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Kuwait reminds 'Bedouns' to obey laws



His Highness the caretaker PM receives the visiting representatives of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA).

Caretaker PM receives WAIPA representatives

ister Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah received on Thursday Director General of the Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr.

Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, accompanied by the visiting representatives of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA). (KUNA) - See Also Page 8

His Highness the caretaker Prime Min-

dialogue amid deadlock KUWAIT CITY, May 9: MP-elect Dr. Jenan Bush-

ehri has called upon either Prime Minister-designate Sheikh Ahmed Âl-Abdullah or Representative Saleh



minister.

Bushehri ehri highlighted the importance stitution, which serves as the foundation of the state's institutions. She underscored the national duty of pre-

serving and upholding the constitution, as emphasized by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad. Bushehri noted that parliamentary requirements for ministerial appointments have been customary and

procedures and government stability.

She warned against allowing the situation to stagnate, emphasizing the necessity of sincere efforts to

US warns Israel

to flee Rafah, seek shelter

GAZA, May 9, (Agencies): The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) declared on Thursday that a staggering 80,000 Palestinians have been compelled to evacuate the city of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip and

In a press statement, UNRWA reported that residents of Gaza are once again confronting forced displacement, and since the intensification of Israeli military operations on May sixth, approximately 80,000 people have been compelled to flee Rafah in search of sanctuary elsewhere.

UNRWA underscored that these catastrophic losses endured by families are insufferable, and there is no haven in Gaza, demanding an immediate ceasefire.

The Israeli occupation continues its military operation in the city of Rafah, south of Gaza, while artillery and warplanes intensely bombard Al-Jeneina and Al-Salam neighborhoods, along with the Khirbet Al-Adas and Al-Maraj areas and the eastern parts of

Health authorities announced that 60 people were martyred and 110 others injured within a 24-hour period due to intense shelling by the Israeli occupation's artillery targeting the eastern regions of Rafah, exacerbated by aerial bombardments that struck homes, apartments, residential buildings, and shelters for displaced people in central and northern Gaza.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres affirmed on Thursday that the international organization continues to pressure the Israeli occupation entity to observe a cease-fire, end the war in Gaza and reopen the

Guterres said during a phone call with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian that "the international organization affirmed from the beginning its firm position to establish a ceasefire and end the war

"We will continue to pressure Israel and our effective consultations with the US and other influential countries to approve a ceasefire and end the war in Gaza and the region, especially opening the Rafah crossing and other vital crossings to the people of Gaza," he added.

For his part, Abdollahian warned of the continued "dangerous" Israeli behavior, saying that "the Israeli occupation entity seeks today, by closing the Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings, to commit another humanitarian catastrophe in the region and frustrate in-

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'Avoid acts which lead to division'

KUWAIT CITY, May 9, (KUNA): The Central Agency for Remedying Illegal Residence Status (CARIRS) has called on 'Bedouns' to stick to laws, regulations and systems to avoid violations which lead to legal liability.

In a statement, the CARIRS said it is imperative to abide by all

laws regulating action regarding all matters that preserve security and stability as well as prosperity of society.

The system called also for avoiding acts which lead to division, or affect the cohesion of Kuwait's society and its image at home and abroad, it noted.

It also affirmed full coordination with the Ministry of Interior and the State's agencies to ensure abidance of all by implementing laws and regulations, according to the statement.

Kuwait in for hot Saturday as temps soar to 40°C

KUWAIT CITY, May 9, (KUNA): The Kuwait Meteorological Center anticipates a shift towards hot weather over the upcoming weekend, with daytime temperatures maintaining a warm disposition and moderating slightly during the evenings. The forecast includes scattered rainfall occurrences expected by Saturday night, accompanied by intermittent wind gusts as Sunday pro-

Yasser Al-Bloushi, head of the maritime forecast department, elaborated on the meteorological projections in a statement to KUNA. He noted that the country would experience the influence of warm northwesterly winds, gradually transitioning to southeasterly winds by Saturday.

Thursday's temperature forecast fluctuates between 34 and 26 degrees Celsius, with a subsequent drop anticipated during the nighttime hours, settling between 22 and 25 degrees Celsius.

As Friday unfolds, temperatures are expected to rise, with hot weather prevailing throughout the day. Unsteady northwesterly winds are predicted to accompany this heat surge, pushing temperatures to levels ranging from 36 to 38 degrees Celsius. However, relief is in sight for the evening, with temperatures subsiding to a range of 25-27

degrees Celsius.

Saturday is poised to witness a continuation of the hot weather conditions, particularly noticeable in coastal regions where humidity levels may be heightened. Southeasterly winds are forecasted to be prevalent, contributing to the persistence of warm temperatures throughout the day. It is anticipated that daytime temperatures will ascend to levels between 39 and 41 degrees Celsius, surpassing the 40-degree threshold in some areas. However, as the day transitions into night, temperatures are expected to decrease, settling within the range of 25-26 degrees Celsius.

Call for unity

Bushehri urges national

Ashour to extend invitations for an expanded meeting within the next two days, reports Al-Rai daily.



National Assembly to address any disputes and present reservations, particularly regarding the appointment of the analyst Bushehri emphasized that

dialogue and negotiations are essential to overcome any existing constitutional challenges. In a press statement, Bush-

of adhering to the Kuwaiti Con-

stressed the need for any demands to serve the national interest, particularly in preserving constitutional

Bushehri urged all parties to assume their national responsibilities and engage in dialogue to resolve the political deadlock.

prevent a political crisis in the state.

80,000 Palestinians forced

are now seeking shelter elsewhere.

Rafah crossing as a matter of urgency. The official Iranian news agency reported that

ternational efforts to stop the war.



Bait Al-Othman Museum photo One of the courtyards of Bait Al-Othman Museum.

Museum lauded for showcasing Gulf Arab culture

Bait Al-Othman Museum bridging generations with history

Bank precautions amid nationality withdrawals

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Bank officials have outlined approximately 10 precautionary measures expected to be implemented in banking transactions involving individuals whose nationalities have been withdrawn, reports Al-Rai daily.

These measures include treating them as "bedoun" with expired civil IDs and minimizing the risk of default if borrowers

According to informed sources, the Ministry of Interior recently provided banks with the civil ID numbers of around 200 individuals whose nationalities were with-

This step was taken to initiate preventive actions, such as freezing the effectiveness of their accounts and halting withdrawals from MasterCard and Visa cards.

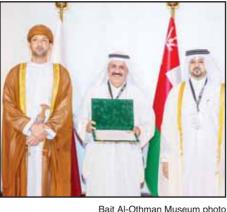
Simultaneously, relevant authorities have begun amending the status of individuals whose nationalities were withdrawn. They will be granted personal cards from the Central Agency for Remedying the Status of Bedoun to address their status as illegal residents, following the legal framework applicable to them.

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KUWAIT CITY, May 9, (KUNA): Bait Al-Othman Museum reflects the beautiful Kuwaiti past to current and future generations through its display of antique memorabilia and artifacts' collections, said Abdullah Al-Othman Heritage Center

Director Anwar Al-Refai. In a statement to KUNA, Al-Refai highlighted the success of the museum's unique collection of rare cultural artifacts showcased to visitors, which led to the museum's increased popularity.

This came during the recent 22nd meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Undersecretaries Responsible for Antiquities and Museums, in collaboration with the GCC General Secretariat



Museum's Deputy President Hussain Al-Qattan receiving the certificate at the 22nd meeting of the GCC Undersecretaries Responsible for Antiquities and Museums

in Doha, Qatar.

Al-Refai added that the museum was praised for providing a platform to present Gulf Arab heritage and cultural legacies.

Al-Refai, who is also the Director of the Heritage Team, underscored the team's efforts in focusing on cultural, civilizational, and human heritage that accentuate the authentic identity of Kuwait.

The Heritage Team is compiled of Kuwaiti history, anthropology, and heritage enthusiasts and researchers aiming to preserve Kuwait's forefathers' legacies, while also emphasizing the hardships and

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Kuwait Airport hits 1.1m April travelers

KUWAIT CITY, May 9, (KUNA): The Civil Aviation Directorate General announced on Thursday that the total number of passengers who passed through Kuwait International Airport, last April, exceeded 1.1 million.

Abdullah Al-Rajhi, the deputy director general for aviation safety and air transport, said in a press statement that the airport had witnessed rise of the number of passengers by 11 percent, aircraft movement by 13 percent, while air cargo activity climbed by 10 percent in April, compared to last

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has addressed a cable of condolences to UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on the demise of Sheikh Hazzaa bin Sultan bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

His Highness the Amir expressed his heartfelt consolations to the UAE President, praying for soul of the deceased, also condoling with the gracious ruling family.

His Highness the caretaker Prime Minister Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah Al-Sabah has addressed a cable of condolences to UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on demise of Sheikh Hazzaa bin Sultan bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. (KUNA)

DOHA: The 33rd Doha International Book Fair kicked off Thursday, under the motto "Knowledge Builds Civilizations", with the participation of about 515 publishing houses from 42 countries, including Ku-

The Sultanate of Oman participates as the guest of honor in this exhibition, where it participates in a special pavilion and a diverse cultural program that highlights the authentic Omani heritage, intellectual and literary production, and presents a group of popular and artistic performances. (KUNA)

CAIRO: A delegation from the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States headed on Thursday to Bahrain to prepare for the coming 33rd Arab Summit scheduled on May 16.

This summit, the first of its king hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain whether at the level of regular or emergency levels, will be held amid challenging security circumstances in the region. (KUNA)





Rasou-

Rasoulof

known for his film "There Is No Evil," has become the latest artist targeted in a widening crackdown on all dissent in the Islamic Republic following years of mass protests, including over the 2022 death of **Mahsa Amini**. (AP)

ANKARA: A Corendon Airlines's Boeing 737-800 flying from Cologne, Germany, to Antalya, Türkiye, was evacuated on Thursday after experiencing a flat tire and damage to its front strut upon landing at Gazipasa Airport, according to the country's Transport and Infrastructure Ministry.

the jet airliner were safely evacuated following the emergency, which occurred around 11:00 a.m. local time (0800 GMT). There were no reported inju-

The ministry said in a state-

ment that all 190 people on board

ries among the passengers, and initial assessments indicate no damage to the runway. (Xin-

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

'Kuwait promotes interfaith dialogue, tolerance'

Doha confab stresses coherence of family, society

Envoy unveils 'Oman 2050' vision

'40,000 Kuwaitis visited Oman in 2023; jump seen in tourism'

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Saleh Al-Kharusi has stressed the increasing importance of the tourism sector, which implements the goals of the strategic vision (Oman 2050); such as contributing 10 percent of the State's gross domestic product with a value of 5.5 billion Omani riyals and to attract 11 million local and international tourists.

In a press conference held recently at Marina Hotel, Al-Kharusi disclosed there are a large number of tourism sites and environments -- natural or archaeological or within the cultural framework. He pointed out this is sustainable tourism throughout the year and covers different geographical environments, in addition to five sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List and seven sites on the preliminary list.

He said the number of visitors to Khareef Dhofar last year reached one million and about 40,000 were from the State of Kuwait. He affirmed that indicators in this aspect are on the rise as the numbers are expected to increase locally and internationally due to the increase in the number of flights between Kuwait and Salalah, as well as between Kuwait and Muscat.

Meanwhile, Director of Promotion at the General Directorate of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar Governorate Marwan Al-Ghassani cited statistical data, stating that hotels in Dhofar are classified from three to five stars, while the occupancy rate in an entire year reached 39 percent, with the number of guests reaching 403,000 tourists.

