 to more than \$29 billion.

Al-Shammari explained that the contracts in 2023 included export credit insurance worth more than \$2 billion with a share of 68%, investment guarantee operations valued at \$701 million with a share of 23%, and reinsurance operations worth more than \$276 million, making up 9% of the total.



Photo during the meeting.

Investment, trade and financial institutions from 44 countries benefitted from these operations.

Dr. Al-Shammari added that based on the hike in the value of guaranteed operations, the total value of insurance premiums shot up by more than 105%

to roughly \$16 million, compared with the figure in 2022. In terms of investment in the corporation's financial portfolio, the fresh strategy - based on the optimum sectoral and geographical distribution of assets, instruments, and currencies - culminated in a significant

growth in the rate of return to hit 4.4% despite global market volatility.

He added that thanks to the surge in insurance revenues, investment portfolio performance and performance improvement efforts, the corporation managed to maintain positive financial performance despite the challenges, with the balance sheet having showed an increase in the corporation's assets to exceed \$563 million on December 31, 2023. Equity also edged up to roughly \$527 million and the total revenues rose to about \$29 million. Thus, the net results of the year's business jumped by 215% to roughly \$19 million, compared with \$6 million in 2022.

Dr. Al-Shammari underlined that the corporation's Board of Directors and the Executive Management commit to fulfilling the aspirations of the Shareholders' Council of Member States, and to attaining the goals by working on several aspects, mainly including:

■ Stepping up insurance service

marketing efforts by means of hammering out agreements with insurance agencies, and active involvement in activities, conferences and meetings with a view to promoting cooperation, coordination and information sharing.

■ Contributing to improving the regional investment, trade and business climate through its publications and contributions to the development of economic performance, investment, trade, insurance, sovereign rating, and political and commercial risk assessment.

■ Enhancing communication with concerned parties through traditional and digital media with the goal of promoting services and expanding the base of customers and markets.

■ Applying governance standards by means of streamlining and updating policies and regulations and developing human resources in order to buttress decision-making in line with the best and up-to-date practices, and to uplevel the corporation's efficiency and effectiveness.

Japan racks up trade deficit as imports balloon due to cheap yen

Japan's trade deficit in April grew nearly 8% from a year earlier as the weak yen boosted the value of imports, offsetting gains from a jump in exports, government data showed Wednesday.

Exports totaled 8.98 trillion yen (\$57 billion), while imports totaled 9.4 trillion yen (\$60 billion), both up 8% from the previous year, the Ministry of Finance said. The trade deficit for the month came out to 462.5 billion yen (\$3 billion).

Shipments to the rest of Asia, the U.S. and

Middle East were sharply higher, while exports to Europe were flat. Imports from the U.S. grew nearly 30% from a year earlier, and imports from the Middle East, mainly of oil and gas, jumped 15%.

Vehicle exports jumped 24% and exports of electrical machinery were up 16%. Imports of mechanical parts surged as demand climbed for auto parts and computer chips. Japan's auto production has been recovering after disruptions from the pandemic that affected supply

chains worldwide.

Imports were also up sharply due to the U.S. dollar's persisting gains against the yen. The dollar has been trading at about 156 yen lately, up from 139 yen a year ago, at one point reaching 160 yen.

A weak yen makes Japan's purchases from abroad more expensive, though it raises the value of overseas earnings converted into yen by big companies like Toyota Motor Corp.

Imports of oil and natural gas rose more than

23% in April from a year earlier, while imports of food and manufacturing inputs also climbed.

One factor behind the weakening yen is Japan's low interest rates, with the benchmark still barely above zero, a policy the Bank of Japan has taken to keep a stagnant economy going and encourage lending.

The U.S. has raised interest rates to try to rein in inflation. The higher returns on dollar investments have pushed the value of the greenback higher against other currencies. (AP)

'Arab gov'ts will overcome economic challenges'

Finance minister heads Kuwait delegation at Cairo meet

CAIRO, May 22, (KUNA): Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. Mostafa Madbouly expressed confidence in Arab governments' ability to overcome current challenges and meet the aspirations of their people through necessary economic reforms. Kuwait participated in the meeting with a delegation led by Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Anwar Al-Mudhaf, including senior officials from the Finance Ministry and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

This statement was made during his speech Wednesday at the opening of the 2024 joint annual meetings of Arab financial institutions, held in the New Administrative Capital, under the patronage of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

Egypt's hosting of these meetings demonstrates its commitment to supporting Arab integration efforts, a goal pursued across generations despite regional challenges, Dr. Madbouly said.

The meetings are significant against the backdrop of recent regional and international developments, especially the war in the Gaza Strip and its impacts on Arab countries, he noted.

He commended Arab financial entities for their support over the past years, which has been crucial for Egypt's major development projects.

Madbouly called for increased efforts from Arab financial institutions amid growing regional and global challenges, especially by supporting its ability to increase its exports and enhance intra-Arab trade.

He underscored Egypt's economic reforms aimed at enhancing resilience, notably through private sector engagement and economic stability measures, along with increasing its ability to achieve development goals, especially within the framework of Egypt Vision 2030.

He underlined that a key aspect of this reform policy is increasing the private sector's contribution to 65

percent of state investments. Additionally, the Egyptian government, in coordination with the Central Bank, has successfully controlled the foreign exchange market and is making progress in reducing inflation and the debt-to-GDP ratio.

Madbouly also stressed the importance of support from developed countries and international partners, urging for innovative financial solutions to confront current global economic changes, especially climate change.

He urged Arab financial entities to increase support for Arab countries, easing the challenges faced by citizens, emphasizing prioritizing human capital in financing plans for sustainable development and supporting the economic participation of Arab women as a key element of comprehensive development.

Madbouly concluded by reiterating Egypt's determination for Arab cooperation for a prosperous future.

On his side, Qatari Finance Minister Ali Al-Kuwari, the session chair, stressed the need for Arab financial institutions to support Arab economies amid increasing challenges.

He highlighted their role in mitigating the economic and social impacts of various shocks, including the war in Gaza and the COVID-19 pandemic.

These events have disrupted supply chains, increased inflation, and required stringent monetary policies from central banks, Al-Kuwari noted, extolling Arab financial institutions for their quick response and support for economic recovery and vital projects.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Rania Al-Mashat stressed in her speech that Arab financial institutions are crucial for reforming the international financial system.

She referenced a United Nations report on sustainable development financing, emphasizing the increased financing gap from USD 2.5 trillion before COVID-19 to USD 4.2 trillion currently due to geopolitical tensions and climate disasters.

Al-Mashat confirmed the need for reforming the international financial system to achieve the 2030 Development Agenda and the importance



Group photo of the participants in the joint annual meetings of Arab financial institutions for the year 2024.

KUNA photos



Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Dr. Anwar Al-Mudhaf.

of multilateral development bank integration.

She pointed out Egypt's successful cooperation with Arab financial bodies, particularly the South Helwan power plant project, which won the Sheikh Abdulatif Al-Hamad De-

velopment Award.

These meetings provide a platform for Arab financial institutions to discuss key financial, economic, and development issues and evaluating progress towards sustainable development goals.

Countries nod to safety institutes

AI companies pledge to dev technology safely at summit

SEOUL, South Korea, May 22, (AP): Leading artificial intelligence companies made a fresh pledge at a mini-summit Tuesday to develop AI safely, while world leaders agreed to build a network of publicly backed safety institutes to advance research and testing of the technology.

Google, Meta and OpenAI were among the companies that made voluntary safety commitments at the AI Seoul Summit, including pulling the plug on their cutting-edge systems if they can't rein in the most extreme risks.

The two-day meeting is a follow-up to November's AI Safety Summit at Bletchley Park in the United Kingdom, and comes amid a flurry of efforts by governments and global bodies to design guardrails for the technology amid fears about the risk it poses both to everyday life and to humanity.

Leaders from 10 countries and the European Union will "forge a common understanding of AI safety and align their work on AI research," the British government, which co-hosted the event, said in a statement. The network of safety institutes will include those already set up by the U.K., U.S., Japan and Singapore since the Bletchley meeting, it said.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the opening session that seven months after the Bletchley Park meeting "We are seeing life-changing technological advances and life-threatening new risks - from disinformation to mass surveillance to the prospect of lethal autonomous weapons."

The U.N. chief said in a video address that there needs to be universal guardrails and regular dialogue on AI. "We cannot sleepwalk into a dystopian future where the power of AI is controlled by a few people - or worse, by algorithms beyond human understanding," he said.

The 16 AI companies that signed up for the safety commitments also include Amazon, Microsoft, Samsung, IBM, xAI, France's Mistral AI, China's Zhipu.ai, and G42 of the United Arab Emirates. They vowed to ensure

the safety of their most advanced AI models with promises of accountable governance and public transparency.

It's not the first time that AI companies have made lofty-sounding voluntary safety commitments. Amazon, Google, Meta and Microsoft were among a group that signed up last year to voluntary safeguards brokered by the White House to ensure their products are safe before releasing them.

The Seoul meeting comes as some of those companies roll out the latest versions of their AI models.

The safety pledge includes publishing frameworks setting out how the companies will measure the risks of their models. In extreme cases where risks are severe and "intolerable," AI companies will have to hit the kill switch and stop developing or deploying their models and systems if they can't mitigate the risks.

Since the U.K. meeting last year, the AI industry has "increasingly focused on the most pressing concerns, including mis- and dis- information, data security, bias and keeping humans in the loop," said Aiden Gomez CEO of Cohere, one of the AI companies that signed the pact. "It is essential that we continue to consider all possible risks, while prioritizing our efforts on those most likely to create problems if not properly addressed."

Governments around the world have been scrambling to formulate regulations for AI even as the technology makes rapid advances and is poised to transform many aspects of daily life, from education and the workplace to copyrights and privacy. There are concerns that advances in AI could eliminate jobs, spread disinformation or be used to create new bioweapons.

This week's meeting is just one of a slew of efforts on AI governance. The U.N. General Assembly has approved its first resolution on the safe use of AI systems, while the U.S. and China recently held their first high-level talks on AI and the European Union's world-first AI Act is set to take effect later this year.

Chinese PM stresses financial support for the real economy

BEIJING, May 22, (Xinhua): Chinese Premier Li Qiang has highlighted the role of the financial sector in serving the real economy and urged efforts to promote the sector's high-quality development.

Li, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, and head of the Central Financial Commission, made the remarks in instructions on local financial work.

Li called for efforts to uphold the centralized, unified leadership of the Party Central Committee over the financial work, and remain committed to the path of financial development with Chinese characteristics.

Li called for efforts to do a good job in the areas of technology finance, green finance, inclusive finance, pension finance and digital finance; coordinate financial opening up and security; and accelerate the building of a modern financial system with Chinese characteristics.

He also underscored the need to complete the reform of local financial

management mechanisms on schedule, strengthen regular supervision over local financial institutions, and guard against the bottom line of no systemic financial risk.

A national conference of the directors of the offices of financial commissions under local Party committees was held in Beijing on Tuesday. He Lifeng, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and director of the office of the Central Financial Commission, attended the conference and made a speech.

Concerted efforts should be made to strictly forestall interconnected risks in areas such as real estate, local government debts, and local small and medium-sized financial institutions, He said. Illegal financial activities should be heavily cracked down upon, He said.

He also urged identifying the entry points for enhancing financial support for the real economy, intensifying support for major strategies, key areas and weak links, and promoting the high-quality development of the financial sector.

The next rate meeting is on June 20

UK inflation falls to 2.3%, lowest level in 3 years but still above BoE's target

LONDON, May 22, (AP): Inflation in the U.K. fell sharply to its lowest level in nearly three years in April on the back of big declines in domestic bills, official figures showed Wednesday.

The Office for National Statistics said inflation, as measured by the consumer prices index, fell to 2.3% in the year to April, down from 3.2% in March.

That is the lowest level since July 2021 when the global economy was still being held back by the coronavirus pandemic. The fall also takes inflation nearer to the Bank of England's target rate of 2% and is likely to pile pressure on its nine-member rate-setting panel to cut interest rates from the current 16-year high of 5.25%.

The next rate meeting is on June 20 and many economists think the bank will cut borrowing costs. However, others think that ongoing concerns over the scale of price rises in the crucial services sector and the pace of wage increases make an August reduction more likely.

