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Amir ushers in new era with Al-Zour Refinery launch



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

Amiri Diwan photos

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 Wadhwa 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 project.



Sheikh Nawaf

The ceremony began with the national anthem and a recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by a speech by Dr. Imad Al-Atiqi in which he described 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 electricity 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 monumental 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-Ahmedi, 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 barrels per day.

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

Al-Khateeb said the inauguration of Al-Zour Refinery was an accomplishment added to the Clean Fuel Project at Al-Ahmedi 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 industry."

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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 official source.

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 each case.

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.



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

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday cables of congratulations to the Information and Culture Minister **Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi** and the Editor in Chief of Al-Arabi Al-Sagheer Magazine **Ibrahim Al-Mulaifi** on the occasion of winning the Arab Media Award, during a ceremony held in Dubai on May 28.

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 prosperity.

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 Arab action.

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 pre-

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 "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



KUNA photo

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

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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-Ahmedi," 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), "Hawalli" 306 dinars (up 3.4%), "Farwaniya" 279 dinars (up 1.6%), "Al-Ahmedi" 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

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:17 Asr 15:20
 Sunrise .. 04:50 Maghrib .. 18:41
 Zohr 11:45 Isha 20:11

Local

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

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-38 km/h.
By Night: Rather hot with light

Weather

to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.
Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
 Kuwait City 45 33

Kuwait Airport	47	34
Abdaly	46	27
Jahra	47	34
Salmiyah	41	32
Nuwaisib	44	29
Wafra	45	31

ICRC pledges to keep Kuwaiti prisoners, missing persons file open



Photo by Mahmoud Jadeded
 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 them."

We recently opened a hospital with the 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 Justice.

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 conflicts."

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

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 intelligence.

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 due.



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."

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 coun-

try's importance on the international stage.

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 necktie.

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 eras.

News in Brief

Ex-minister passes away: Former Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al-Khalid passed away at the age of 80 after a rich life in serving his nation, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Khalid occupied the position of Minister of Commerce and Industry from 1986 to June 1990 as part of the 13th government.

In 1971, he worked at the Employees' Diwan, 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 1981.

The Council of Ministers eulogized



Al-Khalid

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.

Real Estate Union urges reconsideration of proposed construction guidelines

Municipal Council advances amendments to building regulations

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.

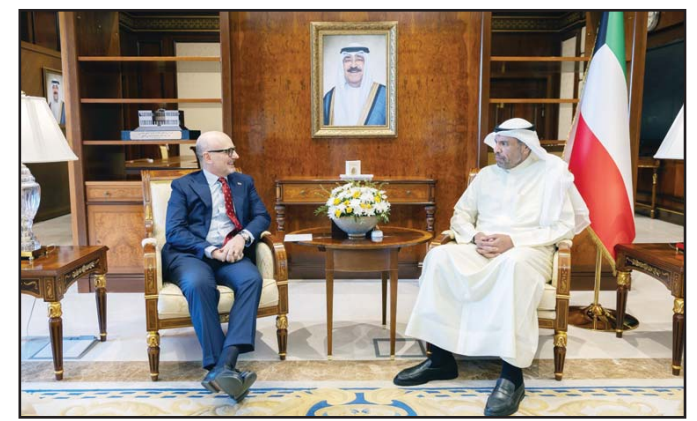
The meeting was held in the presence of the executive branch and the committee concerned with preparing the regulations and items for the schedule and investment housing.

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



KUNA photo
Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya receives the Italian Ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

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 regulations, 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.

'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-

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

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 as its capital city.

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 systems.

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 stage.



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

albander hotel & resort

May

Room Promotion

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

Promo period from 2nd May to 31st May 2024

Terms & conditions apply*



Photo by Mahmoud Jadedd
Students waiting outside of their school to begin their final exams.

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, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Ministry has devised a comprehensive plan to safeguard the movement of examination materials from the printing press to designated educational facilities throughout their journey, commencing from the secret printing press to the designated examination 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 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 Al-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 educational 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 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.

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 reported.

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, 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, 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 added.

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 Mediter-

anean island nation on Tuesday for 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 Lamaca to the besieged Gaza Strip

via a U.S. built temporary pier off the 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 subject.

A Cyprus government statement 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

free about 100 Israeli hostages being 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.

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 tenant.

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.

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 concluded 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.

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.

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 its spectrum portfolio across several spectrum bands.