He said that the Dhofar autumn season starts from June 21 until Sept 21, explaining that the Sultanate's vision is for Dhofar Governorate to become a global tourist destination throughout the year, as it is famous for its diverse environments -- urban, rural, agricultural and marine, with an area of 99,000

square kilometers and is characterized by excellent infrastructure. He added it is famous for its two tourist seasons -- fall season and the international tourism season that begins in October until May. "In the current year, we received approximately 50,000 tourists from Europe as at the end of March, and we expect the number to reach 60,000 by the end of the season," he disclosed.

He added: "We receive cruise ships, as the port of Salalah is one of the stations that receives regular cruise ship trips, and 26 ships with a capacity of 51,000 passengers were received."

It was announced that the number of visitors during Dhofar Fall last year reached one million, including from Gulf countries, as the number is constantly increasing compared to previous years, and there is interest from Kuwaiti visitors and even expatriates.

He revealed the duration of the events was extended from 45 days to 90 days, stating these projects were carried out in partnership with the Dhofar Municipality through the development of tourist sites.

He said more than 33 trips were organized for media delegations, from the Gulf countries and other countries throughout the world, as well as the regional tourism offices. More than 60 international and regional events were organized at the level of Dhofar Governorate alone, and two annual festivals -- first in the Empty Quarter, which is considered the desert gateway to the Empty Quarter and is held during the winter tourism period. The second festival is considered an icon of the Sultanate in the Dhofar Governorate, he explained.

He went on to say there is interest in the heritage aspect through heritage tourism, citing the opening of the first private museum and heritage house and the activation of archaeological sites and offering them for management and operation to Omani entrepreneurs.



Photo By Mahmoud Jadeed

Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Saleh Al-Kharusi and his team during the press

Palestinian products praised

UK envoy optimistic on trade deal between 'Tasdeer', Kuwaiti firms

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The British Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Belinda Lewis, expressed optimism about the potential signing of commercial contracts between Tasdeer and Kuwaiti companies during a recent visit

representing British Consulate in Jerusalem and a UK-funded export team, reports Al-Rai daily.

from a delegation

Hosted by the British and Palestinian embassies in Kuwait, the delegation aimed to ex-

Belinda Lewis plore opportunities for exporting high-quality Palestinian

goods and services to Kuwait. Describing the visit as "extremely

valuable," the British envoy extended a warm welcome to the members of the British consular delegation.

She emphasized Kuwait's keen interest in high-quality Palestinian products, particularly in sectors such as food, textiles, stone, and marble. The UK-funded export team is diligently addressing logistics, customs requirements, and other practical aspects to enhance export efficiency.

Highlighting the collaborative effort

between the British and Palestinian embassies to support the Palestinian economy, Ambassador Lewis expressed hope for the swift signing of commercial contracts between Palestinian exporters and Kuwaiti companies.

During their visit to Kuwait, the delegation engaged in productive meetings with various governmental and private entities, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Discussions also involved private companies specializing in logistics, food and beverage, stone and marble, and communications. Each meeting conveyed a warm reception to the visiting delegation and demonstrated support for the proposed export cam-

The "Export" program, funded by the United Kingdom government, collaborates with Palestinian authorities and private companies in Gaza and the West Bank to facilitate the export of high-quality Palestinian goods and services to foreign markets. This initiative involves partnerships with the Ministry of National Economy, the Ministry of Finance and Customs, and various private Palestinian enterprises.



6 months jail for illegal transportation

Heavy fines, deportation for those going to Hajj pilgrimage sans permit

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Saudi Arabia has announced strict penalties for those attempting to perform Hajj without a valid permit. As part of these regulations, anyone caught in the designated areas without proper authorization will face a fine of 10,000 riyals, regardless of whether they are citizens, residents, or visitors. Additionally, residents who violate this rule risk deportation to their home countries and an entry ban into Saudi Arabia for a legally specified period. These measures are in effect from June 2 to June 20, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Saudi Ministry of the Interior emphasized that repeat offenders will face a doubled fine of 10,000 riyals. The Ministry urged all individuals to comply with Hajj regulations to ensure a safe and secure environment for all pilgrims.

According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), anyone caught transporting individuals who do not have a Hajj permit faces imprisonment for up to 6 months and a fine of up to 50,000 riyals. Vehicles used in such transport can be confiscated by judicial order, and if the transporter is an expatriate, they may be deported and prohibited from re-entering Saudi Arabia for a specified period. The financial penalty for transportation violations will be multiplied by the number of unauthorized individuals carried.

These strict measures are intended to maintain order and ensure the safety and

security of pilgrims during Hajj.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs has completed the procedures for uploading the names of 8,000 pilgrims from Kuwait who were accepted for the 1445 AH Hajj season and registered with Kuwaiti caravans on the electronic platform that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia designated for pilgrims abroad, in preparation for the issuance of Hajj permits within the next few days, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed to the daily that the ministry already received the sites for the Kuwaiti Hajj mission and caravans in Mina and Arafat in coordination with the concerned authorities in Saudi Arabia. Sources praised the cooperation and commendable efforts of the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to ensure the comfort of the pilgrims.

Inactivity is fatal, say experts

'Washing dishes, simple habits in life promotes health & longevity'

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Some believe that radical changes in daily habits and reliance on complex and time-consuming behaviors help improve health and live

longer, but recent studies confirm that some simple habits, such as washing dishes, can have a magical effect on health and lifespan, which is what is shown by the two American doctors specializing in neurology, Aisha and Dean Sherzai, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a report published by the French

Sherzai newspaper Le Figaro, where the specialists stress the importance of some simple habits that can be practiced on a daily basis in promoting health, the most prominent of which are:

Use the stairs – The first action that specialists advise is to take the stairs instead of the elevator. In addition to being an exercise that improves the cardiovascular system, this habit effectively strengthens the legs. Stand constantly - Neurologists advise answering phone calls and sending emails while standing, and seizing the opportunity to stretch the legs and combat the phenomenon of sitting for long hours, especially during office work.

Several previous studies have shown that inactivity is fatal, as it increases the risk of obesity, diabetes, cancer, and heart and arterial diseases. The two experts stress standing up once every hour and walking for five minutes.

Extend the arms - The other movement that the two experts advise to do at any time is to extend the arms in both directions in circles and in a slow motion while visiting the diameter little by little.

Walking - Neurologists prefer to walk in the same place, and the goal is to combat lethargy regardless of the circumstances, especially if there is no time to exercise.

Squatting session – You can benefit from different, fairly constant daily activities to activate your muscles and body.

12th grade tests begin May 29

Steps taken to curb exam cheats

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: As the Ministry of Education gears up for the 2023/2024 endof-year exams starting May 15, educational insiders disclosed to Al-Jarida ongoing deliberations regarding the rotation of heads and members within monitoring committees overseeing twelfth-grade exams, set to commence on May 29.

This is addition to tightening surveillance to curb cheating attempts and enhancing coordination with the Ministry of Interior to tackle illicit distribution of test materials.

Notably, selection processes for monitoring and correction committees are underway, with applications for participation being accepted online for the first time in the history of education.

Meanwhile, primary schools are wrapping up the academic year, with vacations commencing today, though administrations will remain operational until July 1. Results for primary students are expected by the week's end.

Middle schools have concluded offschedule assessments, preparing for end-of-year exams commencing next Wednesday, May 15, for both tenth and eleventh grades.

The twelfth-grade exams are scheduled to begin on May 29, ending the scientific section on June 9 and the literary section on June 10. Results are anticipated to be announced on June 12 via a press conference led by the Minister of Education and ministry officials.

Blood donation drive: The Security and Safety Department at the Kuwait University, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Central Blood Bank, orgaGuards ceremony

'Get skills, experience'

KUWAIT CITY, May 9, (KUNA): Undersecretary of the National Guard Lieutenant General Engineer Hashem Al-Rifai affirmed on Thursday the Guard leadership's keenness to qualify armed personnel with knowledge and experience in all fields, to advance the National Guard and its role in protecting the nation.

This came in a press release issued by the National Guard during the graduation ceremony of the Advanced Infantry Course for Officers, in which army officers from Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar participated, with the presence of several senior commanders and officers in the Army.

Al-Rifai conveyed to the graduates the greetings of the leadership, represented by His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, and Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

nized its annual blood donation drive for its members, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The campaign was held at the College of Social Sciences on the Shuwaikh campus. Youssef Al-Khamis, the Acting Director of the Security and Safety Department, emphasized that this longstanding tradition underscores the university's commitment to community service.

DOHA, May 9, (KUNA): Director of Wasatia (moderation) promotion center, of **Kuwait's Ministry of Awgaf and Islamic** Affairs Dr. Abdullah Al-Shreika said his ministry was keen on participation in the 15th Doha Conference for Interfaith Dialogue which concluded on Wednesday evening. The two-day event shed light on the roles of faiths in cementing the coherence of family and society and protecting man against delinquencies that run counter to the teachings of Islam, he told KUNA.

The conference provided a platform for religious scholars to exchange experience and cooperate for the benefit of humanity, whether Muslim of non-Muslim people, he said, noting that such cooperation bears fruit in the combat against narcotics and other social menaces.

The State of Kuwait plays an effective role in advancing the cause of moderation, tolerance and coexistence among the various segments of society, he affirmed. Based on the noble values of Islam, the Kuwaiti legislations ensure the rights of everybody and coherence of the social texture, Dr. Al-Shreika said, affirming that the State of Kuwait is the country of humanity where everybody enjoys dignity, security and safety. He expressed gratitude to Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue for organizing the just-ended conference.

The 15th Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue underlined the importance of preserving the family system, strengthening its foundations, as it is the fundamental cornerstone of society.



Dr. Al-Shreika

ily system can only be achieved by making religious teachings and values a guide for family life, elevating the importance of virtuous values and ethics, highlighting their role and impact in directing human behavior and maximizing family cohesion.

In their final communique, the con-

ferees stressed that preserving the fam-

The statement affirmed the centrality of education as a vital path to achieving healthy upbringing for future generations who shape the future.

The conference called for activating the role of families in preventing their children from engaging in morally incorrect practices, and achieving self-awareness within the family unit by restructuring parental roles and responsibili-

This involves building emotional and social bonds between parents and their children to create a harmonious family environment, free from conflicts and negative interactions that distort the image of family in the minds of the

The statement also highlighted the importance of official institutional attention to social family services, particularly for vulnerable families, deepening the understanding of their role not only in providing financial support but also in equipping them with beneficial knowledge to confront the

challenges they face.

Statement

Furthermore, the statement emphasized the adoption and support of civil and voluntary institutional initiatives aimed at protecting and strengthening the family structure, integrating family dialogues into educational programs and curricula, conducting independent studies and specialized research in various educational institutions to establish this role theoretically and practically by hosting families to develop a culture of dialogue among them.

The conferees underscored the important role of educational institutions, especially universities, in supporting and fortifying families against ideologies and philosophies that undermine societies, civilizations, and humanity as a whole, whether through curriculum design that shapes student awareness or through scientific studies and research to address all family-related issues.

They stressed the importance of partnership among various entities related to family and society, and the need to find scientific methods to discuss issues concerning society

In their communique, they also highlighted the activation of family roles through engaging programs designed to train parents to address contemporary challenges hindering the preservation of family identity and threatening its cohesion.

They called on official media institutions to enhance their role within the scope of social responsibility, adopting media campaigns to raise societal awareness about the importance of preserving family systems and familial bonds.