Though the latest fall in inflation is welcome, it didn't drop as far as some economists had hoped. It also doesn't mean the cost of living crisis - the worst in around 40 years - is over. Lower inflation, after all, just shows that prices are rising more slowly than they were before.

"Consumers are still living with far higher prices and how you take today's inflation data will depend on whether your glass is half full or half empty," said James Smith, research director at the Resolution Foundation. "While it's clearly good news headline inflation is back to normal levels, it is disappointing that price pressures haven't fallen further and that measures of services inflation are proving more stubborn than expected."

Inflation hit a high above 11% at the end of 2022 in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which led to sharp increases in energy costs.

Mideast experience strong growth

Int'l tourism reaches 97 pct of pre-COVID levels in Q1 of '24

MADRID, May 22 (Xinhua): International tourist arrivals surged to 97 percent of pre-pandemic levels in the first quarter of 2024, with projections indicating that numbers are expected to exceed those of 2019 over the rest of the year, the UN Tourism reported on Tuesday.

The Madrid-based organization's report shows that 285 million tourists made international trips between January and March, marking an increase of around 20 percent compared to the same period in 2023. UN Tourism anticipates a "full recovery of international tourism" or the rest of the year, "with arrivals growing 2 percent above 2019 levels."

International arrivals in the Asia

and Pacific region saw a significant rise, from 65 percent of 2019 levels in the first quarter of 2023 to 82 percent in the first three months of this year.

There was also a strong growth in the Middle East where international tourism was 36 percent higher than pre-pandemic levels while Europe received 120 million international tourists, also representing 1 percent rise from that of 2019.

Africa saw a 5 percent increase compared with the same period in 2023 while international tourism in the Americas reached 99 percent of 2019 levels.

Welcoming the results, Secretary General of UN Tourism Zurab Pololikashvili highlighted their

positive impact on local economies.

"The recovery of the sector is very welcome news for our economies and the livelihoods of millions," he said while stressing the need to "advance sustainability and inclusion while addressing the externalities and impact of the sector on resources and communities."

Total export revenues from international tourism, including both receipts and passenger transport, reached 1.7 trillion U.S. dollars in 2023, about 96 percent of pre-pandemic levels in real terms. Tourism direct GDP recovered pre-pandemic levels, reaching an estimated 3.3 trillion dollars in 2023, equivalent to 3 percent of global GDP.

Britain's governing Conservative Party hopes that lower inflation and falling interest rates may trigger a feelgood factor ahead of a general election that has to take place by January 2025. Opinion polls suggest that the main opposition Labour Party is ahead of the Conservatives, who have been in power since 2010.

"Today marks a major moment for the economy, with inflation back to normal," Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said.

late 2021 from near zero to counter price rises first stoked by supply chain issues during the coronavirus pandemic and then by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Higher interest rates - which cool the economy by making it more expensive to borrow, thereby bearing down on spending - have contributed to bringing down inflation worldwide. Figures last week showed that the British economy has started growing again.

Ceremony honors 250 participating teachers and principals

NBK celebrates conclusion of 'Bankee' program for school year 2023/2024

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) held the closing ceremony of "Bankee" Program for School Year 2023/2024, to celebrate the achievements made during the first year of its official implementation in a number of public and private schools, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE), Kuwait Authority for Anti-Corruption (Nazaha), and Creative Confidence.

The ceremony, which was held at Arraya Ballroom, featured honoring 250 teachers who trained students on using the Bankee program in 30 public and private schools in addition to a special needs school for learning difficulties (Joan Al Kuwait Elementary School), during school year 2023/2024. The honorees also included the principals of participating schools, in recognition of their efforts and pivotal role in achieving the program's goal to increase financial literacy among school students, by guiding, directing, and assisting them to set their financial goals, monitoring their progress and extending required support to ensure successful implementation of the classroom economy model.

Success stories

The ceremony included sharing many success stories achieved by the Bankee program in its first year.

Commenting on this, Manal Al-Mattar, Head of Group Corporate Communications at National Bank of Kuwait said, "Students showed remarkable engagement with the program's attractive content, to the extent that it has become an integral part of their daily classroom activities. It also made a tangible difference in the lives of many of them by equipping them with the skills required to manage their finances and make decisions that support their financial future, in addition to the noticeable advancement in their financial culture and the positive changes in their behaviors after implementing the program in their schools."

"Bankee" is Kuwait's first hands-on school financial literacy program, which was launched by NBK with the aim of promoting financial inclusion, especially among school students, in an effort to set the younger generation in Kuwait on a path to a resilient financial future. The program aims to familiarize students with key financial concepts including earning, spending and saving, and financial responsibilities and instilling financial culture, which is done in an innovative and interactive way using classroom economy model," she remarked.

"Moreover, Bankee aims to instill the main values including integrity and transparency, personal growth and development, accountability and responsibility, collaboration and teamwork. It also seeks to raise a generation of a young Kuwaiti generation who recognize the importance of financial welfare and independence, and have the required financial knowledge and skills to achieve sustainable development, economic welfare for individuals and the community at large," she explained.

Digital bank

Bankee digital platform serves as a virtual bank, on which students receive their allowance, salaries, bonuses, and fines, and pay their expenses. Each student participating in the program has a virtual bank account, which simulates real-life



Photos during the event

financial transactions.

In Bankee, students are given the chance to apply for classroom-specific or school-wide jobs, which offer them an opportunity to earn additional income or salary. Classroom jobs are tailored to each classroom and encompass roles such as attendance monitor or teacher's assistant. On the other hand, school jobs involve participating in extracurricular activities at the school level, such as joining the student council and school radio team.

To instill core values and accountability, Bankee incorporates a system of bonuses and fines. Students can receive bonuses for exceptional performance or positive behaviors, while fines may be imposed for rule violations or inappropriate conduct.

15,000 Students

Having achieved a remarkable success in its pilot phase, Bankee encouraged more schools and students to join it when it was officially kicked off at the beginning of school year 2023/2024. Out of 150 applicants, 30 schools have been enrolled in the program so far, in addition to a special needs school for learning difficulties (Joan Al Kuwait Elementary School), with a total of 15,000 students and 3,000 teachers.

Bankee also launched its website in Arabic and English, as well as social media pages on Instagram, TikTok and YouTube, to enable all participants to benefit from the provided content, activities and events held at different schools all year round.

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

KFH introduces 'Jameati' plan for children's future

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continues its distinction in fulfilling customers aspirations and providing the best investment plans and solutions according to the highest international standards.

KFH designed the long-term investment plan "Jameati" to help parents prepare for their children's bright future.

The investment plan for university education "Jameati" provides solutions that enable customers to save monthly amounts, and provide higher investment profits on savings, in addition to takaful coverage.

Among the conditions of the investment plan is that the age of the son or daughter be less than 14 years, and the age of the customer must range between 21 and 61 years. The investment period ranges from 4 years to 18 years.

The investment plan "Jameati" advantages include the following: the investment amount or monthly payments may be amended at any time and the amounts shall be automatically transferred on monthly basis from the customer account to the flexible investment plan "Jameati" account.

Also, the customer can withdraw 60% of the balance in the first year and 60% every year after the first withdrawal. The saving amount and accrued profit during the investment period shall fall due upon expiration of the investment plan. The invest-



KFH's Jameati investment plan.

ment plan can be cancelled at any time and the invested amount and profits accrued on the date of closing shall be refunded to the customer.

Jameati Higher Education Investment Plan has been designed for children when they reach the age of 18. The customer can determine the targeted amount for the plan. Amounts are invested and profits are deposited on an annual basis so that the customer would benefit from the invested amount and all accumulated profits when children enter university.

Long term investment plans provided by KFH encourage and inspire customers to enhance future planning and saving culture, determine family spending priorities and enhance chances of increasing family income through innovative and flexible solutions with rewarding investment returns.

Dr. Al-Sharhan congratulates outstanding students at Kuwait University

stc sponsors Kuwait University honor students' graduation ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced its sponsorship of the College of Arts graduation ceremony held for honor students at Kuwait University. The sponsorship comes as part of the education pillar under stc's extensive corporate social responsibility framework, through the Company's educational 'upgrade' initiative that was launched to support the local education system and empowering students in Kuwait.

The ceremony, held at the College of Arts at Kuwait University, was attended by Dr. Iman Tawfiq Al-Sharhan, Acting Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Research, and Graduate Studies, who extended her heartfelt congratulations to the 60 honorary students for their exceptional academic performance. Dr. Al-Sharhan emphasized the significance of the students' dedication and hard work, as well as the vital role of the academic staff in guiding and mentoring them. Members of stc's team also attended the ceremony to support the students for their academic excellence and outstanding performance throughout their educational journey.

stc's support for the graduation ceremony aligns with the Company's ongoing commitment to promoting education and empowering the youth of Kuwait. The initiative is part of stc's broader strategy to invest in the development of future leaders and innovators who will contribute to the growth and progress of the nation. As part of its commitment to support the community, stc launched the educational 'upgrade' initiative to play an active and contributing role in the local education system. stc remains committed to supporting educational initiatives and contributing to the development of a knowledge-based society in Kuwait. Through such sponsorships, stc aims to inspire and motivate the younger generation to strive for academic excellence and pursue their aspirations with confidence.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Danah AlJasem, General Manager of Corporate Communications at stc, said, "We are honored to sponsor the honor ceremony for the outstanding students



Group photo of faculty members at Kuwait University.

at the College of Arts in Kuwait University. At stc, we believe in the power of education and the importance of recognizing and nurturing academic excellence. These students have demonstrated exceptional dedication and determination, and we are proud to support their achievements. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with educational institutions to foster a culture of excellence and innovation in Kuwait."

AlJasem added, "In line with our educational 'upgrade' initiative, we are truly proud to sponsor and attend such events that highlight the outstanding achievers within our community. This sponsorship, as well as others, add to the range of diverse initiatives that we take part in under our expansive CSR program. We aim to create a lasting impact by supporting programs that cultivate knowledge, skills, and opportunities for young minds. It is our belief that through education and community engagement, we can drive sustainable growth and innovation across Kuwait."

Dr. Al-Sharhan said, "I would like to congratulate our outstanding students at the College of Arts for their outstanding performance across various



Dr. Iman Tawfiq Al-Sharhan during the honoring of outstanding students.

academic fields. This excellence is undoubtedly the result of putting great effort and having strong determination to succeed and excel. It also undoubtedly reflects the role played by the academic staff in teaching, guiding, and mentoring the students. Additionally, I would like to thank the team at stc for supporting our students and joining us in honoring them for their achievements. To our beloved graduates, I would like to say continue with your pursuit and passion, and I wish you all continued success and prosperity."

Director of Marketing emphasizes importance of vigilance

Warba warns against scam messages on clients' phones & emails

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Warba Bank continues its awareness campaign for its clients against scam messages related to fake accounts that communicate with clients via phone and email, demanding that the client should not respond to messages claiming that the bank account was blocked or requesting to update the bank information. This is part of Warba's support for the activities of the banking awareness campaign "Let's Be Aware," which was launched at the initiative of the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association to spread financial culture in society and protecting the rights of clients, and to increase awareness among various segments of society.

In this regard, Director Marketing and Corporate Communications, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, said that "Warba" contributes through multiple messages carrying different contents related to the main elements of the campaign, directed to its clients at their diverse levels and interests, and in a way that suits the culture and nature of each segment of them. A group of messages are also constantly sent to employees as they are an essential part of achieving the campaign's objectives, the most important of which



Ayman Al-Mutairi

is awareness and warning of the potential dangers of not following safety and security instructions when using modern technology, including not providing any information about personal accounts and transactions to unknown parties or in response to messages of unknown origin, which is in violation of data confidentiality and banking protection procedures.

Al-Mutairi pointed out that in this campaign, Warba Bank is highlighting scam calls and identity theft, as random calls often include fake companies pre-

tending to be real companies, and convincing individuals to invest a small amount or pay fake bills. He stressed the need to verify the identity of the caller before sharing personal information or making payments, while avoiding immediate actions and clicking on links without looking at the details and verifying their accuracy, to avoid falling victim to fraud.

Al-Mutairi warned against being led by scam phone calls, notifications, and emails that deceive people into winning attractive financial prizes, or fake advertisements that impersonate a major institution, aiming to deceive them into investing in attractive stocks and bonds that generate high returns, or giving false information about a real investment, or entering trading sites and registering personal data to obtain profits; Because the goal of all these deviant methods is fraud, identity theft, and obtaining personal and banking information.

