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**150 FILS** 

## Amir ushers in new era with Al-Zour Refinery launch





Amiri Diwan photos

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attends the official inauguration of Al-Zour Refinery.

## Inauguration 'historic'

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attended and presided over the official inauguration of Al-Zour Refinery operations on Wednesday morning, held at the Al-Zour petroleum complex.

The motorcade of His Highness the Amir arrived at the venue of the ceremony, was welcomed by His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Dr.

Imad Al-Atiqi.
Also, the CEO of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, and the Acting CEO of the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC), Engineer Wadha Al-Khateeb welcomed His Highness the Amir as well.

The event was attended by His Highness the



Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and seniors officials, as His Highness the Amir unveiled a memorial plaque of the proj-The ceremony began

with the national anthem and a recitation from the Quran, followed by a speech by Dr. Imad Al-Atiqi in which he de-Sheikh Nawaf

scribed Al-Zour refinery as one of the key projects in Kuwait's development plans and a cornerstone of the 2040 Kuwait

Petroleum Corporation's strategic plan. Dr. Alatiqi confirmed that the refinery has a significant role in supplying local power stations with clean fuel to meet the increasing demand for electric-

ity due to population growth in the country. He also explained that the pioneering project embodied the transformation of the developmental vision of "New Kuwait 2035"

The project provided job opportunities for national labor, with approximately 1,400 recent graduates employed to participate in this monu-

mental national industry, he added. Dr. Alatiqi announced that with Al-Zour inauguration, they successfully achieved an extraordinary refining capacity exceeding two million barrels per day, distributed across six oil refineries, three of which located in Kuwait: Mina Abdullah, Mina Al-Ahmadi, and Al-Zour, collectively producing 1.415 million barrels per day.

The other three refineries are located outside Kuwait: Al-Duqm in Oman, Nghi Son in Vietnam, and Milazzo in Italy, with Kuwait's share of their total production reaching approximately 600,000 barreÎs per day.

Then a documentary about the journey of the Al-Zour Refinery was displayed, followed by a speech By KIPIC Acting CEO Engineer Wadha

Al-Khateeb said the inauguration of Al-Zour Refinery was an accomplishment added to the Clean Fuel Project at Al-Ahmadi and Abdullah Ports Refineries, launched in March 2022, which was "a milestone in history of oil and gas industry in our beloved nation, particularly refining indus-

**Continued on Page 5** 

# Comprehensive plan targets residency violators, stateless

Broad campaign balances law and humanity

### By Raed Youssef

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: A comprehensive plan is underway to address residency violators and Kuwaitis whose nationalities have been withdrawn, expatriates staying illegally in the country and stateless persons (Bedoun), with a focus on humanitarian considerations.

Spearheaded by the Central Apparatus for Illegal Residents, the initiative focuses on Bedoun and is set to launch imminently, said Al-Seyassah daily quoting a reliable of-

The daily added, years of meticulous security arrangements have been undertaken to address this demographic, with preparations now at an advanced stage to implement strategies aligned with directives from higher authorities.

Regarding individuals whose Kuwaiti nationalities have been or will be withdrawn, a distinct mechanism will be applied, characterized by a "temporary exceptional treatment" tailored to suit

> This approach differs from the unified approach adopted for expatriate residency violators and will also diverge from expected procedures for legally residing

> stateless individuals (Bedoun). The Central Agency, acting under official directives, collaborates closely with relevant authorities to formulate definitive procedures for dealing with individuals whose gender has been altered without infringing upon their human rights.

> These procedures will encompass various options and scenarios, with a focus on providing appropriate and equitable treatment, including access to compulsory education.

These efforts aim to track and take legal action against residency violators currently residing in the country.

Amidst these developments, a renewed appeal is made to expatriates violating residency laws to utilize the grace period afforded to them, either by leaving the country or regularizing their status.

The forthcoming campaign will encompass violators from all backgrounds and segments of society, with a strong emphasis on addressing humanitarian concerns while upholding the rule of law and safeguarding national identity.

## Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday cables of congratula-tions to the Information and Culture Minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and the Editor in Chief of



Arab Media Award, during ceremony

Al-Arabi Al-Sagheer Magazine Ibrahim

Al-Mulaifi on

the occasion

of winning the

held in Dubai on May 28. Al-Mutairi In the cable

His Highness the Amir praised the efforts spent by the team of Al-Arabi Al-Sagheer Magazine since its establishment before four decades, and their keenness to raise awareness of educating young people through priceless, and valuable cultural topics, wishing the Information Minister and leaders of the magazine progress and

On Tuesday, Kuwait's Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi praised the progress and prosperity achieved in Kuwaiti-Bahraini relations, noting the Kingdom's endeavors and efforts in supporting joint Gulf and



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Dancers from the Chinese Cultural Delegation, representing Xinjiang, an autonomous region in northwest China renowned for its rich cultural diversity, perform at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultural Center. – See Page 11

## **Capital Governorate, Hawalli lead in** high rent prices for 3-bedroom units

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: KFH's real estate report for the first quarter of 2024 reveals that occupation rates for all types of investment properties have remained stable, ranging between 87% and 90%, reports Al-Rai daily.

## **Private Housing Rental Trends**

Regarding private housing rents, the report highlights variations across residential areas due to differing levels of distinction and area size. In the first quarter of 2024, these rents experienced mixed changes annually. Despite a slight decline in private housing prices, rental values decreased slightly in some locations while remaining stable in others. The strong demand for housing near workplaces and shopping areas, driven by citizens awaiting housing allocations, has increased rental supply.

For a typical three-bedroom, four-bathroom unit with a maid's room in a private housing building (135 sqm within a 400 sqm property), the average rent was 482 dinars at the end of Q1 2024, unchanged

from Q4 2023. The Capital Governorate saw an average rent of 570 dinars, stable annually. In "Hawalli," rents were 516 dinars, up 0.6% annually; in "Farwaniya," 396 dinars, down 1.4%; in "Mubarak Al-Kabeer," 436 dinars, down 0.2%; in "Al-Ahmadi," 375 dinars, unchanged; and in "Jahra," 345 dinars, down 0.7%

**Investment Property Rentals** The report notes that the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment (60 sqm) at the governorate level was 285 dinars at the end of Q1 2024, stable quarterly but up 2.4% annually. Increases varied by region: the Capital Governorate averaged 313 dinars (up 4% annually), "Hawally" 306 dinars (up 3.4%), "Farwaniya" 279 dinars (up 1.6%), "Al-Ahmadi" 244 dinars (up 0.8%), "Mubarak Al-Kabeer" 300 dinars (up 1.7%), and "Jahra" 273 dinars (up 0.9%).

**Commercial Property Rentals** For commercial properties, the average rental value per square meter for the

**Continued on Page 5** 

KRCS launches donation campaign for Gaza field hospital

## Kuwait affirms stance against Israeli aggression

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed on Wednesday the firm stance against the Israeli aggression on Palestinian refugee camps in the City of Rafah.

In a statement, the ministry mentioned that Kuwait renewed its call for the international community to pres-

KUNA photo KRCS team intensifies work to finalize field hospital in Gaza and begin actual operations.

surize and stop the Israeli aggression on the innocent Palestinians in front of the eyes of the whole world without being accountable for those crimes.

It stressed on the deliberate targeting of the refugee camps in Rafah, and the killing of innocent civilians, showing that this entity has no humanity and no peace. The ministry renewed its call for the importance of

forcing peace solutions by the security council and respecting international laws. Meanwhile, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) launched on Wednesday a donation campaign via its

website to back operating budgets for its field hospital in Gaza Strip. KRCS Chairperson Dr. Hilal al-Sayer said in a statement to KUNA that the campaign was launched with

aim of affirming the society's commitment to support

sustainable humanitarian activities and provide medica-

tions to the Palestinian brothers. He has indicated urgency for continuing support for "the brethren in Gaza that is witnessing work halt in many hospitals due the occupation offensives that have also destroyed a bevy of them."

The society has intensified work to finalize the hospital inauguration and begin actual operations as soon as

**Continued on Page 5** 

By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-38 km/h.

By Night: Rather hot with light

**Expected weather for next 24 hrs:** to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

Weather

Station Max Exp Kuwait City

Abdaly Jahra Salmiyah Nuwaisib

**Kuwait Airport** 

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

## ICRC pledges to keep Kuwaiti prisoners, missing persons file open



Photo by Mahmoud Jadeed Canadian Ambassador Aliya Mawani (right) with the head of the regional delegation of the ICRC for GCC countries, Mamadou Sow.

## Canadian envoy hosts 'Keeping Humanity Alive'

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Head of the regional delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Mamadou Sow, affirmed the committee's commitment to not close the file of Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons.

He said, "This file is one of the first priorities of our work, and we are committed to completing the research and enhancing efforts aimed at identifying burial sites and conducting further excavations in them.

During press statements issued on the sidelines of the "Keeping Humanity Alive" event, which was hosted by the Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait Aliya Mawani at her residence Monday evening, Sow said, "This file will not be closed, and we are working with Iraq in this field. Nothing has stopped in terms of the search for missing Kuwaitis and prisoners.

This session took place in light of the difficult circumstances that the region is experiencing. The international committee's team is working on the front-lines in conflict areas, and experiencing these difficult circumstances.

We celebrate the Red Cross Day and salute what we do in the Gaza Strip, Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, and other places.

Regarding their call to implement international humanitarian law, Sow said, "The whole world is interested in what is happening in Gaza. Everyone wants to implement international humanitarian law. Our role is to continue to remind of international humanitarian law and to be very close to the people in Gaza. We are with them on the ground to try to save

support of Canada and our other partners. Kuwait is one of the committee's biggest supporters and we are proud of the humanitarian aid provided by the Kuwaiti government and people."

Meanwhile, the Canadian Ambassador Aliya Mawani said, "We share the same principles with the International Committee of the Red Cross to protect people facing persecution and people exposed to violence.

"The committee is a very important organization and an essential partner with Canada. We are one of the countries that support it. Kuwait also has a good relationship with the committee.'

Regarding her evaluation of the committee's work, Ambassador Mawani said: "The committee's mission is to provide protection and support for civilians in conflict areas. I believe that Canada and the Red Cross are working closely together. Canada has been supporting the Red Cross for years. We are a member of the donor group for the Red Cross, which is doing great work in light of very difficult challenges. This is not an easy matter for any neutral organization that has a good reputation among everyone."

She emphasized her country's support for ending the war in Gaza Strip, adding, "We support relief and humanitarian operations for the residents of Gaza Strip. Every day there are civilians dying there. Therefore, the war must be stopped in accordance with international law and the Geneva Conventions to protect civilians.'

Ambassador Mawani affirmed that Canada announced its support for the decision of the International Court of Jus-

She said, "It is our collective responsibility to strongly support humanitarian work. Such events are essential in developing common understandings of what this responsibility means and strengthening ties between Canada, Kuwait and international humanitarian entities that give priority to meeting the needs of vulnerable populations in areas affected by

"I believe that full and frank dialogue is essential as we renew our collective efforts and our commitment to addressing global humanitarian challenges".

### We recently opened a hospital with the conflicts.

## Croatian envoy hails 'excellent' Kuwait ties

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Croatian Ambassador to Kuwait, Emir Muharime, has lauded the bilateral relations between Croatia and Kuwait, describing them as "excellent" and expressing a mutual desire to strengthen them further, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Speaking on the sidelines of the "The Story of the Necktie" exhibition, which was attended by several accredited foreign ambassadors, Muharime emphasized the historical ties between Croatia and Kuwait, underpinned by numerous agreements across various sectors.

He highlighted the aspiration to bolster cooperation in the realm of food security, citing ongoing discussions with Kuwaiti counterparts on this front.

Noting Croatia's agricultural prowess, Muharime emphasized the potential for close collaboration between the two countries in this domain, considering food security as a crucial shared concern.

Furthermore, Muharime underscored Kuwait's positive relations with European countries, acknowledging the country's importance on the international

Despite being a tourist destination, he lamented the absence of direct flights between Croatia and Kuwait, expressing hope for progress in this regard following discussions with Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways.

Regarding the exhibition itself, Muharime noted its significance in tracing the history of the necktie, which originated in Croatia before spreading to other parts of Europe and eventually worldwide.

On her part, European Union Ambassador to Kuwait, Anne Koistinen, praised the exhibition as a fitting tribute to Europe Month, highlighting its ability to showcase the art and history of the neck-

She expressed her commitment to enhancing cultural cooperation between European Union member states and Kuwait, emphasizing art's capacity to transcend cultural boundaries and unite people across different backgrounds and

## **News in Brief**

Al-Khalid

**Ex-minister passes away:** Former Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al-Khalid passed away at the age of 80 after a rich life

daily. Ál-Khalid cupied the position of Minister of Commerce and Industry from 1986 to June 1990 as part of the

in serving his nation, reports Al-Qabas

13th government. In 1971, he worked at the Em-

Diwan; ployees and then transferred

to Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) where he served as economic researcher in 1972, operations manager in 1974 and director general in

The Council of Ministers eulogized

Al-Khalid, recalling his achievements and praying that Allah Almighty will grant him mercy

KGAC's 11 new services: Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) has launched 11 services on the

unified government electronic platform

'Sahel Business', reports Al-Anba daily. In a press statement, KGAC revealed that the new electronic services enable companies to complete many procedures; such as online payment of taxes and customs duties. It affirmed that these new services are part of a set of strategies aimed at improving the performance of management facilities and

the business environment. KGAC also asserted that it is keen on establishing principles and pillars to provide multiple work packages and measures for comprehensive digital transformation; and for citizens to complete their transactions in a speedy, flexible and accurate manner.

## PAM joins hands with private sector to up nat'l employment

Banking sector leads national employment drive

**KUWAIT CITY, May** 29: The Public Authority for Manpower recently convened a meeting with representatives from various sectors of private economic activity to discuss strategies for increasing the proportion of national employment and addressing imbalances in specific sectors, reports Al-Qabas daily.

During the meeting, officials praised the banking sector for its exemplary efforts in national workforce recruitment, noting that the sector has surpassed prescribed quotas with national workers constituting over 79 percent of its workforce.

Seen as a frontrunner in employing national talent, the banking sector plays a pivotal role in nurturing creativity and innovation among young cadres, particularly in light of the industry's rapid digital transformation and integration of artificial intelli-

Moreover, employment in the banking sector aligns with Kuwait Vision 2035's objectives by facilitating the professional development of young nationals and ensuring they remain abreast of global banking trends. The sector's commitment to

training and equipping young talents contributes to sustainable development goals while indirectly bolstering national employment rates through financing various projects and initiatives, thereby creating job opportunities and cultivating skilled national professionals vital to the country's developmental trajectory.

### 'Palestine' issue to top agenda: envoy

TOKYO, May 29, (KUNA): The 20th Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum will discuss many important files, on top of them the Palestinian issue and the war in Gaza, said Kuwait Ambassador to China, Jassem Al-Najem Wednesday.

In a statement to KUNA by telephone, Ambassador Al-Najem stressed the importance of the forum, which begins tomorrow, Thursday, with the participation of Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, in consolidating cooperation relations between China and Arab countries in various political and economic fields and discussing investment

opportunities. He stated that the forum will adopt three documents, which are (the Beijing Declaration), (the joint statement on the Palestinian issue) and (the executive program of the Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum between 2024 and 2026).

Arab foreign ministers will participate in the forum, in addition to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.

MPW employee lists approved for bonus

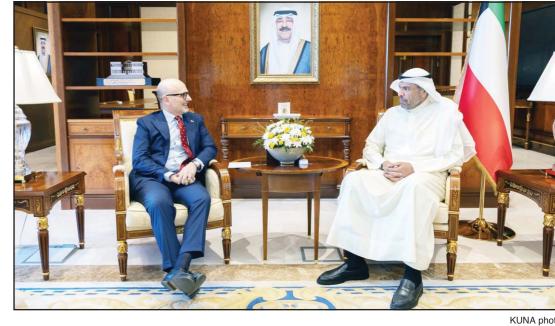
By Mohammed Ghanem Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan approved the lists of employees working in the technical and administrative sectors of the Ministry of Public Works who are eligible for excellent performance bonus.

According to informed sources in the ministry, the number of employees included in the lists is 9,900. The bonus will be deposited in the accounts of the beneficiaries next week.

The evaluation of employees deserving of the bonus was carried out in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission.

The sources stressed that the door to receiving grievances will be opened for employees to study and approve as soon as they are



FM Al-Yahya receiving the Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Morini.

KUNA photo

### **Discussion focuses on Kuwait-Italy relations**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Lorenzo Morini on Tuesday, discussing and reviewing bilateral relations and ways to enrich them through various aspects. (KUNA)



Some of the guests at the event.

## Relations between Azerbaijan, Kuwait 'close and friendly'

Azerbaijan Embassy celebrates Independence Day

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Embassy of Azerbaijan in Kuwait organized a special event on Wednesday evening to celebrate the Independence Day of Azerbaijan in the presence of Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Tajikistan Zubaydullo Zubaydzoda.

The Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kuwait Emil Karimov explained that the Azerbaijani-Kuwaiti relations was established during the first meeting between the national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev, and His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad, at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation summit in Casablanca in 1994. After that, the two leaders met in Copenhagen and New York in 1995. Following the official visit of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to Kuwait in 2009, relations between our two

countries began a new phase. He affirmed that the relations between the two countries are close and friendly, especially in the sectors of agriculture, tourism and education.

Ambassador Karimov thanked the attendees for their participation in this celebration, as Kuwait and Azerbaijan are celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them this year, as the relevant diplomatic relations protocol was signed on October 7, 1994.

He said, "We have great po-



Photos by Sameer Shiqer The ceremonial cake is being cut.

tential in the tourism sector. The number of Kuwaiti tourists who visited Azerbaijan last year was more than 30,000."

Ambassador Karimov stated that there are direct flights between the two countries via Azerbaijan Airlines (Azal), Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways, indicating that the flight time takes less than two hours.

Regarding the occasion, he said, "Today we celebrate the National Independence Day of Azerbaijan. On May 28, 1918, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was declared for the first time in the Islamic world. State symbols, an elected parliament, and a state institute and university were established.

At the Paris Peace Conference in 1920, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was recognized and foreign missions were approved in Azerbaijan. On October 18, 1991, Azerbaijan's independence was restored.

Azerbaijan is one of the ancient countries in the world with a rich history, culture and famous cuisine. My country has today become the leading country in the Caucasus region.'

## diwaniya 🕈 چیوانیة

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Kuwait's vision for safer streets through vigilant enforcement'

"YOUR Excellency the Minister, the problem is not in the laws, the problem is in applying the laws permanently and continuously at all hours of the day and in an intense, serious and immediate manner," columnist **Iqbal Al-Ahmad**, wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"Traffic laws have existed since time immemorial. Yes, there are light penalties that need to be made more severe, but violations have existed since we began using the road, but unfortunately they are not applied as they should.

"We often become frustrated as we watch police cars parked on the sides of the roads and traffic violations committed right in front of them, speeding, road users not respecting the signal to turn right or left, suddenly entering from the right or left, using the car horn in an annoying manner, or suddenly

turning to enter side roads. Without exercising its role in prosecuting violators, many of them are busy with their phones or other matters.

personally, and many others, are trying hard to participate in



of these wrong practices, either by drawing the driver's attention to the necessity of using the right and left signal, or not going in the opposite direction, or... or... without anyone asking us, but based on the fact that all ... Citizen sentinel, we do what we can, in addition to informing the relevant authority in the Ministry of Interior of any violation we encounter after photographing and documenting it.

Iqbal Al-Ahmad

"Why are loyal people in this country not given the opportunity to participate in documenting any violations they encounter daily in the streets of Kuwait?

"Parking on the sidewalk has unfortunately become a common thing in many areas of Kuwait, even on the main streets, as if the sidewalks have become a public place.

"It would be nice for the traffic law to be tightened, but the effect of the violation will not be effective, no matter how much it increases, unless it is immediately implemented.

"Question: Do I, as a citizen, have the right to photograph a car stopping next to me at a traffic light in which there is a child sitting in the front seat, or a driver not wearing a seat belt, or any violation I see, and submit it to the relevant authority? Is there an entity that deals with such initiatives seriously and quickly?

"I believe with the leadership of our Interior Minister who is loyal and faithful with his responsibilities, the answer

"We are waiting for phone numbers that are serious about dealing with any reported violation, documenting its location, time, and information about the whistle-blower himself.

"Yes, there are phone numbers that we know, but they are not responsive most of the time.'

## Also:

"The era of correction began, after matters reached limits that could neither be accepted nor tolerated. Bold decisions that created relief for the Kuwaiti citizen who was tired of corruption and its spread, which only served a certain group, stagnated the situation either because the opposition controlling the Parliament was not aware of the magnitude of the challenges, or because what it was doing served those who have a personal interest, ignoring the great amount of development that neighboring countries have achieved in all fields," columnist Fakhri Hashem Al-Sayyid Rajab, wrote for Al-Qabas

"Frankly speaking, the previous behavior over the decades was harmful to Kuwait and recognizing or standing up to this matter today, I personally consider it beyond the description of understanding. It is the beginning of a correction that Kuwait needs and has always talked about to move forward, and to regain its true status that it deserves as the 'Jewel of the Gulf'.

"It has become necessary today to free ourselves from all previous mistakes, and to start anew, from the present towards the future (a committee with experience and opinion to consider revising the constitution to avoid the defects revealed by practical application and provide a sound atmosphere).

"The doors of reform were opened en masse, the most important of which is the economic door, after a bitter wait for the majority.

"Today we can boldly say that Kuwait has begun to take the right steps towards keeping pace with the development taking place in the world, and before that in neighboring countries .. the Arab Gulf countries. Especially if the matter is entrusted to those with expertise and experience in economics to preserve the government's financial revenues so that the state's general budget remains balanced.

We recall here the report issued on May 9 following the visit of international monetary experts, in which they confirmed that the political stagnation in Kuwait had hampered economic reform and diversification efforts, and stated that delaying continued reform may undermine investor confidence.
"A blessed and great step has been

taken by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may God protect him.

"Let us go beyond narrow and personal foundations, and let the focus be based on the person himself and his qualifications. This is a wish for every Ruwaiti citizen, because it will make the path clear and clear to complete the process of evaluation and development.

"Our Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Sabah gave a word of truth and embarked on the path of correction. We are all with you on this path, listening and obedient, and God is the Grantor of success.'

"Culture of State facilities destruction ... Every day, we see social media activists publishing various facilities damaged or vandalized by people who do not have the slightest sense of national responsibility to protect State facilities. Their vandalism is a deliberate waste of public money," columnist Major General M. Faisal Al-Jazzaf wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"This serves as a warning that some people -- old or young -- are no longer afraid of penalties or legal action. Therefore, it is necessary to deal with these people strictly and decisively as they fearlessly sabotage or exploit State facilities to serve personal interests.

"The concerned authorities must intensify public awareness campaigns through various platforms. They should send legally covered warning messages to anyone who tampers with or exploits State facilities. This is a dangerous issue, because sabotage has become a culture and a bold act in the eyes of such a disrespectful group.

"For example, Zahraa Park is supposed to be an outlet for people residing in nearby areas, but it was ruined due to negligence and destructive acts of some. A group of young people worked hard to restore its splendor in cooperation with some companies that worked with them to repair it.

"Entities are responsible for facilities under their jurisdiction. It is necessary to monitor, maintain and protect these facilities from the tampering of unknown persons. Installing surveillance cameras has become a necessity to deter anyone keen on destroying facilities.

"Spreading the culture of awareness is necessary at a time a group of people deviating from national responsibility exist. Thus, strict implementation of the law must be emphasized, as it is a path in which there is no choice for those who do not bear responsibility. There are many examples of inappropriate behavior like unhygienic practices, vandalizing sidewalks, dumping waste on the road and others.

"Social responsibility is necessary and obligatory. The Ministry of Education is also responsible for spreading awareness in schools, so let our children learn the real meaning of responsibility, patriotism, loyalty and national belongingness.