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 opportunities 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 fourth-largest 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 opportunities.

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 delicacy.

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

China has a rich culinary tradition 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."

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 17%.

Heritage, Landscape Valued

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 fragrance.

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.

"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

landscape, according to Wojciechowski.

Rosy Future

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 second-largest 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 estimate.

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

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 Kretinsky.

Under the deal, Kretinsky's EP Group would buy International Distribution Services, which owns Royal Mail, for 372 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 financially.

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.

Kretinsky, 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 Chinese.

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 more.

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 sector.

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 technology to China.

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

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, 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.

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 street-legal 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 and 911.

"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 system.

"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.

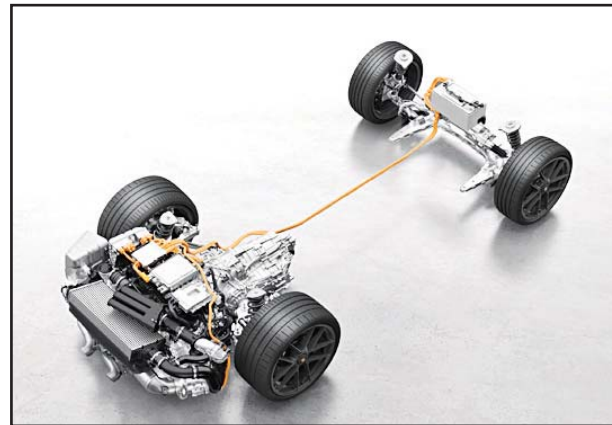
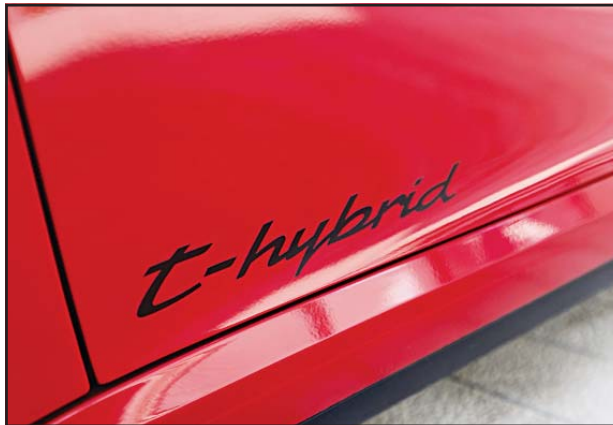
The lightweight and powerful T-Hybrid system has a newly developed electric exhaust gas turbocharger. An integrated electric motor, placed between the compressor and turbine wheel, instantaneously brings the turbocharger up to speed. This immediately builds up boost pressure. The electric motor in the 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 electrical 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, model-specific 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 of the car.

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-mode-dependent 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 with rear-wheel drive. For the 911 Carrera GTS, all-wheel drive and the

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, we believe in empowering 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."

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 well-being 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

members." 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 from the 'Xinjiang is a Nice Place' cultural extravaganza organized by Chinese delegation at the JACC.

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 large-scale 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 Autonomous 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 development.

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



Some of the officials at the event.



One of the performances

interaction, exchange and integration among various ethnic groups in Xinjiang.



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, Clamber 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 Kuwait.

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.

'The game is over, but we won the game'

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

NEW YORK, May 29, (AP) — Albert S. Ruddy, a colorful, Canadian-born producer and writer who won Oscars for "The Godfather" and "Million Dollar Baby," developed the raucous prison-sports comedy "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 script.



Ruddy

"Joe sits opposite me, one guy's on the couch, and one guy's sitting in the window," Ruddy told Vanity Fair in 2009. "He puts on his little Ben Franklin glasses, looks at it (the script) for about two minutes. What does this mean 'fade in?' he asked."

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 children.

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.