Al-Mutairi stressed that Warba Bank is keen to warn clients of all scamming methods, share text and image messages through its electronic channels, and re-publish campaign messages and the Central Bank's messages in this regard. He stated that the campaign messages emphasize that the Bank will not re-

quest personal information via e-mail, text messages or phone calls, warning clients against responding to these messages, which represent fraudulent attempts aimed at obtaining banking information to steal money or data.

He explained that Warba's role is not limited to warning only, but extends to providing safe and diverse investment and savings alternatives that suit all client segments.

He stated that Warba Bank's efforts to educate its clients are well-established and a fundamental pillar of its strategy, as it always stresses the need for clients to adhere to general security instructions and guidelines to avoid internet fraud, with the importance of constantly changing passwords and not sharing them with anyone claiming to be calling from the Bank.

The "Let's Be Aware" campaign is considered the largest in the region, and aims to raise the banking and financial awareness of bank clients. It also adopts very important awareness topics, most notably the steps that must be followed to avoid exposure to fraud, raising awareness of the risks of high-risk investments, the best ways to benefit from banking services, promoting a culture of saving and investing, and other related topics.

Erpenbeck wins Int'l Booker Prize for tale of tangled love

LONDON, May 22, (AP) — German author Jenny Erpenbeck and translator Michael Hofmann won the International Booker Prize for fiction Tuesday for "Kairos," the story of a tangled love affair during the final years of East Germany's existence.

Erpenbeck said she hoped the book would help readers learn there was more to life in the now-vanished Communist country than depicted in "The Lives of Others," the Academy Award-winning 2006 film about pervasive state surveillance in the 1980s.

"The only thing that everybody knows is that they had a wall, they were terrorizing everyone with the Stasi, and that's it," she said. "That is not all there is."

"Kairos" traces an affair from utopian beginning to bitter end, and draws parallels between personal lives and the life of the state.

The book beat five other finalists, chosen from 149 submitted novels, for the prize, which recognizes fiction from around the world that has been translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland. The 50,000 pounds (\$64,000) in prize money is divided between author and translator.

Canadian broadcaster Eleanor Wachtel, who chaired the five-member judging panel, said Erpenbeck's novel about the relationship between a student and an older writer is "a richly textured evocation of a tormented love affair, the entanglement of personal and national transformations."

It's set in the dying days of the German Democratic Republic, leading up to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Erpenbeck, 57, was born and raised in East Berlin, which was part of East Germany until the country disappeared with German reunification in 1990.

"Like the GDR, (the book) starts with optimism and trust, then unravels so badly," Wachtel said.

She said Hofmann's translation captures the "eloquence and eccentricities" of Erpenbeck's prose.

The International Booker Prize is awarded every year. It is run alongside the Booker Prize for English-language fiction, which will be handed out in the fall.

Erpenbeck is the first German winner of the International Booker Prize, and Hofmann is the first male translator to win since the prize launched in its current form in 2016.

He said he felt his style complemented that of the author. "I think she is a tighter and more methodical writer than I would be," he said, and the English-language book is "a mixture of her order and my chaos."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Tom Brady is coming into the booth of Fox Sports top NFL team with seven Super Bowl rings.

Greg Olsen is leaving it with another Sports Emmy award.

After being named Outstanding Emerging On-Air Talent last year, Olsen was named the top Event Analyst during the three-hour ceremony at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall in New York.

"I think there's a lot of people wondering what I'm going to say right now," Olsen said.

"I don't know what the future holds," he said. "All I know is I love talking football, I love talking ball. I love studying it, I love seeing where the game is going, wherever that takes me, whatever level it is. I'm more committed to the game of football now."

"This is super cool, and I look forward to things ahead."

After Troy Aikman left Fox for ESPN's "Monday Night Football," Olsen moved into Fox's top analyst spot and quickly earned rave reviews for his work. It was originally thought to be for one year after Brady signed with Fox in 2022 while still playing for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, but Brady announced before Super Bowl 57 last year in Phoenix that he wouldn't be moving into the booth until the 204 season.

Olsen though continued to excel in his role, even as the shadow of Brady loomed over.

Olsen still couldn't escape some mention of Brady. Kid Meero let out a "Let's Go, Baby!" - Brady's signature phrase - after announcing Olsen as the winner.

It is the third straight year an NFL commentator has won the Sports Emmy as the best event analyst. NBC's Cris Collinsworth took it two years ago and ESPN 2's Peyton Manning last year.

CBS' coverage of Super Bowl 58 and "Toy Story Funday Football," an alternate presentation of the Oct. 1 game between the Atlanta Falcons and Jacksonville Jaguars on Disney+/ESPN+, won three Emmys apiece.

Super Bowl 58 was the top Live Special. The Super Bowl is routinely among the nominees, but this is the first time since 2015 it has won for the year's top sports event.

The honors for "Toy Story Funday Football" included The George Wensel Technical Achievement Award.

ESPN/ABC's Mike Breen won Play-by-Play for the third straight year while Tracy Wolfson of CBS took Outstanding Reporter for the first time.

People

Variety

Features

ARABIC TIMES

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Anya Taylor-Joy in a scene from 'Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga.' (AP)

Film

Anya Taylor-Joy shines in an epic adventure

'Furiosa,' a gritty prequel to Mad Max

By Mark Kennedy

At the beginning of "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga," we are introduced to a woman who rides a horse, then a motorbike, nails a few bad guys with sharpshooting finesse and fights off a mob. But it's not Furiosa - it's her mom. That's one of the oddities of this latest offering in the Mad Max Cinematic Universe: Creator and director George Miller has taken the coolest role of 2015's "Mad Max: Fury Road" and built a whole prequel around her yet has her overshadowed by everyone else.

The adult Furiosa - a coiled, clenched Anya Taylor-Joy - only appears after the first hour-mark - we get way too much preteen Furiosa - and she's meek for another quarter of the film. We, frankly, wanted more. Charlize Theron as Furiosa promised a "Top Gun" swagger yet Taylor-Joy mostly does furious side eye. What goes into making adult Furiosa is very unpleasant: She endures childhood kidnapping and torture, goes mute, passes herself as a boy, gets traded for gas, works her way up a madman's hierarchy and only in the final scenes does she have real agency.

We do learn how her left hand was maimed and that she was sweet on a guy. But making her mute? In her own movie? Back are some familiar, scarred faces - Immortan Joe, The People Eater and a legion of half-naked War Boys. The new mega villain is Chris Hemsworth's Dementus, who has a hunger for human blood sausage and a knack for spectacularly murdering people who Furiosa cares about.

Miller has added pretentious chapter titles like he was making a black-and-white Czech New Wave exposition on existentialism - "The Pole of Inaccessibility" and "The Stowaway" are among the sections - despite also employing a narrator. By the time Miller is finished, he's built an epic, gritty history in the Wasteland like "Lord of the Rings" or "Game of Thrones."

But was the point of this franchise a better understanding of the negotiating tactics of untrusty warlords in a hellscape? No: It was rocket-propelled grenades, motorcycles, chains, massive sandstorms and cracked skulls. The best action sequence happens at the halfway point - not a good omen - with a 15-minute sequence inside, over

and under a barreling silver double-tanker War Rig while it is being attacked by motorbikes, buggies and parachuting adversaries. It's a marvel, truly, but since 2015 we've had cooler moments in things like "Mission: Impossible" and "Fast and Furious" so, sorry, mind not blown.

Viewers also spend time whipping through the Citadel, the Bullet Farm and Gas Town but there's something missing, that unpredictable spark of madness, maybe. Perhaps once you've seen an insane guy chained to the outside of a zooming truck playing guitar solos in front of a wall of amps with fire coming out of the headstock, the shock wears off.

Speaking of heavy metal, Hemsworth wears fingerless gloves, a codpiece, leather pants, a sleeveless leather vest and flowing hair, like he was a member of Mötley Crüe circa 1983. Victim (cross head) He has decided to perform his role in full psychotic camp - licking the tears of a victim, he describes them as "zesty" - and proves it by incorporating a teddy bear into his ensemble. Perhaps he should have his own stand-alone movie because he doesn't really fit in here as the deranged comedy monster in a film with grim faces and famine.

Problem

A large part of the problem here is that young Furiosa is on an epic hero's quest to go home - like "The Odyssey" or any "John Wick" movie - but we know from "Fury Road" that the Green Place is no more. So "Furiosa" then just becomes a catalogue of crazy stuff that happens to her until it morphs into her cold-blooded quest for revenge.

There's no real risk either because we know Furiosa lives to team up with Tom Hardy in 2015. It feels like with this fifth Mad Max installment, Miller is trying to add operatic heft and seriousness to what started in 1979 as a fun, rip-roaring smear of nightmarish, post-apocalyptic motor oil.

In that case, "Fury Road" was fantastic, but "Furiosa" is just fine.

"Furiosa," a Warner Bros. Pictures release which hits theaters May 24, is rated R for "sequences of strong violence, and grisly images." Running time: 148 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: The spice will flow on Max starting Tuesday when Denis Villeneuve's "Dune: Part Two" finally hits the streaming service. The film continues the saga of Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) as he learns the ways of the desert-dwelling Fremens following the death of his father in "Part One."

It's also a decidedly more action-packed spectacle than the first film, introducing a slew of new characters including the demonic Feyd Rautha played with scene-stealing menace by Austin Butler.

In his review, AP Film Writer Jake Coyle wrote that "Like its predecessor, 'Dune: Part Two' thrums with an intoxicating big-screen expressionism of monoliths and mosquitos, fevered visions and messianic fervor - more dystopian dream, or nightmare, than a straightforward narrative."

BEIJING: China's National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) is screening 14 domestic and foreign features as part of the NCPA International Opera Film Exhibition, which opened on Monday.

Most of the films being screened are operas, including operatic productions from the NCPA such as a rendition of Giuseppe Verdi's "La Traviata," and classical productions of operas such as "La Fanciulla del West" from the Metropolitan Opera and a Shanghai Peking Opera Theatre film adaptation of Peking opera "Zhuo Fang Cao," which translates to "The Capture and Release of General Cao."

Several music documentaries will also be screened during the event, including the 2021 "Ennio," which focuses on legendary Italian film composer Ennio Morricone. Guan Jianbo, vice president of the NCPA, said that the NCPA International Opera Film Exhibition has introduced a number of outstanding performing arts works to audiences since it was established in 2016.

This year's exhibition will run until July 31 and see thousands of screening events held across approximately 300 venues in 24 cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Qingdao and Chengdu, according to the NCPA. (Agencies)

EL SEGUNDO, Calif.: Barbie dolls will honor tennis champion Venus Williams and eight other athletes as part of a project announced by Mattel on Wednesday.

The others being depicted as dolls are gymnasts Rebeca Andrade and Alexa Moreno, soccer players Mary Fowler and Christine Sinclair, boxer Estelle Mossely, swimmer Federica Pellegrini, paratriathlete Susana Rodriguez and track and field sprinter Ewa Swoboda.

"Throughout my career, I've always been driven by the idea of shattering glass ceilings and staying true to myself, and Barbie's mission couldn't resonate more deeply with that ethos," said Williams, who has won seven Grand Slam singles titles.

The brand wanted to note "the impact of sports in fostering self-confidence, ambition, and empowerment among the next generation," Mattel's Krista Berger said. (AP)

NEW YORK: A former model accused Sean "Diddy" Combs of sexually assaulting her at his New York City recording studio in 2003 in a lawsuit filed Tuesday, the latest in a series of allegations against the embattled hip-hop mogul.

Crystal McKinney said she was a successful 22-year-old model when she met Combs at a restaurant during Men's Fashion Week in Manhattan. Combs invited her to his recording studio later that night, according to the federal complaint filed in New York City.

The lawsuit alleges that McKinney arrived to find Combs drinking and smoking joints with several other men. She smoked some marijuana, which she "later came to understand" was laced with a narcotic or intoxicating substance, the lawsuit says. She felt as though she was floating. Combs led her to the bathroom, where the sexual assault took place, according to the lawsuit.

Combs led her back to the studio and she lost consciousness, the lawsuit says. She later awakened in a taxi and realized that she had been sexually assaulted, according to the lawsuit. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Authorities have opened an investigation into how Matthew Perry received the supply of ketamine that killed him, police said Tuesday.