"We ask Allah to protect Kuwait and its people from all forms of harm, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir, may Allah protect him.

"May Allah have mercy on our right-

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes

'Need to adopt fire protection measures'

## **DGFD** holds prevention, protection

campaign at 'Guard' headquarters

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) orchestrated a prevention and protection campaign at the National Guard headquarters, reports Al-Jarida

This initiative was in line with the directives of Major General Khaled Fahd, the acting Chief of the General Fire Force, emphasizing the importance of raising awareness and conducting educational campaigns.

The symposium, chaired by Brigadier General Muhammad Ibrahim, Director of the Public Relations and Media Department, focused on elucidating the primary causes of widespread fires and elucidating methods to mitigate and contain their spread.

Additionally, the session underscored the significance of adopting fire protection measures. Attendees were also shown real-life footage depicting fires ignited by children playing or electrical short circuits, resulting in significant

The overarching objective of the campaign is to foster public awareness and enhance community security by minimizing accidents in various settings. including homes, commercial complexes, and public spaces like elevators, escalators, and evacuation routes.

This lecture marks the inception of a series of lectures and seminars planned by the force across military agencies, government ministries, and public benefit associations. These endeavors are part of a strategic plan aimed at achieving predefined objectives. The symposium witnessed the participation of fire force officers alongside National Guard officers, signaling a collaborative effort to ensure public safety and prevent firerelated incidents.



Major-General Ali with head of the British military mission.

## Maj-Gen Ali holds talks with British military officials

Major-General Khaled Ali, Commander of the Land Force, engaged in discussions with Brigadier General Gavin Thompson, Head of the British Military Mission, regarding crucial matters and shared interests, reports Al-Jarida

Major-General Ali highlighted that various significant topics were addressed during the meeting, particularly those pertaining to military aspects and strategies for enhancing and advancing

Additionally, Major-General Ali later met with Peter Bowman, Secretary of Defense and Security at the British Embassy, to further delve into matters of mutual interest, focusing on military affairs and avenues for their enhance-

### Threat case unconfirmed

## DGCA halts light sport aircraft activities, citing safety reasons

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: To ensure the safety of lives, property, and Kuwaiti airspace, the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation has issued a directive urging all users of light sport aircraft to cease all aviation activities, including paragliding or sports, whether licensed or unlicensed. This directive aligns with the instructions provided by the relevant national authorities, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The administration emphasized that any exceptions or temporary permits granted prior to the issuance of this circular are no longer valid. It is imperative for all users to adhere to this directive and obtain the requisite licenses by reviewing the civil aviation safety rules and regulations available on the Aviation Safety Administration website.

This measure aims to uphold safety standards and prevent potential risks associated with unauthorized aviation operations.

Case unconfirmed: Hawally police investigations into a threat case led to the discovery that there are pending cases between the two parties in courts, and it is not possible to confirm whether or not the threat occurred, reports Al-Anba daily.

An expatriate filed a complaint at Maidan Hawally Police Station, accusing a compatriot of threatening him by phone. A security source revealed the accused was summoned for questioning, during which he denied threatening the complainant. He told investigators that he merely said: "Leave me alone. You think I informed the Kuwait Municipality about you, so they could close your shop, but I did not

## Poll candidate, others two-year jail term quashed, fined KD 5K

Court fines blogger KD 5,000 for insulting ex-finmin

By Jaber Al-Hamoud Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, May 29:** The Court of Appeals overturned the verdict issued to sentence a candidate of the Fifth Constituency, his campaign agents, and two citizens to two-year imprisonment with hard labor for buying votes in the Fifth Constituency. The court instead just fined them KD 5,000.

According to the case file, the Public Prosecution charged the first, second and third defendants with secretly attempting through intermediaries - the fourth and fifth defendants - to buy votes in the Fifth Constituency, and having the first and third defendants, in agreement with the aforementioned defendants, offer a sum of money of KD 500.

In implementation of that agreement, the first defendant, being a candidate of the Fifth Constituency in the 2023 National Assembly elections scheduled to be held on June 6, 2023, stipulated that the aforementioned amount of KD 500 be paid by the second and third defendants.

This is according to what was proven from the defendants' confession, from the lists of voters from the Fifth Constituency in the possession of the defendants, and from the conversations on the mobile phones of the aforementioned defendants.

They accepted and requested cash sums - as described in the previous accusation - for the purpose of carrying out mediation work to entice voters in the Fifth Constituency to encourage them to vote for the first defendant in the elections. This was by obtaining from the first and second defendants a portion of the agreement amount, amounting to KD 30,000, via bank transfer to the account of the fourth defendant at Kuwait Finance House, to be



Lieutenant General Al-Muzayen during the visit to the US Forces' Camp Arifjan. **Lieut-Gen Al-Muzayen visits Arifian Camp** 

Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzayen, Chief of the Army General Staff, visited the US Forces'

Camp Arifjan, reports Al-Jarida daily.
Upon his arrival, he was received by Major General Charles Kemper, Commander of the Spartan Duty Force, and Colonel Daniel Elsen, Commander

A statement issued by the Chief of Staff's office indicated that this visit is part of a series of reciprocal visits aimed at enhancing coordination and joint military cooperation between the Kuwaiti and Ameri-

of training, operational, and administrative experiences to elevate the level of integration between the friendly Kuwaiti and American forces.

The visit also seeks to facilitate the exchange

Accompanying the Chief of Staff on this visit were Major General Engineer Salah Nasser, Assistant Chief of Staff of the Logistics and Logistics Authority, Major General Khaled Saad, Commander of the Air Defense Force, as well as several other army officers.

divided equally between them, and that they obtain the remaining part after the election.

This was according to the confessions of the third, fourth and fifth defendants, and what was proven from the bank transfer of the amount subject to the agreement, as well as from lists of names of voters in the Fifth Constituency in the possession of the defendants, and from the conversations on the mobile phones of the aforementioned defendants. 

Blogger fined: The Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Dr. Khaled Al-Amira, imposed a fine of KD 5,000 on a blogger for insulting

former finance minister Fahad Al-Jarallah.

The court acquitted him of State Security charges of intentionally publishing and broadcasting false news, statements, and rumors abroad about the internal situation of the country and publishing news that would undermine confidence in the economic situation in the country. 

**Detention of police officer:** The Public Prosecution has ordered the detention of a police officer for requesting a bribe from some Asian expatriates and extorting money from them after accusing them of selling liquor, and arresting and detaining them under conditions other than those authorized by law. The Public Prosecution interro-

gated the officer and confronted him with the charges against him. Investigations are underway.

**10-year-old dies:** A 10-year-old child was pronounced dead upon arrival at Adan Hospital, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source revealed that an expatriate born in 1974 informed the Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry that his 10-year-old son fell on the ground in their house in Umm Al-Hayman and was unresponsive. He then took his son to Adan Hospital, but the child was pronounced dead upon arrival.

## **Proposal to develop entrances &** exits of border roads, land ports

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Municipal Council member Nasser Al-Jadaan presented a proposal to develop the entrances and exits of the border roads and land ports.

In the preamble of his proposal, he stated that the border areas are considered the country's first frontier as a service area to meet the needs of travelers and those coming to the Al-Jadaan stressed the need to shed light on the problems

facing travelers, starting with the condition of roads, their infrastructure, and the services that must be available in those areas so that they become a model service area. In his proposal, he called for the rehabilitation of roads to

keep pace with the increase in the number of visitors, as well as the establishment of rest areas and various restaurants suitable for families and singles, and a service area that includes a gas station, and electricity, as well as a rest area for trucks and their services.

Al-Jadaan highlighted the necessity of allocating lanes for trucks on the roads so that they are separate from the main roads, and a medical services area, stressing that the service area should be under the supervision of the state and subject to control over the prices and quality of services

## 'Exempt boat owners from fees for non-renewal of registration'

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Al-Sabah issued a decision to exempt the owners of boats from the fees for deregistration or non-renewal of the registration of their boats, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The decision also states that violators are exempted from the fees, provided they visit the Coast Guard General Department to rectify their status as per Law No. 36/1960 and the relevant regulations. The decision, which is in effect from May 26 to Dec 31 this

year, stressed that all violators must rectify their status within the grace period; otherwise, penalties will be imposed on them. The decision is applicable to all types of boats including fishing boats, yachts and jet ski





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ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024

### Real Estate Union urges reconsideration of proposed construction guidelines

## Municipal Council advances amendments to building regulations

## 'Kuwait's health strategy keeps abreast of WHPA's new policy'

Envoy reaffirms support to restore peace in Mideast

GENEVA, May 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and other International **Organizations in Geneva Nasser Abdullah** Al-Hayen said Tuesday the Vision 2035 of his country materializes deep belief that public health is a basic right for every hu-



KUNA photo Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva Nasser Al-Hayen

#### man being.

"The health strategy of the State of Kuwait aims to realize the concept of health for all in keeping with the new strategy of the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA)," he said in a speech to 77th World Health Assembly of the World Medical Association (WMA) being held in Geneva.

Kuwait's health strategy seeks to provide comprehensive and integrated healthcare for all segments of the society covering all age categories, regardless of their social or economic backgrounds or nationalities, in a fair and equitable way, Ambassador Al-Hayen affirmed.

Kuwait plays a noticeable role in providing healthcare and backing the public health on the regional scale in a sustainable way in several countries.

"The State of Kuwait also takes part in international humanitarian programs through helping provide effective support to the combat against communicable and non-communicable diseases in vulnerable communities," he pointed out.

On the situation in Gaza Strip, Ambassador Al-Hayen condemned the Israeli occupation forces for targeting the health facilities in defiance of the global attempts to "halt the criminal war on Gaza. Regretting the tragic situation in Gaza, he urged the in-

ternational community, notably the UN Security Council, to shoulder their responsibility for halting the atrocity in Gaza, restoring peace, and ensuring Gazans' access to

Ambassador Al-Hayen reaffirmed Kuwait's support to the efforts aiming to restore peace in the Middle East on the basis of the two-state vision for establishing an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 borders and with Jerusalem

On Sunday, May 26, on the eve of the 77th World Health Assembly, WHPA launched its new strategy, calling for the health professions and key stakeholders to work together towards sustainable health workforces and strengthened health

The strategy, launched at a reception in Geneva celebrating the Alliance's 25th anniversary, aims to invigorate the WHPA's role as the only alliance bringing the expertise and concerns of the key health professions to the international

### By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Head of the joint committee in the Municipal Council of the technical, legal and financial committees, Dr. Hassan Kamal, says the committee held its 19th meeting for the second term during which they discussed the amendment to the regulations that organize construction works and the timetable attached to it, table No. 2, regarding the requirements and specifications for investment housing buildings both inside and outside Kuwait City

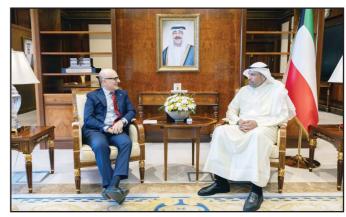
The meeting was held in the presence of the executive branch and the committee concerned with preparing the regulations and items for the schedule and investment housing.

In a press statement, Kamal explained that the joint committee in the Municipal Council has begun its work. It listened to the clarifications of the executive body regarding the amendments submitted regarding the special items on the agenda, such as parking lots and recreational commercial sites for the people of the area and ways to build them, as well as items specific to the commercial store and its specifications, in addition to the requirements related to the natural and mechanical ventilation of commercial buildings, stairs and elevators in investment buildings. It referred to the review of the opinions and ideas of the members of the Municipal Council in the committee regarding the proposed amendments and their comments.

He concluded by highlighting that the committee will complete the discussion of the remaining items listed in the second agenda of the building regulations during the committee's upcoming meetings in the coming weeks, with the hope of completing them in the near future.

On a related level, the Real Estate Union submitted a letter containing observations on the amendments proposed by the executive branch to the regulations on construction work in investment housing buildings inside and outside Kuwait City.

Head of the committee to study and review the building regulations in the municipality, Mohammad Marzouq Al-Mutairi, prepared a detailed letter summarizing the committee's meeting with



Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya receives the Italian Ambassa-

## **Al-Yahya meets Italian envoy** to enhance bilateral relations

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya held a meeting with the Italian Ambassador to Kuwait, Lorenzo Morini at the Ministry's office, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Foreign Ministry in a statement noting that the meeting encompassed a review of the close bilateral relations between the two countries, along with discussions on avenues to enhance and diversify cooperation across various fields and at all levels.

In a statement to the daily, the Italian ambassador expressed satisfaction with the robust cooperation existing between Kuwait and Italy across various sectors.

He appreciated the opportunity to exchange ideas with Minister Al-Yahya on avenues to bolster bilateral economic, cultural, and academic relations, underscoring the importance of collaborative efforts in furthering mutual interests.

In a separate engagement, Minister Al-Yahya, who also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Kuwaiti Diplomatic Institute, chaired a meeting of the Institute's Board of Directors.

representatives of the Real Estate Union and the Engineering Offices Union to present it to the Municipal Council.

The letter of the municipal committee to review the building regulations included suggestions and comments from representatives of the Real Estate Union and Engineering Offices Union concerning the regulvations, asking them to reconsider them. These regulations include reducing the storefront from four meters to three meters, and the area of the guard's room from 30 square meters to 25 square meters, inquiring about the reason for specifying only the pharmacy activity for the medical clinics building, as well as looking into the cafeteria activity which is to be limited to the ground floor without any freedom of choice on the first floor or the mezzanine, in addition to re-discussing the requirements and specifications for parking in the basement if the area is less than 1.200 square meters. as it causes a problem with ventilation, and cancels the parking requirement.



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Photo by Mahmoud Jadeed

12th-grade students start final tests

## MoE ensures integrity of exam, launches awareness campaign

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (Agencies): As 42,984 students prepare to sit for the end-of-year exams for the 2023/2024 academic year; the Ministry of Education has taken extensive measures to ensure the safety and integrity of the examination process in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, re-

The Ministry has devised a comprehensive plan to safeguard the movement of examination materials from the printing press to designated educational facilities through-out their journey, commencing from the se-cret printing press to the designated exami-

nation sites, starting at dawn.

Ahmed Al-Wahida, the official spokesman for the Ministry of Education, affirmed the Ministry's commitment to providing a secure environment for all learners during the examination period. A total of 42,984 twelfth-grade students from various departments will undertake their control of the students. take their exams, with rigorous preparations

made to accommodate their needs.

Furthermore, the Ministry has launched an awareness campaign titled "Our Goal is the Summit," encompassing psychological, educational, and health objectives. Additionally, a dedicated space on the Ministry's Instagram platform, named "Ask Us," has been allocated to address students' inquiries, offering support and guidance.

In a separate initiative, schools recognized as nutrition-friendly and those adhering to school canteen regulations were honored in a ceremony under the patronage of Acting Undersecretary of Education, Mansour Ăl-Daihani.

Maryam Al-Anazi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for the Educational Development Sector, highlighted the collaboration with the Food and Nutrition Public Authority to promote healthy nutrition among students, thereby enhancing physical and edu-cational capabilities and improving mental performance.

Moreover, the Arab Education Bureau for the Gulf States organized a meeting for public relations and media officials in ministries of education. Acting Director of Educational Relations and Media, Arwa Al-Ayyar, emphasized the importance of such gatherings in fostering the exchange of ideas and experiences to strengthen the role of public

relations in educational institutions.

Meanwhile, the final exams for 12th grade students for the year 2023-2024 started on Wednesday for both sciences and arts

disciplines.

The 27,283 sciences students and the 14,817 arts students were eager to start their exams and do their best to succeed in their studies and build a bright future.

Team excels in Spirit Group category

## **AUM engineering students shine on** global stage in robotics competition

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: A group of students from the College of Engineering and Technology at the American University of the Middle East (AUM) achieved remarkable success on the global stage by securing 16th place in the

VEX Robotics Competition held in Dallas, USA, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The competition, which featured thousands of students from over 1,800 teams worldwide, saw the AUM team excel in the Spirit Group category, earning them a spot

Spirit Group category, earning them a spot in the 16th qualifying round for the finals.

The AUM students, including Ahmed Rashid, Yaqoub Murad, Maryam Abu Al-Hassan, Maryam Al-Rashidi, and Ali Al-Ramzi, showcased exceptional excellence and commitment in the field of robotics, outperforming competitors from various countries including the United States, Australia, Colombia, and Saudi Arabia.

Their success highlights AUM's dedication to robotics on the international stage, with the university being the only Arab and Gulf representative to reach this stage in the competition.

This achievement is the result of AUM's continuous efforts and strategic vision to provide its students with a world-class educational experience

In recent years, AUM has expanded its activities and partnerships with leading universities worldwide, including Babson University, the University of California, Berkeley, and HEC University Canada.

Additionally, AUM has established various centers, including the Robotics Center, the Green Energy Center, and the Artificial Minds Center, to enhance students' practical experience and prepare them for international competitions.

### An exclusive interview with Dr. Enrico Molinaro

**By Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri** Founder and CEO of Reconnaissance Research

In a thought-provoking discussion, Reconnaissance Research conducted an interview with Dr. Enrico Molinaro, Secretary General of the Italian Network for the Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue (RIDE), Head of the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) in Italy, and UNAOC Italian Focal Point. Dr. Molinaro shared his insights on the ongoing Middle East conflict, possible solutions, and the evolving dynamics within Palestinian leadership. His analysis provides a deep dive into the complexities of the region and potential pathways to

Question: Could you start by sharing your thoughts on the ongoing conflict and possible solutions?

**Answer:** Î have already expressed my deep sorrow and emotional pain for the tragic suffering inflicted on thousands of people in your region through this horrible war. Like the conflict in Ukraine, there are only two possible outcomes, which I call

a Westphalian or a Glocalist solution.

Q: Could you elaborate on these two solutions?

A: Certainly. The Westphalian solution is based on clear-cut and safe borders between equal democratic states, with international guarantees for ethnic, linguistic, and religious minorities, and a controlled limitation of any future military aggression. The Glocalist outcome is based on different models of collective identities, enhancing their transboundary religious, ethnic, or other ideological definitions of the communities in conflict. The so-called Abraham Accords are a perfect ex-

ample for explaining this dichotomy.

Q: How do the Abraham Accords fit into this dichotomy?

A: Glocalist leaders like former US President Donald Trump and current Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu based those agreements on the Glocalist Jewish, Muslim, and Christian communities, intentionally neglecting the Palestinian people and their right to a state. In contrast, Westphalian leaders like US President Biden endorse the Two-States Solution principle and recentlySaudi Arabiaconditioned its future relations with Israel on the creation of a Palestinian state. In my analysis, soon President Biden's Westphalian approach will prevail through a permanent cease-fire with an exchange of Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners, stopping all acts of mutual violence under effective US and international guarantees, and new Israeli and Palestinian leaderships eventually agreeing on the creation of a peaceful and democratic Palestinian state beside Israel.

Q: What about the internal dynamics within Palestinian leadership?

A: Hamas's request to free Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti the recent evolution of current Hamas leaders - mainly Sinwar and Haniyeh - towards a secu-



Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri, (Top), Founder and CEO of Reconnaissance Research during an exclusive interview with Dr. Enrico Molinaro.

lar, pragmatic approach, opposite to the original radical ideology of its predecessors, mainly Sheikh Yassin, Rantisi, and Meshaal (the only survivor among the three). This evolution corresponds to the Iranian leadership's change from the radical Glocalist Ayatollah Khomeini's period, to the pragmatic Westphalian President Rouhani's approach, influencing Iranian regional proxies: Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis. The current Hamas leadership is willing to facilitate Barghouti, the most popular Palestinian leader, to lead the creation of a secular and democratic Palestinian state, in peace with an internationally guaranteed Israel. Both Israelis and Palestinians are fed up with their current Glocalist leaders, who brought them terrible tragedies for decades with no solution, and do not want to leave their powerful privileges, accepting the possibility that their upcoming Westphalian successors could compete with them in popularity . Barghouti earned his popular reputation locked up for decades in the Israeli jails, studying concrete solutions for his people, while keeping constructive relations with the new Hamas leaders. Like his Westphalian predecessor Yassir Arafat, Barghouti represents the hope for Palestinian national unity, building a strong and viable state, with effective guarantees for the security of the Israeli borders.

Q: How do historical agreements

play into this perspective?

A: The UN General Assembly's Partition Resolution on November 29, 1947, suggested an Economic Union between the two planned Jewish and Arab states in the British Mandate. This institutional perspective is still necessary for the future economic growth of the two countries, with advantages for the whole Middle Eastern and Mediterranean

region. The UN Resolution included international guarantees for the Status Quo in the Jewish, Islamic, and Christian Holy Places of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, which, unlike their obsolete territorial provisions, are still binding any future administrator of those areas, protecting freedom of access and worship and the respective religious communities' existing

Q: How are these dynamics reflected in international reactions, especially among students?

A: The pro-Palestinian university protests in the US and Europe express a sincere feeling among many students, worried about the ongoing tragic events occurring both in Gaza and the West Bank. The overwhelming majority of the protesting students represent the new generations, future leaders of our world, avoiding useless provocations or violent actions, which could result in a boomerang effect against them. In this politically inflamed context, however, media reports describe how several students of recognizable Jewish origin had trouble accessing the universities' premises, or their dorms, while some protesters occupying the universities were not even students. The two opposite interpretations I mentioned before explain why some journalistic sources do not clearly separate legitimate protest movements from extreme actions, not only in the US but also in European universities involved in the protest.

Q: How do different journalistic perspectives affect public perception

f these protests? A: Reporters following the Westphalian vision emphasize students' declarations and slogans recalling the Two-States Solution, with the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples mutually accepting their respective right to an independent state, neighboring each other in a peaceful and cooperative way. Those endorsing the competing Glocalist approach highlight opposite events, such as material damages to the occupied universities, violent slogans, or discriminations towards dissenting students, which Glocalist US politicians try to manipulate in order to influence the US presidential upcoming elections in favor of

Q: Can you provide specific examples of such manipulations?

A: Netanyahu himself, on May 10, 2024, released a video comparing pro-Palestinian university protests to 1930s Nazi Germany. On May 14, 2024, Trump promoted misinformation over the campus protests, falsely alleging protesters were being funded by pro-Biden political donors who were unaffiliated with the schools. This infowar challenge may influence the realistic impact of peaceful pro-Palestine university protests in the US, and their potential effect on the US strategic policy.

## Exploring solutions to the Middleeast conflict Amir pays assiduous attention to **public funds protection: Premier**

Audit Bureau underlines importance of governance

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah stated Tuesday that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is paying a great attention to the protection of the public

Speaking at the Cabinet meeting after the new President of the State Audit Bureau Essam Al-Roumi took the legal oath, Highness the Premier emphasized the SAB's pivotal role in preserving public funds.

Protecting public funds is a responsibility of both the government and SAB, His Highness added.

He clarified that SAB has clear role in supervising the government work to make sure that public funds are not squandered and to facilitate the execution of development projects.

His Highness the Premier noted that several development projects have been delayed due to the end of the Central Agency for Public Tenders' board stint.

#### **Draft decree**

Earlier, the government agreed on a draft decree forming a new board for the CAPT.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad disclosed that an enormous number of development projects are in the pipeline. He urged SAB to cooperate with

the government for speeding up the prior study of these projects. His Highness the Premier instructed the ministers and other govern-

ment officials to cooperate with SAB for the accelerating the implementation of projects. "We are on cusp of a new era of achievements for the best interests of

the state and people both at home and abroad," he said. Meanwhile, Undersecretary of the Kuwait State Audit Bureau (SAB) Yousef Al-Mazrouei underscored the

importance of establishing govern-

ance principles and contributing to the

development of preventive oversight mechanisms that help predict future events and implement necessary proactive measures to confront them. In his statement on the sidelines of

the "Internal Audit: Leadership and

## Kuwait's FM receives call from Iranian Acting Foreign Minister

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya received a phone call Tuesday from Iranian Acting Foreign Minister Ali Ba-

Both sides touched on the bilateral ties between the two countries during the call and the latest regional and global events.