They cautioned about the dangers posed by destructive ideas to solid family structures and unity, urging the adherence to religious and moral values, showcasing the importance of family and the need to preserve its cohesion for the stability of communities and nations.

They strongly cautioned against the risks of wars and conflicts on families, especially affecting children, women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, highlighting the human rights violations they endure during such crises.

"This necessitates the international community to enforce international laws that criminalize and penalize perpetrators of these violations, and to take serious and prompt action to end armed conflicts and provide urgent humanitarian aid to affected families and civilians," reads the com-

It underscored the need to dedicate objective study to the challenges faced by minority families, whether related to identity, integration, coexistence with diverse cultures, or conscious integration into the societies in which they live.

In a news conference, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID), Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi announced Qatar's hosting of an international conference to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family. The conference, organized by the institute, will take place from Oct. 29-31 of the coming year.

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Shifting dunes of hope look for solace in the new lineup'

"THE country is knee-deep in problems. This is how many politicians and observers describe the state of the country today. Many are waiting for the formation of the government to save what can be saved. This formation, which many expect to be stillborn; after its delivery was difficult, many figures refused to participate in it, for fear that the government would be unable to implement the work program expected to be imposed on it," Mubarak Fahd Al-Duwailah wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

."Today, the country suffers from many problems as a result of the state of instability that it has experienced

during the past three years, which during country saw off four prime ministers and three parliamentary elections. If condithese tions occurred in a country the



Al-Duwailah

ny, life would be paralyzed. So, what about a small country like Kuwait, where if a car breaks down on the Fourth Ring Road the flow of traffic stops in three governorates.

"The reason is not in all of these problems, but rather that the solutions to the problems are easy and not impossible. Yes, the solution is easy, but we do not know the way out of the jigsaw puzzle.

'Take, for example, the problem of the country's lack of senior officials. What has prevented appointments in vacant senior positions over the past four years? Why do we leave all state institutions, without exception, to manage their affairs by assignment? Why do we sit and watch development being killed or rather development being stalled due to the lack of ambition among the leaders in these institutions?

"Another example is the formation of the Central Tenders Committee. How can we imagine a state of institutions without any tender within a whole year? And two years before that, the agency worked on the strength of assignment. Imagine a project-less state!

"The last example, which is the third, is the issue of citizenship, and the right to vote and be elected. Imagine a country in which development is stalled, promotions are frozen, parliament is dissolved, and someone comes along and raises a dangerous issue, such as this issue, which threatens national unity and divides and fragments the society!

"These are a few of the problems that the country is suffering from, and we were hoping that the 2023 Council with Ahmad Al-Nawaf's government would bring the country to safety, but overnight we began to view the Council and the government as threatening the country's interests, security, and stability, thus shattering the dream and dissipating hope!

"Will the government of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah renew hope and open a page of cooperation with the 2024 Council? Here we say the cause is internal, but solution which seems easy is forbidden to be implemented, and I have a mouthful of water.'

Also:

"Various media platforms have reported on an impending electricity outage this summer, along with parliamentary inquiries and news of procuring electricity from Oman to prepare for the scorching days ahead," columnist Dr Sultan Majid

Al-Salem wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily. "This news might lead one to anticipate a looming crisis and public outery over electricity shortages in the state, foreseeing the potential hardships for citizens and residents in the days to come. While this concern is valid, I perceive the situation from a different angle.

"To me, these events signify not just an isolated crisis but the beginning of a series of energy challenges facing Kuwait. It's not merely about the immediate power outage but a deeper issue concerning energy and the environment.

"Over the years, I've articulated proposals, published in Al-Jarida newspaper, advocating for the adoption of renewable energy, environ-mental conservation, and diversification of the energy sector.

"However, the root of the problem lies in a lack of foresight and effective action by successive governments and energy authorities.

"One cannot help but question whether these officials were unaware of population growth and the increasing strain on the power grid. Did they implement substantive solutions to address these challenges? If not, why not? The absence of a strategic vision and effective implementation is glaring. What we're witnessing now is the consequence of years of neglect and inadequate

planning.
"Merely issuing patchwork statements won't suffice. What's needed is a comprehensive strategy, supported by concerted efforts from relevant ministries and institutions, to harness our natural resources and transition away from fossil fuels. The environmental imperative cannot be ignored. Yet, uncertainty looms over whether such measures will be taken and if they'll be enough to avert future en-

ergy crises.
"In the midst of this, there are reports of challenges in forming a government team, signaling not just a ministerial crisis but a broader crisis of confidence in governance. Rebuilding trust with the public and legislative bodies is paramount for the success of any future endeavors in addressing these pressing issues.'

"Once again, we find ourselves pondering: 'For how long will Kuwaiti women continue to strive to surmount the hurdles of reform projects? And for how long will women be viewed as the weaker sex? Despite women's issues being enshrined within the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5, aimed at achieving gender equality and empowering all women young and old -- a goal Kuwait has ratified and included in its 2035 vision -- we're witnessing a regression in empowerment efforts," columnist Dr Nada Sulaiman Al-Mutawa wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"It's no secret that numerous contradictions have hindered progress in women's empowerment. Allow me to highlight a few, though the list is by

no means exhaustive: "Firstly, there's the stumbling and hesitance in addressing the issue of retiring female educational professionals. This policy has become a barrier for many competent women who have received training and accumulated experience, only to find themselves excluded from the workforce upon retirement.

"Recently, I've observed protests by female educators on social media platforms, highlighting their plight after being forced into retirement, while simultaneously witnessing announcements for the recruitment of female teachers from abroad.

"Who should shoulder the blame for this situation? There's a dire need for sound planning and legislative involvement to be part of the solution, rather than exacerbating the problem through decisions that marginalize women in the labor market.

"Secondly, there's the marginalization and exclusion of women from decision-making processes in offices, executive committees of regional and

international organizations. "Efforts must be redoubled to prevent such exclusion and ensure that women are represented in executive and advisory roles.

"Thirdly, there's a lack of robust efforts to encourage women to join public benefit associations and take up leadership positions. The Ministry of Social Affairs should set a maximum limit for board membership in these associations, facilitating the rise of women and youth to leadership positions.

"In conclusion, we continue to address the issue of women's empowerment through this article and others to follow.

"However, I must share a concerning incident where young men and women renowned for their professional excellence were embarrassingly directed to enter through a separate door at a conference, with the explanation being that the minister had arrived. No further comment seems

"Industrial investment in Turkey plays a significant role in the country's economy, constituting around 30% of its national product and involving over 21% of the total labor force," columnist **Hamad Al-Tarkait** wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"This sector has propelled Turkey into becoming a formidable competitor in the European market, attracting various industries including food, pharmaceuticals, plastics, and syn-

"For over two decades, Kuwait has been exporting a range of petrochemical products to Turkey, making it a promising market due to its quality industries and competitive labor costs compared to global markets. Turkey serves as a vital gateway for accessing European markets with its

"Despite prevailing economic challenges, numerous foreign and American companies have maintained successful industrial investments in Turkey for over 50 years.

"Given this context, there's a compelling case for considering industrial investment in Turkey, particularly by establishing an oil refinery linked to a petrochemical products complex. This strategic move would enable the marketing of all industrial complex outputs within the Turkish market, thus reducing shipping costs.

Currently, Turkey lacks significant Arab investments, particularly in the oil and petrochemical industries. Encouraging such investments would not only provide long-term economic benefits but also strengthen geopolitical relations between Kuwait and the Republic of Turkey.

This potential collaboration holds promise for both nations in terms of economic growth and strategic part-

Compiled by PFX Fernandes

Jump expected in 'jobless' Kuwaitis

CSC blamed for 'chaos'

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The number of Kuwaiti citizens waiting to be employed is expected to increase from 14,000 to 16,000 once the employees at the Governorate Affairs Council and Secretariat General are added to the lists of registered job applicants, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources stated that the inclusion of the above-mentioned employees on the job wait lists harmed the ranking of the existing applicants. They explained that the correct mechanism requires uploading transfer request forms for these employees on the 'Sahel' platform.

Sources said these forms must be filled, a copy of the qualification must be attached, and the desired workplaces must be mentioned.

Sources disclosed the applications are sorted and the authorities are addressed to obtain their approval to complete the transfer procedure without the need to include these employees to the recruitment

Other sources think the Civil Service

Commission (CSC) should resolve the issue related to the manpower needs of government agencies as per Circular No. 4/2024. In this manner, the CSC can announce the nominees by batch, sources added. They stressed this is the most appropriate time to take such step — before the opening of registration for the 87th recruitment period on June 21, especially since 8,000 new job applicants are expected to register by then. They disclosed these applicants are the second semester graduates of Kuwait University, Public Authority for Applied Education, and external academic institutions accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Sources warned that the CSC's delayed approval of the manpower needs of government agencies and its failure to announce a batch of nominees will increase the number of citizens waiting for jobs to

Sources pointed out that announcing a batch of nominees enables all those included to complete the appointment procedures until the State budget for fiscal 2024/2025 is approved or directives are issued to let them start working based on the estimated budget circulated to government agencies.

Garages 'modifying' cars raided

Court rejects bail for Al-Quraifa

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The Criminal Court postponed to May 15 the hearing on the case of Fourth Constituency candidate Musaed Al-Quraifa and refused to release

In the recently concluded session, the accused appeared in court from his prison cell along with his defense team. The officers in charge of the case were interrogated, while the session was limited to the defense only.

The Public Prosecution had earlier charged Al-Quraifa of harming the system of government in view of his statements during his election campaign.

Modifying vehicles?: The General Traffic Department, in compliance with the instructions of Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic and Operations Affairs Major General Yousef Al Khadda, launched an inspection campaign in workshops, garages

track down violators and reduce negative phenomena like annoying vehicle sounds. The campaign, which involved several government agencies, resulted in the issuance of 123 citations for various traffic violations, impoundment of two vehicles and arrest of 22 Residency Law violators. The Ministry of Commerce also issued six arrest reports, the Ministry of Electricity disconnected the power supply from 17 workshops,

and craft areas in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh to

tion issued 14 violation citations to delivery vehicles and ice cream carts. Kuwait Municipality placed 90 stickers on abandoned vehicles blocking the road and removed seven abandoned vehicles, while three unlicensed workshops were

and the Public Authority for Food and Nutri-

permanently closed. The Public Authority for Industry fined nine workshops for violating the Workshop Housing Law.

Sheep thieves arrested: Al-Mutlaa police officers arrested two young Kuwaiti men suspected of stealing sheep from a livestock pen in Abdally.

According to a security source, there were a number of reports and complaints

Fuel quality ensured

Delivery plan eyed

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) is currently studying the possibility of providing fuel delivery and reselling services to consumers outside the gas stations, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting a reliable source.

The source disclosed this is in line with the development plan of the State of Kuwait and KPC's strategy to develop services by finding partnership opportunities between the public and private sectors to support the local economy and develop the private sector such that it becomes an effective partner in development.

He explained this is in light of the high demand from a number of local initiators. He said the fuel delivery service will be provided through a smart phone application, indicating that fuel will be delivered and resold via small vehicles complying with quality, health, safety and environmental

He revealed KPC sent a letter to concerned authorities, requesting for their comments in accordance with their tasks and responsibilities; and to present any other conditions or controls for allowing the private sector to engage in this activity. He also affirmed the readiness of all those concerned at KPC to organize an explanatory meeting if the need arises.

from citizens that their sheep were stolen from livestock pens in Abdally and Subiya. In response to these complaints, a team of detectives was formed, which resulted in the arrest of two young Kuwaitis suspected of the thefts and they are currently under investigation.