Los Angeles police are working with the US Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service with a probe into why the 54-year-old "Friends" star had so much of the drug in his



Williams



Perry

system, LAPD Capt. Scot Williams said in an email.

An assistant found the 54-year-old Perry face down in his hot tub on Oct. 28, and paramedics who were called immediately declared him dead. His autopsy, released in December, found that the amount of ketamine in his blood was in the range used for general anesthesia during surgery. It was listed as the

primary cause of death, which was ruled an accident with no foul play suspected, the report said.

Drowning and other medical issues were contributing factors, the coroner said.

The investigation was first reported by TMZ.

People close to the actor told coroner's investigators that he was undergoing ketamine infu-

sion therapy. The decades-old surgical drug has seen a huge surge in use in recent years as a treatment for depression, anxiety and pain.

But the medical examiner said Perry's last treatment 1 1/2 weeks earlier wouldn't explain the levels of ketamine in his blood. The drug is typically metabolized in a matter of hours. (AP)

People & Places

Obits

Kaczmarek dead

Roos, Oscar-winning producer, dies at 89

LOS ANGELES, May 22, (AP) — Fred Roos, the Oscar-winning producer of "The Godfather Part II" who helped launch the careers of numerous superstars from Jack Nicholson to Tom Cruise, has died. He was 89.

He died at his home in Beverly Hills, California, on Saturday, a representative said Tuesday, just days after his and Francis Ford Coppola's latest film "Megalopolis" premiered at the Cannes Film Festival.

Roos and Coppola worked together for over 50 years, starting with "The Godfather," where he advised on the casting of Al Pacino and James Caan against the wishes of the studio, and introduced Coppola to John Cazale. He also produced Coppola's best picture nominees "The Conversation," "Apocalypse Now" and Parts II and III of "The Godfather."



Roos

"Fred Roos possessed a casting instinct that was near infallible," Coppola wrote on Instagram. "He was a great lifelong friend and collaborator with above all a true love for movies."

The stories about his impact on some of the biggest films of all time, from the Godfather trilogy to "Star Wars," are the stuff of Hollywood legend. While developing "Star Wars," George Lucas asked Roos for his thoughts. Lucas got the screenplay back from Roos with several names scribbled on it: Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and James Earl Jones. Roos also helped assemble the young casts for Lucas' "American Graffiti" and "The Outsiders," introducing wide audiences to the likes of Cruise, Ford, Diane Lane, Richard Dreyfuss, Rob Lowe, Matt Dillon and Patrick Swayze.

"I always like to think that actors I put in my movie are going to become stars and we'll hear from again," he said in an interview about casting "The Outsiders."

Talent

Sometimes it took some convincing, like getting Ford in as Han Solo. In 2004, Ford said, "Once he believes in you, he is unrelenting. He kept putting me up for parts and I kept getting rejected. Finally things worked out."

Other Roos discoveries include Diane Keaton, Laurence Fishburne, Emilio Estevez, Jennifer Connelly and Alden Ehrenreich.

"It's always kind of intangible. Just a feeling I have about somebody," Roos said of his ability to spot talent in an interview with Entertainment Weekly in 2016. "A lot of people that I've been associated with are like that. Jack Nicholson. Harrison. They don't quite fit any mold."

Roos was born in Santa Monica, California, on May 22, 1934, and raised in Riverside and Los Angeles, where he attended high school at the famous Hollywood High. After graduating from UCLA in 1956, he was drafted and served two tours in Korea with the Army, one alongside Garry Marshall.

He long had a fascination with film, and got his foot in the door working in the mailroom at a talent agency, MCA, Inc, where one of his odd jobs was driving Marilyn Monroe around. Soon he was casting for television shows like "The Andy Griffith Show" and "That Girl."

His film breakthrough came with Richard Lester's infidelity drama "Petulia" with Julie Christie and George C. Scott, which came out in 1968.

"Work just flowed to me after that," Roos said. That included work for the likes of John Huston ("Fat City"), Michelangelo Antonioni ("Zabrisckie Point"), Monte Hellman ("Two-Lane Blacktop") and Bob Rafelson ("Five Easy Pieces").

Roos and Coppola would get two best picture nominations in the same year for "The Godfather Part II" and "The Conversation," winning for the former. Other films he produced for Coppola included "One from the Heart," "Rumble Fish," "The Cotton Club," "Tucker: The Man and His Dream" and "Tetro."

The Coppola collaboration also extended to the family. Roos produced the late Eleanor Coppola's Emmy-winning documentary "Hearts of Darkness" about the making of "Apocalypse Now," and was especially proud about helping her make her 2016 film "Paris Can Wait."

He also had a hand in all of Sofia Coppola's films, including "The Virgin Suicides" and "Lost in Translation," introducing her to actors like Kirsten Dunst, Josh Hartnett, Elle Fanning and Cailee Spaeny, who starred in her latest "Priscilla." Sometimes he'd suggest well-known people for roles too, as with Colin Farrell in "The Beguiled."

Outside of the Coppola orbit, he produced Nicholson's directorial debut "Drive, He Said," Carroll Ballard's "The Black Stallion" and Agnieszka Holland's "The Secret Garden." He also played a part in getting S.E. Hinton and American Zoetrope to bring "The Outsiders" to Broadway. Last month, it earned 12 Tony nominations.

Roos is survived by his son, Alexander "Sandy" Roos, who was also his producing partner, and his wife, Nancy Drew.

"(He) was determined to never retire from the film business and to go with his boots on," his son said in a statement. "He got his wish."

Also:

WARSAW, Poland: Polish composer Jan A.P. Kaczmarek, who won a 2005 Oscar for the musical score of "Finding Neverland," died Tuesday. He was 71.

Kaczmarek's death was announced by Poland's Music Foundation which had been informed of his passing by the composer's wife. Kaczmarek had suffered from MSA, a rare degenerative neurological disorder.

He authored music for movies made in Europe and Hollywood, like the 1995 "Total Eclipse" with Leonardo DiCaprio, and the 2002 "Unfaithful" with Richard Gere and Diane Lane.

Global fame came when he won the Oscar for Best Original Score in the biographic fantasy "Finding Neverland" inspired by the life of J.M. Barrie, with Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet.

Born in Poland in 1953, Kaczmarek wanted to be a diplomat and studied law, but a brief association with the avant-garde theater of Jerzy Grotowski set him on the musical career.

In 1989, he settled in Los Angeles, but toward the end of his life lived in Krakow in southern Poland.

He is survived by his second wife Aleksandra Twardowska-Kaczmarek and five children.



Barbara Palvin poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Marcello Mio' at the 77th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Tuesday, May 21. (AP)

Stage

Broadway veteran earns first Tony nod

Lewis inspires in 'Hell's Kitchen'

NEW YORK, May 22, (AP) — It's fitting that Kecia Lewis has had her most successful theater season while playing a mentor.

The Broadway veteran - now celebrating 40 years in the business - portrays the formidable piano teacher Miss Liza Jane in "Hell's Kitchen" who inspires the show's young heroine to embrace music.

"Sit. Learn," she says to her new teenage pupil, a role loosely based on Alicia Keys. The youngster looks at the older one at the piano and says: "I see in her, for the first time in my life, I think, what I might someday be: powerful. Regal. A queen."

Lewis is like that cool, no-nonsense wise head who radiates skill, warmth and professionalism, helping rising star Maleah Joi Moon make her Broadway debut in the main role.

"She's an earthy and royal woman and she brings a sense of powerful groundedness to every room she walks in," Moon says. "I knew from our first conversation that I wanted to learn as much as I could from her."

Lewis is having a special spring. Her musical has garnered 13 Tony Award nominations and she has earned her first Tony nod. She has already won awards from the Outer Critics and Lucille Lortel.

"This is all I've ever wanted to do since I was a child. This is the only thing that I'm truly trained in," she says. "I'd be faking it in any other profession. I love what I do. It doesn't feel like work to me."

Lewis made her Broadway debut at 18 in the original company of "Dreamgirls" in the mid-1980s and went on to "The Gospel at Colonus" with Morgan Freeman, "Big River," "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Once on This Island."

The world of the theater almost lost her. She left "Once on This Is-

land" early to do a TV pilot that didn't pan out and was heartbroken. For six years, she taught fifth and sixth grades, worked at a magazine and at a shelter for young women who were pregnant and homeless.

Her love of performing gnawed at her until she decided to return to auditions in 1991. She knew she was rusty, so she auditioned for things she knew she'd never book, like a role in "The Sound of Music" at the Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera.

"I thought, no one will ever cast me in 'The Sound of Music.' And I got it. I was cast as the Mother Abbess. And that got me started," she says.

The Ventura County Star critic was impressed: "As the Mother Abbess, Lewis blows open the lobby doors with her 'Climb Every Mountain.' Intermission comes just in time: Her booming finish to the song would be a hard act to follow."

Experience

That role led to a string of Rodgers and Hammerstein shows - "South Pacific" and "The King and I" - and interesting parts. "And then I was clear, 'OK, you were supposed to go back,'" she says.

Since her returns, Lewis' roles have included Broadway - "The Drowsy Chaperone," "Chicago," "Leap of Faith," "Cinderella" and "Children of a Lesser God" - and off-Broadway in "Mother Courage," "The Skin of Our Teeth" and "Marie and Rosetta." Her TV parts include "The Blacklist," "Madam Secretary," "Royal Pains" and "Blue Bloods."

"I feel like I have a whole encyclopedia I could write about 40 years in this business," she says.

Michael Greif, the director of "Hell's Kitchen," knew Lewis from

their days working on "Big River" and thought she'd be perfect for Miss Liza Jane.

"Kecia is a great teacher on and offstage," Greif says. "She brings her considerable experience, wisdom and generosity to every encounter with Maleah and to our incredible ensemble, many of whom are making their Broadway debuts."

Lewis initially read the script not knowing that Keys' songs would be used or that the teen at its center shared connections to the Grammy winner.

The show is set in Manhattan Plaza, an apartment complex in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan where Keys grew up and which offers affordable housing for people in the arts. It has a multipurpose space with a piano - the Ellington Room - where, in the musical, the heroine discovers Miss Liza Jane, an amalgamation of Keys' mentors.

Lewis knows both the complex and the room well. She went to high school nearby, and one of her closest friends lived in Manhattan Plaza. She even sang at a memorial for her friend's dad in the Ellington Room.

Keys personally worked with Lewis on her two big songs - "Perfect Way to Die" and "Author of Forever," both already released - and the team paid for piano lessons so she could look the part.

On a deeper level, Lewis also connected to the musical's coming-of-age story of a young woman with a single mom negotiating the tough streets of New York.

"I was a single parent of a son. My son is 20 now and in New York. So I understood on a very personal level a lot of what was being said and what was trying to be conveyed. She allowed me to bring all of that along with what she gave me and just let me fly on my own."



Alicia Keys, (left), and Kecia Lewis attend the Meet The Tony Award Nominees press junket at the Sofitel New York on Thursday, May 2, in New York. (AP)



Keough



Harry

Variety

MEMPHIS, Tenn.: Elvis Presley's estate is fighting what it says is a fraudulent scheme to auction off Graceland to the highest bidder.

An auction had been scheduled for Thursday this week, but a Memphis judge blocked it after Presley's granddaughter Riley Keough sought a temporary restraining order and filed a lawsuit, court documents show.

A public notice for a foreclosure sale of the 13-acre estate in Memphis posted earlier in May said Promenade Trust, which controls the Graceland museum, owes \$3.8 million after failing to repay a 2018 loan. Keough, an actor, inherited the trust and ownership of the home after the death of her mother, Lisa Marie Presley, last year.

Naussany Investments and Private Lending said Lisa Marie Presley had used Graceland as collateral for the loan, according to the foreclosure sale notice. Keough, on behalf of the Promenade Trust, sued last week, claiming that Naussany presented fraudulent documents regarding the loan in September 2023.

"Lisa Marie Presley never borrowed money from Naussany Investments and never gave a deed of trust to Naussany Investments," Keough's lawyer wrote in a lawsuit.

Kimberly Philbrick, the notary whose name is listed on the documents, indicated that she never met Lisa Marie Presley nor notarized any documents for her, the court filing said. The Associated Press texted Philbrick at numbers believed to be hers, but she didn't immediately respond. (AP)

BEIJING: Celebrated American lyric-coloratura mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato will perform at the concert hall of China's National Centre for the Performing Arts on June 13.