Yousef Al-Mazrouei, Undersecretary of the Kuwait State Audit Bu-



Dr. Adnan Al-Hasan, Director of Internal Audit Department at the Au-



The audience of the 'Internal Audit: Leadership and Sustainability' forum.

Sustainability" forum organized by the bureau on Wednesday, Al-Mazrouei emphasized that numerous variables that have resulted in economic impacts require collaborative efforts to address them.

The bureau is committed to enhancing and developing cooperation with all entities under its supervision

to ensure the proper conduct of financial and accounting work and the fulfillment of their tasks, he explained. On his side, Director of Internal

Audit Department at the Audit Bureau Dr. Adnan Al-Hasan stated that the forum aims to improve the efficiency of internal auditing within the bureau and the entities it oversees.

## الطرق السيارة بالمغرب **Autoroutes du Maroc**

## NATIONAL COMPANY OF THE HIGHWAYS OF MOROCCO (ADM)

## Redevelopment works of the Sidi Maârouf junction OPEN INVITATION TO TENDER N° 44 / 24 / S

In accordance with ADM's provisional purchasing program for the year 2024 which was published in the newspaper "Al Bayane" on March 12, on July 11th, 2024 at 11:00 am, it will be proceeded in the offices of the National Company of Motorways of Morocco, with the opening of the envelopes relating to the call for tenders opened for redevelopment works of the Sidi Maârouf junction.

The opening sessions will be held in public session.

ADM makes its market portal available to competitors available at: https://achats. adm.co.ma. The terms of use of the ADM Markets Portal are accessible from said

Competitors can consult and download free of charge, and only from the ADM portal, the files of calls for tenders and competitions, as well as the documents and additional information relating thereto.

The provisional guarantee is set at: Seven million dirhams (7.000.000,00).

The content as well as the presentation of the bidding documents should be in conformity with the provisions of ADM Contract Regulations.

The electronic submission of envelopes is the only way to participate in the invitation to tender. Receipt of paper submissions is not authorized. Competitors are required to submit their submissions only electronically through the ADM Marketplace Portal. Only envelopes submitted through ADM's dematerialized purchasing platform will be taken into consideration.

The procedures for submitting envelopes are defined in the consultation files.

The supporting documents to provide are those stipulated under Article 23 of ADM Contract Regulations and specified in the Consultation Regulations.

Moroccan candidates shall submit the certificate of qualification and classification delivered by the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport, Logistics and water.

This certificate completes the technical file for Moroccan competitors.

The qualification and classification required according to the system of qualification and classification of the construction and public works are given in the Table below:

Sector	Qualification	Rank
B- Road works	B2 - special road earthworks B3 - Road sanitation works and environmental treatment B5 - Untreated seats and surface coatings B6 - Hot treated and coated seats	S
D-construction of structures	D2 - Exceptional reinforced concrete structures D3 - Standard prestressed concrete structures D4 - Exceptional structures in prestressed concrete	1

View our notices of calls for tenders and competitions at: www.adm.co.ma. ADM market regulations can be downloaded from the same address.

## **Capital Governorate**

## **Continued from Page 1**

ground floor was 23.6 dinars at the end of Q1 2024, unchanged quarterly and annually. In Kuwait City (Capital Governorate), the average was 29 dinars per square meter, stable both quarterly and annually. Hawalli region averaged 26 dinars, Salmiya 28 dinars, Farwaniya 29 dinars, and Khaitan 25 dinars by the end of Q1

## **Industrial Property Rentals**

In the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, the average rental price per square meter in the basement rose to 4.8 dinars by the end of Q1 2024, with ground floor prices at 25.5 dinars. In Al-Rai, basement rents averaged 4 dinars and ground floor rents 26 dinars. In Al-Ardiya (warehouses), basement rents were 3.5 dinars and ground floor 7 dinars. In Al-Ardiya (Al-Harfiyah), basement rents were 7 dinars and ground floor 24 dinars. In East Ahmadi, basement rents averaged 2.5 dinars and ground floor 15 dinars. In Fahaheel Industrial City, basement rents were 3 dinars and ground floor rents reached 21 dinars by the end of

The report underscores the varying rental prices based on location, features, and area size.

## **Kuwait affirms**

## **Continued from Page 1**

possible, Dr. Al-Sayer said, indicating that all needed equipment for the vital humanitarian project had already been sent into the enclave -- in cooperation with the Palestinian and Egyptian Red Crescents.

Dr. Al-Sayer added that the society, since onset of the occupation aggression on the strip, has been sending in relief, medical assistance, daily meals in addition to ambulance vehicles, in collaboration "with local and interna-

tional partners. He has underlined urgency of the situation in the enclave where many hospitals and medical centers have been damaged, calling upon private companies and citizens to donate via the KRCS electronic website: www.krcs. org.kw/ar, or directly at the society's

headquarters The field hospital which occupies a 750-square-meter plot of land is being equipped with medical devices, and

includes an operation room, intensive care units, baby incubators, an X-ray section, a pharmacy, and a laboratory.

## Amir ushers in

## **Continued from Page 1**

Al-Zour Refinery will have a production capacity of 615,000 barrels per day, she said, a strong push for Kuwait oil refining in line with international environmental standards, which would also enable KPC and its affiliate companies to expand the export and marketing of their products.

She said Al-Zour Refinery was capable of receiving all kinds of oils and could produce high-quality products like fuel oil, deisel, naphtha and lowsulfur fuel oil. These products, added Al-Khateeb, could be exported to more than 30 countries in the region and around the world through a pier attached to the refinery.

Al-Zour Refinery also includes the largest complex for sulfur cracking units, said Al-Khateeb.

She said the new refinery would boost the State of Kuwait's refining capacity from 800,000 bpd to 1.415 million bpd.

Al-Zour Refinery, she went on, would also use treated water for industrial and irrigation purposes. It includes stations to monitor air quality and used special boilers to reduce emissions.

She said the oil sector was keen on contributing to facing climate change to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

Next, the Youth Advisory Board of the Al-Zour Refinery presented a segment titled "Technology and Innovation" and displayed a documentary about the oil industry in Kuwait.

His Highness the Amir then officially initiated the operation of the Al-Zour Refinery, he was presented with a commemorative gift on this oc-

His Highness the Amir conducted an inspection tour of the refinery, observing its vital facilities and receiving detailed explanations about the project's operations from seniors and experts accompanying him.

After finishing the inspection tour His Highness the Amir left the ceremony with the same warmth and appreciation with which he was welcomed.

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Chief Executive Officer Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah expressed his appreciation on Wednesday to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for supporting and attending the opening ceremony of Al-Zour Refinery.

In a statement to KUNA, Sheikh Nawaf said that His Highness the Amir continuously supports Kuwait's oil sector in implementing the strategic long-term plan to raise its oil production capacity to 4 million barrels

Al-Zour Refinery is the world's largest grass-root refinery with 615,000 bpd capacity, noting that the refinery will have high flexibility as it is designed to process various types of Kuwait crude including the Kuwait Heavy Crude (KHC) oil, which will be produced according to KPC upstream strategy.

Oil sector officials hailed the attendance and patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Al-Zour Refinery inauguration as a historic event for the sector.

In separate statements to KUNA on Wednesday, on ceremony sidelines, the officials called the refinery one of country's most notable strategic projects as it is a cornerstone to new Kuwait 2035 development plan, ensuring safe and stable supply of ecofriendly oil derivatives.

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) official Bader Al-Attar said that this ushers in a new era boosting Kuwait's pioneering post in global oil markets due to its production of ecofriendly products.

Al-Zour refinery has supplied the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy with some 23 million barrels of low Sulphur oil until last March, mentioned Al-Attar. As for KPC's Sheikh Khaled Al-

ing international developments, and called for developing and sharpening skillsets of national cadres Al-Sabah also mentioned that some 30 countries have been supplied with

Sabah, he affirmed that Al-Zour re-

finery is keeping pace with accelerat-

Al-Zour refinery products. Petrochemical Industries Company Executive Chief Nadia Al-Hajji highlighted the refinery's special capabilities including recycling and reusing sewage water, controlling emissions, as well as using smoke free torches.

Kuwait Petroleum International executive chief Shafi Al-Ajmy called this inauguration an extension of oil sector achievements, said that this takes refining capacity if counting refineries located outside of country, to two million barrels daily.

## **World News Roundup**

### **Europe**

Police search European Parliament: Belgium's federal prosecutor's office said on Wednesday that police carried out searches at the residence of an employee of the European Parliament and at his office in the Parliament's building in Brussels over suspected Russian interference.

Prosecutors said in statement that the suspect's office in Strasbourg, where the EU Parliament's headquarters are located in France, was also searched in partnership with the EU's judicial cooperation agency, Eurojust, and French judicial au-

The raids took place less than two weeks before Europewide polls on June 6-9 to elect a new EU parliament.



De Graaff

ongoing. (AP)

month by Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, who said his country's intelligence service has confirmed the existence of a network trying to undermine support for Ukraine. Several Dutch news outlets identified

An investigation was announced last

the suspect as a staffer for EU lawmaker Marcel de Graaff of the far-right Dutch party Forum for Democracy. A person with knowledge of the investigation confirmed that the reports were accurate. The official was not allowed to speak publicly because the probe is

'Allow Ukraine to neutralize Russia army bases': Western countries should let Ukraine strike military bases inside Russia with the sophisticated long-range weapons they are providing to Kyiv, French President Emmanuel Macron said, pressuring his allies in the most recent sign of a potentially significant policy shift that could help change the complexion

The question of whether to allow Ukraine to hit targets on Russian soil with Western-supplied weaponry has been a delicate issue since the Kremlin's full-scale invasion of its neighbor in February 2022.

Western leaders have mostly shrunk from taking the step because it runs the risk of provoking Russian President Vladimir

But the war has been going Russia's way recently as the Kremlin's forces have exploited Ukrainian shortages in troops and ammunition after a lengthy delay in US military aid and Western Europe's inadequate military production slowed crucial deliveries to the battlefield.

Macron said France's position is that "we think we must allow (Ukraine) to neutralize the (Russian) military sites from which the missiles are fired." (AP)

Sweden to donate \$1.23b to Ukraine: The Swedish government said Wednesday that it will donate 13 billion kronor (\$1.23 billion) in military aid to Ukraine, in the largest package of assistance Sweden has so far donated.

"It consists of equipment that is at the top of Ukraine's priority list," Deputy Prime Minister Ebba Busch said. It includes air defense, artillery ammunition and armored vehicles.

Swedish Defense Minister Pål Jonsson reiterated that the country has ruled out for now sending any Swedish-built JAS 39 Gripen jets to Ukraine, saying the focus on the Ukrainian side is on implementing a F-16 fighter jet program.

Several countries have said they want to donate F-16s. On Tuesday, Belgium pledged 30 F-16 jets to Ukraine.

Jonsson said Sweden "is still working on possibly being able to contribute with the Gripen system later." (AP)

'Zelenskyy expected in Normandy': French President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday he will greet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy along with other world leaders in Normandy for the 80th anniversary commemorations of D-Day.

President Joe Biden is also scheduled to attend this year's commemorations of the landings that led to the liberation of France and Europe from Nazi Germany's occupation.

Dozens of World War II veterans are expected to return, nany perhaps for the last time, to Normandy's beaches An international ceremony at Omaha Beach will honor the nearly 160,000 troops from Britain, the United States, Canada

and other nations that landed in Normandy on June 6, 1944. Macron said during a visit to Meseberg, Germany, on Tuesday that he will elaborate on Paris' support for Ukraine next week, when Zelenskyy visits for the D-Day events.

France will "do whatever is necessary for as long as it is necessary" to support Ukraine, he said. (AP)

Authorities probe suspects in unrest: The French prosecutor in New Caledonia said authorities have opened an investigation into unrest that has left seven people dead and significant destruction in the Pacific archipelago with decades of tensions between those seeking independence and those loyal to France.

The violence flared on May 13 in response to attempts to amend the French Constitution and change voting lists in New Caledonia. France declared a state of emergency in its Pacific territory on May 15 and rushed hundreds of troop reinforcements to help police quell the revolt that included shootings, clashes, looting and arson.

He said officials were looking into charges of criminal association, criminal acts and misdemeanors. (AP)

'Border with Belarus will be further fortified': Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Wednesday that its forces would further fortify the border with Belarus and can use "all available means" to defend the NATO nation's frontier, after a soldier was seriously wounded with a knife by a migrant.

Tusk said that a buffer zone some 200 meters (660 feet) wide would be set up along the border, which is also the European Union's eastern frontier, in addition to a 190-kilometer (118-mile) long metal barrier already in place to prevent an influx of migrants crossing from Belarus. Poland says the pressure of illegal migration is organized by Belarus and Russia.

Tusk said the government will make a decision on the buffer zone next week.. (AP)

**Ex-intel agency chief set to become PM:** A former head of the Dutch intelligence agency and counterterrorism office emerged Tuesday as the surprise nominee to become the Netherlands' next prime minister, after he was given the backing of leaders cobbling together a four-party coalition headed by Geert Wilders' far-right Party for Freedom.

Dick Schoof, the 67-year-old former head of the General Intelligence and Security Service and currently the top civil servant at the Ministry of Security and Justice, met with the leaders of the four parties before they announced he was their choice for prime minister at a late afternoon news conference.

Besides once leading the top intelligence agency, Schoof is also a former counterterror chief in the Netherlands and exhead of the country's Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Malta ex-leader, others plead not guilty: Malta's former prime minister, Joseph Muscat, and other former top officials pleaded not guilty in court Tuesday to charges in a hospital corruption scandal that is roiling the Mediterranean island nation as it prepares for European Parliament elections.

The case involves a deal, originally struck in 2015, in which the management of three of the country's hospitals was handed over to a private company. The concessionaire changed in

In February 2023, a court annulled the concession, citing fraud, in a case filed by a former opposition leader. The ruling led to a sharp drop in popular support for the governing Labour Party. The Court of Appeal confirmed the decision in October, ruling that there was evidence of collusion between the parties in the concession. (AP)



A home demolished by a severe storm is seen along Daylight Road on May 28 in Charleston, Ky. Inset: A Pearland city worker attempts to repair a broken power line following a severe thunderstorm that passed through the area on Tuesday. (AP)

### Weather-weary Texas battered again as powerful storm, strong winds kill 1

Power outages remained widespread Wednesday in storm-weary Texas a day after another burst of severe weather flooded streets, uprooted trees and ripped off roofs. Authorities said a teenager was killed at a construction site while working on a home

The severe weather Tuesday, which at one point

left more than 1 million customers without electricity, was a continuation of deadly storms, some spawning tornadoes, across the US over the long Memorial

Day weekend that killed 24 people in seven states. The flooding and damage in Houston came just weeks after the area was walloped by a weather event known as a derecho - a widespread, long-lived windstorm that's associated with a band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms. That storm left eight people dead and knocked out power to hun-dreds of thousands of customers. Tuesday's power outages in the Dallas area prompted officials to extend polls by two hours in the state's runoff elections after dozens of polling places lost power. (AP)





Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, (left), and Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa embrace after posing for photos at the Belem presidential palace, in Lisbon on May 28. Zelenskyy is on a one day official visit to Portugal. (AP)



Trump

**America** 



Ohio explosion injures 7: Two people were missing and seven were injured when a natural gas explosion caused extensive damage to a building in downtown Youngtown, Ohio, authorities said.

The blast, which occurred around 2:45 pm Tuesday, blew off the façade of Realty Tower. Firefighters helped some people get out of the building, which houses a Chase Bank on the ground floor and has apartments in upper floors.

Youngstown Fire Chief Barry Finley said a man and a woman were missing following the blast. One is a Chase employee, he said.

The blast collapsed the first floor into the basement, Finley said, and the building's structural integrity is in question so no firefighters were being allowed in to conduct a The seven injured people were taken to

Mercy Health Hospital in Youngstown. A hospital spokesperson said one person was in critical condition, but did not release further details. (AP)

Ellis barred from practicing: Colorado legal officials on Tuesday approved an agreement with Jenna Ellis, a onetime attorney for former president Donald Trump, barring her from practicing law in the state for three years after she pleaded guilty to helping Trump try to overturn the 2020

Ellis tearfully pleaded guilty to felony charges of aiding and abetting false statements in Fulton County, Georgia, in October. She was one of 18 co-defendants of Trump who were charged in a sweeping case over the former president's campaign to reverse President Joe Biden's 2020 victory in Georgia.

Ellis was previously censured in Colorado for making false statements over the 2020 election, including that the election was "stolen" from Trump. Those falsehoods were part of a sustained campaign by Trump allies that helped lead to the Jan. 6, 2021,

### **Politics**

## Hawaii gov signs housing legislation

## Gonzales wins in GOP primary runoff

AUSTIN, Texas, May 29, (AP): US Republican Rep. Tony Gonzales of Texas narrowly won his primary Tuesday against a gun-rights activist who pushed the border congressman into a bruising runoff that threatened to unseat a US House incumbent.

Another prominent Texas Republican, state House Speaker Dade Phelan, also edged out a challenger from the right who was backed by President Donald Trump.

Both won by razor-thin margins, reflecting the anger of hard-line conservatives and a wave of party turbulence in America's biggest red state over votes that bucked party lines and the impeachment of state Attorney General Ken Paxton.

Gonzales defeated Brandon Herrera, a gun enthusiast who calls himself "The AK Guy" on social media and attacked him over positions that angered the GOP's hard right in Texas. Supporters of Gonzales had warned that a loss in Tuesday's election could open the door for Democrats to flip the district in November.

## **Proposals**

During the campaign Herrera attacked the two-term Republican over his support for a gun-safety bill after the 2022 Uvalde school shooting -

Limon in the November general elec-

view with CNN in April.

He was censured by the Republican

The latest case was brought by Colorado legal authorities after Ellis' Georgia plea.

The case contends that Ellis "caused signifi-

cant actual harm in a variety of ways. It un-

dermined the American public's confidence

in the presidential election process." (AP)

attack on the US Capitol.

which happened in Gonzales' district - and past criticism of hard-line immigration proposals. Gonzales will face Democrat Santos

Gonzales, whose critics cast him as a moderate within the GOP, called

some of his hard-right colleagues in Congress "scumbags" during an inter-

Party of Texas in 2023 over his sup-

port for same-sex marriage protections at the federal level and the bipartisan gun-safety bill following the Uvalde

mass shooting.

But Gonzales drew support from top Republicans - including Texas Gov. Greg Abbott - at a time when the party holds a thin majority in the House. Speaker Mike Johnson attended a fundraiser for Gonzales, who greatly outraised Herrera.

Herrera is a gun manufacturer who posts videos about weapons and gun rights and has more than 3 million followers on YouTube.

Here's a look at other key primary runoffs in Texas:

Phelan, who finished second in March to challenger David Covey, a former local party chairman and oil and gas consultant who was backed by Trump, rallied to scrape out the primary win Tuesday.

## Push

Phelan's victory at least temporarily staved off a push from Paxton and others to force him out of his leadership role in the state's dominant party. But a shakeup in the Texas Capitol could still lay ahead.

While the win keeps Phelan on the general election ballot in his southeast Texas district, the bruising primary fight leaves questions about his ability to retain the speakership.

At his election night party, Phelan declared victory in what he called "a terrible, awful, knockdown, drag-out" fight and told supporters he will remain speaker.

"I think this runoff did me a favor," Phelan said. "It let my voters know what my real record is.

The race was a snapshot of fractures within the GOP nationally. Phelan, who has been speaker since 2021,

Court won't halt execution: A federal

appeals court on Tuesday declined to halt

the upcoming execution of an Alabama man

convicted in the beating deaths of an elderly

couple during a 2004 robbery.

came under fire after his chamber voted last year to impeach Paxton on bribery and corruption charges. Paxton was later acquitted in the state Senate.

After Phelan declared victory, Covey and Paxton accused him of attracting Democrats to vote for him in the Republican primary and push him over the top. Texas has an open primary system, meaning voters can cross party lines to vote.

'Dade Phelan may have won this election, but in doing so, he has irrevocably destroyed his already feeble legacy," Covey said.

## Also:

HONOLULU: Hawaii Gov Josh Green on Tuesday signed legislation meant to iumpstart the construction of more dwellings to address an acute housing shortage that is pushing local-born residents to move to states where the cost of living is less. The measures include requirements

for the counties to allow at least two additional units on residential lots and allow business district buildings to be reconfigured for people to live in. Another would allow state bonds to fund housing infrastructure. Green, a Democrat, said Hawaii

has a shortage of teachers, nurses, firefighters and other workers because they can't afford housing. "There are some fundamental imbalances that are out there," Green said at a news conference before he signed the bills. 'This will restore some balance.'

Rep. Luke Evslin, a Democrat and the chairperson of the House Housing Committee, said the new laws wouldn't solve Hawaii's housing crisis overnight. But he said they were the most important housing regulatory and zoning reform the Legislature has passed in more than 40 years.

The 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals denied two separate requests for an execution stay for Jamie Ray Mills, 50. Mills is scheduled to be put to death by lethal injection Thursday evening in Alabama. Mills was convicted of capital murder for

the 2004 slaying of Floyd and Vera Hill in Guin, a small city located about 82 miles (132 kilometers) northwest of Birmingham. Prosecutors said Mills and his wife went to the couple's home where he used a ballpeen hammer, tire tool and machete to beat and stab the couple before stealing \$140 and prescription medications. (AP)

Pilot hurt after jet crashes: A military fighter jet on its way to an Air Force base in California crashed Tuesday near the international airport in New Mexico's largest city, sending up a large plume of smoke and

injuring the pilot. The pilot, the only person on board, was able to escape after crashing around 2 p.m. on a hillside on the south side of Albuquerque's airport and was taken to a hospital with serious injuries, according to the city's fire department.

US manufacturer Lockheed Martin identified the downed plane as an F-35 that left Fort Worth, Texas, earlier Tuesday and was headed to Edwards Air Force Base near Los Angeles. A spokesperson for Lockheed said in an email to The Associated Press that the fighter jet crashed after the pilot stopped to refuel at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico. (AP)



Robert De Niro speaks to reporters in support of US President Joe Biden across the street from former president Donald Trump's criminal trial in New York on May 28. (AP)

## Lat/Am

### Caracas revokes invitation

## Haiti's new premier Conille vows 'unity'

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, May 29, (AP): Garry Conille, Haiti's new prime minister, said Wednesday that he was "very honored" to be chosen for the post, in his first statement since a transitional council selected him to lead the troubled Caribbean country

under siege by gangs.

Conille thanked the civil society groups, political parties and members of the Haitian diaspora who proposed him as a candidate.

Together, we will work for a better tomorrow for all the children of our nation," he wrote on X, the social media platform, in Haitian Creole.



Conille submitted his resignation Tuesday as UNICEF's regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean, a post he has held since January 2023. He previously served as prime minister of Haiti from October 2011 to May 2012 under then-President Michel Martelly

Conille studied medicine and public health and helped develop health care in impoverished communities in Haiti,

where he helped coordinate reconstruction efforts after the devastating 2010 earthquake. He also served as a UN development specialist before becoming a regional director with UNICEF.

#### Task

He now faces a monumental task, with Haiti under siege by gangs that control at least 80% of the Port-au-Prince capital as the country awaits the U.N.-backed deployment of a police force from Kenya and other countries supporting the mission.

While the transitional council has not issued a formal statement about Conille, council members told The Associated Press late Tuesday that six of seven members with voting powers had selected him. Laurent St Cyr, the seventh member, is not in Haiti currently and as a result did not vote.

Conille will replace interim Prime Minister Michel Patrick Boisvert, who has been helping lead the country since former Prime Minister Ariel Henry resigned via letter in April following a surge in gang violence. It was not immediately clear if there would be a for-

mal swearing-in ceremony for Conille. UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said in a statement that she wished Conille "every success in bringing much-needed peace, stability and hope to the children of Haiti.'