The source disclosed the police officers have been interrogating the two suspects day and night, indicating they covered themselves with masks to carry out the thefts.



A Municipality inspector sticks a warning sign at one of the residences.

'Remove excess growth of plants obstructing vision'

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The Emergency and Rapid Intervention Team in the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate Municipality branch carried out a campaign to ensure compliance with the rules and regulations, which resulted in issuing 86 warnings being issued for vision obstruction, reports Al-Rai daily. The public relations department in the municipality stated that the Municipality is cooperating with homeowners in accordance to abide by the rules and regulations and in the event of non-cooperation, the municipality will take necessary action, including the imposition of fines, stressing that this campaign will continue for two months throughout the governorate.



A picture combo shows the suspects.

Six Asians nabbed for selling subsidized fuel

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department affiliated to the Ahmadi and Capital governorates have arrested six Asians in two different incidents for illegally buying and selling subsidized diesel, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily said the suspects were caught red-handed. Their confessions were recorded during the interrogation and then referred to the relevant authorities for necessary legal action.

Dollar exchange fraud: Two expatriates have been referred to the prosecution after being accused of running a fraudulent dollar exchange scheme. According to the General Department of Criminal Investigation's Anti-Counterfeiting and Forgery Crimes unit, the suspects lured victims with promises of dollar exchange at rates below the market value. However, they demanded advance fees for these transactions and then ceased all communication once the fees were paid, effectively defrauding

their victims, reports Al-Anba daily. Authorities urge caution against engaging in financial transactions with unknown sources, especially through unsolicited messages, suspicious websites, or links. These scams often involve sending fraudulent messages that appear to be from reputable sources, enticing individuals to open links, download malicious applications, or make payments. The resulting compromise of personal information can lead to bank accounts

being drained or other financial losses. Citizens and residents are urged to verify the authenticity of any financial communication, avoid opening suspicious links, and never download dubious applications onto their devices. The Ministry of Interior has issued a warning to avoid falling victim to fraudulent financial operations and cautions against using unreliable platforms for money transfers.

'Things to move faster'

Grade 10 student gets 5 years jail for joining ISIS

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The Juvenile Court, headed by Judge Fahad Al-Awadi, sentenced a Grade 10 student to five years in prison for joining the banned organization -- Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and attempting to bomb a Husseiniya in Mubarak Al-Kabeer; while it acquitted him of harming the country's interests.

In the last session, the student denied taking any step to implement his plan and that he had no explosives in his possession; stressing he did not move to the implementation stage.

The Juvenile Protection Department in the Public Prosecution had earlier charged the accused based on his activities from January 2023 to Feb 20, 2024; indicating he harmed national interests by joining a banned group whose purpose is to spread principles aimed at demolishing the country's basic systems and attacking its social and economic systems, in addition to encouraging others to join the group.

He published information about the terrorist organization on the Internet and other means of information technology, through which he promoted the group's ideas and showed how to manufacture explosive devices and other tools used in ter-

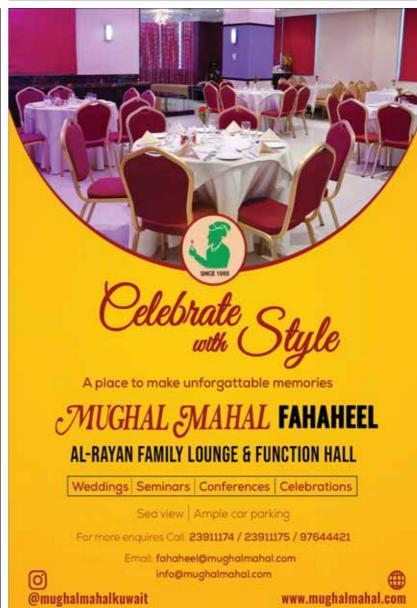
On the social networking program -- Telegram, he posted a call for embracing the doctrine of ISIS, aiming to demolish the basic systems in Kuwait and attack its social and economic

He was trained to make explosives with the intention to use them to blow up Quds Mosque in Mubarak Al-Kabeer. He used any means to express thought, hatred and contempt for one group -- the Shiites; thereby, inciting sectarian strife. He

spread ideas calling for the superiority of one religious sect over another and acts of violence against the other sect. He published and circulated visual and audio materials on various social media platforms (Telegram and WhatsApp), in-

cluding anything that could lead to committing acts of violence

against that sect. He publicly attacked and criticized the rights, authority and character of HH the Amir in a public place, as well as the social networking program Snapchat.











Photos by Mahmoud Jadeed

New airline launches cultural links as Kuwait to Krakow route opens

Polish Embassy in Kuwait celebrates National Day

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Chargé d'Affaires of the Polish Embassy Anna Marta Godoj Ciszkowska confirmed that Kuwait has been enjoying a strong relationship with her country for decades.

She made the statement at a celebration organized by the embassy on the occasion of Polish National Day at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, with Deputy Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Muhammad Hayati in atten-

Present at the event on the Polish side were Deputy Director of the Africa and Middle East Department Aleksandra Bukovska-McCabe, Head of the Western Arabia and Eastern Department Mikhail Choliwa and the Polish Military Attaché residing in Riyadh Colonel Artur Roch-

"Last year, we witnessed an important milestone as we celebrated the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, which is a testimony to the exceptional cooperation between our two countries," Godoj said.

She announced the opening of a new airline linking the "vibrant" Kuwait City to the "charming" city of Krakow, noting that this event does not merely represent the beginning of a journey, as it rather represents a bridge between cultures, opening doors to new opportunities, and strengthening relations between two wonderful destina-

She added: "We are cooperating with Kuwaiti partners in a joint archaeological mission in the Subiya Desert and Failaka Island. This project has been successfully implemented for nearly 20 years. Moreover, we are proud that we were able to facilitate a training program for Kuwaiti Coast Guard and Navy cadets in Poland. We look forward to strengthening cooperation and further developing our bilateral relations in vari-

She expressed her deep gratitude to every member of the Polish community in Kuwait for their presence, unwavering support and participation in the activities held by the embassy.

She extended her cordial greetings to the

director of the Polish school and the teachers for their commitment to teaching the Polish language and history to younger generations of Poles abroad

Regarding the occasion, she said: "These days we celebrate the adoption of the Constitution, which marked a turning point in the history of Poland on May 3, 1791; specifically in the Royal Castle in Warsaw, where the Parliament of Poland and Lithuania adopted the second national Constitution in the world, and the first national Constitution in Europe. That day is a symbol of the regional community of Central and Eastern Europe, and remains a living repository of fundamental values - freedom, independence and solidarity between peoples and nations. On May 1, 2004, Poland, along with the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Slovenia, Cyprus, and Malta, joined the European Union. Poland's accession is certainly one of the most important events in the modern history of our country. This year, we also celebrate the 25th anniversary of Poland's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty. 25 years ago, Poland, along with the Czech Republic and Hungary, joined NATO, becoming the first allied members from Eastern and Central Europe.





Society elevates volunteer capabilities

GCC Red Crescent societies' meet supports joint coordination: KRCS

DOHA, May 9, (KUNA): Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Anwar Al-Hasawi said on Thursday the meeting of the heads of GCC Red Crescent societies strengthened joint coordination of social and

elief services. Al-Hasawi added a statement to KUNA, following the conclusion of the 20th meeting of the Committee of Heads of Red Crescent Authorities and Societies in the GCC held in Doha, that the meet-

ing discussed collec-Al-Barjas tive work to help the humanitarian situation in Gaza Strip and Syrian and Yemeni refugees in accordance

with international humanitarian law. He praised the GCC General Secretariat for the Human and Environmental Affairs sector and its role in coordination, consultation and support of joint work with Red Crescent authorities and societ-

He pointed out that several decisions were discussed, aimed at increasing cooperation, joint work and unifying positions in regional and international organizations, in addition to joint training and workshops.

Agencies add:

On Wednesday, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society underscored its commitment to initiatives aimed at bolstering the capabilities of volunteers, refining their field skills, and amplifying their contributions to humanitarian causes, all in alignment with global best practices in this pivotal domain, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Speaking at a ceremony honoring volunteers on the occasion of the International Day of the Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies, which is observed annually on May 8, Secretary-General Maha Al-Barjas lauded the society's journey marked by numerous successes and achievements, solidifying its standing as a beacon in the interna-

tional humanitarian sphere. Al-Barjas expressed gratitude for the dedicated efforts of volunteers in advancing societal development, emphasizing the society's steadfast commitment to playing an active role in relief and humanitarian endeavors, extending aid to the most vulnerable populations worldwide.

Highlighting the society's pioneering role in volunteerism, she noted the keen interest of Kuwaiti citizens in contributing to humanitarian efforts, inspired by the visionary leadership of the state and its unwavering commitment to philanthropy on both local and global fronts.

Furthermore, Al-Barjas underscored the pivotal role of the country's wise leadership in bolstering the society's capabilities, fortifying its humanitarian mission, and supporting its humanitarian initiatives domestically and internationally.

The event, she emphasized, serves as a platform to commemorate the World Day and spotlight the multifaceted contributions of the society, which transcend mere relief efforts to encompass developmental and medical initiatives.

Emphasizing the importance of training volunteers and their active involvement in relief efforts in disaster-stricken regions worldwide, Al-Barjas hailed Kuwaiti volunteers as exemplary ambassadors who aptly represent their nation's spirit of altruism. She concluded by affirming that the annual celebration of this occasion serves as a tribute to volunteers and a testament to the invaluable humanitarian services they render to communities worldwide.



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

Promo period from 2nd May to 31st May 2024

Terms & conditions apply*

Center for Measurement & Evaluation hosts training on teamwork skills, communication

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The Center for Measurement and Evaluation (CME) recently conducted a training program titled "Teamwork Skills and Effective Communication," led by Dr. Muhammad Al-Ajmi, Associate Professor in the Department of Social Studies at the College of Basic Edu-

cation, reports Al-Jarida daily. The course aims to equip participants with essential skills for collaborating within a team, fostering harmony and interaction, mastering effective communication techniques, and understanding the principles of integrity and anti-corruption as they apply to the professional sphere.

Those attending the event included faculty members from various colleges affiliated with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

The program focused on familiarizing participants with the nuances of effective communication, exploring different communication models applicable to both self-expression and interaction with others. Additionally, it aimed to instill an understanding of work ethics, anti-corruption strategies, teamwork dynamics, and the implementation of ethical codes within organizational frameworks.

Dr. Al-Ajmi's extensive background, spanning 25 years in media and journalism alongside academic expertise in sociology, enriched the course content. His teachings, which encompass topics such as work values, loyalty, and the sociology of organizations, provided participants with comprehensive insights into the intricacies of teamwork and effective communication.

Through the course, participants learned to employ appropriate communication channels, understand the factors influencing persuasion and influence, utilize verbal and non-verbal cues to articulate ideas effectively, enhance listening skills, and interpret body language to grasp messages accurately. The program also addressed common obstacles to effective communication and offered strategies for overcoming

Dr. Al-Ajmi's wealth of experience and academic prowess ensured a robust learning experience, empowering participants with the essential skills needed to thrive in collaborative work environments and navigate complex communication scenarios with confidence and clarity.