The Kansas-born multi-Grammy Award winner will be joined by famed Italian ensemble Il Pomo d'Oro in what will be part of her "EDEN" tour, which kicked off in March 2022.

Released in February 2022, the album "EDEN" centers on mankind's relationship with the natural world and "our unique place within it, and invites the listener to explore and search for answers about belonging, purpose, and healing," according to DiDonato's website page.

The concert will feature tracks from the album including its anthem "The First Morning of the World" by Academy Award-winning composer Rachel Portman, and others from works of various

eras such as Aaron Copland's "8 Poems of Emily Dickinson," Gustav Mahler's "Ruckert-Lieder" and Francesco Cavalli's "La Calisto." (Xinhua)

LONDON: Prince Harry can't expand his privacy lawsuit against The Sun tabloid publisher to include allegations that Rupert Murdoch and some other executives were part of an effort to conceal and destroy evi-

dence of unlawful information gathering, a London judge ruled Tuesday.

The decision by Judge Timothy Fancourt in the High Court was a mixed ruling for the Duke of Sussex in one of his three major invasion of privacy lawsuits he has brought in his ongoing battles against British tabloids.

Fancourt rejected several of Harry's proposed amendments, but he also allowed



Catherine Deneuve poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Marcello Mio' at the 77th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Tuesday, May 21. (AP)

the prince to add allegations against other journalists and private investigators that he claims used unlawful means to snoop on him for scoops.

But Fancourt said allegations that Murdoch "turned a blind eye" to wrongdoing added nothing meaningful to claims made against News Group Newspapers, or NGN. The judge said those claims already included "trusted lieutenants," such as Murdoch's younger son, James Murdoch, and Rebekah Brooks, who was editor at News of the World and The Sun.

The judge said some of Harry's efforts to blame other executives were to further a political agenda.

"There is a desire on the part of those running the litigation on the claimants' side to shoot at 'trophy' targets, whether those are political issues or high-profile individuals," Fancourt wrote. "Tempting though it no doubt is for the claimants' team to attempt to inculpate the man at the very top, doing so will add nothing to a finding that Ms. Brooks and Mr. James Murdoch or other senior executives knew and were involved, if that is proved to be the case," Fancourt wrote.

Brooks is chief executive officer of News UK, a division of News Corp. media holdings that controls The Sun and The Times among other publications. James Murdoch resigned from News Corp. in 2020.

Rupert Murdoch, 93, was executive chairman of News Corp. and director of its subsidiary, News International, now News UK, which was NGN's parent when News of the World folded. Murdoch stepped down last fall as leader of both Fox News' parent company and his News Corp. (AP)

Kuwait Heart Association to host conference on May 25

Over 200 doctors to discuss 'heart muscle failure' research: Dr. Al-Awaish

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Kuwait Heart Association has announced an upcoming conference titled "Kuwait for Heart Failure," organized in collaboration with the Sabah Al-Ahmad Heart Center of the Ministry of Health. Scheduled for May 25, the event aims to advance healthcare services in Kuwait by exploring the latest developments in heart disease research, particularly focusing on heart failure, as reported by Al Rai newspaper.

Dr. Rashid Al-Awaish, the Secretary-General of the Kuwait Heart Association, stated in a press release that the conference will feature the participation of around 200 Kuwaiti doctors along with a distinguished group of medical professionals from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Canada. This gathering is set to be a significant platform for the exchange of knowledge and expertise among practitioners.

Dr. Al-Awaish emphasized the critical importance of such conferences in enriching scientific research, expanding



Dr. Rashid Al-Awaish

physicians' knowledge, and enhancing their skills. The conference agenda will include discussions on the latest breakthroughs in treating heart muscle failure, highlighting the dynamic advancements in modern medical science.

The Kuwait Heart Association remains dedicated to staying at the forefront of medical advancements and

integrating cutting-edge technologies across all medical fields. By promoting continuous scientific dialogue with international centers and leveraging the expertise of specialists from around the globe, the Association aims to elevate the proficiency of local healthcare professionals and ensure the delivery of top-notch medical services.

Kuwait Dermatologists launch awareness campaign

'Alopecia Areata' is treatable immune disease

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Kuwait Dermatologists Association, a branch of the Kuwait Medical Association, has initiated an educational awareness campaign centered on alopecia universalis. Themed "From the Darkness of Emptiness to the Light of Knowledge ... Learn More About Alopecia," this campaign aims to inform the community about this autoimmune condition, its causes, and the latest treatment options available through the Ministry of Health, as reported by Al Jarida newspaper.

Dr. Abeer Al-Bathali, the Secretary of the Association, highlighted that the Ministry of Health provides



A patient with 'alopecia areata' disorder.

a range of treatments for alopecia areata across all dermatology de-

partments. These treatments include topical applications, injections, phototherapy, and the latest advancements in biological medications. These modern treatments are crucial in managing the condition, controlling its progression, and preventing further spread.

The campaign began at Jaber Al-Ahmad, Al-Jahra, and Al-Farwaniyah hospitals, with plans to expand to other hospitals affiliated with the Ministry of Health. This initiative is part of the association's continuous efforts to raise awareness about alopecia and support individuals affected by the condition.

UK victims to receive comp

Abu Dhabi, Roche partner for 'spinal disease' study

ABU DHABI, UAE, May 22, (AP): The Department of Health - Abu Dhabi (DoH), the regulator of the healthcare sector in the Emirate, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Roche Pharmaceuticals Middle East during Abu Dhabi Global Healthcare Week (ADGHW). Under the MoU, the two entities will advance critical research using real-world data to study and assess the spinal muscular atrophy burden in Abu Dhabi, as well as assessing potential

conduction of research and the facilitation of real-world data collection to monitor Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) disease. In the presence of Dr. Rashed Al-Suwaidi, the Executive Director of the Healthcare Workforce Planning Sector at DoH and Michael Oberreiter, Head of Global Access at Roche Pharmaceuticals, the MoU was signed by Dr. Asma Al Mannai, the Executive Director of the Research and Innovation Centre at DoH and Mohamed Elshaarawy, General Manager Roche Pharmaceuticals, UAE.

Dr. Asma Ibrahim Al Mannai, Executive Director of the Research and Innovation Center at the DoH said: "Abu Dhabi has a track record of excellence and fast-growing, future-forward, data-enabled services. Serving as a hub for healthcare data, Abu Dhabi's substantial computing power enables it to harness the potential within this data, transforming it into valuable information. This, in turn, allows us to innovate and develop novel approaches to shift healthcare towards prediction, prevention, and treatment, thereby accelerating the future of healthcare, not only for Abu Dhabi but for the global community. Through international collaborations, Abu Dhabi seeks to lead research groups supported by global partners to explore the resilience and sustainability of the healthcare sector worldwide as well as expand access to quality care for patients around the world."

The two entities will work together to support the evolution of real-world data collection frameworks in Abu Dhabi. Enhancing DoH's ability to track and monitor outcomes of therapies will support DoH in making informed clinical and policy decisions for better optimization of patient outcomes. Furthermore, DoH and Roche will strengthen the research network across Abu Dhabi and improve accrual for potential clinical trials.

Mohamed Elshaarawy, General

Manager Roche Pharmaceuticals, UAE said: "This MoU underscores our collaboration with the DoH which is fuelled by a shared vision of harnessing the power of data to drive informed decision-making within the healthcare system. Data-driven healthcare systems hold immense potential to revolutionise patient care and outcomes. Through the generation, utilisation, and realisation of data, healthcare professionals and policymakers can unlock valuable insights, identify trends, and make evidence-based decisions. This data-driven approach enables us to optimise resource allocation, personalise treatment approaches, and ultimately achieve better patient outcomes. By harnessing the full potential of data, we can improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the healthcare system, ensuring that every patient receives the highest quality of care tailored to their specific needs. We are sincerely grateful for the trust, confidence, and empowerment the DoH has placed in establishing this effective public-private partnership with Roche in the UAE."

Also:

LONDON: Victims of the U.K.'s infected blood scandal, in which tens of thousands of people were infected by contaminated blood or blood products provided by the public health service, will start receiving their final compensation payments this year, the government said Tuesday.

Officials announced the compensation plans a day after the publication of a report that found civil servants and doctors exposed patients to unacceptable risks by giving them blood transfusions or blood products tainted with HIV or hepatitis from the 1970s to the early 1990s.

The scandal is seen as the deadliest disaster in the history of Britain's state-run National Health Service since its inception in 1948. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Monday apologized for the "decades-long moral failure at the heart of our national life."

The report said successive U.K. governments refused to admit wrongdoing and tried to cover up the scandal, in which an estimated 3,000 people died after receiving the contaminated blood or blood products. In total, the report said about 30,000 people were infected with HIV or hepatitis C, a kind of liver infection, over the period.

Copilot brings personalized AI assistance to PCs

Microsoft's AI chatbot will recall everything you do on your laptop

REDMOND, Wash., May 22, (AP): Microsoft wants laptop users to get so comfortable with its artificial intelligence chatbot that it will remember everything you're doing on your computer and help figure out what you want to do next.

The software giant revealed a new class of AI-imbedded personal computers as it confronts heightened competition from Big Tech rivals in pitching generative AI technology that can compose documents, make images and serve as a lifelike personal assistant at work or home.

The announcements ahead of Microsoft's annual Build developer conference centered on fusing its AI assistant, called Copilot, into the Windows operating system for PCs, where Microsoft already has the eyes of millions of consumers.

The new features will include Windows Recall, giving the AI assistant what Microsoft describes as "photographic memory" of a person's virtual activity. Microsoft promises to protect users' privacy by giving them the option to filter out what they don't want tracked, and keeping the tracking on the device.

It's a step toward machines that "instantly see us, hear, reason about our intent and our surroundings," said CEO Satya Nadella.

Models

"We're entering this new era where computers not only understand us, but can actually anticipate what we want and our intent," Nadella said at an event at the company's headquarters in Redmond, Washington.

The conference that starts Tuesday in Seattle follows big AI announcements last week from rival Google, as well as Microsoft's close business partner OpenAI, which built the AI large language models on which Microsoft's Copilot is based.

Google rolled out a retooled search engine that periodically puts AI-generated summaries over website links at the top of the results page; while also showing off a still-in-development AI assistant Astra that will be able to "see" and converse about things shown through a smartphone's camera lens.

ChatGPT-maker OpenAI unveiled a new version of its chatbot last week, demonstrating an AI voice assistant

with human characteristics that can banter about what someone's wearing and even attempt to assess a person's emotions. The voice sounded so much like Scarlett Johansson playing an AI character in the sci-fi movie "Her" that OpenAI dropped the voice from its collection Monday.

OpenAI also rolled out a new desk-

Get old-fashioned locks

Tech tip to protect your car from the growing risk of keyless vehicle thefts

LONDON, May 22, (AP): They appear like ghosts in the night, standing outside your house, one holding up an antenna while the other crouches next to the car parked on the driveway. Within seconds, your car is gone, yet another victim amid a surge in auto theft enabled by the technology designed to make it easier to unlock and start vehicles.

Auto technology has evolved and many newer cars use wireless key fobs and push-button starters instead of traditional metal keys. The fob sends a short-range signal, so when the driver approaches the car, it automatically unlocks the door. This saves you the hassle of digging out your keys when you've got your hands full with groceries.

But that technology also makes things easier for thieves. The wireless fob will continue to emit a signal even if you're not using it. Thieves prowl neighborhoods at night looking for cars parked outside so they can carry out so-called relay attacks. Using portable equipment that can pick up the faint signal from a fob inside the house or parking lot, they relay it back to a transmitter that can clone the signal.

Officials have urged carmakers to reduce the security vulnerabilities and warn owners about the risks. So what can you do to reduce the odds that your car will be gone in 60 seconds? "It's relatively easy for drivers to protect themselves," said Steve Launchbury, principal engineer of

automotive security at Thatcham Research, a UK-based automotive risk intelligence company. Here are some tips:

A simple but effective way to stop auto bandits from purloining your key fob signal is to use a Faraday bag or pouch. They're lined with a conductive metal mesh that blocks the transmission of electromagnetic signals.