Conille was not the first choice for some council

### **Procedure**

In late April, a four-member coalition within the council made an unexpected announcement that they had chosen former sports minister Fritz Bélizaire as prime minister. The move threatened to fracture the council, with dissenting members insisting that proper procedure be followed.

As a result, the council announced it would accept nominations for prime minister, and it received dozens of names. However, none of them was made public, and the council has been criticized for its lack of transplying when choosing a leader.

The council also is tasked with choosing a new Cabinet and appointing a provisional electoral commission, a requirement before elections can take place. The council's non-renewable mandate expires Feb 7, 2026, when a new president is scheduled to be sworn in.

The council members are Emmanuel Vertilaire for Petit Desalin, a party led by former senator and presidential candidate Jean-Charles Moïse; Smith Augustin for EDE/RED, a party led by former Prime Minister Claude Joseph; Fritz Alphonse Jean of the Montana Accord; Leslie Voltaire for Fanmi Lavalas, the party of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide; Louis Gérald Gilles for the Dec 21 coalition that backs former Prime Minister Ariel Henry; Edgard Leblanc Fils for the Jan 30 Collective, which represents parties including that of former President Michel Martelly; and Laurent Saint-Cyr for the private sector.

## Also:

BOGOTA, Colombia: Colombia's congress voted Tuesday to ban bullfights in the South American nation, delivering a serious blow to a centuries-old tradition that has inspired famous songs and novels but has become increasingly controversial in the countries where it is still practiced.

The bill calls for the banning of bullfights in a threeyear span, making the tradition illegal by the start of 2028. The new law now needs to be signed by President Gustavo Petro, who has been a longtime opponent of these events.

Bullfighting originated in the Iberian Peninsula and is still legal in a handful of countries, including Spain, France, Portugal, Peru, Ecuador and Mexico.

It was once a popular event, broadcast live by multiple television networks. But the tradition has come under increased scrutiny as views change about animal welfare, and many find it unacceptable to see an

animal suffer for entertainment's sake. "This ban is a huge victory for organizations that have worked to transform society and reject violence against animals," said Terry Hurtado, an animal rights activist and city council member in Cali, who has been leading protests against bullfights since the 1990s. "I feel relieved that bulls and horses (which also participate in some bullfights) in Colombia will no longer be tortured, and that children will no longer be exposed to this spectacle.'

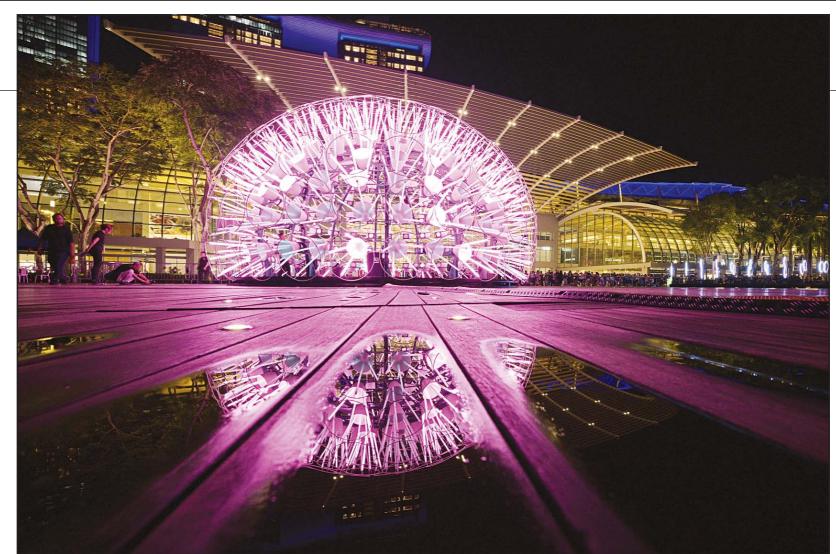
In bullfights, a matador faces bulls that are bred to

CARACAS, Venezuela: Venezuela's electoral authorities on Tuesday revoked an invitation for a European Union mission to observe the country's upcoming presidential election, in which President Nicolás **Maduro** is seeking reelection.

The head of the National Electoral Council, Elvis Amoroso, cited economic sanctions imposed by the 27-nation bloc as the reason for withdrawing the invitation. The EU had not yet accepted the invite that was extended earlier this year.

Amoroso said Tuesday's decision is intended to show that EU representatives "are not welcome to come here to our country while the genocidal sanctions against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,

and especially its government, are maintained." The bloc, however, only maintains sanctions against more than 50 Venezuelans accused of acts of repression or efforts to undermine democracy, but not against the government as a whole.



One of the art installations is seen during the media preview of the 'i Light Singapore 2024' light festival, held at Singapore's Marina Bay area on May 28. (Xinhua)



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, meets with his Sudanese counterpart Hussein Awad, who is in China for the 10th ministerial meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, in Beijing, capital of China on May 28. (Xinhua)



Lourenco

## **Africa**

**US discusses ties with Angola:** US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has discussed the growing bilateral defense relations between the United States and Angola with his Angolan counterpart Joao Lourenco

The talks have been held against backdrop of US efforts to enhance strategic presence in the African continent amid fierce competition with China and Russia.

The two ministers met on Tuesday at the headquarters of the US Department of Defense (the Pentagon). Lourenco's visit to Washington is "'based

on the success of the 2017 memorandum of understanding, the 2022 joint statement, and minister Austin's visit to Angola in September 2023," according to a statement from the Pentagon.

The two officials discussed ways to strengthen the relations through the up-coming inaugural meeting of the Joint US-Angolan Defense Cooperation Committee, scheduled for June 5-6, 2024, at the Pentagon, as well as other areas of security cooperation, the statement added.

Austin became the first US Defense Secretary ever to visit Angola in September 2023. This visit came during his first African tour since assuming his duties as head of the US Department of Defense.

During his African tour covering Djibouti, Kenya, and Angola, Austin pledged support for African partners, stressing ongoing military collaboration to ensure Africa's security and prosperity, as he emphasized Africa's importance for shared prosperity and security. (KUNA)

SAfrica car accident kills 13: A total of 13 people died on Tuesday in a head-on collision involving a heavy motor vehicle

and a minibus taxi in the Limpopo province

The Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety said the accident occurred at R521 road in Capricorn District around 5:50 a.m. on Tuesday morning.

of South Africa, said local authorities.

"It is now confirmed that 13 people have perished on the scene -- two drivers and 11 passengers from a Toyota minibus," said the department. "According to reports, a Hyundai heavy motor vehicle collided head-on with an oncoming Toyota minibus.'

"Lack of clear visibility has been attributed as the possible cause of the accident,' it said.

Road accidents are not uncommon in South Africa. In March, 45 people coming from Botswana to attend for Easter festivities in South Africa died in a bus accident in Limpopo. (Xinhua)

South Africans vote: South Africans voted Wednesday at schools, community

**Asia** 

## North Korea flies trash balloons over South

## Thaksin to be indicted for royal defamation

BANGKOK, May 29, (AP): Thai prosecutors said Wednesday former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will be indicted for defaming the monarchy, three months after he was freed on parole on other charges.

Thaksin will not yet be indicted because he had filed a request to postpone his original appointment on Wednesday with proof that he has COVID-19, Prayuth Bejraguna, a spokesperson for the Office of the Attorney General, said at a news conference.

The attorney general's office scheduled a new appointment for Thaksin's indictment on June 18, Prayuth said, adding that Thaksin will also be indicted for violating the Computer Crime

The law on defaming the monarchy, an offense known as lese majeste, is punishable by three to 15 years in prison. It is controversial not only because critics consider it harsh, but also because they charge it is used for political purposes to punish government critics.

Thaksin was ousted by a military coup in 2006. His opponents then had accused him of disrespecting King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who died in 2016. Thaksin's ouster set off years of struggle between his supporters and his opponents, who were generally staunch royalists. The political polarization led to unprecedented public debate about the monarchy's role, which sharpened when student-led protests for greater democracy took the the streets in 2020.

Thaksin had been in self-imposed exile since 2008, but returned to Thailand in August last year to begin serving an eight-year sentence on charges related to corruption and abuse of power. He was released on parole in February from the hospital in Bangkok where he spent six months serving time for corruption-related offenses.

On his return, he was moved almost immediately from prison to the hospital on grounds of ill health, and about a week after that King Maha Vajiralongkorn reduced his sentence to a single year. Thaksin was granted parole because of his age - he is 74 - and ill health, leaving him free for the remainder of his one-year sentence. 

**NKorea flies trash balloons:** North Korea flew hundreds of trash-carrying balloons toward South Korea in one of its most bizarre provocations against its rival in years, prompting the South's military to mobilize chemical

and explosive response teams to recov-

centers, and in large white tents set up in

open fields in an election seen as their coun-

try's most important in 30 years. It could put

the young democracy in unknown territory.

the African National Congress party, which

At stake is the three-decade dominance of

**Robot will soon try to remove melted N-fuel from Japan Fukushima reactor** 

TOKYO, May 29, (AP): The operator of Japan's destroyed Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant demonstrated Tuesday how a remotecontrolled robot would retrieve tiny bits of melted fuel debris from one of three damaged reactors later this year for the first time since the 2011 meltdown.

Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings plans to deploy a "tel-esco-style" extendable pipe robot into Fukushima Daiichi No. 2 reactor to test the removal of debris from its primary containment vessel by October. That work is more than two years

behind schedule. The removal of

melted fuel was supposed to begin in late 2021 but has been plagued with delays, underscoring the difficulty of recovering from the magnitude 9.0 quake and tsunami in 2011. Holes found in screen: A Japanese town that erected a huge black

them, officials said Tuesday. Fujikawaguchiko, a popular spot

er objects and debris in different parts

of the country. The ballooning campaign came as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un urged his military scientists to overcome a failed satellite launch and continue developing space-based reconnaissance capabilities, which he described as crucial for countering US and South Korean military activities,

state media said Wednesday. In his first public comments about the launch failure, Kim also warned of unspecified "stern" action against South Korea over an exercise involving 20 fighter jets near the inter-Korean border hours before North Korea's failed launch on Monday. In a speech Tuesday, Kim called the South Korean response "hysterical insanity" and "a very dangerous provocation that can-not be ignored," the North's official Korean Central News Agency said Wednesday.

led South Africa out of apartheid's brutal

white minority rule in 1994. It is now the

target of a new generation of discontent in a

country of 62 million people - half of whom

After casting his vote, South African

are estimated to be living in poverty.

been delayed, officials said. Emergency responders say that screen last week in an attempt to stop tourists from snapping photos of Mount Fuji and overcrowding the area has discovered holes in the screen and is working to repair

up to 8,000 people might need to be evacuated as the mass of boulders, earth and splintered trees that crushed the village of Yambali in the nation's mountainous interior on Friday becomes increasingly unstable.

to view and photograph the iconic mountain, put up the screen last Tuesday, but the next day officials

discovered a hole in it. By Tuesday

morning, officials had found around

10 similar holes, all at eye level,

and all apparently just the right size

location is outside a Lawson con-

venience store, from where pho-

tos taken at a certain angle would

make it look as if Mount Fuji was

PNG to relocate survivors: Au-

thorities in Papua New Guinea

were searching on Wednesday

for safer ground to relocate thou-

sands of survivors at risk from a

potential second landslide in the

South Pacific country's highlands,

while the arrival of heavy earth-

moving equipment at the disaster site where hundreds are buried has

One especially popular viewing

to fit a camera lens through.

sitting atop the store roof.

US appoints rep to Taiwan: The United States has appointed a new representative to Taiwan, as China boosts its threats against the self-ruled island following the election of a new president who wants the territory to maintain its de-facto independence.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory and this week staged naval and air force drills that surrounded the island in a simulated blockade.

The American Institute in Taiwan that acts as the de-facto embassy in Taipei said Wednesday that veteran diplomat Raymond Greene would take over from Sandra Oudkirk beginning in the summer of 2024.

The US cut formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan in 1979 and established official relations with the People's Republic of China, then a Cold War ally against the Soviet Union. Despite an absence of formal relations with Taiwan, the US is the island's strongest ally and is obligated under a 1979 law to help Taiwan protect itself from invasion.

A woman casts her vote at a polling station in Cape Town, South Africa on May 29. South Africans voted Wednesday at schools, community centers, and in large white tents set up in open fields in an election seen as their country's most important in 30 years. It could put the young democracy in unknown territory. (AP)

President Cyril Ramaphosa said he had no doubt his ANC would win with a majority and remain in government.

Africa's most advanced economy has some of the world's deepest socioeconomic problems, including one of the worst unemployment rates at 32%. The lingering inequality, with poverty and joblessness disproportionately affecting the Black majority, threatens to unseat the party that promised to end it by bringing down apartheid under the slogan of a better life for all.

"Our main issue here in our community is the lack of jobs," said Samuel Ratshalingwa, who was near the front of the queue at the same school in the Johannesburg township of Soweto where Ramaphosa voted.

"We have to use the vote to make our voices heard about this problem," said Ratshalingwa, who came out before 7 am on a chilly winter morning.

After winning six successive national elections, several polls have the ANC's support at less than 50% ahead of this one, an unprecedented drop. It might lose its majority in Parliament for the first time, although it's widely expected to hold the most seats.

The ANC won 57.5% of the vote in the

last national election in 2019, its worst result to date and down from a high of nearly 70% of the vote 20 years ago.

Ramaphosa, the leader of the ANC, has promised to "do better." The ANC has asked for more time and patience. (AP)

#### oil soars

Price of the Kuwaiti crude oil rose USD 1.13 to settle at USD 85.53 per barrel on Tuesday vis a vis USD 84.40 pb on Monday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation said on Wednesday.

In international markets, forwards of the Brent crude moved up by USD 1.12 to reach USD 84.22 pb and those of the West Texas crude oil moved up by USD 2.11, settling at USD 79.83 a barrel. (KUNA)

SAUDI

The volume of non-oil trade exchange between Kuwait and Pakistan reached USD 590 billion in 2023, Undersecretary of Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ziad Al-Najem said Tuesday

The country has started focusing on further economic and commercial cooperation with courtiers across the world, Al-Najem said in a speech during a meeting of technical experts of the fifth Kuwait-Pakistan ministerial committee that kicked off earlier in the

This collaboration will be done through signing mutual agreements in investment, economic and commercial fields, and holding joint committees as well as opening Kuwait's market for foreign investments, he added.

Kuwaiti government is paying much attention to the private sector as the main pillar that works on activating economic process growth, in line with the future vision of the country aiming to transform it into an international financial and commercial hub and

attract foreign investments in the region, Al-Najem told the meeting which will last until May 30.

Economic, commercial and investment relations between Kuwait and Pakistan are

Kuwait-Pakistan non-oil trade hits \$590 billion in 2023

prosperous and developed shown in sharing visits, he said, referring to the visit of former commerce and industry minister Khaled al-Raudhan to Pakistan in 2018 and Pakistani premier visit to Kuwait last year.

He said they seek, through this meeting featuring also Kazim Niaz, Secretary for Pakistan's Economic Affairs, to open new horizons of mutual collaboration in all fields to learn about investment and commercial opportunities, and remove all obstacles and problems facing the two sides. He expressed hope that the gathering would result in reaching desired outcomes that contribute to enhancing and developing economic, investment and commercial relations between the two friendly countries. (KUNA)

#### **Market** Movements

JAPAN - Nikkei 225 PHILIPPINES - PSEi - EGX 30 - ESE 100

29-05-2024

Change Closing pts -27.09 3,959.80 38,556.87 -298.50 -89.93 6,411.41 -104.83 27,089.68 -633.53 74.878.44



## New app enables easy trading across MENA and global markets

## Gulf Bank introduces 'One Trader' app to trade in Kuwait and international markets

## **NBK** joins official inauguration ceremony of Al-Zour Refinery

Largest refining facility in the world to be built in one phase

**KUWAIT CITY, May 29:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) participated in the official ceremony marking the full commissioning of Al-Zour Refinery, the largest refining facility in the world to be built in one phase. The event, hosted by Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC), a subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), was held under the patronage and in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Mr. Hamad Al-Bahar, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group CEO, and Mr. Nabil Marouf, CEO of NBK Capital, represented NBK at the ceremony. **Added Value** 

On this occasion, Vice Chairman and Group CEO, Mr. Isam Al-Sager, praised this historic milestone for Kuwait's oil sector, highlighting Al-Zour Refinery as one of the largest international projects supporting the nation's development agenda and contributing substantially to the national economy.

Al-Sager stated, "NBK is the bank of choice for deals involving KPC and its subsidiaries, serving as the primary financier of Kuwait's oil sector. Our longstanding and close historical ties with KPC and its subsidiaries extend over many decades. Furthermore, the bank has actively contributed to nurturing the talents and potential of young individuals within the sector's organizations over the years.

He elaborated on the bank's provision of substantial financing and leadership in numerous significant financing agreements for projects within the oil sector. This reflects NBK's confidence in the strong financial position of KPC and its subsidiaries, as well as their exceptional management capabilities to execute growth strategies aligned with the 2040 strategy.

He stressed that the bank's extension of long-term financing for significant projects in the oil sector, like Al-Zour refinery project, highlights its ongoing dedication to supporting competitive global initiatives. This underscores NBK's commitment to financing key strategic ventures across various sectors, with a notable emphasis on the oil industry. In this regard, the bank strengthens its position as the bank of choice for companies within the sector as they pursue expansion initiatives.

Furthermore, Al-Sager emphasized that NBK possesses numerous remarkable advantages that set it apart, positioning it as thetop choice for spearheading primary financing endeavors within Kuwait's oil and gas sectors. He elaborated that foremost among these advantages is the bank's capacity to engage in substantial financing endeavors. Additionally, he highlighted the bank's adept and specialized team in the oil sector, capable of delivering financing services to the sector with exceptional efficiency and speed, thus enabling the bank to secure the predominant share of financing within the local oil sector.

He also noted that beyond the financial collaboration, the strategic alliance between NBK and KPC along with its subsidiaries extends to training and development initiatives offered by the bank to oil sector employees. This partnership is gaining momentum, driven by the bank's steadfast dedication to this sector and its ongoing commitment to providing continuous support.

## **Large-Scale Financing**

Some of the noteworthy financing deals for Kuwait oil sector in which NBK has been involved over the past decade include:

In 2015, NBK's substantial engagement primarily centered around addressing the banking requirements of contractors participating in Al-Zour refinery project.

In 2016, NBK achieved a significant milestone by spearheading the financing for the KNPC Clean Fuels Project, valued at KD 1.2 billion. This represented the largest financing deal in Kuwaiti Dinars in the country's his-



Hamad Al-Bahar and Isam Al-Sager.



Hamad Al-Bahar, Isam Al-Sager and Nabil Maroof during the ceremony.

tory, with NBK contributing KD 400 million to the financing facility. The bank's appointment to lead the banking consortium for this project highlighted its prominent status and exceptional reputation among major international institutions, affirming its extensive experience in arranging large-scale loans

and financing facilities.

In 2018, NBK played a pivotal role as the lead arranger and lender for financing Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) LNG import terminal, amounting to KD 390 million. NBK's contribution to this financing totaled KD 140 million. Additionally, during the same year, the bank extended facilities of USD 500 million in the international trade finance segment for Duqm Refinery project in Oman. This refinery is jointly owned by Oman Global Integrated Energy Group (OQ) and Kuwait Petroleum International, a subsidiary of KPC.

In October 2020, NBK arranged a syndicated loan totaling KD 1 billion for KPC, with NBK's portion of the syndicated loan facility standing at KD

## A Landmark Accomplishment

The announcement of the successful completion of Al-Zour Refinery units' operation by KIPIC, a subsidiary of KPC responsible for refining, processing, and marketing, marks a historic milestone. The refinery has reached its peak refining capacity of 615,000 barrels per day of Kuwait Light Export Crude (KEC), constituting 43.5% of the total refining capacity of the State of Kuwait. This achievement will boost Kuwait's exports of oil derivatives, particularly low-sulfur grades that align with environmental compatibility standards.

The construction of Al-Zour Refinery, which commenced in 2015, signifies the establishment of thelargest refinery in the world to be built in one phase and ranks among the top 10 refineries globally. This project comprises three independent mini-refineries engineered with advanced technical specifications. Remarkably, it includes the largest complex for desulfurization utilizing Atmospheric Residue Desulfurization (ARDS) to process residue generated in the crude distillation unit, marking a significant milestone in refining technology on a global scale.

The refinery stands as one of the pivotal initiatives outlined in KPC's 2040 strategy, aimed at bolstering the state's refining capacity. Its strategic objectives encompass various facets, including ensuring a secure and dependable supply to meet the Ministry of Electricity and Water's requirements for low-sulfur fuel oil (below 0.5% sulfur content). Moreover, the refinery aims to process Kuwait heavy crude oil to enhance economic yields and produce premium products of superior quality, thereby bolstering Ku-

wait's competitiveness in global markets. Moreover, the refinery is set to make a substantial contribution to the nation's development strategy by encouraging private sector participation across the implementation and operational stages. This engagement is anticipated to create new job opportunities for Kuwaiti citizens and catalyze economic expansion in neighboring regions by improving investment pros-

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: In its ongoing efforts to provide the best investment services to its clients, Gulf Bank has announced a partnership with EFG Hermes ONE, the digital trading platform of EFG Hermes, a leading investment bank in the Middle East and North Africa. This partnership will introduce the "One Trader" digital trading application in Kuwait, under the slogan "One Platform. A World of Opportunities." This application offers the ability to track and trade in Kuwait, multiple MENA markets, and global exchanges through a wide array of asset classes with just a click of a button.

During an introductory session, Mr. Tareq Al-Saleh, Deputy General Manager of Investments at Gulf Bank, announced, "The new application, developed in collaboration with EFG Hermes, features a suite of tools designed to assist clients in making well-informed investment decisions and fostering long-term investment strategies."

He emphasized that the advanced trading platform offers Gulf Bank clients a seamless trading experience across local, regional, and international markets, all accessible through a single platform. Clients can conveniently access the platform via web browsers, iOS, and Android devices, ensuring a smooth, rapid, and secure investment experience with realtime updates on their stock performance.

He added, "We have updated our current platform, which was limited to the Kuwait Stock Exchange, to align with the latest online trading platforms. This makes investing in financial markets accessible to everyone, enabling current, and potential, clients to plan their financial future, and remove barriers to accessing global markets. Additionally, it enhances financial literacy by providing everyone with the tools and knowledge to start

## Various Competitive Advan-

Mr. Al-Saleh highlighted that the application offers several competitive advantages, including the ability for clients to trade multiple financial assets, and buy and sell orders in real-time for immediate execution across various markets. Clients can also track their executed and pending orders. He added that the portal allows clients to monitor their investment portfolios in real-time from anywhere, at any time, and to create watchlists for different markets and asset classes

they have invested in. He explained that clients can obtain real-time stock quotes, place orders (including conditional orders), and easily review, modify, or cancel these orders. Additionally, clients have access to market news throughout the trading session and can set up customized alerts to add, review, or delete notifications.

"The application provides access to real-time market information from an award-winning research team, along with live data and stock charting tools, which include a wide range of technical analysis



Tareq Al-Saleh



Ahmed Waly



Tareq Al-Saleh speaking during the seminar.

features," Al-Saleh explained.

He also noted that under Gulf Bank's 2025 strategy, which aims to provide products and services that meet the needs of high-networth individuals, the bank offers specialized products tailored to these clients. This includes the WISE investment service, Gulf Bank's leading digital portfolio management platform, as well as various investment solutions, and ties. He mentioned that with the establishment of Gulf Capital Investment Company, an independent subsidiary of the bank, a comprehensive range of investment products and services is now available.

Furthermore, he highlighted that Gulf Bank has obtained approval from the Capital Markets Authority to license Gulf Capital Investment Company, known as Invest GB, to participate in securities activities. These activities comprise portfolio management, investment advisory, custodyand investment monitoring services, management of collective investment schemes, underwriting, and non-exchange registered securities brokerage.