Kuwait Airport

Continued from Page 1

Al-Rajhi added that the number of arrivals, in April, reached 564,638 while those who departed Kuwait via the airport amounted to 618,242. The number of aircraft that departed or landed at the air facility reached 10,113, compared to 8,983 in last

As to the air cargo, it was estimated at 18.2 million kilograms.

Destinations of top demand were Dubai, Cairo, Jeddah, Istanbul and

Bank precautions

Continued from Page 1

Procedures include allowing individuals to request the closure of their accounts in exchange for withdrawing balances, negotiating loan repayments at discounted rates, and ceasing internal and external financial transfers. Additionally, an equivalent seizure of balances against the value of loans and obligations will be approved.

Future dealings with these customers will be based on personal card data, with legal measures taken to preserve guarantees corresponding to loans included in this segment. Discussions have also commenced regarding accounts opened in foreign branches of local banks, with adherence to the laws of each respective country expected.

These actions constitute a preventive protocol to be applied until clients rectify their situations by obtaining valid cards. Once this occurs, account benefits and banking procedures will be determined based on updated data

Bait Al-Othman

Continued from Page 1

harsh conditions previous generations endured.

Furthermore, the Heritage Team believes in communicating these legacies with current generations, sharing social, cultural and anthropological aspects through reviving Kuwaiti customs and heritage lost to time and modernization.

It is through the hardships Kuwait's forefathers' endured that current generations are able to flourish, therefore their past efforts and adversities should be commemorated.

The Heritage Team, a volunteer-led effort under the auspices of Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah founded on 19 October 2010, had been appointed by the Council of Ministers to initiate its mission in collecting and recording past Kuwaiti heritage with Bait Al-Othman Museum as its head-

The museum was inaugurated in

2013 by the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, with Bait Al-Othman being considered as a Kuwaiti architectural marvel.

Bait Al-Othman was built in the late 1940s in Hawally, designed as a traditional Kuwaiti house with multiple (hosh)-courtyards at the center, and a diwaniya which is a reception hall, elaborated Al-Refai.

Bait Al-Othman was significant for a structure of its sort being erected outside Kuwait City's parameters, leading it to become looked after and preserved by the Kuwaiti National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) for many visiting enthusiasts.

The late owner of Bait Al-Othman, Abdullah Abdullatif Al-Othman, born in 1897, was a prominent Kuwaiti figure that prospered in many fields and aspects available to him at the time, while also being a benefactor to the poor and needy.

80,000 Palestinians

Continued from Page 1

Egypt and Jordan on Thursday warned of dire consequences of the Israeli occupation operation in the Gazan city of Rafah where the occupation troops deprived residents of passageways to bring in necessities in a sustainable manner.

The Presidency adviser, Ahmad Fahmi, said in a statement that the joint stand was affirmed during a meeting that grouped President Abdulfattah El-Sisi and Jordanian Prime Minister Bicher Al-Khasawneh.

Fahmi said the talks dealt with the very critical conditions in Gaza, amid tiring efforts to enforce a cease-fire and swap hostages to pave the way for sustainable availability of the basic materials and end residents' hardships.

The international community, the two sides affirmed, must shoulder the responsibility to reach a sustainable cease-fire "and execute recognition of the Palestinian state" for sake of regional justice, security and stability.

Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden has said that he would not supply offensive weapons that Israel could use to launch an all-out assault on Rafah - the last major Hamas stronghold in Gaza - over concern for the well-being of the more than 1 million civilians sheltering there.

Biden, in an interview with CNN, said the U.S. was still committed to Israel's defense and would supply Iron Dome rocket interceptors and other defensive arms, but that if Israel goes into Rafah, "we're not going to supply the weapons and artillery shells used

The U.S. has historically provided enormous amounts of military aid to Israel. That has only accelerated in the aftermath of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack that killed some 1,200 in Israel and led to about 250 being taken captive by militants. Biden's comments and his decision last week to pause a shipment of heavy bombs to Israel are the most striking manifestations of the growing daylight between his administration and Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government. Biden said Wednesday that Israel's actions around Rafah had "not yet" crossed his red lines, but has repeated that Israel needs to do far more to protect the lives of civilians in Gaza.

The shipment was supposed to consist of 1,800 2,000-pound (900-kilogram) bombs and 1,700 500-pound (225-kilogram) bombs, according to a senior U.S. administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter. The focus of U.S. concern was the larger explosives and how they could be used in a dense urban area.

"Civilians have been killed in Gaza as a consequence of those bombs and other ways in which they go after population centers," Biden told CNN. "I made it clear that if they go into Rafah they haven't gone in Rafah yet - if they go into Rafah, I'm not supplying the weapons that have been used historically to deal with Rafah, to deal with the cities, that deal with that prob-

lem."
"We're not walking away from Biden continued. Israel's security," Biden continued. 'We're walking away from Israel's ability to wage war in those areas."

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin earlier Wednesday confirmed the weapons delay, telling the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense that the U.S. paused "one shipment of high payload munitions."

"We're going to continue to do what's necessary to ensure that Israel has the means to defend itself," Austin said. "But that said, we are currently reviewing some near-term security assistance shipments in the context of unfolding events in Rafah.'

It also comes as the Biden administration is due to deliver a first-ofits-kind formal verdict this week on whether the airstrikes on Gaza and restrictions on delivery of aid have violated international and U.S. laws designed to spare civilians from the worst horrors of war. A decision against Israel would further add to pressure on Biden to curb the flow of weapons and money to Israel's military.

Biden signed off on the pause in an order conveyed last week to the Pentagon, according to U.S. officials who were not authorized to comment on the matter. The White House National Security Council sought to keep the decision out of the public eye for several days until it had a better understanding of the scope of Israel's intensified military operations in Rafah and until Biden could deliver a long-planned speech on Tuesday to mark Holocaust

Remembrance Day. Biden's administration in April began reviewing future transfers of military assistance as Netanyahu's government appeared to move closer toward an invasion of Rafah, despite months of opposition from the White

Kuwait's population growth raises economic questions

PACI, CSA data highlights future challenges

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The recent official data released by both the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) and the **Central Statistics Admin**istration (CSA), reflecting population growth developments up to the end of 2023, offer crucial insights into Kuwait's future challenges, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The close alignment of figures from these institutions, a rarity, underscores their accuracy. They reveal that Kuwaitis under 34 years old, born after the Iraqi invasion, now exceed one million (1.034 million Kuwaitis), comprising 66 percent of the total Kuwaiti population (1.546 million).

Of this group, 788 thousand were born after 2000, constituting 51 percent of Kuwaitis, while those under 19 years old amount to 658 thousand, or 42 percent of Kuwaitis. This indicates a significant demographic shift, with 65 percent of post-1990 Kuwaitis born after 2000.

Crucial

These statistics prompt crucial questions about Kuwait's economic future. They challenge the notion of sustained prosperity since 2001, fueled by oil price increases, compensating for economic stagnation.

Despite inflationary implications, this period witnessed a decline in quality of life and services. As the younger generation, a majority of Kuwaiti society, emerges, the country faces mounting budgetary demands for services and opportunities, surpassing previous decades. This demographic shift, unlike in many countries, strains state finances, labor markets, and public

The coming years will see im-



The Indian envoy with Governor Al-Habashi.

Indian envoy calls on Jahra Governor

The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika called on HE Hamad Jassim Mohammad Al-Habashi, the new Governor of Jahra.

During the meeting the Governor Al-Habashi welcomed the recent opening of the new Indian Consular Application Centre in Jahra and expressed his interest in greater commercial cooperation of Jahra region with Indian companies.

mense pressure on education, housing, and healthcare, with implications for employment and infrastructure. The need for job creation exceeds current capacity, with twice as many youth seeking employment as existing

Moreover, the demand for housing and basic services intensifies. These challenges necessitate urgent questions about oil price dependencies in future budgets, education sustainability, housing policies, energy costs, and social security for over a million young Kuwaitis.

Addressing these concerns requires stable governance, lacking in Kuwait due to short-lived administrations and parliament While some questions can be

answered with effort and seriousness, the enduring question remains: How will future generations judge our failure to confront administrative shortcomings and populist policies? It's imperative to avoid negative outcomes by reassessing ineffective strategies and fostering effective solutions for Kuwait's future prosperity.

Kuwait Investment Authority Office for settlement and management of debts purchased for the account of the state announces



list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / AL Baladi Textiles (Mahmoud Abdel Halim Suleiman Barakat and Partner LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 81/2006 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 19/12/2006

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: KWD 244,824/101

(2) The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: KWD

(3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: NONE Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable:

Burgan Bank, debt purchased by the State amounting to: KWD 926,049/133 in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Kuwait European Investment Company (K.S.C.C.) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 20/2007, Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 28/05/2008

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: KWD

6.775.990/812 The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: KWD

19,775,303/767 (3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling amount to

Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable (1) Gulf Bank: a debt purchased by the State amounting to KWD 19,775,303/767 in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. (41) of

Third: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems excluded: (1) The National Bank of Kuwait: KWD 63/815, according to the bank's letter dated 12/7/2009, as it did not submit the official documents proving the debt.
(2) Sayyed Hussein Sayyed Hashem Behbehani, according to the creditor's letter dated 1/6/2009. The requested amount was not stated and he did not submit the official documents proving the debt

as numbers mentioned in the submitted letter were contacted and he Stated that he would review the documents, but they have not been provided to us to date Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / The African Arab

Company for Investment and International Trade (Avarco) K.S.C. Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 31/2003, Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 18/03/2003

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: KWD

(2) The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: KWD

61,525,250/781 (3) The amounts collected amount to KWD 249,937/053 (4) The amounts collected following the bankruptcy ruling amount to KWD 250,721/875

Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable (1) The National Bank of Kuwait: a debt purchased by the State ounting to KWD 61,525,250/781 in accordance with Article 13 of

Third: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems excluded: (1) Payables belonging to the former Chairman of the Company's Board of Directors KWD 969,846/000 according to the previous auditor's report during the liquidation period, except that he did not provide the Authority with documents proving the validity of his debt, nor did the creditor submit a request to list his indebtedness to the Authority, in accordance with the text of Article (105) of Law No. (71) of 2020.

(2) Other payables: KWD 1,200/000 according to the auditor's report during the liquidation period, except that he did not provide the Authority with documents proving the validity of their debts, nor did the creditors submit a request for inclusion of their indebtedness to the Authority, in accordance with the text of Article (105) of Law No.

(3) Employee leave provision of KWD 2,670/000 according to the previous auditor's report during the liquidation period, but he did not provide the authority with documents proving the validity of their indebtedness, nor did the creditors submit a request to list their indebtedness to the Authority, in accordance with the text of Article (105) of Law No. (71) of 2020.

(4) Provision for employees' end-of-service benefits KWD 16,766,000 according to the previous auditor's report during the liquidation

period, except that he did not provide the Authority with documents proving the validity of their indebtedness, nor did the creditors submit a request to list their indebtedness to the Authority, according to the text of Article (105) of Law No. (71) of 2020. (5) Notes payable: KWD 756,438/000 according to the auditor's report during the liquidation period, except that he did not provide

the Authority with documents proving the validity of their debts, nor did the creditors submit a request for inclusion of their indebtedness to the Authority, in accordance with the text of Article (105) of Law No. (71) of 2020.