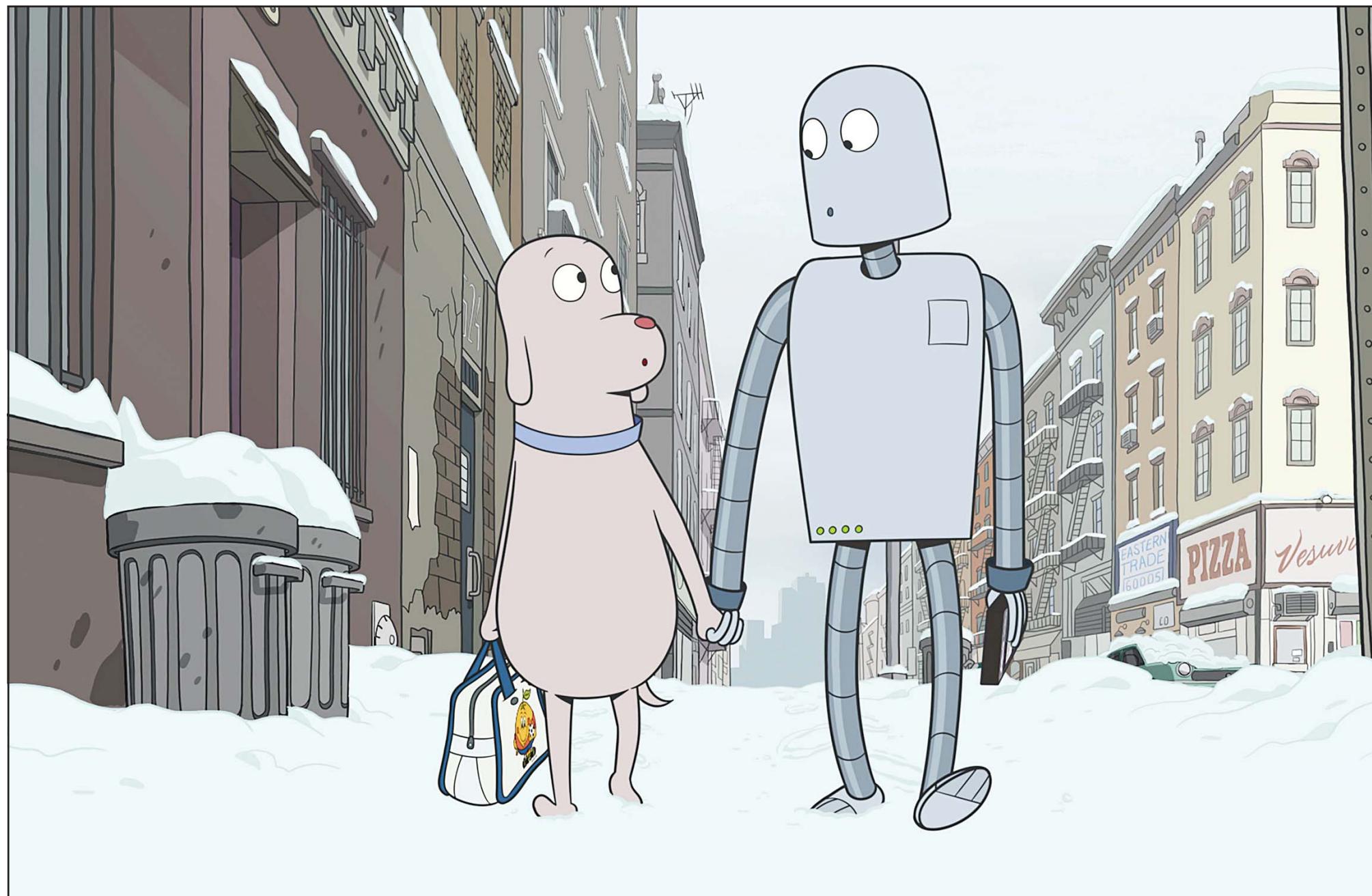
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THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024



This image released by Neon shows a scene from the animated film 'Robot Dreams.' (AP)

Film

Animation charms audiences with melancholy and joy

'Robot Dreams' weaves a whimsical tale

By Jake Coyle

It'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 back at him.

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 off-season. 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 barbecues) 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 most-played 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 society.

"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 Ruoyi, a 29-year-old employee of a marketing company. (Agencies)

NEW YORK: Harvey Weinstein is expected to appear before a judge Wednesday afternoon in the same New York City courthouse where former President Donald Trump is on trial.

Weinstein is awaiting a retrial on rape charges after his 2020 conviction was tossed out. Wednesday's court hearing will address various legal issues related to the upcoming trial, which is tentatively scheduled for some time after Labor Day.

Weinstein's original trial was held in the same courtroom where Trump is on trial now, but the two men are unlikely to bump into each other. Weinstein is in custody and will be brought to and from the courtroom under guard. He will be appearing in a courtroom on a different floor than where Trump is currently on trial.