Strategic Partnership

Mr. Ahmed Waly, Global Head of Brokerage at EFG Hermes, an EFG Holding company, stressed the importance of the strategic partnership with Gulf Bank. He emphasized that this partnership reflects the company's dedicated efforts to grow its operations, and improve its range of top-notch financial solutions, aligning with the evolving trends and dynamics of the financial sector in the MENA

Mr. Waly further stated that

this partnership is in line with the company's unwavering dedication to fostering integration among diverse financial markets. This is achieved through forging strategic alliances, with the goal of enhancing the trading environment within the financial market.

He pointed out that EFG Hermes aims to utilize its expertise and resources to deliver a secure and efficient trading experience for online securities trading app, EFG Hermes ONE. He confirmed that partnering with Gulf Bank is part of a shared vision to advance regional development through innovative strategies and the implementation of new standards for excellence in financial services.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti bank of the future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of their roles in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank gives its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

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

## 45% of MENA entrepreneurs launched ventures in last 5 years

## MENA workforce shows strong entrepreneurial interest, reports Bayt.com

DUBAI, May 29: The Entrepreneurship in the Middle East and North Africa 2024 survey, conducted by Bayt. com, the Middle East's leading job site, and market research agency You-Gov, revealed that there's a notable inclination towards entrepreneurship in the region.Out of the 1090 people surveyed, 517 are currently employed, of which 46% are eager to be either self-employed or own a business, particularly high in Lebanon 46%, Egypt 54%, and Algeria 57%. However, a slightly larger fraction, representing 49% of the total respondents, still prefer traditional employment in companies, with the private sector being the most desired workplace for 60% of these individuals. Those favoring company employment cite the allure of regular income 50%, the opportunity to learn new skills 38%, and employment stability along with benefits like social security and medical insurance 34% as their main motivators.

Ola Haddad, General Manager at Bayt.com said: "The entrepreneurial spirit is redefining the future of work in the MENA. With nearly half of the region's entrepreneurs embarking on their business journeys in just the last five years, and over 60% poised to expand their teams, we're witnessing an era where the pursuit of personal fulfillment, community contribution, and work-life balance is not just a dream, but a tangible goal. This wave of entrepreneurial optimism, against the backdrop of seeking more autonomy and meaningful impact, is a testament to a resilience that promises to reshape economies and lives across the

MENA Entrepreneurial Ecosystem On the entrepreneurial front, the

driving forces are decidedly more personal and community-focused, with 'personal fulfillment' 45%, the 'freedom to choose work-life balance' 43%, and the 'ability to give back to the community' 40% emerging as top reasons. A substantial 45% of current entrepreneurs embarked on their business ventures within the last five years, showcasing a surge in entrepreneurial



Ola Haddad, General Manager

activities, although they face challenges like underperformance 30% and the hurdles of being at the start-up stage 30%. The pursuit of higher income 31% and better work-life balance 28% are primary motivations behind these entrepreneurial endeavors.

Looking ahead, there's a strong entrepreneurial ambition in the region, with 63% planning to hire in the next year, implying optimism about business growth. Moreover, significant proportions are aiming for expansion, both locally one-third and internationally 24%, despite 55% acknowledging the difficulty of starting a business in their country due to restrictive laws and regulations. This sentiment is reinforced by nearly half of the respondents 48% who believe that the government could better support budding entrepreneurs by simplifying these

Financial obstacles 43% present the most significant barrier to starting a business, alongside concerns over procuring initial financing 57%, profit uncertainty 35%, and the need for establishing the right contacts 33%. Despite these challenges, the spirit of entrepreneurship is perceived positively, with a strong majority viewing entrepreneurs as opportunity-driven 84% and cru-

cial job creators 83%. The consensus advice for aspiring entrepreneurs is to embrace risk, with 44% emphasizing the importance of not fearing failure. Industries such as IT, real estate, and commerce are identified as the most appealing sectors for new business ventures. Success in entrepreneurship is believed to hinge on employing the right people 30%, fostering innovation 26%, and maintaining close customer relations 18%. Zafar Shah, Account Director at

YouGov said: "Our latest research highlights the importance of supporting and encouraging entrepreneurship as a means of boosting job growth and economic development. Entrepreneurs in the MENA region foster a culture of creativity that inspires others to take risks and pursue their own ideas, leading to further innovation and growth in the economy. The insights gathered from this survey can help policymakers and investors create an environment that fosters innovation and entre-

### South Korea and UAE forge economic partnership pact

South Korea and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) freeing up trade between the two countries Wednesday, as UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan made a state visit to Seoul, Yonhap News Agency re-

The two countries also signed a memorandum of intent calling for South Korea to build at least

six liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers worth some USD 1.5 billion, while the UAE's sovereign wealth fund and companies reaffirmed their commitment to invest a combined USD 30 billion in South Korea, the report said.

The CEPA is a type of free trade agreement that emphasizes a broader scope of economic cooperation and exchanges in addition to market opening, requires parliamentary

ratification to take effect. The UAE is the first Arab nation to sign a free trade deal with

South Korea. Under the agreement, the two countries will lift tariffs on more than 90 percent of most goods, including cars, auto parts and defense items, over the next 10 years. It also includes provisions for opening cultural services and the online game market, according to the report. (KUNA)

### Thailand approves longer visa stays to boost economy

Thailand's cabinet on Tuesday approved a string of visa facilitation measures, including extended stay periods for foreign tourists, remote workers and post-graduate students, in an effort to boost its vital tourism sector amid a sluggish economy.

Beginning in June, the Southeast Asian country will allow visitors from 93 countries and territories, up from 57 currently, to enter without visa requirements

for stays of up to 60 days, while the list of those eligible for visa on arrivals will also increase to 31 from 19, said government spokesman Chai Wacharonke.

For digital nomads who seek to stay in Thailand for a long period and work remotely, their visa validity will be extended from 60 days to five years, with each stay up to 180 days, Chai told a news conference.

Foreign university students

will be permitted to stay one year after graduation, while insurance requirements for long-stay foreign retirees will be relaxed, he

Thailand received over 14.32 million inbound tourists as of last week and is targeting at least 35 million foreign arrivals in 2024, with tourism receipts of 3.5 trillion baht (about 95.62 billion U.S. dollars), according to the Ministry of Tourism and Sports. (Xinhua)

### **Sheikh Tamim visits Mediterranean island for the first time**

## Qatar's ruler looking to invest in energy, ports & hi-tech in Cyprus

NICOSIA, Cyprus, May 29, (AP): The Amir of Qatar is looking to invest in energy and high-tech in Cyprus - projects seen as having a strong economic potential, a Cypriot official said Tuesday.

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who visited the east Mediterranean island nation on Tuesday for via a U.S. built temporary pier off the the first time, is also interested in investing in Cypriot ports and banking institutions, the official said.

Qatar is a strong supporter of a maritime aid corridor that ferries humanitarian aid from the Cypriot port of Larnaca to the besieged Gaza Strip

Palestinian territory. Al Thani has helped with funding the initiative's humanitarian aid collection.

The temporary pier was damaged by rough seas over the weekend and temporarily suspended operations, officials said.

Al Thani and Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides held talks and agreed to set up a working group to gauge progress made in forging closer economic and political ties, the Cypriot official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the

A Cyprus government statement free about 100 Israeli hostages being said the emir expressed his concern over developments in the southern Gaza city of Rafah where an Israeli military offensive is underway.

Qatar, along with Egypt and the United States, has been mediating to broker a cease-fire deal that would held by Gaza's militant Hamas rulers and in efforts to end the war.

Qatar is also partners with ExxonMobil in oil and gas exploration in one of 13 areas, or blocks, inside Cyprus' exclusive economic zone off the island's southern coastline.

### GIs contribute to enhancing EU-Beijing ties

## Shared passion for delicacies fuel China-Europe agricultural trades

BEIJING/BRUSSELS, May 29, (Xinhua): From Bordeaux wines and Iberico ham to Comté cheese and Sitia olive oil, these signature agri-products from the European Union (EU) have gained a greater presence in the kitchens of Chinese families, tickling Chinese taste buds with their exotic flavors.

Every one of these products are labeled with Geographical Indications (GI) designation, a mark of authenticity and quality endorsed by both the EU and China, making them sought-after products in the Chinese market.

China and the EU inked an agreement on geographical indications in 2021, aiming to improve bilateral trade of agri-food products. This year marks the third anniversary of the landmark agreement coming into effect. The first GI list, which entered into

force in 2021, protects 100 Chinese agricultural GIs in the EU and 96 agricultural EU GIs in China. A second list of more products from both sides will be protected as of March 1, 2025.

"In a broader sense, GIs contribute to enhancing EU-China relations, by bringing us closer through our mutual love for food," EU Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

Commenting at a recently con-cluded roundtable forum on China-EU Geographical Indications held in Belgium's Brussels, Wojciechowski said the agreement is mutually beneficial, promoting agricultural trade between the two regions and positively impacting regional economic development.

He led a delegation of European businesses on a visit to China in April this year, during which they met with Chinese government officials and discussed collaboration concerning agricultural matters, including the GI

agreement. This delegation of 75 business leaders represented EU agri-food companies and organizations from all over Europe, he said. "It is the largest delegation I have taken with me during my time as commissioner, representing the strong interest of EU agri-food businesses in the Chinese market.'

In 2023, the total agri-food trade exchange value between the EU and China was close to 23 billion euros (about 25 billion U.S. dollars), according to Wojciechowski. These robust agricultural trade ties have bred business op-

portunities for GI producers A listed GI Jumilla, which signifies wine produced in southeastern Spain, specifically within the Murcia province, serves as one example, according to Lorenzo Abellan, chairman of Bodegas Carchelo, S. L., a family winery that produces Jumilla wines.

'There are over 40 wineries in the entire Jumilla wine region, and total exports to China, our fourthlargest market globally, stood at between 6 million and 8 million bottles last year, a notable expansion from around 4.5 million bottles in 2021," Abellan said.

Wang Cheng, the general manager of Shandong Anxunman Trading Co., Ltd., acting as the commercial representative for Bodegas Carchelo in China, concurred that the increased exposure resulting from the GI designation has led to new business op-

portunities. Taking another GI, Dehesa de Extremadura, which denotes a distinct region in Spain renowned for its production of premium Iberico ham, as an example, Wang said his company's sales of such Iberico ham in China is expected to record a five-fold increase in 2024 compared with 2023, as many restaurants in first-tier cities are joining his list of clients keen on this rural

## T-Mobile to buy almost all of U.S Cellular in a deal worth USD 4.4 billion with debt

WASHINGTON, May 29, (AP): T-Mobile is buying U.S. Cellular's wireless operations and certain spectrum assets in a deal valued at \$4.4 billion, and further consolidating the industry

T-Mobile would get more than 4 million new customers and control of U.S. Cellular's wireless operations and about 30% of spectrum assets across several spectrum bands. T-Mobile will also enter into a new master license agreement on more than 2,000 towers and extend the lease term for the approximately 600 towers where T-Mobile is already a

T-Mobile CEO Mike Sievert said the deal will "create a better experience for all of our customers with more coverage and more capacity.'

T-Mobile is among the more active companies in telecommunications with regard to mergers and acquisitions. And in 2020 T-Mobile completed the takeover of smaller rival Sprint. In 2013 the Federal Communications Commission approved its merger with MetroPCS Communications Inc.

T-Mobile said Tuesday that U.S. Cellular customers will gain access to its 5G network, giving them better coverage and speed. The company said the deal will particularly benefit those that live in underserved rural areas of the country.

"In the face of rising competition

and increasing capital intensity required to keep pace with the latest technologies, and following our careful and deliberate strategic review, we are confident that continuing to deliver on our mission requires a level of scale and investment that is best achieved by integrating our wireless operations with those of T-Mobile," U.S. Cellular Chair LeRoy Carlson Jr. said in a statement.

T-Mobile said that U.S. Cellular customers will be able to remain on their current plans or switch to an unlimited T-Mobile plan of their choice. They will not incur switching costs if a plan change is made.

The transaction includes a combination of cash and up to about \$2 billion of assumed debt. Up to \$100 million of the cash component is contingent on hitting certain financial and operational metrics between the deal's signing and closing.

U.S. Cellular will keep about 70% of of its spectrum portfolio across several spectrum bands.

The deal has been unanimously approved by the boards of United States Cellular Corp. and Telephone and Data Systems Inc, which is a majority shareholder of U.S. Cellular. It is expected to close in mid-2025.

U.S. Cellular's stock jumped more than 12% before the opening bell on Tuesday, while shares of Telephone and Data Systems surged more than

landscape, according to Wojciechowski. **Rosy Future** 

#### and heritage similar to that of the EU, Wojciechowski said. "We see that protecting GIs is a 'win-win' concept. Our producers, our consumers, and our society as a whole reap the benefits.'

Heritage, Landscape Valued

China has a rich culinary tradition

With breathtaking vistas featuring lush forests, deep valleys, and cascading waterfalls, Jingmai Mountain, which is situated in the city of Pu'er in Yunnan Province in southwest China, hosts a Chinese GI designated Pu'er tea, a type of fermented tea that is renowned worldwide for its exquisite

Home to communities of well-preserved ancient tea trees, the mountain's local history of human cultivation of tea trees can be traced back more than 1.000 years.

fragrance.

"In Europe, Chinese teas evoke in the minds of consumers an image of beautiful tea plantations such as Jingmai Mountain," Wojciechowski said.

Both Europe and China are dotted with landscapes influenced by GIs that contribute to the renown of their regions, he remarked, also citing the vineyards in France and the rolling hills in Tuscany as examples.

However, to earn its label, each GI product must respect detailed requirements and specific standards, according to Wojciechowski.

Jingmai Mountain has served as such an example, maintaining its great biodiversity while supporting human settlements and tree cultivation. Village regulations and local constitutions help prevent tea farmers from applying chemical fertilizers or pesticides to the ancient tea forests. Instead, they have adopted natural methods of preventing plant diseases and pests in these tea forests, such as planting camphor trees

to repel insects. Through the respect of their specifications, GIs ensure the preservation of

## Since the beginning of this year,

there have been frequent high-level exchanges between China and Europe, fostering closer ties in various fields. especially in the agricultural sector. In May, China's customs authority

greenlighted the entry of more types of agricultural products from Europe into the Chinese market, including pork from the Netherlands, prunes and fresh blueberries from Serbia, and fresh cherries from Hungary, on condition that these products meet China's quarantine and health requirements. During the same month, China and

France issued a joint statement on agricultural exchanges and cooperation, pledging that the two countries will work to expand French pork exports to China, and provide guarantees for market access and safety of poultry products.

Over the years, agri-food products have become an important area of China-Europe economic and trade cooperation.

Pan Feng, vice chairman of the China-Europe Association for Technical and Economic Cooperation, told Xinhua after the roundtable forum that the promotion of GIs will not only extend product convenience, but also enhance mutual trust in China-EU economic and trade development.

In 2023, the EU was China's second-largest source of imports and second-largest export market, according to a recent report from the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

Wojciechowski shares Pan's optimism regarding the future prospects of China-EU trade. "The GI agreement is a sign to the world of both parties' commitment to deeper trade relations, and a symbol of our openness and our adherence to international rules as a basis for trade relations," he said.

# **IMF** revises forecast for China's economy



Cranes at a construction site in the Central Business District are reflected on a window panels of an office building in Beijing, Sunday, May 26, 2024. The International Monetary Fund has upgraded its forecast for China's economy, while warning that consumer-friendly reforms are needed to sustain strong, high-quality growth. (AP)

## Reforms needed to support growth

WASHINGTON, May 29, (AP): The International Monetary Fund has upgraded its forecast for China's economy, while warning that consumer-friendly reforms are needed to sustain strong, high-quality growth.

The IMF's report, issued late Tuesday, said the world's secondlargest economy will likely expand at a 5% annual rate this year, based on its growth in the first quarter and recent moves to support the property sector. That is a 0.4 percentage point above its earlier es-

But it warned that attaining sustained growth requires building stronger social safety nets and increasing workers' incomes to enable Chinese consumers to spend

The IMF also said Beijing should scale back subsidies and other "distortive" policies that support manufacturing at the expense of other industries such as services.

The ruling Communist Party has set its annual growth target at "around 5%," and the economy grew at a faster-than-expected 5.3% in the first quarter of the year, boosting the global economy.

The IMF said its upgraded forecast also reflects recent moves to boost growth, including fresh help for the property industry such as lower interest rates and smaller down-payment requirements on home loans. But it said risks remained, with

growth in 2025 forecast to be 4.5%, also up 0.4% from an earlier fore-The IMF praised the Chinese

government's focus on what it calls "high quality" growth, including increased investment in clean energy and advanced technology and

## Owner says offer accepted

## Czech billionaire to take over Britain's Royal Mail

LONDON, May 29, (AP): The owner of Britain's Royal Mail said Wednesday it has accepted a 3.6 billion pound (\$4.6 billion) takeover offer from Czech investor Daniel Kretínský. Under the deal, Kretínský's EP

Group would buy International Distribution Services, which owns Royal Mail, for 370 pence (\$4.72) per share. Including debt, the deal values IDS at 5.2 billion pounds (\$6.6 billion).

It said EP Group would offer a series of "contractual commitments and intentions" to protect public service aspects of the 500-year-old postal service. Long state-owned, Royal Mail was

privatized by the U.K.'s Conservative government in 2013 and has struggled

IDS said no major job losses were planned as part of the deal, which must be approved by shareholders. Under the plan, Royal Mail would maintain its name, branding, U.K. headquarters and obligation to six-day-a-week mail delivery.

Kretínský, who already holds a 27% stake in the Royal Mail's parent company, has a vast, Europe-wide portfolio of business interests. In the Czech Republic, he owns book publishing houses, a sport daily and magazines, and he co-owns French newspaper Le Monde. He has stakes in companies including Macy's, Foot Locker and U.K. supermarket chain Sainsbury's.

He also owns a stake in Premier League soccer team West Ham.

improved regulation of financial industries.

But it added that "a more comprehensive and balanced policy approach would help China navigate the headwinds facing the economy." Job losses, especially during the pandemic, and falling housing prices have hit the finances of many

The report echoes opinions of many economists who say more must be done to provide a social safety net and increase incomes for workers so that Chinese families can afford to save less and spend

The IMF report's longer-term assessment was less optimistic. It said it expected China's annual economic growth to fall to 3.3% by 2029 due to the rapid aging of its population and slower growth in productivity as well as the protracted difficulties in the housing

Use of industrial policies to support various industries such as automaking and computer chip development may waste resources and affect China's trading partners, it said, alluding to a key point of contention between Washington and Beijing.

U.S. officials contend that China is providing unfair support to its own industries and creating excessive manufacturing capacity that can only be absorbed by exporting whatever cannot be used or sold at home.

China rejects that stance, while protesting that the U.S. and other wealthy nations have invoked false national security concerns to impose unfair restrictions on exports of

## South Korea and UAE forge economic partnership pact

TOKYO, May 29, (KUNA): South Korea and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) freeing up trade between the two countries Wednesday, as UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan made a state visit to Seoul, Yonhap News Agency reported.

The two countries also signed a

South Korea to build at least six liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers worth some USD 1.5 billion, while the UAE's sovereign wealth fund and companies reaffirmed their commitment to invest a combined USD 30 billion in South Korea, the report

memorandum of intent calling for

The CEPA is a type of free trade

agreement that emphasizes a broader scope of economic cooperation and exchanges in addition to market opening, which requires parliamentary ratification to take effect. The UAE is the first Arab nation to sign a free trade deal with South

Korea. Under the agreement, the two

countries will lift tariffs on more

than 90 percent of most goods, in-

cluding cars, auto parts and defense items, over the next 10 years. It also includes provisions for opening cultural services and the online game market, according to the report.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's office said the UAE president's visit upgraded the two nations' special strategic partnership to a new level to advance economic coopera-

tion in a wide range of areas. Al Nahyan arrived in Seoul on

Tuesday for a two-day state visit to discuss ways to deepen cooperation in trade and investment in a wide range of areas. He is the first UAE president to make a state visit to South Korea.

During Wednesday's talks attended by senior government and state-

run companies, the two sides signed 19 business deals and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) encompassing investment, energy, nuclear power, defense, technology, climate change and cultural exchanges. Specific areas of investment and defense deals were not disclosed due to requests from the UAE side, according to Seoul officials.

## What's On

## Revamped boxer engine powers up Porsche's latest 911 models

## Porsche unveils next-gen 911 Carrera with T-Hybrid Powertrain

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Stuttgart. Porsche has fundamentally upgraded the iconic 911 sports car. The new 911 Carrera GTS is the first streetlegal 911 equipped with a super-lightweight performance hybrid. The newly developed, innovative power train system, with 3.6 litres of displacement, delivers significantly improved driving performance. The 911 Carrera GTS Coupé accelerates from zero to 100 km/h in 3.0 seconds and reaches a top speed of 312 km/h. The 911 Carrera will also be available immediately upon the launch of the new model. It is powered by a lightly modified 3.0-litre twin-turbo boxer engine that is more powerful than its predecessor's. The new 911 also features a revamped design, better aerodynamics, a fresh interior and upgraded standard equipment.

With the relaunch of its iconic

model, Porsche has modernised four of its six model lines in just a few months: Panamera, Taycan, Macan

"Our product portfolio is younger than ever and highly attractive," said CEO Oliver Blume. "It offers our customers even more customisation options and exclusive experiences.'

Inspired by motorsport: innovative performance hybrid

For the new 911 Carrera GTS models, Porsche's engineers used knowledge gained from motor racing as the basis for designing the hybrid

"We developed and tested a wide variety of ideas and approaches to arrive at the hybrid system that would suit the 911 perfectly. The result is a unique drive that fits into the overall concept of the 911 and significantly enhances its performance," said Frank Moser, Vice President Model Lines 911 and 718.

The lightweight and powerful T-Hybrid system has a newly developed electric exhaust gas turbocharger. An integrated electric motor, placed between the compressor and turbine wheel, instantaneously brings the turbocharger up to speed. This immediately builds up boost pressure. The electric motor in the exhaust gas turbocharger also functions as a generator. It generates up to 11 kW (15 PS) of electric power. This energy is extracted from the exhaust gas flow. The wastegate-free electric turbocharger allows the use of only one turbocharger instead of the previous two, which ensures a more dynamic and responsive power delivery.

The powertrain also includes a permanent magnet synchronous motor integrated into the new, more powerful eight-speed dual-clutch transmission (PDK). Even at idle speed, it supports the boxer engine with extra drive torque of up to 150 Nm and provides a power boost of up to 40 kW. Porsche couples both electric motors to a lightweight and compact high-voltage battery. It corresponds in size and weight to a conventional 12-volt starter battery, but stores up to 1.9 kWh of energy (gross) and operates at a voltage of 400 V. For an optimised overall weight, Porsche has installed a lightweight lithium-ion battery for the 12 V on-board elec-

trical system. The heart of the T-Hybrid drive is a newly developed 3.6-litre boxer engine. The high-voltage system allows the air-conditioning compressor to be driven electrically and the belt drive to be omitted as a result, making the engine much more compact. This creates space above the power unit for the pulse inverter and DC-DC converter. An enlarged bore of 97 mm and an increased stroke of 81 mm increase the displacement by 0.6 litres compared to its predecessor. The engine has VarioCam camshaft control and a valve control with rocker arms. It maintains the ideal mixture ratio of fuel and air over the entire map (lambda = 1).

Even without electrical assistance, the boxer engine delivers 357 kW (485 PS) and 570 Nm of torque. In total, the system output is 398 kW (541 PS) and 610 Nm. The power increase over its predecessor is 45 kW (61 PS). The new 911 Carrera GTS also beats its predecessor in the sprint to 100 km/h, particularly off the line. The efficient performance hybrid achieves highly dynamic driving characteristics while at the same time reducing CO2 emissions with significantly less extra weight compared to plug-in hybrid vehicles. The weight increase over its predecessor is a mere 50 kilograms.