The pouches aren't expensive, and you can also get boxes that do the same thing. But experts advise testing to make sure they work. Just put the key fob inside and approach your car. If the doors don't automatically unlock, then the signal is being blocked.

Solution

It's also important to remember to use it whenever you leave your vehicle, and don't forget to put all of your key fobs inside, including any spares.

But ignore some advice making the rounds on the internet telling you to put your fob in the microwave or freezer. It doesn't have the same effect as a Faraday bag, and you risk damaging your key.

Try an old-school solution by using a physical lock. Some police forces advise car owners to use them to make your vehicle lock less tempting to steal. The reasoning is that a would-be thief might be deterred by the effort needed to cut through the lock and instead turn their attention to an easier target.

Locks, in the shape of a disk or a long bar, clamp onto the steering wheel and make it difficult to steer. There are also versions that prevent the car from being put in gear. The downside is you'll need extra time to attach or remove it whenever you aren't driving.

For many cars, it's possible to deactivate the wireless setting so that you can't open the door remotely. For Fords, Hondas and Audis, use the touchscreen menus.

If you own a Toyota, you can temporarily disable the signal by holding down the fob's lock button and at the same time pressing the unlock button twice. If you've done it correctly, the fob's indicator light should blink four times. Be aware that the next time you press any button, remote unlocking will be reactivated.

The method will vary depending on make and model so consult your owner's manual for the exact process. If it sounds complicated, there are YouTube videos that walk you through it. Don't forget that in most cases you'll now have to manually press the fob's unlock button.

Automakers have started adding motion sensors to key fobs. If the sensor doesn't detect recent movement because it's been, say, left on the kitchen counter after you come home, the fob goes into sleep mode and stops transmitting. If it lacks this capability, check with your dealer whether it's possible to upgrade it.

Some of Microsoft's announce-

ments Monday appeared designed to blunt whatever Apple has in store. The newly AI-enhanced Windows PCs will start rolling out on June 18 on computers made by Microsoft partners Acer, ASUS, Dell, HP, Lenovo and Samsung, as well as on Microsoft's Surface line of devices. But they'll be reserved for premium models starting at \$999.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

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

For your ads on this page

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

www.arabtimesonline.com

مرکز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE
الفروانية FARWANIYA

DENTAL & COSMETIC DEPARTMENT

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

Dr. Shajahan V.M
BDS, MDS
Dental Surgeon

Dr. Ayham Askar
BDS
Dental Surgeon

Dr. Raina Fernandes
BDS
Dental Surgeon

Working Time: From 9am to 1pm & 5pm to 9pm
Ph: 24 734 000

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police station - Farwaniya
www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

Atlanta rallies to defeat Dallas in its WNBA home opener

Copper scores 37 points, Mercury hand Aces first loss 98-88



Kolkata Knight Riders' Venkatesh Iyer plays a shot during the Indian Premier League qualifier cricket match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad in Ahmedabad, India. (AP)

Kolkata 'cruises' to IPL final with a thumping win over Hyderabad

Starc dismantles the batting power-house of Sunrisers

AHMEDABAD, India, May 22, (AP): Mitchell Starc dismantled the batting power-house of Sunrisers Hyderabad for 159 and spearheaded two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders to the Indian Premier League final with a crushing eight-wicket win in the playoff.

Starc, who had signed for a record-breaking \$2.9 million in his IPL return, reserved his best for the big game in the playoff with 3-34 after Hyderabad won the toss but crumbled against the Australian left-arm fast bowler.

Kolkata, which topped the points table with nine wins, cruised to 164-2 in just 13.4 overs with captain Shreyas Iyer (58) and Venkatesh Iyer (51) both hitting unbeaten half-centuries.

CRICKET

Starc sliced through the top-order with his impeccable seam and swing and reduced Hyderabad to 39-4 inside the batting power play. Starc had his Australian teammate Travis Head for second successive duck in the tournament when he had him clean bowled off the second delivery that swung away late from the left-hander.

Andre Russell then timed his jump to perfection and held onto a terrific catch of Abhishek Sharma (3) at extra cover off Vaibhav Arora (1-17) in the second over before Starc beat Nitish Kumar Reddy (9) through pace off a short ball and then Shahbaz Ahmed played the ball back onto his stumps off the next delivery.

China add three golds on Day 6

KOBE, Japan, May 22, (Xinhua): Chinese athletes took home three gold medals at the Para Athletics Championships here on Wednesday.

Chinese wheelchair racers enjoyed double one-two victories, as the men's 1,500m T54 final saw Jin Hua clinch gold with a time of two minutes 54.85 seconds, and Dai Yunqiang won the silver medal.

In another double podium finish, Zhou Hongzhan and Gao Fang in the women's 100m T53 final claimed the gold and silver medals by clocking 16.88 seconds and 16.91 seconds respectively, both achieving their season

bests. Chinese gold medalist Zhong Huanghao, 25, defended his title in the men's long jump T38 final with a leap of 6.66 meters on his second attempt, while his teammate Zhou Peng

PARA ATHLETICS

claimed the bronze. Among Chinese medalists on Wednesday was also Zhou Zhaoqian who won silver in women's 100m T54 with her season-best time of 16.34s.

By Wednesday, which is the sixth

competition day of the nine-day tournament, China continued to top the medal tally with 18 golds, 16 silvers, and 14 bronzes. The World Championships, held in East Asia for the first time, serve as a qualifier for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. The championships have attracted over 1,000 athletes from 100 countries and regions competing in 168 events.

A total of 73 Chinese para-athletes are competing in the championships, which run until May 25. Originally scheduled for 2021, the event was postponed twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Starc should have dismissed top-scorer Rahul Tripathi (55) for 15 in his second over second when television

replays suggested the ball had hit the right-hander flush on the foot but Kolkata didn't get for the referral.



Players of Kolkata Knight Riders celebrate after their win in the Indian Premier League qualifier cricket match against Sunrisers Hyderabad in Ahmedabad, India. (AP)

Tripathi raised his half-century off 29 balls and together with Heinrich Klaasen (32) revived the innings with a 62-run stand but Kolkata came back strongly in the middle overs once Klaasen holed out in the deep off Varun Chakravarthy (2-26) in the 11th over.

Hyderabad was in danger to get out cheaply at 9-126 before Pat Cummins (30) farmed the strike in the last four overs and pushed the score to some respectability.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz (23) and Sunil Narine (21) provided Kolkata a rollicking start off 44 off just 20 balls as Cummins leaked 20 runs off his first over. Gurbaz, playing his first game of the season after Phil Salt went back to England for the Twenty20 series against Pakistan, hit two boundaries and two sixes and Narine also smacked four boundaries.

Team unpredictable

Babar holds the key to success for Pakistan at T20 WC

ISLAMABAD, May 22, (AP): The return of tried and tested Babar Azam as captain for the Twenty20 World Cup belies the massive changes in Pakistan cricket over the last 18 months.

Since Babar's team lost the T20 World Cup final to England in November 2022, the Pakistan Cricket Board has had four chairmen, the selection panel has been overhauled, and the experiment with Shaheen Shah Afridi as skipper was quickly aborted.

A new head coach for the limited-overs formats joined the squad in England just weeks ahead of the June 1-29 World Cup in the U.S. and Caribbean.

And to top it off, Pakistan will be the last team to confirm its 15-member World Cup squad as it continues to experiment with various combinations.

Babar is urging supporters to be patient, and there's a plan in place for success.

Babar stepped down from all-formats captaincy during the tenure of Zaka Ashraf as head of the PCB after Pakistan failed to qualify for the semifinals of the 50-over World Cup in India last year.

But he was reinstated as T20 captain by Mohsin Naqvi - the fourth PCB chairman in less than 14 months - ahead of home series against New Zealand in April after Afridi lost the series in New Zealand 4-1.

Allrounder Imad Wasim and fast bowler Mohammad Amir came out of international retirement in the hope that their experience of playing in the Caribbean Premier League will benefit Pakistan in the West Indies.

South African Gary Kirsten, who was

appointed last month as head coach, will gain some first-hand knowledge of the Pakistan squad during a four-match series in England that both teams are using to rehearse for the World Cup.

All these off-the-field happenings have impacted Pakistan's preparations for the tournament.

It badly lost the away series to New Zealand, scraped to a drawn 2-2 series

CRICKET

at home against the Black Caps and lost a T20 series against Afghanistan 2-1. A shock loss to Ireland in Dublin preceded back-to-back wins and 2-1 series result.

And so unpredictable Pakistan enters another world tournament as a team to watch because of its rich history in the T20 World Cup. It has featured in three finals, winning the title in 2009, and also reached the semifinals three other times.

One of Kirsten's coaching tips has already resonated with the players.

"Gary told us, don't play for the name on the back of your jersey but for the badge in front of your shirt," Afridi told a PCB podcast. "And that stayed with me."

The depth in its pace bowling, with the likes of Afridi, fit-again Haris Rauf, Naseem Shah and Amir, can pose a threat to any team. But Pakistan's top-order batting was still unsettled going into the series in England. Left-hander Saim Ayub is yet to fire in his role after selectors decided to separate the successful T20 opening pair of Babar and Mohammad Rizwan.

LAS VEGAS, May 22, (AP): Kahliah Copper scored 37 points and the Phoenix Mercury handed the two-time defending champion Las Vegas Aces their first loss of the season 98-88.

Copper, who had a career-high 38 points in her last game, had 14 in the fourth quarter, none bigger than her driving layup with 42 seconds to play. The Aces, down 15 with 5 1/2 minutes to play, had pulled within 90-88 on Kelsey Plum's seventh 3-pointer seconds earlier.

Copper added a steal and a layup and Natasha Cloud and Sophie Cunningham both had a pair of free throws as the Mercury scored the last eight points of the game that had 14 lead changes through three quarters.

BASKETBALL

Sug Sutton added 12 points and Cloud 11 for the Mercury (2-1), who were 16 of 33 on 3-pointers, five by Copper. The Mercury, playing which without Brittney Griner since she broke a toe in training camp, lost 89-80 in their season opener at Las Vegas.

Plum had 27 points for the Aces (2-1), Jackie Young added 23 and A'ja Wilson 21 with 13 rebounds.

When Copper hit her fourth 3-pointer without a miss she had 16 points and the Mercury had a 22-12 lead less than six minutes into the game. But Young led the charge back for the Aces, scoring 10 in the first quarter as Las Vegas closed to within 25-20.

By halftime Young had 19 and the Aces were up 47-46 after five ties and 11 lead changes. Copper had 20 for Phoenix, which got 15 points off its bench to none for Las Vegas. The bench difference ended up 27-2.

Plum opened the second half with back-to-back 3-pointers for a 53-46 lead but the Mercury's first three hoops after the break were 3s and they had seven in the third quarters to take a 73-68 lead.

Dream 83, Wings 78

In Atlanta, Allisha Gray scored 21 points to lead five in double figures and the Atlanta Dream rallied in the second half to win its home opener, defeating the Dallas Wings.

The Dream rallied from an eight-point halftime deficit, taking the lead at 63-62 on a Naz Hillmon layup early in the fourth quarter. With seven minutes left, Aerial Powers buried an 18-footer for a 69-64 Atlanta lead.

Best of the Rest

Shanghai top Chengdu: Oscar and Matias Vargas scored last-minute goals as Shanghai Port beat Chengdu Rongcheng 2-0 in the Chinese Super League (CSL) 13th round here on Wednesday.

The home team had several goal attempts but couldn't break the deadlock until the 87th minute, when Feng Jing was brought down in the box and the referee awarded Shanghai a penalty, which was converted by Oscar with composure.

In the stoppage time, Chengdu defender Feng Lei mistakenly passed the ball back to Vargas, who cut into the penalty area and fired the ball into the far post, sealing the 2-0 victory for Shanghai.

With a five-game winning streak, Shanghai Port now ranks second in the league table with 30 points, three points behind city rival Shanghai Shenhua. Chengdu



Phoenix Mercury forward Natasha Mack (4) and Las Vegas Aces center A'ja Wilson (22) fight for a rebound during the first half of an WNBA basketball game in Las Vegas. (AP)

The teams then traded baskets until a second-chance 3-pointer from Gray gave the Dream a 74-68 lead with five minutes to go. Monique Billings hit two free throws to draw Dallas within 80-76 with 2 1/2 minutes remaining and Teaira McCowan hit a pair from the line to cut it to 81-78 with 40 seconds left.