(6) The Syrian General Fodder Corporation: 283,027/000 US dollars, according to the letter submitted by the company's agent, but he did not provide any documents indicating the validity of the debt.

the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Al-Takheim Engineering Group Company (Takheim Fahd Al-Takheim and Partner LLC)

Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 24/2007, Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 27/08/2008

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: KWD 434,399 /219 (2) The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: KWD 2.222.553/990

(3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: none Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable: (1) Gulf Bank: a debt purchased by the State amounting to KWD 2,222,553/990 in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. (41) of 1993.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Bassam Abdel-Afo Abdel-Fattah Shaarawy Guarantor /Al Baladi Textiles (Mahmoud Abdel Halim Suleiman

Barakat and Partner LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 81/2006, Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 19/12/2006

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al-Baladi Textiles LLC as of 1/8/1990 amounting to: KWD 7,458/226 2) The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al-Baladi Textiles LLC, according to Article 13, amounts to: KWD 26,890/095 KD.

3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: none
Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable: Burgan Bank: a debt purchased by the State that amounts to: KWD 26,890/095. The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al Baladi Textiles (Mahmoud Abdel Halim Suleiman Barakat and partner LLC) in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993. Third: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems excluded:

• Kuwait Finance House (commercial sector) KWD 1,758/- according to the bank's two letters dated 19/8/2009 and 2/1/2017, as the bank did not provide official documents proving the deb

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Salbukh Union General Trading and Contracting Company (Khaled Hamoud Al-Ayyadi and Mansoor Abdulaziz Al-Subaie LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 44/2010, Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 25/05/2001

First: Financial and accounting procedures: The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: KWD 962.623/373 (2) The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: KWD

(3) The amounts collected amount to KWD 249,937/053

(4) The amounts collected: none Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable: Commercial Bank of Kuwait: a debt purchased by the State that amounts to: KWD 6,034,972/750 in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

Third: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems excluded (1) Creditors: KWD 196,352/ according to the financial position of the Public Prosecution and the expert management report, but they did not apply to the General Authority for Investment requesting the listing of their debts.

(2) Notes payable of KWD 4,000 according to the financial position of the Public Prosecution and the expert management report, but they did not submit it to the General Authority for Investment a request (3) Debts subject to the settlement program 1986: KWD 388,914/-

according to the financial position of the Public Prosecution and the experts' management report, but they did not submit to the General

Authority for Investment a request to list their debts (4) End of service provision: KWD 3,854/- according to the financial position of the Public Prosecution and the experts' management report, except that they did not submit to the General Authority for Investment a request to list their debts.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Al Karma Readymade Clothes (Ahlam Abdul Rahman Al Samarai and Partner LLC)

Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 258/2003, Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 24/8/2004

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: KWD 109 593/013 The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: KWD 435,094 /912 (3) The amounts collected amount to KWD 23 766/000

cond: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable: Ahli United Bank: a debt purchased for the state's account amounting to: KWD 435,094/912 according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993. (2) Ahmed Muhammad Al Marahili: KWD 5,870/000 according to the creditor's letter submitted to the Authority on 16/2/2005 based on the ruling issued in Case No. 807/1995 T.K/18 dated 29/5/1995 and

the certificate issued by the General Administration of Enforcement Third: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems excluded: Kuwait Finance House: KWD 2,898/000 as it did not submit documents proving its indebtedness.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Abdel-Afo Abdel-Fattah Shaarawy Guarantor /Al Baladi Textiles (Mahmoud Abdel Halim Suleiman Barakat and Partner LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 81/2006,

Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 19/12/2006 First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al Baladi Textiles

LLC as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: KWD 7,458/226 (2) The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al-Baladi Textiles LLC, according to Article 13, amounts to: KWD 26,890/095. (3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: none Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable: • Burgan Bank: a debt purchased by the State that amounts to: KWD 26,890/095, the bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al Baladi Textiles (Mahmoud Abdel Halim Suleiman Barakat and partner LLC) in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Abdullah Abdulaziz Al-Sanea Owner of Abdullah Abdulaziz Al-Sanea Foundation Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 37/2009, Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 16/6/2010

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: KWD 91,145/681 (2) The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: KWD 91,145 /681

Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable: The Industrial Bank of Kuwait: indebtedness purchased by the KWD 91,145/681 according to Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Muhammad Taher Abdel-Afo Shaarawi Guarantor/Al Baladi Textiles (Mahmoud Abdel Halim Suleiman Barakat and Partner LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 81/2006, Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 19/12/2006

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al Baladi Textiles LLC as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: KWD 7,458/226 (2) The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al-Baladi Textiles LLC, according to Article 13, amounts to: KWD 26,890/095.
(3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: none

Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable: Burgan Bank: a debt purchased by the State amounts to: KWD 26.890/095, the bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al Baladi Textiles (Mahmoud Abdel Halim Suleiman Barakat and partner LLC) in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993. Third: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems appropriate to

 Kuwait Finance House (commercial sector): KWD 3,520/- according to the bank's two letters dated 19/8/2009 and 2/1/2017, except that the bank did not provide official documents proving the debt.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Mahmoud Abdel Halim Suleiman Barakat Guarantor/Al Baladi Textiles (Mahmoud Abdel Halim Suleiman Barakat and Partner LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 81/2006, Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 19/12/2006

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al Baladi Textiles LLC as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: KWD 111,224/712 (2) The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al-Baladi Textiles LLC, according to Article 13, amounts to: KWD 401,012/683 (3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: none Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable: (1) Burgan Bank: a debt purchased by the State amounts to: KWD 401,012/683, the bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al

Baladi Textiles (Mahmoud Abdel Halim Suleiman Barakat and partner LLC) in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993. (2) Burgan Bank: KWD 52,000/- under a housing loan contract with a promise with the mortgage dated 16/11/1996 and execution file No. (980252000), except for interest and expenses until the date of the bankruptcy ruling. Third: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems appropriate to

Finance House: KWD 294/, except that the bank did not provide

official documents proving the debt.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Mahmoud Abdel-Afo Shaarawi Guarantor/Al Baladi Textiles (Mahmoud Abdel Halim Suleiman Barakat and Partner LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 81/2006,

Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 19/12/2006

First: Financial and accounting procedures: (1) The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al Baladi Textiles LLC as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: KWD 111,224/712 (2) The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al-Baladi Textiles LLC, according to Article 13, amounts to: KWD 401,012/683 (3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: none Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable: (1) Burgan Bank: a debt purchased by the State amounts to: KWD 401,012/683, the bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Al Baladi Textiles (Mahmoud Abdel Halim Suleiman Barakat and partner

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Mansour Abdulaziz Zaid Al-Subaie Guarantor/ Salbukh Union General Trading and Contracting Company (Khaled Hamoud Al-Ayyadi and Mansoor Abdulaziz

LLC) in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

Al-Subaie LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 44/2010, Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 25/05/2001

First: Financial and accounting procedures (1) Its share of the guaranteed debt as of 1/8/1990 amounts to: KWD 854.429/930 (2) Its share of the guaranteed debt in accordance with Article 13

amounts to: KWD 5,457,237/365.
3) The amounts collected: KWD 923/35,227. Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable:
• The Commercial Bank of Kuwait: indebtedness purchased by the State amounting to:

KWD 5,457,237/365, the bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Salbukh Union General Trading and Contracting (Khaled Hammoud Al-Ayadi and Mansour Abdulaziz Al-Subaie LLC) in accordance with

According to the Provision of Article 111 of Law No. 71 of 2020, "The debtor and each creditor, even if his name is not included in the list of debts, may appeal to the Bankruptcy Department against debts included in the list, within ten days from the date of announcing the list.

World News Roundup

Europe

Kosovo backs Ukraine

N. Macedonia taps first woman leader

SKOPJE, North Macedonia, May 9, (AP): North Macedonia elected its first woman president Wednesday as the governing Social Democrats suffered historic loss-

es in twin presidential and parliamentary elections.

Conservative-backed **Gordana Siljanovska- Davkova,** a 70-year-old law professor, was declared the winner after receiving nearly 65% support with more than two-thirds of the vote counted in a presidential runoff. "Is there a bigger change than electing a woman as president?" Siljanovska-Davkova told party supporters. "I will stand with women in taking this great step forward, a step towards reform.

Incumbent Stevo Pendarovski conceded after garnering just over 29% of the vote. Siljanovska-Davkova was backed by the conservative VMRO-DPMNE par-

ty, which made sweeping gains on popular discontent over the country's slow path toward European Union membership and its sluggish economy. A coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE was ahead with nearly 43% in the parliamentary election, while the Social Democrat-led coalition that has held power for the least seven years struggled to hold onto second place



with 14.8.% - just ahead of a

group of parties led by the ethnic Albanian minority party DUI. Celebrations in the capital Skopje were muted by a thunderstorm that caused power outages. The conservative landslide win will be followed by power sharing talks for the control of the 120-seat parliament. But Social Democrat leader Dimitar Kovachevski, who served as prime minister from 2022 until early this year, conceded his party's defeat late Wednesday in the parliamentary election and announced that he would stand down after a new leader is selected by the party. Victory for Siljanovska-Davkova makes her the first woman to hold the largely ceremonial post of president since the country gained independence from the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

Croatia's conservatives to form govt: Croatia 's ruling conservatives on Wednesday agreed to form a coalition with an extreme party, which would push the country further to the right ahead of next month's European parliamentary election.

The governing Croatian Democratic Union, or HDZ, and the far-right Homeland Movement reached the agreement weeks after an inconclusive parliamen-

tary vote that has stirred political uncertainty.

Croatia's dominant HDZ won most votes at the election but not enough to stay in power on their own.

The Homeland Movement, or DP, is a relatively new political party made up largely of radical nationalists and social conservatives who had left the centerright HDZ. The party is led by the hard-line mayor of the eastern town of Vukovar, which was destroyed during Croatia's 1991 war for independence after it

split from the former Yugoslavia.

'End abuse at UK universities': British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is calling for an end to "antisemitic abuse" at UK universities as protests against the war in Gaza expand and the government tries to head off the type of unrest seen on American campuses in recent weeks.

"A vocal minority on our campuses are disrupting the lives and studies of their fellow students and, in some cases, propagating outright harassment and antisemitic abuse," Sunak said in a statement. "This has to stop." The number of antisemitic incidents on UK university campuses tripled last year as tensions rose over the war in the Middle East, according to the Communities Security Trust, which works to combat antisemitism in Britain.

Victory Day key pillar of Putin's rule: Russia on Thursday wrapped itself in patriotic pageantry for Victory Day, a celebration of its defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II that President Vladimir Putin has turned into a pillar of his nearly quarter-century in power and a justification of his military action in Ukraine.

Even though few veterans of what Russia calls the Great Patriotic War are still alive 79 years after Berlin fell to the Red Army, the victory over Nazi Germany remains the most important and widely revered symbol of the country's prowess and a key element of national identity. Thursday's festivities across Russia. led by Putin who this week began his fifth term in office, recall that wartime sacrifice in what has become its most important secular holiday.

Armenia PM talks with Putin: Armenia's prime minister visited Moscow and held talks Wednesday with Russian President Vladimir Putin amid spiraling

tensions between the estranged allies. Putin hosted Nikol Pashinyan for talks following a summit of the Eurasian Economic Union, a Moscowdominated economic alliance they both attended earlier in the day. The negotiations came a day after Putin began his fifth term at a glittering Kremlin inauguration.

Armenia's ties with its longtime sponsor and ally Russia have grown increasingly strained after Azerbaijan waged a lightning military campaign in September to reclaim the Karabakh region, ending three decades of ethnic Armenian separatists' rule

Kosovo backs Ukraine: Kosovo's foreign minister said Wednesday that her country is convinced that Russia must lose the war in Ukraine for conflict not to spread further in Europe. She said her young nation's support for Ukraine is unconditional even though

Kyiv has not recognized Kosovo's independence. Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz, who is both foreign minister and deputy prime minister, said her small Balkan nation, which declared its independence from Serbia in 2008, is constantly reminded of the aggressive intentions of both Serbia and its ally Russia.