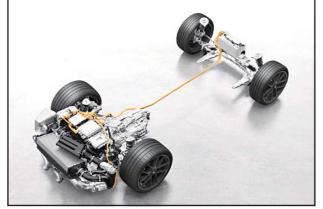
The 911 Carrera still features a 3.0-litre boxer engine with twin turbocharging. This engine, too, has been comprehensively revamped. Among other things, it has now adopted the intercooler from the Turbo models, which now sits directly under the rear lid grille, above the engine. The turbochargers in the new 911 Carrera were reserved for the GTS models in its predecessor. With these modifications, Porsche simultaneously achieves a reduction in emissions and a power boost to 290 kW (394 PS), along with maximum torque of 450 Nm. The new 911 Carrera Coupé goes from 0 to 100 km/h in 4.1 seconds (3.9 seconds with the Sport Chrono package) and boasts a top speed of 294 km/h. Compared to its predecessor, this represents an improvement of 0.1 seconds and 1 km/h respectively.

Optimised suspension and active aerodynamics

















The suspension of the 911 Carrera GTS has also been comprehensively revised. For the first time, rear-axle steering now comes as standard. It increases stability at high speeds and reduces the turning circle. Porsche has integrated the Porsche Dynamic Chassis Control (PDCC) anti-roll stabilisation system into the high-voltage system of the performance hybrid. This enables the use of an electro-hydraulic control system, which makes the system even more flexible and precise. The sports suspension with a variable damper system (PASM) and a ride height lowered by 10 mm provide characteristic GTS handling

A total of seven 19-/20-inch or 20-/21-inch wheel designs are available for the new 911. Available for the first time in the 911 Carrera are Exclusive Design wheels with carbon blades that reduce the drag coefficient and therefore increase efficiency. The 911 Carrera GTS models roll on 21-inch wheels with a width of 11.5 inches and 315/30 ZR 21 tyres at the rear as standard. At the front are 245/35 ZR 20 tyres on 8.5-inch- wide 20-inch wheels. In line with the significantly enhanced performance, the wider footprint of the rear tyres improves the driving dynamics and traction of the new 911 Carrera GTS.

Sporty, streamlined exterior

Porsche has streamlined the exterior design of the 911 with carefully targeted updates. Most of these measures improve the aerodynamics and performance of the sports car. The changes include new, modelspecific bumpers. For the first time, Porsche has also integrated all light functions into the now standard matrix LED headlights of the 911, with their characteristic four-point graphic. This makes it possible to omit the front driving lights and creates space for larger cooling vents in the front

On the 911 Carrera GTS models, the front end has five vertically arranged active cooling air flaps visible from the outside and another hidden flap on each side. For the first time in the 911, these are complemented by adaptive front diffusers in the underbody, which are controlled together with the cooling air flaps. These elements direct the air flow as required: when power requirements are minimal, closed flaps optimise aerodynamics. When power demand is high - for example in on-track situations - the flaps direct large amounts of air to the car's radiators. The sensors for the assistance systems are now located behind a high-gloss surface below the number plate.

Optionally, Porsche offers the new headlights with an HD matrix LED function with more than 32,000 light points. The high-performance high beam illuminates the road to a distance of more than 600 metres. It also offers innovative additional functions such as a driving-modedependent dynamic cornering light, lane brightening, construction site and bottleneck light and a non-dazzling high beam that is precise to the pixel.

The redesigned light strip with an integrated arc and 'PORSCHE' logo makes the rear end of the 911 appear deeper and wider. A redesigned rear grille with five fins per side connects to the rear window to form a graphic unit that fades into the retractable spoiler below. The number plate is positioned higher, with a clearly structured rear bumper. Model-specific exhaust systems are elegantly integrated into the striking diffuser fins. A sports exhaust system is optionally available for the 911 Carrera models. The 911 Carrera GTS models come standard with a GTS-specific sports exhaust system.

An optional aero kit further enhances the performance of the 911 Coupé. It includes a distinctive SportDesign front bumper with a unique front spoiler, matching side sill panels and a lighter, fixed rear wing. These components reduce lift and improve the grip of the sports car. Fully digital cockpit

In the coupé variants, Porsche has designed the interior of the new 911 as a two-seater as standard. A 2+2 seat configuration is available as an option at no extra charge. In the cockpit, Porsche combines the familiar 911 design DNA with modern technology: the Porsche Driver Experience control concept focuses on the driver's axis and intuitive, faster operation. Essential control elements have been arranged directly on or around the steering wheel. These include the standard driving mode switch, the revised driver assistance lever and, for the first time in the 911, a start button – to the left of the steering wheel, naturally. In the centre console storage compartment of the new 911, there is a cooled compartment for smartphones, with an inductive charging function.

For the first time, the 911 has a fully digital instrument cluster. The 12.6-inch curved display fits elegantly into the new control and display concept and can be extensively customised. It offers up to seven views, including an exclusive Classic display inspired by the traditional five-tube Porsche dial design with a central tachometer.

The Porsche Communication Management (PCM) system is still operated via the high-resolution central display with a 10.9-inch screen.

Photos from the launch event.

However, the customisation of the driving modes and the operation of the driver assistance systems have been significantly improved. Now available to order

The new 911 Carrera can be ordered now as a Coupé and Cabriolet Targa body variant (exclusively offered with all-wheel drive) are also available. Both model variants are equipped with Porsche Doppelkupplung (PDK) as standard.

Further information, as well as film and photo material, is available in the Porsche Newsroom: newsroom.porsche.com



Commitment to diverse and inclusive workplace: Al Arbash

## **ABK** demonstrates commitment to inclusivity at **Public Authority for Disability Affairs' Career Fair**

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) reaffirmed its commitment to inclusivity and equal opportunities by actively participating in the Public Authority for Disability Affairs' career fair. This event served as a platform for ABK to engage with individuals with special needs, offering them valuable job opportunities and fostering a culture of diversity within the organization.

The importance of participating in events that promote inclusion cannot be overstated. ABK recognizes the talent and potential that individuals with special needs bring to the workforce, and through initiatives like the career fair, aims to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for all employees.

Afrah Al Arbash, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK, emphasized the significance of this initiative, stating, "At ABK,



Afrah Al Arbash

ering individuals with special needs by providing them with the opportunity to showcase their skills and capabilities. Our participation in the career fair reflects our commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive workplace where every individual is valued and respected."

we believe in empow-

In line with its commitment to providing an inclusive workplace, ABK was recently recognized as the Best Working Place in the Banking Sector - Kuwait by International Finance. This prestigious accolade highlights ABK's dedication to fostering a positive and supportive workplace environment that prioritizes employee wellbeing and professional growth.



A group photo in the bank's booth.

Al Arbash highlighted, "ABK's workplace environment is characterized by a culture of collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity. Employees are encouraged to express their ideas, contribute to strategic initiatives, and participate in continuous learning and development programs. The Bank's focus on employee welfare and engagement has not only enhanced workplace satisfaction but also fostered a sense of belonging among all staff

As ABK continues to champion diversity and inclusivity in the workplace, initiatives like the participation in the Public Authority for Disability Affairs' career fair serve as a testament to the Bank's ongoing efforts to create an environment where every individual, regardless of their background or abilities, can thrive and succeed.



# Symphony of Culture











Photos by Mohammad Morsi

## Chinese delegation showcases 'Xinjiang is a Nice Place'

## Bridging cultures: Xinjiang's heritage enchants Kuwait



A section of the audience

#### By Paul Francis X. Fernandes Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Chinese Cultural Delegation -- representing Xinjiang, an autonomous region in northwest China known for its diverse culture, history, and traditions showcased the region's rich heritage in Kuwait at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultural Center (JACC).

Organized under the theme 'Xinjiang is a Nice Place'; this the largescale music, dance and epic show, a multifaceted performance integrating dance and vocal music exhibited cultural heritage and was jointly presented by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China and the People's Government of China's Xinjiang Yygur Automous Region under the guidance of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

The delegation consisted of performers, artisans, and cultural ambassadors who traveled to Kuwait to share aspects of Xinjiang's cultural heritage with the people of Kuwait through song and dance.

This cultural exchange included



Dignitaries grace the event.

performances of traditional music and dance, displays of handicrafts, and presentations on Xinjiang's history, cuisine, and customs, playing a vital role in fostering cultural understanding and appreciation between Kuwait and China, promoting friendship and cooperation through the sharing of cultural experiences.

Speaking at the event the Ambassador of China to the State of Kuwait, HE Zhang Jianwei, said this event is a unique experience of Xinjiang's diverse and colorful culture, boasting magnificent and beautiful natural scenery and profound and time-honored history and culture; most importantly it has secure and stable environment for develop-

He went on to say, "We hope to continue to enhance people-to-people exchanges and cooperation between China and Kuwait, promote mutual understanding and affinity between the two peoples and build gardens of world civilization fostering mutual

appreciation and inspiration. In recent years, he said, President Xi Jinping and HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah have had two successful meetings, charting the course for China-Kuwait strategic partnership. China, he added, has always attached high importance to boosting people-to-people connectivity and shared development through cultural exchanges.

"I believe today's event will give Kuwaiti friends the live experience of the endeavors of the people of ethnic groups in Xinjiang for a better life in the new era. It will also enhance the exchange of mutual understanding between the two peoples and contribute to deepening the traditional friendship between the two nations.'

## Integration

He expressed his gratitude to the Amiri Diwan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Information, the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters; the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultural Center and other Kuwaiti organizations for their support for this event.

The event consisted of three parts - Dances from the Tianshan Mountains, Songs over the New Silk Road, and Symphony of the Kunlun Mountains, displaying colorful regional culture of Xinjiang, presenting a vivid tapestry of cultural



One of the performances

interaction, exchange and integration among various ethnic groups in



One of the performances by the Chinese delegation.

Part I included dances from the Tianshan Mountains - Daolang Maxirap, Qiuci Music and Dance, Manas, Grassland of Happiness, and Zhula; Part II consisted of Songs over the New Silk Road - Golden Grassland, Night on the Grassland, Black Walking Horse, Picking Grapes and Sawuereng Carnival and Part III depicted Symphony of the Kunlun Mountains – Jasmine, Maigaiti under the Sun, Climber and Dancing with the New Era.

This grand-scale showcase of music, dance, and epic performances shared the essence of Xinjiang's heritage and highlighted the region's rich history and customs and also fostered profound cultural understanding and appreciation between Kuwait and China.

Through this event, those who attended the event were taken on a sensory voyage through Xinjiang's landscapes and traditions, embodying the spirit of friendship and cooperation that underpins the strategic partnership between China and Ku-

As the curtain drew on this remarkable event, the echoes of Xinjiang's melodies linger, leaving behind cherished memories and a renewed commitment to nurturing cross-cultural dialogue and appreciation.

## Albert Ruddy, famed producer of 'The Godfather,' dies at 94

NEW YORK, May 29, (AP): **Albert S. Ruddy**, a colorful, Canadianborn producer and writer who won Oscars for "The Godfather" and "Million Dollar Baby," developed the raucous forms comedy "The Largest Yord" and believe the best property of the largest Yord". "The Longest Yard" and helped create the hit sitcom "Hogan's Heroes," has died at age 94.

Ruddy died "peacefully" Saturday at the UCLA Medical Center, according to a spokesperson, who added that among his final words were, "The game is over, but we won the game.

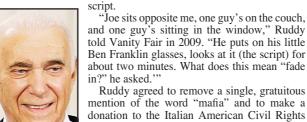
Tall and muscular, with a raspy voice and a city kid's swagger, Ruddy produced more than 30 movies and was on hand for the very top and very bottom, from the "Godfather" and "Million Dollar Baby to "Cannonball Run II" and "Megaforce," nominees for Golden Raspberry awards for worst movie of the year.

Otherwise, he had a mix of successes such as "The Longest Yard," which he produced and created the story for, and such flops as the Arnold Schwarzenegger thriller "Sabotage." He worked often with Burt Reynolds, starting with "The Longest Yard" and continuing with two "Cannonball Run" comedies and "Cloud Nine." Besides "Hogan's Heroes," his television credits include the movies "Married to a Stranger' and "Running Mates."

Nothing looks better on your resume than "The Godfather," but producing it endangered Ruddy's job, reputation and his very life. Frank Sinatra and other Italian Americans were infuriated by the project, which they feared would harden stereotypes of Italians as criminals, and real-life mobsters let Ruddy know he was being watched. One night he heard gunfire outside his home and the sound of his car's windows being shot out.

On his dashboard was a warning that he should close the production, immediately.

Ruddy saved himself, and the film, through diplomacy; he met with crime boss Joseph Colombo and a couple of henchmen to discuss the



about two minutes. What does this mean "fade Ruddy agreed to remove a single, gratuitous mention of the word "mafia" and to make a

donation to the Italian American Civil Rights League. Colombo was so pleased that he urged Ruddy to appear with him at a press conference announcing his approval of the movie, a gathering that led to Ruddy's being photographed alongside members of organized crime.

#### Underworld

With the stock of parent company Gulf & Western dropping fast, Paramount fired Ruddy, only to have director Francis Coppola object and get him rehired. In the end, mobsters were cast as extras and openly consulted with cast members. Ruddy himself made a cameo as a Hollywood studio guard.

"It was like one happy family," Ruddy told Vanity Fair. "All these

guys loved the underworld characters, and obviously the underworld guys loved Hollywood.'

With a cast including Marlon Brando, Al Pacino and Robert Duvall, "The Godfather" was a critical and commercial sensation and remains among the most beloved and quoted movies in history. When Ruddy was named winner of the best picture Oscar at the 1973 ceremony, the presenter was Clint Eastwood, with whom he would produce "Million Dollar Baby," the best picture winner in 2005. Upon the 50th anniversary of "The Godfather," in 2022, Ruddy himself became a character. Miles Teller played him in "The Offer," a Paramount+ miniseries about the making of the movie, based on Ruddy's experiences.

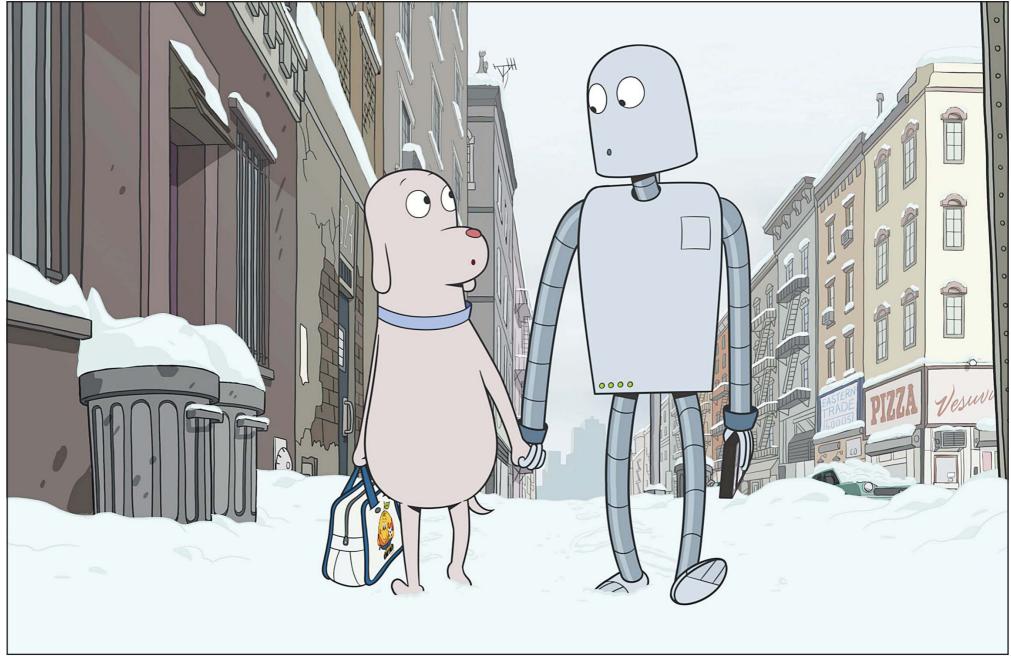
"Al Ruddy was absolutely beautiful to me the whole time on 'The Godfather'; even when they didn't want me, he wanted me," Pacino said in a statement. "He gave me the gift of encouragement when I needed it most and I'll never forget it.'

Ruddy was married to Wanda McDaniel, a sales executive and liaison for Giorgio Armani who helped make the brand omnipresent in Hollywood, whether in movies or at promotional events. They had two

Born in Montreal in 1930, Albert Stotland Ruddy moved to the U.S. as a child and was raised in New York City. After graduating from the University of Southern California, he was working as an architect when he met TV actor Bernard Fein in the early 1960s. Ruddy had tired of his career, and he and Fein decided to develop a TV series, even though neither had done any writing.

Their original idea was a comedy set in an American prison, but they soon changed their minds.

### **Variety**



Film

Animation charms audiences with melancholy and joy

## 'Robot Dreams' weaves a whimsical tale

## By Jake Coyle

Tt's one of those strange but immutable truths of the movies that a song like Earth, Wind & Fire's "September" can play in roughly a thousand films before a movie about a dog and a robot comes along and blows

them all out of the water.

The animated "Robot Dreams" is wordless, so the songs play an outsized influence in conjuring its whimsical and gently existential tone. But Pablo Berger's "Robot Dreams," a 1980s New York-set fable about loved ones who come and go, doesn't just use "September" for a scene or even two. It's the soundtrack to the friendship between Dog and Robot (yes, those are the protagonists' names in this disarmingly simple film), and its melody returns in various forms whenever they're reminded of each other.

To a remarkable degree, "Robot Dreams" has fully imbibed all the melancholy and joy of Earth, Wind & Fire's disco classic. Just as the song asks "Do you remember?" so too does "Robot Dreams," a sweetly wistful little movie that, like a good pop song, expresses something profound without wasting a word.

Remembering is also helpful when it comes to the film, itself. I first saw "Robot Dreams" over a year ago at the Cannes Film Festival. Its release comes months after "Robot Dreams" was Oscar nominated for best animated film. But for whatever reason, the film is only arriving in North American theaters this Friday.

It's an unconventional release pattern for an unconventional film. "Robot Dreams," adapted from Sara Varon's 2007 graphic novel, is likewise an all-ages movie in a curious way. It's very much for kids, but it's also so mature in its depictions of relationships that older generations may swoon hardest for it.

"Robot Dreams" begins in the East Village where Dog lives a rather lonely life. Before he sits down to eat a microwave dinner, he notices his solitary reflection in the TV screen. An ad, though, sparks Dog to order the Amica 2000. A few days later, a box arrives, Dog assembles its contents and soon a friendly robot is smiling

Together, they have a grand old time around a New York colorfully rendered with pointillist detail. They jump the subway turnstiles, visit Woolworths and rollerblade in Central Park (with "September" playing on

the boombox). But after an outing to Playland (which looks much more like Coney Island), Robot's enthusiasm gets him into some trouble. After frolicking in the water, he lies down on the beach and later finds he can't move. This may be a movie about a Dog who rollerblades and a Robot who eats hot dogs, but the scientific reality of rust is one suspense of disbelief too far for

"Robot Dreams. Despite all of Dog's efforts, Robot is stuck, and, this being September, the beach is soon closed for the offseason. Much of "Robot Dreams" passes through the seasons while Robot dreamily sleeps through the winter and Dog is forced to go on with his life, and maybe try to meet someone new

## Surreal

The dreams of each can be surreal; Dog has a bowling alley visit with a snowman who bowls his own head, while Robot imagines a "Wizard of Oz"-like fantasy. But both are consumed by fears of their friend's abandonment while progressively finding new experiences and friends. New characters enter, with their own New Yorks (kite-flying in the park, rooftop barbeques) and their own soundtracks. "Robot Dreams" movingly turns into a story about moving on while still cherishing the good times you once shared with someone - a valuable

lesson to young and old, in friendship and romance. And even this sense of memory runs deeper in "Robot Dreams" than you might be prepared for. Berger, the Spanish filmmaker whose movies include the 2012 black-and-white silent "Blancanieves," has filled his movie with countless bits of a bygone past, from Atari to Tab soda. The name Amica 2000 could be a pun for the Amiga 500, the early computer and harbinger of our digital present. Even more dramatic, though, is the way the Twin Towers often loom in the background in a film so connected to the month of September. There, too, is a poignant symbol of companions, friends and family members who vanished, but whose memories still stir within us.

This is, you might be thinking, a lot for a cartoon about a dog and a robot to evoke. And yet "Robot Dreams" does so, beautifully. And it will leave you curiously lifted by the spirit and lyrics of one of the mostplayed wedding songs of all time: "Only blue talk and love, remember/ The true love we share today.'

"Robot Dreams," a Neon release, is unrated by the Motion Picture Association but intended for all audiences. Running time: 102 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.

## Also:

BEIJING: "Civil War," a dystopian movie produced by a U.S. indie studio that alludes to political and social divide in the United States, is scheduled to land in movie theaters on the Chinese mainland on June 7.

According to a post by China Film Co., Ltd., the movie's distributor, on the microblogging site Weibo on May 16, the movie will be released one day before the three-day Dragon Boat Festival holiday, setting it up for tough competition from domestic productions such as the drama "Lai Fu Da Jiu Dian," or "Life Hotel."

Since the movie premiered in the US market in April, many Chinese have shown great interest in it. One trailer released about a week ago by "Film American 'Civil War'," one of the official Chinese accounts marketing the film, has clocked up around 1.9 million views on Weibo. Another trailer, hosted on the video platform Bilibili, has been played over 1.3 million times, and counting.

One reason for the popularity of "Civil War" among Chinese moviegoers is its political theme, according to industry observers.

Under an import quota system for films, the introduced American films in China have mainly focused on genres such as adventure and science fiction, with political films making up a small proportion of imports, said **Zhang Yiwu**, a professor at Peking University. Therefore, a political film like "Civil War" soon gained attraction, he added.

Set in the near-future, the movie, written and directed by Alex Garland, follows a group of reporters who travel across the United States as a rapidly escalating civil war engulfs the nation. It features stars including Kirsten Dunst and Wagner Moura.

For many Chinese, "Civil War" offers a window into the contemporary issues in American politics and so-

"I've seen reports in the media about the divisions and conflicts within the U.S. society. It would be interesting to watch how Americans see these problems themselves," said **Zhou Ruoqi**, a 29-year-old employee of a marketing company. (Agencies)

families globally, including on reproductive rights in the United States. It's the second billion-dollar commitment French Gates has personally made in the past five years. In 2019, she pledged over ten years to expand women's power and influence. Earlier this month, French Gates announced she would step down from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and vowed to focus on women and families. As a part of leaving the Gates Foundation, French Gates received \$12 billion from Bill Gates for her philanthropy going forward.

French Gates, one of the biggest philanthropic supporters of gender equity in the **U.S.**, said Tuesday in a guest essay for The New York Times that she's been frustrated over the years by people who say it's not the right time to talk about gender equality.

**NEW YORK:** Harvey Weinstein is expected to appear before a

judge Wednesday afternoon in the same New York City courthouse where former President **Donald** 

Weinstein is awaiting a retrial

on rape charges after his 2020

Wednesday's court hearing will

to the upcoming trial, which is

tentatively scheduled for some time after Labor Day.

men are unlikely to bump into

and will be brought to and from the courtroom under guard. He

will be appearing in a courtroom

Weinstein was convicted of

rape in the third degree for an at-

actor, and of sexually assaulting

Miriam Haley, a former TV and

film production assistant. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Melinda French

Gates says she will be donating

to individuals and organizations

\$1 billion over the next two years

working on behalf of women and

tack on Jessica Mann, an aspiring

on a different floor than where

Trump is currently on trial.

address various legal issues related

Weinstein's original trial was

held in the same courtroom where

Trump is on trial now, but the two

each other. Weinstein is in custody

conviction was tossed out.