Weinstein was convicted of rape in the third degree for an attack on Jessica Mann, an aspiring 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 \$1 billion over the next two years to individuals and organizations working on behalf of women and 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.

"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



Weinstein



Melinda

National Women's Law Center, the National Domestic Workers Alliance and the Center for Reproductive Rights. (AP)

NEW YORK: Bette Nash, recognized as the world's longest-serving flight attendant, has died. She was 88.

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 flight-attendant 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 ap-

proach to achieve full care and stem spread of the mouth diseases.

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 of Health.

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

tionwide.



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 newly-launched 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 COVID-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 later-stage 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 yearlong 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 social media almost constantly.

Real Chemistry's report uncovers the top trends leading to cancer screening conversations on social media, click-worthy content strategies and the leading voices in promoting early cancer screenings. Insights include how:

"For the report, our Integrated Intelligence team leveraged quantitative and qualitative findings from our proprietary social media listening

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."

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



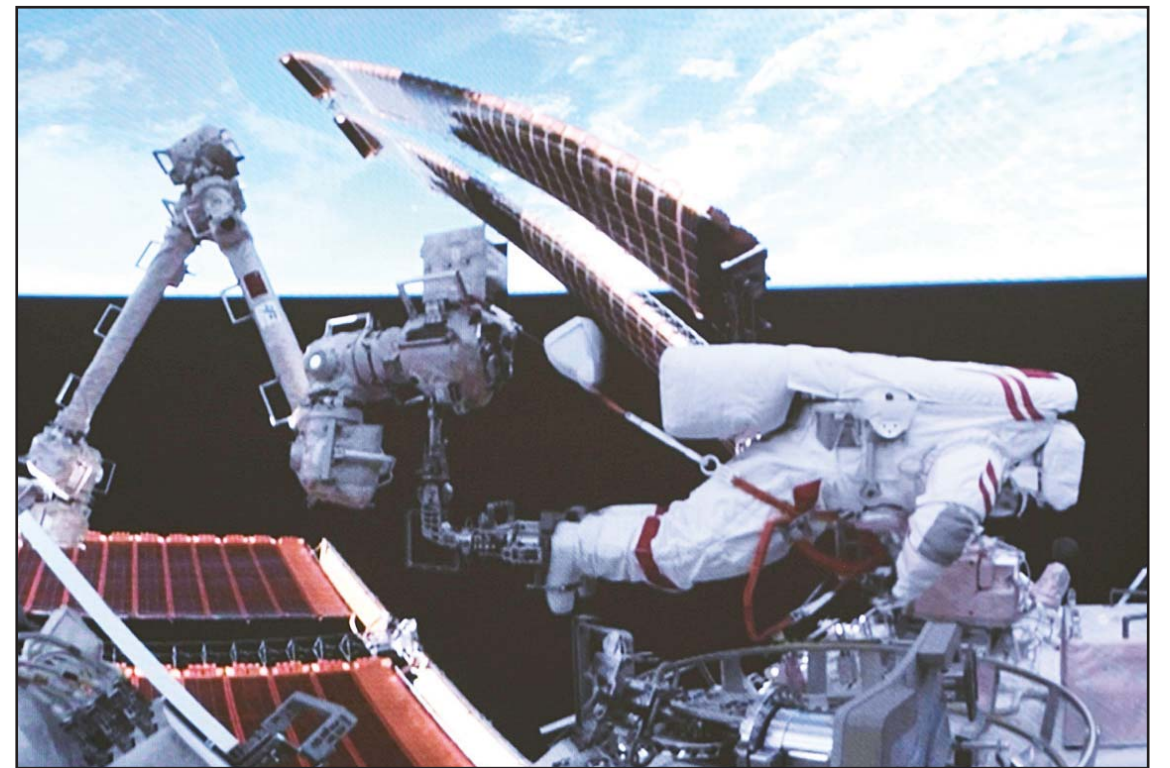
Mpox: Local authorities in the Australian state of Victoria have issued a public warning over monkeypox, also known as mpox, since the infectious disease was found locally transmitted.

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 statement.

"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.



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 time.

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 early 1990s, NASA said on Monday.

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

historic 2023 discovery of images from Magellan's synthetic aperture radar that revealed changes to a vent associated with the volcano Maat Mons near Venus' equator. 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.

install payloads outside the space station, according to the CMSA.