With 13 seconds left, McCowan fouled Powers while blocking a layup and Powers made both free throws for a five-point lead. Arike Ogunbowale missed a 3-pointer for Dallas, Powers rebounded, and time ran out.

Cheyenne Parker-Tyus had 16 points, Rhyne Howard 15, Tina Charles 12 and Powers 10 for Atlanta (2-1). Howard and Charles completed double-doubles with 11 and 10 rebounds, respectively.

McCowan had 21 points and 14 rebounds in 33 minutes off the bench for Dallas (1-2). Billings also had a double-double with 20 points and 10 boards. Ogunbowale, the early WNBA scoring leader at 30.0 points per game, scored 24 points on 8-for-20 shooting. She was 1-for-8 from 3-point distance and the Wings made just 2 of 16.

After leading 27-26 through the first quarter, Dallas went on an 11-3 run early in the second and extended the lead to 48-40 at halftime while looking for a seventh straight win over Atlanta.

Atlanta outscored Dallas 43-30 in the second half.

The Wings played without Natasha Howard for the second game and Satou Sabally has yet to play this season.

Rongcheng sits third with 25 points. (Xinhua)

Brunson has surgery: Jalen Brunson has had surgery to repair the broken left hand he sustained while the New York Knicks were losing Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Knicks also said Wednesday that reserve Bojan Bogdanovic had surgery on his left wrist. No details were provided about either procedure except that both players would be evaluated again in six to eight weeks.

Brunson was hurt in the third quarter of the Indiana Pacers' 130-109 victory over the Knicks on Sunday. He finished with 17 points, his lowest of a postseason in which he scored 40 or more five times, becoming just the fourth player to reach that mark in four consecutive postseason games. (AP)

Required for Next Academic Year 2024-25 at Private American School

Kindergarten

- English Teacher
- Female Pool Lifeguard

Elementary

- Math Teacher
- Science Teacher
- English Teacher
- Physical Education Teacher

Middle and High School

- Social Studies Teacher
- English Teacher
- Science Teacher
- Math Teacher
- Business Teacher
- ICT Teacher
- Culinary Arts Teacher

Leadership Positions

- High School Vice Principal
- Dean of Students
- Counselor
- College Counselor
- Curriculum Coordinator

Interested applicants may apply through our website at the following link: <https://www.abs.edu.kw/careers/abs>

WAREHOUSE SPACE AVAILABLE IN SHUAIBA INDUSTRIAL AREA
• 3PL STORAGE • 2PL STORAGE
Contact : 97782214



In this file photo, England celebrate with their trophy after defeating Pakistan in the final of the T20 World Cup cricket at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne, Australia. (AP)

Babar has faced criticism for not pushing the scoring rate in the T20 power play, particularly while batting first. Pakistan has mostly aimed for totals in the 170-180 range while other teams have crossed 200 on regular basis. Political tensions between Pakistan and India means there hasn't been a bilateral series for over a decade, but the ICC tournaments always attracts a huge TV audience when the archrivals meet.

Pakistan and India will play a group game on June 9 at a newly built 34,000-capacity Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York that will be the center of attention for South

Asian communities.

Both teams are expected to advance to the Super 8 stage from a group that also contains tournament co-host U.S., Canada and Ireland. Babar has twice gone close to lifting the trophy as captain, losing to eventual champion Australia in the 2021 semifinals and to England in the final in the Melbourne final the following year.

And for that, he'll get the distinction of becoming the first player to lead a country in three successive T20 World Cups and will be aiming for third time lucky if his Pakistan lineup can reach the June 29 decider in Barbados.

SPORTS



This photo shows the awarding ceremony after the play-off final 4th leg match between Xinjiang Flying Tigers and Liaoning Flying Leopards at the 2023-2024 season of the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) league in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. (Xinhua)

Liaoning win third consecutive CBA championship

The Liaoning Flying Leopards achieved a 4-0 sweep in the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) Finals after beating the Xinjiang Flying Tigers 104-95 in Game 4 on the road here on Wednesday, lifting the trophy for the third season in a row.

Seven players scored double digits for Liaoning, while Kyle Fogg, who efficiently notched 12 points in his 16-minute playing time, was awarded the CBA Fi-

nals Most Valuable Player (FMVP).

Zhao Jiwei had 19 points and dished out 10 assists, Li Xiaoxu took 13 points and eight rebounds, and Han Dejun added a double-double of 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Lindell Wigginton led Xinjiang with 25 points and seven assists, Wu Guanxi had nine points and 10 rebounds, and Qi Lin added 19 points. Abudushalamu

Abudurexiti played 42 minutes in the game, but only made four out of 13 attempts, contributing 10 points, six rebounds, and five assists.

Facing Fogg's early foul trouble, Liaoning's head coach Yang Ming had to send newcomer Sharife Cooper onto the court, and it turned out to be a smart move.

Cooper showcased his offensive toolkits and had a good job finding teammates' wide opens as he clinched

22 points, six rebounds, and nine assists throughout the night.

Combining Zhao's shooting and veteran center Han's efforts in the paint, Liaoning led the first half 53-47.

The deficit was soon enlarged coming back from lockers, after a couple of ingenious connections between forwards Fu Hao and Li Xiaoxu, and Liaoning carried a 12-point lead to enter the last 12 minutes. (Xinhua)

Brown hits 3 to force OT as Celtics edge Pacers in East finals Game 1

Tatum scores 36 points

BOSTON, May 22, (AP): The Celtics entered the playoffs expecting to get everyone's best shot.

The East's top seed barely survived a tough one to open the Eastern Conference finals.

Jayson Tatum scored 36 points, including 10 in overtime after Jaylen Brown's tying 3-pointer with 6.1 seconds remaining in regulation, and Boston rallied just in time for a 133-128 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Tuesday night.

True Holiday added a season-high 28 points and Brown finished with 26.

"Welcome to the NBA playoffs. You've just got to manage your emotions. Anything can happen," Brown said of his tying 3. "It's not over until the final buzzer sounds. ... It's not over until it's over. We found a way to win the game at the very end." It gave his team a new life and helped it hang on to home-court advantage with Game 2 set for Thursday in Boston.

But guarding against complacency was also on the mind of Tatum. The Celtics have lost Game 2 in each of their previous two series.

"It doesn't prove anything," Tatum said. "We won a big-time game. The series is far from over." Tyrese Haliburton had 25 points and 10 assists for the Pacers, who knocked down 13 3-pointers and scored 56 points in the paint against a Celtics team still playing without 7-footer Kristaps Porzingis.

But Boston dialed up its defense,

finishing with 11 steals - three each by Brown, Tatum and Holiday. The Celtics become the first team in NBA playoff history to have three players record 25 points and three steals in a game.

The Celtics were cold for most of the game from 3-point range, but ended the night 15 of 45 from beyond the arc.

BASKETBALL

"We keep talking about protecting home court," Celtics forward Al Horford said. "It's whatever it takes." Pascal Siakam added 24 points and 12 rebounds. Myles Turner finished with

23 points and 10 rebounds for the sixth-seeded Pacers, who twice turned it over with a three-point lead in the final 30 seconds of regulation.

Brown made them pay for the second one, hitting a 3 from the corner with Siakam right in his face to tie it at 117.

"Jrue made a good pass, (Derrick White) set a great screen and the rest is history," Brown said.

Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla like the poise Brown showed.

"Jaylen had great balance," he said. "Great pass, great shot." Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said the loss was "totally on me" for not calling a timeout to advance the ball before their turnover that

set up Brown's shot.

Asked about the 21 turnovers Indiana committed, Haliburton said many of them were preventable.

"I think it's more on us," he said. "I just felt like more of them were probably on us than them forcing turnovers." The Celtics are now 2-2 when their opponent scores 100 or more points.

Holiday said the Celtics never panicked after falling behind late in regulation "I think we always knew that there's always a chance. We've seen crazy stuff happen all the time," Holiday said. "I don't think that we think we lost the game until we actually lost the game and that's part of the reason why we were so resilient." Indiana went back ahead 123-121 when Haliburton hit all three free throws after being fouled with 1:46 remaining. Tatum then muscled in a layup and was fouled by T.J. McConnell. He completed the three-point play to put Boston ahead for good.

The Pacers turned it over again, this time by Haliburton. The ball found its way to Tatum at the top of the key. He pumped, sidestepped a defender and sunk a 3 to make it 127-123 with 43 seconds left.

White and Siakam traded layups. Holiday was fouled and hit two free throws to give Boston a 131-125 cushion.

"It's unfortunate we did so many good things in this game that it came down to a couple of mistakes at the end, but it's the NBA playoffs," Carlisle said. "We've got to learn from it and we've got to bounce back."



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) controls a rebound against Indiana Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton (0) in overtime of Game 1 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals in Boston. (AP)

2027 decision on San Siro delayed

UEFA picks Budapest to host 2026 Champs League final

DUBLIN, May 22, (AP): UEFA picked Budapest on Wednesday to host the men's Champions League final in 2026 and delayed giving the 2027 game to Milan amid uncertainty over the future of San Siro.

The Puskás Arena and San Siro were the only two candidates for the two finals scheduled to be awarded. The next final on June 1 is at Wembley Stadium in London and Bayern Munich's home will host next year.

The iconic San Siro, formally known as Stadio Giuseppe Meazza and owned by the city of Milan, has been under long-term threat of demolition. Its shared tenants AC Milan and Inter Milan have looked for new homes they can own.

UEFA put off a decision until a September meeting of its executive committee subject to the Italian soccer federation "submitting information on refurbishment plans" for San Siro.

Earlier Wednesday, uncertainly increased in Milan as ownership of

SOCCER

Inter switched from Chinese corporation Suning to United States investors Oaktree because of failure to repay debts.

The 75,000-seat San Siro still could host the European Cup or Champions League final for the fifth time, one year after staging the opening ceremony of the 2026 Winter Olympics.

The 70,000-seat Puskás Arena

opened five years ago and has been a go-to venue for UEFA, hosting a Europa League final last year and replacement games during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán is a big fan of soccer and billionaire banker Sándor Csányi is a FIFA vice president representing UEFA.

UEFA's executive committee also sent the Women's Champions League final in 2026 to Oslo, Norway.

Istanbul will host the 2026 Europa League final in the downtown stadium of Besiktas and the 2027 game is going to Eintracht Frankfurt's home.

The 2025 Europa final is in Athletic Bilbao's stadium, which also hosts the Women's Champions League final next week.

The third-tier Conference League final in 2026 will also go to Germany, in Leipzig, and in 2027 in Istanbul, also at the Besiktas stadium.

The Besiktas stadium gets to host European finals in back-to-back years while the Romanian national stadium in Bucharest, which last hosted a Europa League final in 2012, lost in votes to bring that title match back.

The Israeli soccer federation had originally entered the Conference

League bidding contest last year proposing Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem.

Albania coach Sylvinho, a Brazilian, and his assistants were sworn in as Albanian citizens ahead of the European Championship.

Albania had announced in December that Sylvinho was granted citizenship in a show of appreciation for having led the tiny Western Balkan country to the Euros. It's just the second time Albania has qualified.

Sylvinho's close Argentinian assistant Pablo Zabaleta and two Italians - Luca Laurenti and Gianluca Stesina - were sworn in at a ceremony in the city of Lushnja, 80 kilometers (50 miles) southwest of the capital Tirana, the Interior Ministry said. It was not clear why they chose Lushnja, a city of about 80,000 people.

Albania is in Group B alongside Italy, Croatia and Spain when the tournament kicks off next month in Germany.

"We have done a good job together but an important challenge is ahead of us," the 50-year-old Sylvinho said.

In 2004, Sylvinho obtained a Spanish passport after completing three years' residency there.

Albania hopes to keep Sylvinho as the coach in a bid to reach the 2026 World Cup for the first time. Sylvinho's current deal ends after Euro 2024.

Albania also gave citizenship to Italian coach Giovanni Di Biasi after he led Albania to Euro 2016.

Kuwait FA and Peixe part ways

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Kuwait Football Association has mutually agreed to terminate the contract of Portuguese coach Emilio Peixe, who led the Kuwaiti Olympic team.

Despite the presence of talented players, Peixe failed to make a significant impact since assuming the role in August 2022. The team suffered mul-

SOCCER

tipled defeats under his leadership, with inconsistent performances in most matches.