**Trump** is on trial.

"Decades of research on economics, well-being and governance make it clear that investing in women and girls benefits

everyone," she wrote. French Gates said over the last

few weeks she's started directing what will total \$200 million in new grants through her organization, Pivotal Ventures, to groups working in the US to protect women's rights and advance their power and influence. The grants are for general operating support, meaning they are not earmarked for specific projects. The groups include the



serving flight attendant, has died. Melinda

ance and the Center for Reproductive Rights. (AP) NEW YORK: Bette Nash, recognized as the world's longest-

National Women's Law Center, the

National Domestic Workers Alli-

American Airlines, Nash's employer, announced her death on social media Saturday. The carrier noted Nash spent nearly 70 years warmly caring for customers in

the air. "Bette was a legend at American and throughout the industry, inspiring generations of flight attendants," American wrote on

Facebook. "Fly high, Bette. We'll miss you."

According to the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, which also shared a tribute to Nash online, Nash began her flightattendant career with Eastern Airlines in 1957. The union noted she was based out of the Washington, **D.C.**, area. (AP)

### **Kenya adopts WHO-recommended 3-test HIV testing**

## Kuwait MoH holds workshop on oral health during WHO's assembly

VIENNA, May 29, (Agencies): Kuwait Ministry of Health has organized in cooperation with the ministries of health in Ireland and Canada a workshop themed "Executing the action papers of the World Health Organization for oral health.

The activity was held during meetings of the WHO General Assembly's 77th session, launched on Sunday.

According to a statement released by the State of Kuwait Permanent Mission to the UN and International Organizations in Geneva, the participating states presented their experience in implementing the international plan for oral health (2023-2030) by the WHO General Assembly in 2021.

Dr. Aisha Al-Sumait, supervisor of the oral health department at the MoH, shed light in her address on the State of Kuwait's remarkable program of providing medical and protective care at schools, in line with the WHO recommendations.

Dr. Al-Sumait touched in her statement on the ministry's future plan for expanding the medical services to citizens from birth to the age of 16, as part of the approach to achieve full care and stem spread of the mouth

The activity was co-organized by Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Gashaan, the health attache of the State of Kuwait mission at the international health organizations in Geneva, a delegation from the MoH headed by Dr. Munther Al-Hawasi, the assistant undersecretary for public health affairs, and the head of the international organizations' division at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health, Dr. Mohammad Alfraih

It was attended by the State of Kuwait Ambassador and Permanent Representative at the UN and International Organizations in Geneva, Nasser Alhayen.

#### Also:

NAIROBI: Kenya has adopted a three-test HIV testing algorithm for effective diagnosis as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), the country's Ministry of Health said on Tuesday.

Harry Kimtai, principal secretary in the Ministry of Health, said in a statement released in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi that the new method ensures the reliability and safety of testing services.

"Healthcare providers and the public are urged to actively support ongoing efforts to maintain the integrity of testing services. Citizens are also encouraged to use the new HIV testing services nationwide," Kimtai said.

According to the WHO, the standard three-test strategy uses three consecutive HIV-reactive tests to provide an accurate diagnosis. This ensures that HIV testing is accessible and adheres to the 5 C's, including voluntary consent, confidentiality, counseling, correct results and linkage to care.

Kenya conducts more than 9 million HIV tests across 8,851 testing centers annually, according to the Ministry

The ministry said Kenya remains steadfast in its fight against HIVAIDS, with about 1.4 million people living with the disease. As of December 2023, more than 1.3 million people living with HIVAIDS in the East African country were receiving treatment at 3,752 facilities na-

**SUVA:** The World Health Organization (WHO) provided 92,000 Fijian dollars (around 40,000 US dollars) worth of lab equipment to Fiji's Department of Water and Sewage

on Tuesday to strengthen water safety. Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services, and Transport, Ro Filipe Tuisawau, said the equipment will enhance and improve the testing capacity of the lab, which will ensure the reformation of the structure of the water delivery services in Fiji.

The WHO assistance comes in a timely manner and will contribute towards achieving the ministry's newlylaunched Water Strategy 2050, Tuisawau told Fiji Broadcasting Corporation.

UN Health Organization Team Coordinator, Tomo Kanda, stressed the importance of water sanitation and hygiene, saying the WHO would like to collaborate with the ministry on the logistical water pipe and setting the water infrastructure.

Cancer rates increase in young adults

## **Turn social media trends into tools** for early cancer detection: research

NEW YORK, May 29, (AP): Real Chemistry, a leading provider of AI-driven insights, healthcare marketing and communications, released a report on how the healthcare industry can more effectively use social media to promote early cancer screenings in young adults. The report features insights-informed strategies and recommendations for how healthcare companies can engage in important conversations around early cancer screenings. The report covers how early cancer screenings can lead to better patient outcomes, access to care and human-centric research, development and innovation.

"We are seeing a global decline in early cancer screenings since CO-VID-19, and at the same time we are seeing exponential cases of younger adults getting cancer," says Real Chemistry CEO Shankar Narayanan. "As we look ahead to learning more about breakthrough research and treatments in oncology during ASCO's Annual Meeting later this week, it's imperative we continue advocating for early cancer screenings. This report shares insights that anyone can adopt to create healthier communities and help continue groundbreaking research and innovation to improve patient care across other disciplines," says Narayanan.

## **Diagnoses**

According to a recent Journal of American Medicine article, younger adults are getting sick with laterstage cancer diagnoses at alarming rates. It's important that stakeholders across the healthcare ecosystem promote education, awareness and access to early cancer screenings to improve patient outcomes. Cancer rates in people under 50 have been increasing steadily by 1-2% each year in the United States, and even more exponentially in breast, uterine and colorectal cancer. Rates of colorectal cancer have increased at a rate of 500% among children ages 10-14, and 330% amongst teens ages 15-19.

"Social media continues to be one of the most powerful tools in promoting and educating about health, and even more so when you are trying to reach younger generations,' says Narayanan.

Globally, the average person spends about 145 minutes on social media per day, with 48% of young

### **Mpox detected in Australia**

## 4.2m chickens to be killed as bird flu spreads in US

DES MOINES, Iowa, May 29, (Agencies): More than 4 million chickens in Iowa will have to be killed after a case of the highly pathogenic bird flu was detected at a large egg farm, the state announced Tuesday.

Crews are in the process of killing 4.2 million chickens after the disease was found at a farm in Sioux County, Iowa, making it the latest in a yearslong outbreak that now is affecting dairy cattle as well. Last week, the virus was confirmed at an egg farm west of Minneapolis, Minnesota, leading to the slaughter of nearly 1.4 million chickens.

Overall, 92.34 million birds have been killed since the outbreak began in 2022, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Although bird flu has become somewhat common among poultry, its spread to cattle has added to worries about the disease. In May, a second dairy farmworker was diagnosed with bird flu, and the virus was detected in both beef and milk. It has been confirmed on dairy cattle farms in nine states.

Health and agriculture officials have said the risk to the public remains low. The U.S. Department of Agriculture said the meat from a single sickened dairy cow was not allowed to enter the nation's food supply and beef remains safe to eat.

Workers exposed to infected animals are at a higher risk. The only three human cases confirmed in the United States included two dairy workers and

adults (18 to 29-year-olds) using so-

Real Chemistry's report uncov-

ers the top trends leading to cancer

screening conversations on social

media, click-worthy content strate-

gies and the leading voices in pro-

moting early cancer screenings. In-

telligence team leveraged quantita-

tive and qualitative findings from our

proprietary social media listening

"For the report, our Integrated In-

cial media almost constantly.

one man working to slaughter infected birds on a poultry farm. 

**Mpox:** Local authorities in the Australian state of Victoria have issued a public warning over monkeypox, also known as mpox, since the infectious disease was found locally transmitted.

According to the alert issued on Tuesday, Victoria has seen 16 confirmed cases of mpox since April 18, 13 of which were locally acquired. Before that, the most recent cases were reported in January.

"Although mpox has generally been declining worldwide, new cases continue to be reported in many countries," Victoria's Chief Health Officer Clare Looker said in a state-

"The majority of cases reported globally in March 2024 were in African, European, Western Pacific, and Southeast Asian regions, and the Americas. These trends and recent local cases indicate there is an ongoing risk of mpox in Victoria from both local and overseas transmission," the officer added.

The Victorian Department of Health warned that mpox usually results in a mild illness, with symptoms likely to develop up to 21 days after being exposed to the virus. Although most people can recover within a few weeks, some may suffer severe illness and require hospitalization.

and content analysis tools, and the expertise of leaders from our social media, influencer marketing and integrated communications practices," says Meredith Owen, Practice Leader of Real Chemistry's Integrated Intelligence team. "Our report features insights-informed recommended strategies for stakeholders across the healthcare ecosystem to join in the conversation and illustrates why it

is vital to raise awareness about the

power of cancer screenings.'



This screen image captured at Beijing Aerospace Control Center on May 28, shows Shenzhou-18 astronaut Ye Guangfu performing extravehicular activities. (Xinhua)

Commercial rocket launches satellites from sea

## **Shenzhou-18 crew completes longest** single spacewalk in Chinese history

BEIJING, May 29, (Xinhua): Shenzhou-18 crew members on board China's orbiting space station completed the first spacewalk of their mission at 6:58 p.m. (Beijing Time) on Tuesday, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

Ye Guangfu, Li Cong and Li Guangsu worked for about eight-and-a-half hours in completing multiple tasks, including the installation of space debris protection devices, and were assisted by the space station's robotic arm and a team on Earth.

The task has set a new record for the longest single spacewalk by Chinese astronauts.

Ye and Li Guangsu, the two crew members assigned the spacewalk duty, have since returned safely to the Wentian lab module

This marked Ye's second extravehicular activity (EVA), following his initial spacewalk during the Shenzhou-13 mission, while Li Guangsu embarked on a spacewalk for the first

The mission will involve numerous other tasks, with the Shenzhou-18 crew set to engage in a slew of scheduled space science experiments and technical tests, while they will also undertake additional extravehicular activities and NASA's mission discovers volcanic events on Venus

LOS ANGELES, May 29, (Xinhua): By analyzing data from NASA's Magellan mission, scientists have identified two volcanoes that erupted on Venus in the Managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion

Laboratory in Southern California, Magellan mission mapped 98 percent of the surface of Venus from 1990 to 1992, and the images it generated remain the most detailed of Venus to date, according to NASA.

This latest discovery builds on the install payloads outside the space sta-

So far, Chinese astronauts have

successfully carried out a total of 16

EVAs. On Sept. 27, 2008, astronaut

Zhai Zhigang in Shenzhou-7 mission

made history as China's first person to

conduct a spacewalk, which lasted ap-

Meanwhile, China on Wednesday sent

a sea-launched rocket into space from the

tion, according to the CMSA.

proximately 19 minutes.

historic 2023 discovery of images from Magellan's synthetic aperture radar that revealed changes to a vent associated with the volcano Maat Mons near Venator. The radar images proved to be the first direct evidence of a recent volcanic eruption on the planet.

By comparing Magellan radar images over time, researchers spotted changes caused by the outflow of molten rock from Venus' subsurface filling the vent's crater and spilling down

the vent's slopes. waters surrounding the eastern province

of Shandong, placing a group of four sat-

ellites into planned orbit. The launch vehicle, a sea-borne variant of commercial rocket CERES-1, blasted off at 4:12 p.m. (Beijing Time). The Taivuan Satellite Launch Center conducted this offshore mission.

It was the 12th flight mission of the CERES-1 rocket series, the launch



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## Sun start season 6-0 for the first time



Seattle Storm guard Victoria Vivians (right), guards Chicago Sky guard Lindsay Allen during the second half of a WNBA basketball game Tuesday, May 28, 2024, in Chicago. (AP)

## Oly boxing medalists in Paris promised cash prizes by a rogue governing body

GENEVA, May 29, (AP): The boxing governing body declared rogue by the International Olympic Committee said Wednesday it will pay \$50,000 in prize money to each gold medalist at the Paris Games.

The cash promise is doubly confrontational for the IOC, which has severed ties with the International Boxing Association and does not approve of governing bodies paying prize money to Olympic medalists.

The IBA said it has a \$3.1 million prize money fund for each male and female boxer who reaches the quarterfinals in 13 total weight classes, plus their coaches and national teams.

The coach and national team of each Olympic boxing champion will both get \$25,000, and the scale of payments goes down to \$10,000 in total for each quarterfinalist.

The source of the money is unclear but the IBA led by its Russian president Umar Kremlev has been supported by the country's state energy firm Gazprom. The IBA promised \$200,000 for gold medalists at its 2023 world championships and committed to future increases.

## **OLYMPICS**

"As IBA president, I will always fight for our athletes' well-being, and this step is consistent in terms of the existing commitments we have already taken," Kremlev said in a statement.

The Olympic body did not support a pledge in April by World Athletics to pay \$50,000 prize money to each of the 48 gold medalists in track and field in Paris. It has promised also to pay silver and bronze medalists in 2028 at the Los Angeles Olympics.

The IOC has de-recognized the IBA, which will not be involved in organizing bouts in Paris for the second straight Summer Games.

The IOC cited its concerns about the boxing body's governance, reliance on funding from Gazprom, and the integrity of judges and bouts at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Those games were organized when the boxing body was led by a longtime IOC member, C. K. Wu.

Paris medalists are set to rewarded at "a special awards ceremony," IBA said, after "successful passing of respective anti-doping procedures."

The IOC was contacted for com-

## **Hayes conducts 1st practice with US team, preparing for Olympics**

BOULDER, May 29, (AP): The directions called out by U.S. women's soccer coach Emma Hayes carried throughout the field as her team went through drills Tuesday in their first practice together.

It's a new voice. A new way. But same lofty standards.

Hayes and the squad are trying to quickly get up to speed ahead of the Paris Games later this summer as they try to earn a fifth Olympic gold medal. After a couple of quick meetings, it was right to work Tuesday on the field at the University of Colorado, where the team gained a glimpse into the way their new coach prefers to play.

"It does take time, but I think everyone's focused and ready and excited for this new opportunity," said forward and Colorado native Mallory Swanson, whose team kicks off the Hayes' tenure on Saturday with a friendly against South Korea in Commerce City, Colorado. "With that comes everyone getting on the same page and learning together and growing together.'

Named the U.S. coach in November, Hayes joined the squad in Colorado after finishing up her final season as coach of Chelsea.

No need for introductions. Her reputation precedes her.

"Anyone in the soccer world knows Emma Hayes," said forward Sophia Smith, who's from Colorado. "She's a legend and her resume speaks for itself. We all just trust her. Obviously trust is something you

Prize money to Olympic medalists

has traditionally been paid by state

governments and national teams

though not directly from money

sourced to the IOC, which prefers

governing bodies invest in develop-

World Athletics said its \$2.4 mil-

lion prize fund for champions in

Paris would come from its share of

ing their sport below the elite level.

build. What she's done for the game and for the sport, we all trust her and are excited about her. I'm sure we'll learn a lot in the next week. We already have learned a lot in the first few days.

under Hayes.

the world.

the Olympics.

"If a team going into the Olympics

doesn't have a chip on their shoulder, there's a problem there," Smith

said. "This team for so many years

has set the standard, has been the

best in the world, and that's what

we want to continue on. We want to

honor what this team has done be-

fore us but we also want to set new

standards and just be a different ver-

sion of this team and be the best in

After their match Saturday, the

women's team will play another

against South Korea on June 4 in

give Hayes an up-close look at play-

ers before she names the roster for

The U.S. women's team has cap-

tured four Olympic gold medals

(1996, 2004, 2008, 2012), one silver

(2000) and one bronze (Tokyo in

"The goal is to win a gold medal

but right now we have a new coach,

we have a new system," Smith ex-

plained. "The main goal and priority

is the process and just learning and

adapting and growing and taking

each day as a chance to get better

right now. It's more process-fo-

cused. I think with that results will

come. But right now it's just about

getting the group together, getting

the chemistry going and, yeah, pre-

from the IOC's Paris revenues and a

rival organization of national federa-

tions, called World Boxing, is being

established to become the recognized

"We aren't really results-focused

and grow with this group.

Paul Minnecota These matches

One thing Hayes may soon learn

## **OLYMPICS**

about her squad is they carry a chip on their shoulder. Perhaps even more so after a disappointing finish in the Women's World Cup last year. The early exit led to coach latko Andonovski resigning from the U.S. team. Twila Kilgore took over in the interim while Hayes finished the season with Chelsea, and will now serve as an assistant coach



The U.S. women's soccer team practises in Boulder, Colo. (AP)

the IOC's revenues. Track's \$39.5 million payment for the Tokyo Olympics held in 2021 was the larg-

est amount of a \$540 million fund al-

located by the IOC. Boxing's share of Olympic revenues from Tokyo was due to be more than \$17 million but was held back by the IOC, which had to oversee running the qualifying and finals tournament bouts.

paring us for the Olympics, but for the future after that, too. The IBA also will not get money

governing body of Olympic boxing. 'We are setting a clear example

for many," the IBA's chief executive Chris Roberts said, "on how international federations should be treating their champions.

Sparks rally past Fever

UNCASVILLE, May 29, (AP): DeWanna Bonner scored 19 points to become the fifth player in WNBA history to reach 7,000 career points and the Connecticut Sun eased by the Phoenix Mercury 70-47 on Tuesday night to set a franchise record with six straight wins to start a season.

Connecticut (6-0), the only undefeated team in the WNBA, entered tied with its 2018 and '21 teams as the only 5-0 starts in franchise his-

It was tied at 19-all before the Sun went on a 19-1 run to take control.

### **BASKETBALL**

Connecticut led 38-20 with 2:18 in the first half before the Mercury scored the final five points. The Sun had a chance for the final shot of the half following an offensive rebound, but DiJonai Carrington missed a 3-pointer with 5.1 seconds left and Phoenix raced the other way for a Kahleah Copper layup just before the buzzer to get within 13 points.

Phoenix had just 10 points in the third quarter as the Sun cruised.

The Mercury, who entered ranked second averaging 38.1% from 3-point range, were just 1 of 27 from 3-point range with the lone make from Mikiah Herbert Harrigan. Diana Taurasi went 0 for 7 from distance and finished with just six points.

Phoenix (3-3) had 20 turnovers and just 15 made field goals. Copper, the WNBA scoring leader at 29.2 points per game, scored just seven points and Natasha Cloud had a team-high nine points.

Brionna Jones added 16 points for Connecticut. Alyssa Thomas had 10 points, six rebounds and eight

#### Sparks 88, Fever 82

In Indianapolis, Kia Nurse scored 22 points and Aari McDonald added a season-high 21 points to rally the Los Angeles Sparks to an 88-82 victory over the Indiana Fever, handing Caitlin Clark her third straight home

Indiana earned its only victory of the season last weekend at Los Angeles, but neither Clark nor her teammates could recreate that finish.

Clark finished with a season-best 30 points six assists, five rebounds, three blocks and three steals. She also made three 3-pointers. Kelsey Mitchell had 15 points and Aliyah Boston fought through foul trouble to add 17 points and six rebounds for the Fever in front of a near sellout crowd of 16,013.

The game featured the top two picks in last month's WNBA draft, Clark and forward Cameron Brink, and the league's only one-win teams. Brink finished with three points, three rebounds and two

Dearica Hamby had 17 points, 10 rebounds and five assists. McDonald also had four assists.

Los Angeles (2-4) swung the game with a decisive 28-8 run that turned a 55-48 third-quarter deficit into a 76-63 lead in the fourth quarter. Again, the Fever (1-7) never

At times, it was downright ugly. While the Fever shot just 38.2% from the field, the Sparks committed 19 turnovers while making a season-best 14 3s.

And yet Clark's presence and play created a wide range of emotions at Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

Fans leapt to their feet when she made a 3-pointer from the right wing just 66 seconds into the game. She wowed fans with nifty passes, crafty steals and even two first-half blocks.

She made Fever fans wince with three first-half turnovers and when a frustrated Clark' drew a technical foul with 2.7 seconds left in the first quarter, coach Christie Sides even pulled her star rookie toward the free-throw line for a discussion between quarters.

But it was only good enough to get the Fever within 37-32 at half-

Then, with former Colts star T.Y. Hilton, Pacers players Tyrese Haliburton, Bennedict Mathurin and Andrew Nembhard and current NFL players Shaquille Leonard and Nick Cross watching courtside, Clark & Co. turned the corner in the second

They opened the third quarter on an 11-0 run but surrendered the lead when the Sparks closed the quarter with three straight 3s and a breakaway layup to take a 59-55 lead during the decisive run. Storm 77, Sky 68

In Chicago Skylar Diggins-Smith scored 21 points, Jewell Loyd added 19 and the Seattle Storm pulled away in the third quarter for a 77-68 victory over the Chicago Sky.

Seattle (4-3) won its third straight

game to move above .500 for the

first time since the 2022 season. Seattle led by one point at halftime before outscoring Chicago 26-15 in the third quarter to take control. Diggins-Smith and Loyd combined to score 19 points in the

period. All of Seattle's points in the third came from inside the arc. Seattle went on an 11-0 run spanning the third-quarter break to go ahead 71-52, but Chicago scored the next 12 points.

The Storm regained control when Loyd intercepted a long pass and sent it ahead to Diggins-Smith for a 3-pointer to extend the lead to 76-68 with 2:25 left. It was Seattle's first field goal since the 8:48 mark of the

Ezi Magbegor had 13 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks for Seattle. Nneka Ogwumike added 10 points. Loyd made her 350th career steal to become the third player in franchise history to reach the mark, trailing Sue Bird (724), Lauren Jackson (360).

Dana Evans scored 13 points, Chennedy Carter and Elizabeth Williams each added 12 points and Angel Reese had 11 points and 12 rebounds for Chicago (2-3). Marina Mabrey was just 3 of 10 from the



Los Angeles Sparks guard Kia Nurse (10) is fouled by Indiana Fever guard Kristy Wallace (3) during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

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## PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, May 29,

(AP): Australia's first Twenty20 World Cup warmup game started in bizarre circumstances when the team only had nine players available to take on Namibia, forcing a selector and a coach to take the field.

Two other coaches also had to go on as substitute fielders in a game that the Australians won by seven wickets at Trinidad's Queen's Park Oval.

## CRICKET

After restricting Namibia to 119-9, Australia scored 123-3 in 10 overs with veteran opener David Warner finishing 54 not out. Warner, 37, is accustomed to being one of the older players on the field at international level.

He had to share the field with four 40-somethings this time.

Chief selector George Bailey, 41, and 46-year-old fielding coach Andre Borovec were on the field in unmarked shirts when the match began to make up the numbers after Australia captain Mitch Marsh won

the toss.

The Australians were still without six World Cup squad members who took part in the Indian Premier League, including pace bowlers Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins who played big roles in the final last weekend.

Bailey is a former international cricket-

er and a noted fielder. Borovec is a former wicketkeeper for Geelong in the Victorian Premier Cricket league. Later, Cricket Australia reported that

Bailey and Borovec were joined by batting coach Brad Hodge, who is 49, and head coach Andrew McDonald, who will turn 43 next week, when Marsh and fast



9-player Australia win T20 World Cup warmup match against Namibia

Pakistan's Mohammad Amir takes part in a nets session at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, Monday, May 27, 2024, ahead of the T20 cricket match against England. (AP)

bowler Josh Hazlewood spent time off the field.

Australia will likely also be shorthanded for its second warmup game against West Indies on Thursday at the same venue. None of the ICC warmup matches are recognized as official T20 internationals.

"Obviously, we didn't have a full quota of players but the guys who played, probably a few of us needed to coming off a big layoff," Hazlewood, who took two wickets, told the Cricket Australia website. "I know a number of the bowlers were coming off a long break, which is pretty unusual in our system, but it's good to get out there. Playing is always different to training.

Earlier, The T20 World Cup preparations of England and Pakistan were further hurt after the third match of their warmup series was abandoned Tuesday without any play possible in Cardiff because of rain.

The first match of the series was also wiped out, before England won the second T20 by 23 runs in Edgbaston on Saturday.





## Zakri and Aziz reactions captivate fans

### **By Hassan Musa**

Al-Seyassah/ArabTimes Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: At the end of each season, certain moments and scenes become etched in memoryscenes that capture joy, sadness, or disappointment, and reactions to specific decisions or timely goals.