EU reaches deal on Ukraine aid: European Union nations reached a tentative breakthrough deal to provide Ukraine with billions in additional funds for arms and ammunitions coming from the profits raised from frozen Russian central bank assets held in the bloc.

The agreement among the 27 EU ambassadors was announced by Belgium, which holds most of the frozen assets in the bloc. It came after weeks of tough negotiations among member states, which were made more complicated by the stringent financial limits on using such funds.



Members of European Parliament participate in a series of votes as they attend a plenary session at the European Parliament in Brussels, on April 10, 2024. The European Union marks Europe Day on Thursday, May 9, but instead of the traditionally muted celebrations, all eyes are on the EU elections in one month's time which portend a steep rise of the extreme right and a possible move away from its global trendsetting climate policies. (AP)

Europe Day marks one month till EU elections

The European Union marks its annual Europe Day on Thursday, but instead of the humdrum celebrations, all eyes are on the EU elections in a month's time, which portend a steep rise of the extreme right and a possible move away from the bloc's global trendsetting climate policies.

After decades in which the EU elections hardly

caused a ripple, the June 6-9 voting is the most important in memory. It is being held at a time of

continuous crises on a continent which is experiencing a war in Ukraine, climate emergencies, a shifting of geopolitical plates and fundamental questions on the reach and purpose of the EU itself.

"It will be an existential fight," said Guy Verhofstadt, a former Belgian prime minister and outgoing free-market liberal member of parliament who has been in the thick of EU politics for over a quarter century. It will pit "those who want less Europe and, then, those politi-

cal forces who understand that in the world of tomorrow you need a far more integrated European Union to defend the interests of the Europeans," he said in an interview. In naked political terms, it means those traditional socialist, liberal and green forces that ran the EU parliament with the Christian Democrats over the past five years against the surging powers of the hard nationalist right, exemplified by leaders like Viktor Orbán of Hungary and Georgia Meloni of Italy. (AP)



Stephen Miller, who shaped former US president Donald Trump's immigration policies talks to reporters about requiring American citizenship to vote in national elections, as they introduce the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, at the Capitol in Washington on May 8. (AP)

America

'Tornadoes tear thru south': Forecasters warned a wave of dangerous storms in the US could march through parts of the South early Thursday, after storms a day earlier spawned damaging tornadoes and massive hail, leaving two dead in Tennessee and one dead in North Carolina.

The storms continue an outbreak of torrential rain and tornadoes that has cut across the country this week, from the Plains to the Midwest and now the southeastern US. At least four people have died in storms since Monday

Amid Wednesday's storms, the National Weather Service continued issuing tornado warnings that stretch past midnight in North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Missouri and Kentucky. Parts of Arkansas and Mississippi were also under a tornado watch through the pre-dawn hours.

One storm that rumbled across northeastern Tennessee on Wednesday brought high winds that knocked down power lines and trees. Bob Brooks, the sheriff in Claiborne County about an hour north of Knoxville, said a 22-year-old man was in a car when he was fatally struck by one of the trees. (AP)

Congressman McCloskey dies: Pete McCloskey - a pro-environment, anti-war California Republican who co-wrote the Endangered Species Act and co-founded Earth Day - has died. He was 96.

A fourth-generation Republican "in the mold of Teddy Roosevelt," he often said, McCloskey represented the 12th Congressional District for 15 years, running for president against an incumbent Richard Nixon in 1972. He battled party leaders while serving seven terms in Congress and went on to publicly disavow the GOP in his

Politics

GOP renews push to exclude noncitizens from census

House rejects attempt to remove Johnson

WASHINGTON, May 9, (AP): Hardline Rep Marjorie Taylor Greene tried and failed in a brazen push to oust House Speaker Mike Johnson, but the resounding rejection by Republicans and Democrats tired of the turmoil does not guarantee an end to the GOP

One of Donald Trump's biggest supporters in Congress, Greene stood on the House floor late Wednesday and read a long list of "transgressions" she said Johnson had committed as speaker, from his passage of a \$95 billion national security package with aid for Ukraine to his reliance on Democrats to wield power.

Colleagues booed in protest. But Greene soldiered on, criticizing Johnson's leadership as "pathetic, weak and unacceptable.'

Triggered

After Greene triggered the vote on her motion to vacate the Republican speaker from his office, Republican Majority Leader Steve Scalise quickly countered by calling first for a vote to

An overwhelming majority, 359-43, kept Johnson in his job, for now.

"As I've said from the beginning. and I've made clear here every day, I intend to do my job," Johnson said afterward. "And I'll let the chips fall where they may. In my view, that is leadership.

It's the second time in a matter of months that Republicans have worked to oust their own speaker, an unheard of level of party upheaval with a move rarely seen in US history.

While the outcome temporarily calms the latest source of House disruption, the vote tally shows the

Years after leaving Washington, McClo-

skey made one last bid for elective office in

2006 when he challenged Richard Pombo of

Northern California's 11th District in a pri-

mary race that McCloskey described as "a

battle for the soul of the Republican Party.

After losing to Pombo, who had spent most

of his tenure in Washington attempting to

undo the Endangered Species Act, he threw

strengths but also the stark limits of Johnson's hold on the gavel, and the risks ahead for any Republican trying to lead the GOP.

Without Democratic help, Johnson would have certainly faced a more dismal outcome. All told, 11 Republicans voted to proceed with Greene's effort, more than it took to oust then-Speaker Kevin McCarthy last fall, a first in US history. But by relying on Democratic backing, Johnson risks inciting more criticism that he is insufficiently loyal

And the threat still lingers - any single lawmaker can call up the motion to vacate the speaker.

Even though Trump provided a needed nod of support for Johnson at crucial moments, it's not bankable going forward. The former president posed an idle warning about potentially ousting the speaker as voting was getting underway.

"At some point, we may very well be, but this is not the time," Trump said on social media.

Trump also made clear he still valued Greene, perhaps his biggest ally in the House, even as he rejected her proposal. "I absolutely love Marjorie Taylor Greene," he said as he urged Republicans to table her motion.

Assure

As Greene pressed ahead with the snap vote, GOP lawmakers filtered towards Johnson, giving him pats on the back and grasping his shoulder to assure him of their support.

The Georgia Republican had vowed weeks ago she would force a vote on the motion to vacate the Republican speaker if he dared to advance the foreign aid package for Ukraine, which

his support behind Democrat Jerry McNer-

NYC launches probe: New York City's

watchdog agency has launched an investiga-

tion into allegations that the city's police de-

partment improperly used its official social

media accounts to target public officials and

ney, the eventual winner. (AP)

cooled, as she and Johnson met repeatedly for a potential resolution. Johnson of Louisiana marched on, saying he had been willing to take the

was overwhelmingly approved late

last month and signed into law. But

in recent days it seemed her effort had

risk to approve the foreign aid, believing it was important for the U.S. to back Ukraine against Russia's invasion and explaining he wanted to be on the "right side of history."

Also:

NEW YORK: Some Republicans in Congress are pushing to require a citizenship question on the questionnaire for the once-a-decade census and exclude people who aren't citizens from the count that helps determine political power in the United States.

The GOP-led House on Wednesday passed a bill that would eliminate noncitizens from the tally gathered during a census and used to decide how many House seats and Electoral College votes each state gets. The bill is unlikely to pass the Democratic-controlled Senate, the White House opposes it and there are legal questions because the Constitution says all people should be counted during the apportionment process.

But the proposal has set off alarms among redistricting experts, civil rights groups and Democratic lawmakers as a reprise of efforts by the Trump administration to place limits that would dramatically alter the dynamics of the census, which plays a foundational role in the distribution of political power and federal funding.

Still, opponents say the idea, once on the ideological fringe, has never gotten so far in the legislative process.

private citizens.

The city Department of Investigation confirmed the probe in a statement Wednesday, saying it was prompted by recent requests from City Council Speaker Adrienne Ad**ams** and the Legal Aid Society asking it to look into the NYPD's social media policies and practices.

Adams, a Democrat, in her Friday letter cited reports from The Associated Press and others highlighting how the department and some of its top officials have in recent months adopted a more aggressive online presence, using their accounts on the X platform to take on critics. (AP)

'Police chief out': Houston's mayor has replaced the city's police chief, saying Wednesday it was the best thing for a law enforcement agency that's still under intense scrutiny over why hundreds of thousands of cases were never investigated, including more than 4,000 assault allegations.

Mayor John Whitmire said he did not push out former Police Chief Troy Finner but accepted his retirement as the police department needed to move forward under new leadership.

During a news conference, Whitmire said the ongoing investigation and questions of what Finner knew and when were having a cumulative impact "on the morale in the department, the focus of the officers and the confidence that Houstonians need to have in their police department." (AP)



People cross a road in the snow in Moscow, Russia on May 8. (Xinhua)

Lat/Am

Blackouts in Mexico

Council embraces 'changes' in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, May 9, (AP): A transitional council tasked with choosing new leaders for Haiti is changing the way it operates in a move that surprised many as gang violence consumes the coun-

Instead of having a single council president, four longtime politicians will take turns leading the council every five months, according to two members who were not authorized to publicly share the changes be-

cause they had not yet been announced.



The members told The Associated Press late Wednesday that the council also will now consider five members a majority, instead of four. The council is composed of nine members, seven of which have voting powers.

"That's a real switch," Robert Fatton, a Haitian politics expert at the University of Virginia, said of the changes.

"I think it's a good thing that they're really going to share power now. ... It is something that is very rare in Haitian politics.'

The four members who will share power are original council president Edgard Leblanc Fils, ex-senator Louis Gérald Gilles, former presidential candidate Leslie Voltaire and ex-ambassador for the Dominican Republic Smith Augustin.

Turmoil

The changes follow inner turmoil that threatened to derail the council after it was sworn in on April 25. The bickering began five days later, when four council members announced not only a council president but also a prime minister to the shock of many.

However, it remains to be seen if former sports minister Fritz Bélizaire will remain as the chosen prime minister. One council member told AP that they expect to make an announcement next week.

After a prime minister is announced, the council expects to choose a new Cabinet, a process many expect will involve long and heavy negotiations with powerful politicians.

"That's going to be the other major issue," Fatton

The changes come as Haiti prepares for the U.N.backed deployment of a Kenyan police force to help fight gangs that have decimated swaths of the capital of Port-au-Prince.

On Feb. 29, gangs launched coordinated attacks; they burned police stations, opened fire on the main international airport that has remained closed since March 4 and stormed Haiti's two biggest prisons, releasing more than 4,000 inmates. The country's largest seaport also remains paralyzed as food, medication and other critical items dwindle.

Brazil reeling from massive flooding: As major floods engulfed entire cities in the northern part of the Brazil's Rio Grande do Sul state last week, meteorologist Estael Sias knew the water would drain into capital Porto Alegre's metropolitan region and that she would need to find a safe place.

So she, her husband, three children, and two dogs left everything behind. Less than 24 hours later, water started filling her neighborhood in Canoas, now one of the state's most affected cities.

"My house was inundated," Sias recalled, her voice cracking. "And it was very hard to leave my house, to make my family leave." She said she could protect her close family, but not others who insisted on staying put. "It has been very distressing and still is. I don't know how it will be when I return home."