Although the team managed to qualify for the Asian Cup finals in Qatar last April, their performance in the tournament was disappointing. The team, known as the Olympic Blue, conceded nine goals in three matches, losing to Vietnam 1-3 and Uzbekistan 0-5, before securing a 2-1 victory against Malaysia in their



Former Kuwait Olympic team coach Emilio Peixe.

final match.

The decision to part ways with Peixe comes in the aftermath of these disappointing results, with the Asian Cup finals serving as the tipping point for the Football Association.

Mobil 1 demonstrates excellence in motorcycle racing with Red Bull KTM

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: Kuwait Automotive Imports Company (Al Shaya & Al Sagar), the authorized dealer for Mobil oils in Kuwait, expresses pride in the outstanding achievement made by Mobil 1 with the Red Bull KTM team at the French Grand Prix, the fifth round of the MotoGP World Championship.

Strong Performance Fueled by Mobil 1:

Mobil 1 Oil played a crucial role in the performance of team riders Brad Binder and Jack Miller at the Bugatti Circuit on Friday and Saturday. Mobil 1 provided the team with exceptional engine performance and protection, enabling them to overcome various challenges, including changing weather conditions and fierce competition, to deliver a stunning performance.

Several factors contributed to this success, one of which is the superior quality of Mobil 1 oils. These high-quality oils enhance engine performance and protection during the most challenging races.

Mobil 1: A Partner in Red Bull KTM's Success

Mobil 1's commitment to innovation and excellence in oil technology is a vital element in the Red Bull KTM team's victories on global circuits.

Distinctive features that ensure optimal performance:

Mobil 1 oils are characterized by a range of features that make them the

ideal choice for the Red Bull KTM team's needs, including:

■ **Superior Performance:** Mobil 1 oils offer exceptional engine protection, enabling the team to attain peak motorcycle performance.

■ **Exceptional Efficiency:** Leveraging the power and effectiveness of Mobil 1 oils, the team sustains exceptional and distinguished performance throughout the race.

■ **Reduced Friction:** Mobil 1 oils contribute to friction reduction and enhanced fuel efficiency, providing the team with a notable competitive advantage.

KAICO & Mobil Celebrate Innovation and Success:

Mr. Ashish Tandon, General Manager of KAICO (Al-shaya& Al-Sagar), praised Mobil 1's achievement in the French Grand Prix. He explained, "We at Kuwait Automotive Imports Company reaffirm the leading brand's commitment to innovation and development, ensuring that vehicles achieve the best possible performance".

Mr. Jayan, Lubricants Division Manager, emphasizes Mobil's global leadership in industrial engine oils for over 140 years, providing outstanding performance and engine protection. As he continues, "Mobil's commitment to innovation and excellence in motorcycle racing shows in the team's exceptional performance at the French Grand Prix."



Red Bull KTM team



Members of North Korean women's soccer team who won the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup 2024 arrive at the Pyongyang International Airport in Pyongyang, North Korea. North Korea won the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup title on Sunday in Indonesia. (AP)



Cavalry FC's Sergio Camargo (left), and Vancouver Whitecaps' Pedro Vite vie for the ball during the first half in the second leg of a quarterfinal in the Canadian soccer championships, Tuesday, May 21, 2024, in Vancouver, British Columbia. Whitecaps won on away goals. (AP)

Sports

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

Amir congratulates Al-Qadisiya on Cup victory

Al-Qadisiya celebrate after ending title drought

By Hassan Musa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
And Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to Chairman of Qadisiya Sports Club Sheikh Khaled Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, expressing sincere congratulations on Qadisiya's victory in the His Highness the Amir Football Cup.

In his message, His Highness the Amir praised the outstanding performance of both Qadisiya and Al-Salmiya SC in the final match, which concluded with a 1-0 victory for Qadisiya at the Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium. His Highness extended his best wishes for continued success; hoping Kuwaiti sports would be well represented in regional and international

events. Upon arrival, His Highness the Amir was received by the Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood, and Minister of Youth Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, along with Dr. Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee (KOC), and Faisal Naser Al-Yateem, Acting General Manager of the Public Authority of Sport. His Highness

SOCCER

the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, along with other senior state officials, also attended the match.

After the match, His Highness the Amir presented the cup to the Qadisiya SC team.

Additionally, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to the Chairman of Qadisiya Sports Club.

Al-Qadisiya, encompassing its players, technical team, administrative and medical staff, board of di-

rectors, and fans, celebrated an unforgettable night after clinching its seventeenth Amir Cup Championship. It triumphed over Al-Salmiya with a decisive goal from Ibrahim Tandia.

This victory is particularly sweet for Al-Qadisiya, as it marks its first title after several lean years. Its last triumph in the Prince's Cup came in the 2014-2015 season, and its most recent local championship win was the Crown Prince's Cup in the 2017-2018 seasons, with its last league title in the 2015-2016 seasons.

The players see this "Most Expensive Cup" victory as a turning point. Team captain and star, Badr Al-Mutawa, stated, "This title is the least we can offer to the Al-Qadisiya fans, who have stood by us through difficult seasons." Regarding his future on the field, Al-Mutawa mentioned that his retirement decision would be postponed until the season's end. However, sources indicate that Al-Mutawa is likely to retire after this season.

Libyan professional Mohamed Sawla expressed his intent to renew his contract with Al-Qadisiya for

another season, highlighting that the recent title win positively reflects his contributions this season.

The futures of Argentinian Sergio Vitor, Malian Ibrahim Tandia, and Libyan Mohamed Sawla at Al-Qadisiya appear promising for the new season. In contrast, Nigerian Daniel Guibola and Omani Abdullah Fawaz are unlikely to stay. Sheikh Fahd Talal, head of the football team, noted that the contracts of the professionals involve significant sums, making their replacement a challenging task. Nonetheless, he assured that the club's management is capable of finding even better replacements if necessary.

Coach Muhammad Al-Mishaan praised the players' exceptional efforts in securing the cup, stating that "a single goal was enough to earn Al-Qadisiya this precious title." He dedicated the cup to the former coach, Mohamed Ibrahim, in recognition of his efforts throughout the past and current seasons. Looking ahead, Al-Mishaan described the upcoming Zain Premier League match against Kuwait Club as a critical final for Al-Qadisiya.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah presents the trophy to Badr Al-Mutawa.

Young shines as Kuwait Club claim Federation Cup bronze

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 22: The Kuwait Club's first basketball team secured third place in the Federation Cup competition by defeating Al-Qurain 111-94 at the Al-Itihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex.

Kuwait Club's victory was marked by a relative dominance throughout most of the game, with contributions from nearly all players. Notably, American professional "Commander" Michael Young excelled, scoring 24 points.

BASKETBALL

In related news, the basketball teams of Kuwait Club and Kazma will depart today for Doha, Qatar, to participate in the Asian Basketball League Championship for West and Central Asia, known as the "Super League," starting on May 25.

The draw placed Kuwait and Kazma in the second group alongside Iran's Shahrdari Gorgan and India's Tamil Nadu. The first group includes Lebanon's Athletic Club, Bahrain's Manama, Lebanon's Al-Hikma, and Kazakhstan's BC Astana.

According to the tournament format, the top two teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals. The finalists will earn two tickets to participate in the Asian Basketball Championship League, scheduled to be held from June 9 to 15 in Dubai, UAE.



Qadisiya players celebrate after winning the Amir Cup.

Previous owners failed to repay loan

American fund Oaktree takes over Serie A champs Inter

MILAN, May 22, (AP): American fund Oaktree officially became the new owner of Serie A champion Inter Milan on Wednesday, bringing an end to Suning and Steven Zhang's eight years at the helm.

Oaktree took charge after Suning failed to meet Tuesday's deadline of repaying a debt of nearly 400 million euros (\$434 million).

That sum stems from a loan - and interest - taken out three years ago, shortly after Inter won its previous league title but also knew it was going to be hit by record losses because of the coronavirus pandemic.

SOCCER

"As of May 22, 2024, funds managed by Oaktree Capital Management, LP are the owners of Inter. This follows the failure to repay the three-year loan granted by Oaktree to Inter's holding company, having expired May 22, 2024 with an overall balance of approximately 395 million euros," Oaktree said in a statement sent to The Associated Press and other news outlets.

The news comes just three days after Inter was presented with its 20th league title amid a party atmosphere at San Siro.

Inter becomes the seventh Serie A club under American ownership. The others are AC Milan, Atalanta, Fiorentina, Roma, Genoa and new-



In this file photo, Inter Milan's President Steven Zhang smiles as he holds the trophy after winning the Italian Super Cup final soccer match between Inter Milan and Juventus at the San Siro Stadium, in Milan, Italy. (AP)

ly-promoted Parma. American-owned Serie B side Venezia is also in contention for promotion.

It had been unclear whether Oaktree would look to sell Inter, but managing director Alejandro Cano said it is looking to the long-term future.

"As new owners, we recognize our responsibility to Inter Milan's community, history and legacy," Cano said in a statement. "We are committed to the long-term success of the Nerazzurri and believe our ambitions for the club are united with those of its passionate fans in Italy and around the world.

"Our initial focus is operational and financial stability. We have great respect for Inter Milan's management team and look forward

ward to working closely with them to provide strong leadership for the club."

In 2018, Milan was taken over by American fund Elliott Management after previous owner Li Yonghong missed the deadline to repay part of a loan.

Elliott had been expected to sell the club, with a number of parties reportedly interested, but it kept hold of it for five years before selling to RedBird Capital Partners in 2022, shortly after Milan won the Serie A title.

Chinese retail giant Suning took over Inter in 2016, ending a three-year reign by a consortium led by Indonesian businessman Erick Thohir. Massimo Moratti had been in charge since 1995 before selling a majority share of the club to Thohir.

Five years after Suning took over, Inter won its first Serie A title in more than a decade. That was Inter's first trophy since 2011 and the first league title since 2010.

Inter went on to win two Italian Cup trophies and three Italian Super Cups as well as earning its 20th Serie A title this season - and a coveted second star on its jersey. The Nerazzurri also reached the Champions League final last year.

"Winning the second star was a pivotal moment for the club and our aim is to build on the momentum achieved on the pitch to develop a clear path for consistent growth and success," Cano added.



Al-Qurain player is well defended by two Kuwait Club players as he goes for a basket.

Yuning dropped by China for qualifiers

BEIJING, May 22, (Xinhua): Beijing Guoan striker Zhang Yuning has been left out of the Chinese team list unveiled on Wednesday after picking up an injury in a Chinese Super League game.

The Chinese side will hold training camps from May 27 to June 12 in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, and Seoul, South Korea, to prepare for their FIFA World Cup qualifying games against Thailand and South Korea. Zhang had planned to play despite the injury.

The 27-year-old forward was diagnosed with a left knee injury after Bei-

jing Guoan's 3-2 loss to Changchun Yatai last Friday and is expected to recover in no less than four weeks.

"I always yearn to play for the national team, even with injuries. I will be trying my best to be ready for the games in June (against Thailand and South Korea)," he said then.

Head coach Branko Ivankovic took a cautious approach by dropping Zhang along with his two Beijing Guoan teammates, Li Lei and Lin Liangming, who also suffered injuries in the Yatai game.

Best of the Rest

Pochettino leaves Chelsea: Mauricio Pochettino has left Chelsea by mutual consent, the Premier League club said Tuesday.

Pochettino spent just one season as manager at Stamford Bridge and endured a troubled campaign in which he failed to secure qualification for the Champions League.

"On behalf of everyone at Chelsea, we would like to express our gratitude to Mauricio for his service this season. He will be welcome back to Stamford Bridge any time and we wish him all the very best in his future coaching career," Chelsea sporting directors Laurence Stewart and Paul Winstanley said in a statement.

Chelsea finished sixth in the standings, was a beaten finalist in the English League Cup and reached the semifinals of the FA Cup. (AP)

Martens quits Dutch: Lieke Martens announced her retirement from the Dutch women's team after 13 years, the 31-year-old Paris Saint-Germain forward revealed on social media.

Martens will retire following the next two European Championship 2025 qualifiers for the Netherlands against Finland on May 31 and June 4 this year.

In August 2011, Martens made her debut for the Dutch national team and has since played 158 international matches for her country. The former FC Barcelona player was a key figure during a successful period for the Dutch women's team under coach Sarina Wiegman. (AP)