Many football followers in the Gulf, particularly, witnessed the reaction of Algerian coach Noureddine Ben Zakri of the Saudi Al-Akhdood team after his team's 2-0 victory over Al-Taei at the beginning of this week. This victory secured their survival in the Saudi Roshan League.

Television footage showed Ben Zakri hysterically running on the field after the referee's final whistle, with players chasing him. Millions viewed the widely spread clip on social media, leading some social media users to share it in a comic context.

Al-Akhdood is the third team Ben Zakri has saved from relegation to the second division, following Al-Fayhaa and Damac in the 2019 and 2020 seasons, respectively. Reports indicate that Abha, recently relegated to the "Yellow"

League, is interested in contracting the Algerian coach for the next season.

On a local level, the reaction of Al-Jahra team manager Abdulaziz Madloul remains memorable for Al-Jahra fans.

The event occurred on March 6, during the match between Khaitan and Al-Jahra in the eighteenth and final round of the Al-Tajama League (before the classification of the Championship League and the Relegation League). Al-Jahra needed a win to keep their hopes of remaining among the Premier League clubs alive, but Khaitan led by a goal until the 88th minute. The "Sons

of the Red Palace" equalized through Igor, before Badr Al-Enezi added the winning goal in the 90th minute. This goal prompted Aziz to leave his seat on the reserve bench and run to the corner

kick area in joy.
Although Al-Jahra could not remain in the Premier League, Aziz's passionate reaction demonstrated his love and dedication to the club, despite the many challenges Al-Jahra faced this past season.

While the reactions of Ben Zakri and Aziz were similar, the outcomes of their reactions were not the same.

## Djokovic begins bid for 25th GS title with first-round French Open victory



Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a shot against France's Pierre-Hugues Herbert during their first round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

## Kenin into the third round after beating Garcia

PARIS, May 29, (AP): Ignore the straight-set score: Novak Djokovic was not quite at his impervious best in the first round of the French Open, and his 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-4 win over Pierre-Hugues Herbert was not enough to alter the defending champion's "low expectations" at this tournament.

It's been a rougher-than-usual season so far for Djokovic, and while there were some signs of breaking out of his 2024 funk during the course of the contest at Court Philippe Chatrier, he still has room for improvement as he attempts to become the first player in tennis history to claim 25 Grand Slam singles trophies. There's no doubt he cares about such things.

## **TENNIS**

Djokovic is a three-time title winner at Roland Garros who needs to return to the final to retain his No. 1 ranking. But he arrived in Paris without having done that at any tournament this year. He is 0-3 in semifinals - including a loss last week at the lower-tier Geneva Open on red clay - and this victory across 2 1/2 hours only served to make his overall record 15-6.

So when he spoke at a news conference on Sunday, Djokovic described his mindset heading into the French Open this way: "Low expectations and high hopes." Then he pointed out, "Anything but a title, for me, is not satisfactory," which is understandable given his remarkable resume.

Two-time Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka overpowered Erika Andreeva 6-1, 6-2, and 2022 Wimbledon winner Elena Rybakina beat Greet Minnen 6-2, 6-3.

Sabalenka is trying to become the first woman since Serena Williams in 2015 to win the Australian Open and Roland Garros in the same season and get half-

way to a calendar-year Grand Slam. Sofia Kenin arrived at the French Open with just a 4-13 record this season and now is into the third round at Roland Garros after eliminating 21st-seeded Caroline Garcia of France 6-3, 6-3.

## Kuwait Volleyball Federation approves year-end reports



Federation President Dr. Jaber Al-Marri

Kenin is a 25-year-old based in Florida who won the Australian Open in 2020 and made it to the final in Paris later that year before losing to Iga Swiatek. Kenin's career was knocked off track by a series of health issues, she's now at No. 56 in the rankings after once being as high as No. 4, and she hadn't even participated in the French Open since 2021.

Kenin dealt at various times with a lingering foot injury, a bout with COVID-19 and a right ankle problem.

Her results at the sport's most important events have not been up to her standards: She bowed out in the first or second round at six of the past seven Grand Slam tournaments. And Kenin hadn't played particularly well anywhere this year, with seven losses in opening matches.



Tunisia's Ons Jabeur celebrates winning her second round match of the French Open tennis tournament against Colombia's Camila Osorio at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Ordinary General Assembly of the Kuwait Volleyball Federation approved the administrative and financial reports for the fiscal year ending on March 31.

The meeting took place at the Federation's headquarters in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Hall in Sabah Al-Salem, attended by Federation President Dr. Jaber Al-Marri, General Secretary Abdullah Al-Ghurair, Treasurer Talal Al-Adwani, and representatives from 11 clubs: Al-Qadisiyah, Burgan, Al-Tadamon, Kuwait Club, Al-Arabi, Al-Sahel, Kazma, Al-Shabab, Al-Sulaibikhat, Yarmouk, and Al-Nasr. Representatives from the Jahra and Faĥaheel clubs were absent.

Following the meeting, Federation President Al-Marri thanked the club representatives and General Assembly members for their attendance and cooperation with the Federation's Board of Directors, emphasizing their joint efforts to advance and develop volleyball both locally and internationally.

Clay has been an ally, with five of her six match wins coming on the slow surface used at the French Open. It puts an extra emphasis on movement, one of Kenin's best skills.

The only other stadium where the action could proceed interrupted was Court Suzanne Lenglen, which also has a retractable roof as of this year, and 2021 runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas advanced to the third round with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-7 (2), 6-4 victory over Daniel Altmaier.

The Chatrier stands were less than half-full for Kenin vs. Garcia, lessening any potential home-support advantage. It was often quiet enough in there that the splat of water drops hitting the top of the roof could be heard.

Kenin does not have a big serve - her fastest Wednesday was 100 mph (162 kph), while Garcia reached 114 mph (184 kph) - but put 81% of first serves in and saved 3 of 4 break points she faced.

Kenin ended up with nearly twice as many winners, 26, as unforced errors, 14. She will face either 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko or Clara Tauson for a berth in the third

## **Kuwait Club secure semis spot**

#### By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/ArabTimes Staff

DOHA, May 29: The Kuwait Club basketball team secured a crucial 85-76 victory over Iran's Shahrdari as part of the second group matches of the Asian League for West and Central Asia, the "Super League," at the Lusail Arena in Doha, Qatar.

With this victory, Kuwait Club qualifies for the semi-finals as the

### **BASKETBALL**

top team in the group, with the Iranian team taking second place. The team now awaits the winner of the first group, which includes Lebanese clubs Al-Riyadi and Al-Hikma, Bahraini club Manama, and Kazakhstan's Astana. The semi-finals are scheduled for Friday

Kazma, Kuwait's second repre-



Kuwait Club players dunk against

sentative in the Asian Championship defeated India's Tamil Tandu 102-96. This win placed Kazma third, while Tamil Tandu finished fourth, leading both teams to exit the first round.

## 'We have our own story'

## Dortmund head into CL final with older and tougher team

DORTMUND, Germany, May 29, (AP): Borussia Dortmund is world soccer's finishing school no longer.

A club renowned for readying talented youngsters like Jude Belling-ham and Erling Haaland for the big stage is now on that stage itself, facing Real Madrid - and Bellingham - in the Champions League final Saturday.

This Dortmund team is different, though. It's built around older players making the most of second chances after career set-

backs. our own story, coach Edin Terzic said Tuesday. "We have the story of ups and downs of the last years. We are one of the teams that is selling players by the end of the season. We are a

team that builds up to compete every year, but now we are there and we are facing teams that are built to win the Champions League."
And then there's Jadon Sancho.

The former England national team forward has revived his career since rejoining Dortmund on loan in January from Manchester United, where he hadn't played since August amid a rift with manager Erik ten Hag.

The final at Wembley will be the last game of Sancho's loan, but Dortmund hopes it will also start fresh talks on keeping him. "We are so proud, we are so happy

that he's in our team at the moment and I can see his smile every day, I can see his performance on the pitch every day,' sporting director Sebastian Kehl said.

"So I think he will be very important for us on Saturday. He will show the world that Jadon Sancho is really Kehl said Dortmund plans "discus-

sions" about the 24-year-old Sancho's

future, but only after Saturday's game. "He's still under contract with Man United, so nobody knows what's going on there," Kehl added. "We're going to have discussions, but after the final." Sancho isn't the only Dortmund player who has been rejected elsewhere. Defender Mats Hummels and midfielder Emre Can were both left out of the German national team squad for their home European Championship, and Sancho wasn't picked for England. The Champions League gives them the chance to show they remain competitive at the top level - and maybe even earn a dramatic recall for Euro 2024.

The 30-year-old Can suggested he and Sancho could be inspired by that rejection when they play against Ma-

"He's not happy about it, of course. Me also, I'm not in the German squad,

#### **SOCCER**

I'm not happy about it," Can said. "Of course, it gives you maybe the extra motivation to show the coaches in national teams that we deserve to be there. That's what we will try on Saturday.'

Only two Dortmund players made the Germany squad for Euro 2024, including striker Niclas Füllkrug, who spent much of his career in the second division before finally breaking through at 29 with Werder Bremen and making his national team debut in 2022.

Forward Sébastien Haller is in the Champions League final less than two years on from a diagnosis of testicular cancer which left him needing chemotherapy and surgery before he returned to action with Dortmund. He's seeking his second trophy of the season after scoring the winning goal in the final of the Africa Cup of Nations with the Ivory Coast in February.

Dortmund does have some promising young players, but winger Jamie Bynoe-Gittens and striker Youssoufa Moukoko, both 19-year-olds, have typically been on the bench in the Champions League this season and 21-year-old American Gio Reyna was loaned out to Nottingham Forest.

There isn't an obvious successor to Bellingham, who was sold for up to 130 million euros (\$139 million at the time) to Madrid last year, or Haaland, who earlier moved to Manchester City for 60 million euros (\$63 million at the time) and won the Champions League last year.

## Barcelona hire Flick as coach on 2-yr deal

MADRID, May 29, (AP): Barcelona has replaced Xavi Hernández with former Bayern Munich coach Hansi Flick, who commanded the German team's 8-2 rout of the Catalan club

four years ago. Flick signed a two-year contract with Barcelona, which announced his hiring Wednesday just minutes after confirming that it reached an agreement to sever ties with Xavi.

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"It's a big honor and also a dream for me to sign my contract here in Barcelona, to work for this amazing club," the 59-year-old Flick told club media.

It's Flick's first coaching job since being fired by Germany in September last year. He previously spent two years at Bayern, winning the Champions League and back-to-back German league titles.

"I won some titles with Bayern Munich and my hunger is really big for titles. I would like to stay on this path with Barcelona. We can achieve a lot together," Flick said in English.

The new coach spoke of his and the club's matching philosophies around ball possession and attacking football: "These are the things I love.

He praised Barcelona's mix of youth and experience.

"Barcelona has one of the best academies in the world and a good mix between experienced players and young talented players. We have to groove them (so) that they can improve. This is our job."

Flick, who was Bayern's coach for the 8-2 victory in the Champions League quarterfinals in 2020, signed the contract at Barcelona's offices accompanied by team officials including sporting director Deco.

In a statement, Barcelona said it chose "a man well-known for his teams' high pressing, intense and daring style of play which has brought him great success at club level and international level, winning pretty much all there is to win in the world of football."

Xavi, a midfield great as a player at Barcelona, left after the team finished a distant second to fierce rival Real Madrid in the Spanish league this season. Xavi coached his last game with the



This file photo, then Germany's head coach Hansi Flick calls out to his players during the World Cup group E soccer match between Spain and Germany, at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar. (AP)

Catalan club on Sunday in the Spanish league, a 2-1 win at Sevilla.

His departure came a month after he had walked back a previous decision he made in January to leave the club this summer. In April, he said that he had changed his mind because the team was playing better and he believed it could bounce back from a trophy-less season.

Barcelona president Joan Laporta had publicly celebrated Xavi's commitment to stay at that time. But last week the president was reportedly unhappy when the head coach spoke openly about how the club's poor finances would impede it from competing with Real Madrid.

Flick is one of just two European managers who can boast the sextuple of trophies in the same calendar year.

He will be reunited with former Bayern striker Robert Lewandowski, who is now with the Catalan club. Flick also coached goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen and midfielder Ilkay Gündogan during his time as Germany coach.

Flick will be the third German coach in Barcelona's history, following Hennes Weisweiler and Udo Lattek.

Flick's Bayern won the Champions League title against Paris Saint-Germain after the trouncing of Barcelona. It was part of a stunning streak of titles in the depths of the pandemic which also included the Bundesliga, German Cup and Club World Cup.

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Alex Valera (left), of Peru's Universitario de Deportes and Leonel Quinonez of Ecuador's Liga Deportiva Universitaria vie for the ball during a Copa Libertadores Group D soccer match at the Rodrigo Paz Delgado stadium in Quito, Ecuador. LDU won

# Sports

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## Timberwolves stave off elimination

Towns finally finds rhythm

DALLAS, May 29, (AP): **Karl-Anthony Towns final**ly found his rhythm, and the Timberwolves finally closed a game in the Western Conference finals.

Now they head back to Minnesota to see if they can make things even more interesting against Dal-

Towns scored 20 of his 25 points in the second half and the Wolves held off the Mavericks 105-100 on Tuesday night to avoid a sweep.

Anthony Edwards had 29 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists as the Wolves stayed alive in their first trip to the conference finals in 20 years, and just the second in the franchise's 35 seasons. Game 5 is Thursday

Towns, who was shooting 28% from the field in the series coming in, was 9 of 13 from the field, including four of five from 3-point range. And that was after picking up fifth foul midway through the third quarter.

Luka Doncic had 28 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists in his sixth triple-double of these playoffs, but he and co-star Kyrie Irving were just 13 of 39 from the field. Irving, who was 14-0 in his career in closeout games coming in, made just one of six from long range and finished with 16 points.

The Wolves have led in the final five minutes of the fourth quarter of every game in the series, and this time they finished.

Towns put the Wolves ahead for good on a 3-pointer with 5:41 remaining, then hit another from deep the next time down. His third 3 of the final quarter put Minnesota up six with three minutes to go.

Edwards put the Wolves up five with a jumper just inside the arc with 39 seconds left, and Minnesota hung



Mavericks center Gafford (21) scores over Minnesota Timberwolves center Rudy Gobert (27) during the second half in Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals in Dallas. (AP)

on despite Edwards fouling Doncic on a made 3-pointer for a three-point

Dallas deficit with 12 seconds to go. Doncic missed the free throw, and Naz Reid hit a bucket to push the margin back to five with 11 seconds remaining.

The biggest sign of Towns' rhythm came in the third, when he scored 10 points in the first seven minutes before picking up his fifth foul for elbowing P.J. Washington Jr. in the face as Towns went up for

The call against Towns prompted a technical foul against Minnesota coach Chris Finch from the second

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row, where he's been confined since the start of the second round of the playoffs because of a knee injury that required surgery. Assistant Micah Nori has been roaming the side-

Finch flirted with a second technical, which would have meant an ejection, a few minutes later when Edwards was called for his fourth foul going for a steal against Daniel Gafford.

"To have him be on the sideline but behind the bench for the majority of these playoffs, you forget the impact he can have," said Mike Conley, who scored 14 points. "When your coach is up getting technicals and yelling and when you see him hobbling around to do it, it's impressive. It lit a fire on all of us." Towns fouled out in the final two minutes, while Edwards and Rudy Gobert, who had 13 points and 10 rebounds, finished with five apiece.

"We weathered a lot of foul trouble out there, which was frustrating to say the least," Finch said. "Credit to our guys. They found a way to win the game. It was a lot like Games 1 and 2, and we were able to get it done tonight." The Wolves avoided being the 16th team out of 21 to get swept after losing the first three games of a series that started at home. Now they'll try to be just the fourth to force at least six games.

Jaden Hardy scored 10 of his 13 points in a 3:38 stretch that spilled into the first bucket of the fourth quarter, a corner 3 that pulled Dallas within two. Four of the game's 11 lead changes came in the fourth.

The Mavs were without rookie center Dereck Lively II, who injured his neck when Towns accidentally kneed him in back of the head in Game 3.

Maxi Kleber, who has been out since May 3 with a separated shoulder, returned to give Dallas another option inside. But Daniel Gafford didn't have his regular tag team partner as a rim protector at center, and the Wolves shot a series-best 53% from the field.

Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) drives to the basket over Dallas Mavericks forward Maxi Kleber (42) during the second half in Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals in Dallas. (AP)

Coach Hernan Crespo makes history

## **Record numbers for AI Ain after AFC Champions League title**

DOHA, May 29: The Asian Football Confederation confirmed that the second leg of the 2023-2024 AFC Champions League final was marked by numerous records, particularly the outstanding performance of striker Sofiane Rahimi, who reached his 13th goal in the current edition. This achievement ties the record for the most goals ever scored in a single edition of the tournament.

Al Ain claimed the title after defeating Yokohama 6-3 on aggregate, losing the first leg 1-2, and winning the return match 5-1. This victory brought Al Ain's total to 33 goals, the highest in the current edition, followed by Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal with 30 goals, and Japan's Yokohama, which ranked third with 24 goals.

The AFC stated on its official website, "Sofiane Rahimi's double in the second leg of the final raised his tally to a record 13 goals in

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the tournament, equaling the best total of goals ever in a single edition, a record previously achieved by Muriqui of Guangzhou (2013), Adriano of FC Seoul (2016), and Baghdad Bounedjah of Al-Sadd (2018)."

Rahimi earned both the top scorer and the best player awards for the tournament, having scored 9 goals in the knockout rounds.

The Asian Confederation noted, "Al Ain Club, which won its first continental title 21 years ago against Thailand's Tero Sasana in the 2002-2003 final, and finished as runners-up in 2005 and 2016, has now become the champion of both the first and last editions of the competition, which will be revamped next season."

The Confederation highlighted that Al Ain scored 15 goals from the quarter-finals onward, with Sofiane Rahimi and Laba Kodjo leading the competition's scoring charts. Rahimi topped the tournament with 13 goals, followed by Kodjo with 8 goals.

Coach Hernan Crespo made history as the first Argentine to lead a team to the AFC Champions League title, increasing the number of countries with titlewinning coaches to 13. Crespo also became the fourth South American coach to win the title, following Brazilians Sergio Farias (Pohang Steelers) and Luiz Felipe Scolari (Guangzhou), and Uruguayan Jorge Fossati (Al

## **Still plenty of fear for Real coach Ancelotti** despite Champions League final successes

Rodrygo attracts unwanted attention

MADRID, May 29, (AP): Carlo Ancelotti is going into his eighth Champions League final, having won all but one of them.

He is the most successful coach in the competition thanks to four titles. He also lifted two European trophies as a player.

There is no lack of experience for the veteran Italian manager. But there is still plenty of anxiety and fear for Ancelotti ahead of yet another big

"It's the same as it was the first time," the 64-year-old Ancelotti said as Real Madrid entered the final week of preparations ahead of Saturday's final against Borussia Dortmund in London.

"First there is the joy of being here, then the concerns will come and the fear will come," he said. "But before they come we have to enjoy this week and I'm going to enjoy it. The cold sweat will arrive Saturday afternoon, it's normal, I'm already prepared for it. And this team gives me a lot of confidence, I see them focused on the match, they are in Champions (League) mode.'

Ancelotti won the Champions League with Madrid in 2022 and 2014, and with AC Milan in 2003 and 2007. He lost the 2005 edition with AC Milan in a final in a penalty shootout against Liverpool after squandering a

His European triumphs as a player came with Milan in 1989 and 1990. He

was also in the squad with Roma when it reached the 1984 final but he sat out injured.

Ancelotti said he will stick to his routine before the final at Wembley "I'm a bit superstitious but it's very

normal. I was told that it's bad luck not to be superstitious," he said. "I like to eat broccoli, salmon and pasta, and

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that's what I'll eat. Then I'll have an hour's nap, if I'm able to. And then I'll start thinking about the match. Before the talk with the players, my heart will start to rise to 110 or 120 beats. It'll stay up there until the start of the game, and when it starts it will go back to its

normal rhythm." Ancelotti said some of his most memorable Champions League highlights are linked to his time with Madrid, including the incredible run in 2022, when it had to rally several times to make it to the final. He also mentioned the late comeback in the semifinal against Bayern Munich a few weeks ago, when Joselu scored in the 88th minute and in stoppage time.

Ancelotti said this season was especially difficult because of the long list of injuries to some of the team's key players, including serious knee problems to Thibaut Courtois, Éder Mil-

itão and David Alaba. Also missing time because of injuries were Vinícius Júnior, Jude Bellingham, Eduardo Camavinga and Aurélien Tchouaméni. "Attitude and commitment have

been the key to overcoming all the problems we've had," Ancelotti said. 'That's what allowed us to have a fantastic season. Madrid, which also won the Span-

ish league and the Spanish Super Cup, is trying to win its sixth European Cup in 10 seasons, matching a feat the club also achieved from 1955-65. Ancelotti said he prides himself

more about the way he has managed his locker rooms than his teams' tactics over the years.

Meanwhile, Real Madrid forward Rodrygo has attracted unwanted attention just days before the Champions League final by saying he is open to leaving the Spanish powerhouse.

The Brazil international went on social media early Wednesday to reiterate his allegiance to the club and say that his words were taken out of

"Something very annoying happened, as one of my interviews was completely taken out of context," Rodrygo said on X, formerly known as Twitter. "To be very clear: I'm VERY happy at Real Madrid. I'm living my dream here. I'm NOT thinking about leaving the club of my life. We still have history to make. Let's go after the 15th (Champions League title)...'



Al-Ain captain hoist the AFC Champions League trophy.

## **Best of the Rest**

Pakistan win series opener: Pakistan's national men's volleyball team recorded a commanding 3-0 victory over Australia in the threematch series opener at Pakistan Sports Complex in the capital Islama-

bad on Tuesday evening. The home team started strong, securing the first set with a score of 25-22 at the Liaquat Gymnasium. Despite fierce competition in the second set, Pakistan maintained its composure, displaying remarkable blocking and quick reflexes to clinch the set with the same score.

In the third set, Pakistan continued their dominance, winning 25-20, showing their adaptability under pressure and ability to capitalize on the opposition's errors. The remaining two matches of the

three-match series are scheduled for May 29 and May 30, respectively, at the same venue. Australia's volleyball squad arrived in Islamabad on Sunday for

their first-ever tour for an internation-

al series against Pakistan. (Xinhua)

Bayern hire Kompany: Vincent Kompany is the unlikely new coach of Bayern Munich after a monthslong search that saw the German club

rejected by several top candidates. The 38-year-old former Manchester City captain arrives at Bayern tasked with overseeing a turnaround after his predecessor, Thomas Tuchel, led the team only to a third-place finish in the Bundesliga, 18 points off champion Bayer Leverkusen.

Kompany won praise for his team's attractive style of play when coaching Burnley in the English Premier League last season but was relegated as the team finished in nextto-last place. He had been under contract at Burnley through 2028.

Even though he arrives at a low point for Bayern, Kompany will still be expected to win trophies and potentially reach the 2025 Champions League final, which is to be played at Bayern's own Allianz Arena. (AP)

Usyk vs Fury set for Dec. 21:

The heavyweight rematch between undisputed world champion Oleksandr Usyk and Tyson Fury will take place on Dec. 21 in Saudi Arabia, according to the advisor who organizes boxing events in the kingdom.

Turki Alalshikh, chairman of Saudi Arabia's General Entertainment Authority, confirmed the date of the fight on X, formerly Twitter, on Wednesday. He said it will take place in Riyadh, the location of the first fight on May 19.

'The world will watch another historical fight again," he wrote. "Our commitment to boxing fans continues

We hope you enjoy it."
Usyk became the first undisputed heavyweight champion since 2000 when he defeated Fury by split decision, earning a narrow win on two scorecards. The 37-year-old Ukrainian is the first heavyweight to hold every major title belt since Lennox

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