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 approximately 19 minutes.

Meanwhile, China on Wednesday sent a sea-launched rocket into space from the

waters surrounding the eastern province of Shandong, placing a group of four satellites 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 Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center conducted this offshore mission.

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

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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)

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 history.

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 Dionai 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.

Brianna Jones added 16 points for Connecticut. Alyssa Thomas had 10 points, six rebounds and eight assists.

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 loss.

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 sell-out 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 assists.

Dearica Hamby had 17 points, 10 rebounds and five assists. McDonald also had four assists.



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)

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 long-time IOC member, C. K. Wu.

Paris medalists are set to be 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

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."

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 Vlatko 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)

ment.

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 developing their sport below the elite level.

World Athletics said its \$2.4 million prize fund for champions in Paris would come from its share of

the IOC's revenues. Track's \$39.5 million payment for the Tokyo Olympics held in 2021 was the largest amount of a \$540 million fund allocated 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.

under Hayes.

"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 before us but we also want to set new standards and just be a different version of this team and be the best in the world."

After their match Saturday, the women's team will play another against South Korea on June 4 in St. Paul, Minnesota. These matches give Hayes an up-close look at players before she names the roster for the Olympics.

The U.S. women's team has captured four Olympic gold medals (1996, 2004, 2008, 2012), one silver (2000) and one bronze (Tokyo in 2021).

"The goal is to win a gold medal but right now we have a new coach, we have a new system," Smith explained. "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 and grow with this group."

"We aren't really results-focused right now. It's more process-focused. I think with that results will come. But right now it's just about getting the group together, getting the chemistry going and, yeah, preparing us for the Olympics, but for the future after that, too."

The IBA also will not get money from the IOC's Paris revenues and a rival organization of national federations, called World Boxing, is being established to become the recognized 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."

9-player Australia win T20 World Cup warmup match against Namibia

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

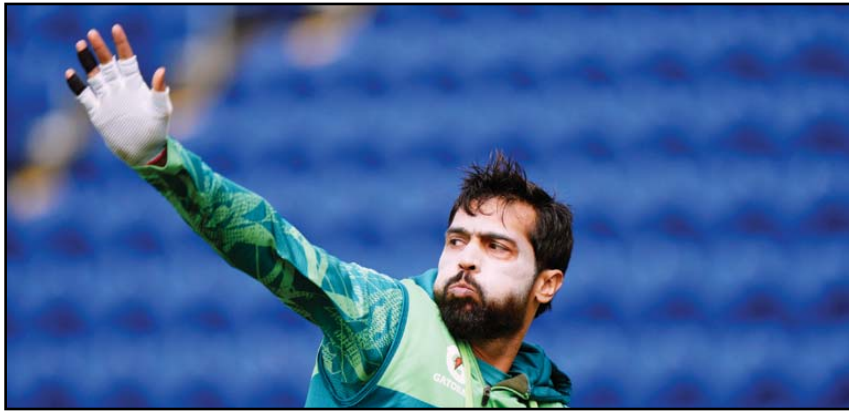
the toss.

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



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 short-handed 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.

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Alex Valera (left), of Peru's Universitario de Deportes and Leonel Quiñonez 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 2-0. (AP)

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Timberwolves stave off elimination

Towns finally finds rhythm

DALLAS, May 29, (AP): Karl-Anthony Towns finally 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 Dallas.

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 night.

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

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 a shot.

The call against Towns prompted a technical foul against Minnesota coach Chris Finch from the second

BASKETBALL

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 Michah Nori has been roaming the sidelines.

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 Al Ain after AFC Champions League title

Rodrygo attracts unwanted attention

Still plenty of fear for Real coach Ancelotti despite Champions League final successes

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

SOCCER

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 re-ramped 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 title-winning 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 Sadd).

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 game.

"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 2002 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 3-0 lead.

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 Stadium.

"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

SOCCER

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 Vinicius 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 Spanish 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 context.

"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)..."



Dallas Mavericks center Daniel 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)

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 three-match series opener at Pakistan Sports Complex in the capital Islamabad 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 international series against Pakistan. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Bayern hire Kompany: Vincent Kompany is the unlikely new coach of Bayern Munich after a months-long 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 next-to-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)

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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 Lewis. (AP)



Al-Ain captain hoist the AFC Champions League trophy.