Authorities in southern Brazil rushed Wednesday to rescue survivors of massive flooding that has killed at least 100 people, but some residents refused to leave belongings behind while others returned to evacuated homes despite the risk of new storms.

Heavy rains and flooding in Rio Grande do Sul since last week also have left 130 people missing, authorities said. More than 230,000 have been displaced, and much of the region has been isolated by the flood-

Nicaragua cancels canal concession: After nearly a decade, Nicaragua's congress finally canceled on Wednesday a controversial canal concession granted to a Chinese businessman that critics said endangered the en-

vironment and threatened to displace rural communities. Despite a symbolic "groundbreaking" in 2014, no work was done on the canal that was to link Nicaragua's Atlantic and Pacific coasts. At one point, crews broke ground on access roads near the canal but digging the waterway never started.

Thousands of Nicaraguan farmers had protested against land seizures meant to create a route for the government-backed project.

In 2019, a Nicaraguan judge sentenced three farmers' leaders who participated in the protests to prison for 216 years, 210 years and 159 years. They were accused of promoting a "failed coup" against the government. Nicaraguan law caps prison time actually served at 30 years.

The proposed \$50 billion, 172-mile (278-kilometer) canal across this Central American nation was long viewed as a joke that later turned deadly serious. The canal and its potential effect on the environment became a symbol of the odd and arbitrary nature of President Daniel Ortega's increasingly repressive regime.

Mexico hit by rolling blackouts: Mexico was hit by hours of rolling blackouts late Tuesday due to high temperatures and temporary drops in electrical power

generation. The government's National Center for Energy Control said the blackouts lasted a total of about five hours, though it was likely less for individual customers because it was a rolling blackout distributed around the country.

The center said the largest power cut affected about 5% of customers, and lasted about four hours.

The larger blackout was partly caused by a spike in power demand in the early evening, when many Mexicans arrive home and turn on television sets, fans and air conditioners.

Mexico has broken several high temperature records this year, with about a third of the country expected to reach 113 degrees Fahrenheit (45 degrees Celsius) on Wednesday. Greater Mexico City, where about one-sixth of the population lives, reached a high of 92 degrees (33.4 Celsius) on Tuesday.

Mexico City is located in a high mountain valley and usually cools down at night, but that has not been happening as much this year.



Black smoke billows after an explosion at the gas storage tanks in an industrial area in Rayong province, east of Thailand on May 9. (AP)

Huge fire at chemical storage tank in Thailand kills one, injures 4

At least one person was killed and four others were injured after a huge fire broke out at a chemical storage tank in an Eastern Thailand industrial park on

The fire in Mab Ta Phut Industrial Estate, which was first reported in the morning, was contained more than six hours later. Fire workers estimated it might take more than 10 hours to be able to fully extinguish the flames, according to the Rayong province's public relations department.

About 400 workers and residents have been evacuated to a temporary shelter, the department

Officials said the tank, which has a storage capacity of 2,500 cubic meters, belongs to the Mab Ta Phut Tank Terminal company, which operates a commercial port and storage terminal for petro-chemical products. (AP)



Chinese State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Wang Xiaohong meets with Finnish National Police Commissioner Seppo Kolehmainen in Beijing, capital of China, May 8. (Xinhua)



Africa

Activist in Tunisia arrested: An antidiscrimination activist in Tunisia was arrested in a money laundering investigation this week as the dangerous and dire conditions facing migrants and their ad-

vocates worsen.
Saadia Mosbah, who is Black, was taken into custody and her home was searched as part of an investigation into the funding for the Mnemty association she runs.

She was arrested after she posted on social media condemning the racism she faced for her work from people accusing her of helping sub-Saharan African migrants, said Bassem Trifi, the president of the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights.

Her arrest was the latest reflection of the problems facing migrants in Tunisia as authorities bolster efforts to police the shoreline where many embark on boats hoping to reach Europe. (AP)

Algeria prez demands justice: While France celebrated the anniversary of victory over the Nazis on Wednesday, Algeria commemorated a more somber anniversary: The crackdown by French colonial forces on Algerian independence activists the same day 79 years ago.

Both events took place on May 8, 1945. At the time of the war, Algeria was the crown jewel in France's colonial empire, and Algerian soldiers were among those sent to fight for France in Europe. The end of World War II unleashed independence movements across the former French and British empires.

In Algiers on Wednesday, ceremonies were being held to honor demonstrators who took to the streets in the towns of Guelma, Sétif and Kherrata to call for freedom from French rule.

"On this day we are remembering the massacres of May 8, 1945, committed by the colonizer with extreme brutality and cruelty, to repress a growing national activist movement that had resulted in massive demonstrations expressing the revolt of the Algerian people and its aspiration to freedom and emancipation," Algerian President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** said in a statement. (AP)

Asia

China slams US ships passage thru Taiwan Strait

Australia, Tuvalu strike new security deal

MELBOURNE, Australia, May 9, (AP): Australia struck a new security deal with Tuvalu on Thursday after critics complained that a previous pact created an Australian veto power over any other agreement the tiny South Pa-cific island nation pursued with a third country, such as China.

Tuvalu Prime Minister Feleti Teo and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong committed to a new memorandum of understanding that addresses the sovereignty concerns of Teo's government, which was elected in January.

"It's quite significant, the security guarantee that the treaty provides is something that is quite unique," Teo said at a joint press conference in his tiny nation with a population of around 11,500 people.

Teo's predecessor, Kausea Natano, struck a landmark treaty agreement in November last year that offered Tuvaluans a lifeline to escape rising seas and increased storm that threaten their country, a collection of low-lying atolls about halfway between Australia and Hawaii.

Australia would initially resettle up to 280 Tuvaluans a year under the treaty. The deal also committed Australia to help Tuvalu in response to major natural disasters, pandemics and mili-

tary aggression. The treaty also gave Australia a veto power over any security or defenserelated agreement Tuvalu wants to make with any other country, including China.

Meg Keen, director of the Pacific Island Program at the Lowy Institute, a Sydney-based think tank on international policy, said the new agreement made no substantive changes to the treaty announced last year.

Teo "is re-assured that provisions related to the veto-of-third-party arrangements are not intended to impinge on Tuvalu's sovereignty, but rather to ensure effective responsiveness/coordination and interoperability in times of crisis response," Keen said in an email.

Also: TAIPEI, Taiwan: China's military criti-

Congo families mourn dead: Fami-

lies of the victims of last week's bomb

attacks on two camps of displaced peo-

ple in eastern Congo gathered to mourn

Yoon rejects S.Korean oppn calls for probe of his wife, top officials

SEOUL, South Korea, May 9, (AP): South Korea's president on Thursday dismissed calls for independent investigations into allegations involving his wife and top officials, drawing quick, strong rebukes from his political rivals. After his conservative ruling party

suffered a heavy loss in the recent April 10 parliamentary elections, President Yoon Suk Yeol faces what appears to be his biggest political challenge yet as opposition parties would extend their control of the National Assembly to 2028.

The opposition has recently stepped up its demand for an independent investigation into first lady Kim Keon Hee over various scandals, such as her alleged involvement in a stock price manipulation scheme and the release of spy camera footage showing her receiving a luxury bag from a Korean

American pastor. In a news conference marking

cized a US destroyer's passage through

his two years in office, Yoon said he apologizes for what he calls "mv wife's unwise behavior" in accepting the Christian Dior bag but refused to elaborate because the scandal is under investigation by prosecutors.

Ex-Fiji PM sentenced: Former Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama was sentenced Thursday to a year in prison for interfering in a criminal investigation while he headed the government of his

South Pacific island nation.
Acting High Court of Fiji Chief Justice Salesi Temo sentenced the 70-year-old in the capital Suva on a conviction for attempting to pervert the course of justice. Suspended Police Commissioner Sitiveni Qiliho received a 2-year prison sentence on a conviction for abuse of office, The Fiji Times newspaper reported.

the Taiwan Strait less than two weeks before the island's new president takes office and while Washington and Beijing are making uneven efforts to restore

regular military exchanges Navy Senior Capt. Li Xi, spokesperson for China's Eastern Theater Command, accused the US of having "publicly hyped" the passage of the USS Halsey on Wednesday. In a statement, Li said the command, which oversees operations around the strait, "organized naval and air forces to monitor" the ship's transit.

The U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet said the Halsey "conducted a routine Taiwan Strait transit on May 8 through waters where high-seas freedoms of navigation and overflight apply in accordance with international law

The guided-missile destroyer trans-

their loved ones at a ceremony on Mon-

day evening. During the ceremony in the

city of Goma in the North Kivu Province,

mourners sang and lit candles in tribute to

is "beyond the territorial sea" of any coastal state, the fleet said in a state-

ited through a corridor in the strait that



BANGKOK: Six months into an offensive against Myanmar 's military government, opposition forces have made massive gains, but civilian casualties are rising sharply as regime troops increasingly turn toward scorched-earth tactics in the Southeast Asian country's bitter civil war.

There is pressure on all fronts from powerful militias drawn from Myanmar's ethnic minority groups and newer resistance forces. Troops are retaliating with air, naval and artillery strikes on hospitals and other facilities where the opposition could be sheltered or aided.

the deceased.

The bombings at the Mugunga and Lac Vert displacement camps killed at least 18 people and injured another 32, according to the United Nations. It wasn't clear which type of explosives were used in the attacks. Most of the victims were women and children. Alimeti Kigiho, who survived the

attack, had sought shelter from eastern Congo's long war at the Mugunga displacement camp in February, only to be shaken by explosions while going to fetch water.

He ran back to his tent, where he found the bodies of his wife and two young children, aged 6 and 2, in pieces.

UN humanitarians launch appeal: While wide-spread flooding challenges East Africa, UN humanitarians have launched an appeal for landlocked Zambia suffering from drought, a UN spokes-

man said on Wednesday.

Stephane Dujarric, chief spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, said the appeal of 228 million US dollars would assist 4.6 million people between now and December.

"Zambia is experiencing its driest agricultural season in more than 40 years, resulting in crop losses, increased livestock deaths and worsening poverty," Dujarric said. (Xinhua)



People try to clear the area after a river broke through a blocked tunnel causing floodwaters in the Mai Mahiu area of Nakuru County, Kenya on April 29. Kenya's President William Ruto has declared Friday a public holiday to mourn the 238 people who have died due to ongoing flooding. (AP)

oil plunges

The price of Kuwaiti oil moved down by USD 1.12 to USD 84.14 per barrel on Wednesday as opposed to USD 85.26 pb on Tuesday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said on Thursday.

In international markets, the price of the Brent crude dropped by 42 cents settling at USD 83.58 pb, while the rate of the West Tex-as Intermediate crude moved up by 61 cents reaching USD 78.99 pb. (KUNA)

KSE 100

EGYPT

PAKISTAN

dollar stable

Exchange rate of the US dollar on Thursday steadied against the Kuwaiti dinar trading at KD 0.307 and the euro also firmed at the level of KD 0.330 compared to Wednesday's

The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said in its daily bulletin that the sterling pound inched up by 0.06 percent to KD 0.384, the Swiss franc stabilized at KD 0.338 and the Japa-

nese yen remained stable at KD 0.002.

Exchange rates declared by the CBK reflect average prices and not rates of actual transactions. (KUNA)

09-05-2024

Boursa indices rebound with mixed performance

The general and primary market indices experienced a rebound, although the main market index lagged behind Wednesday, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The fourth trading session of the

week saw a significant rise in market indices, with the general market index increasing by 0.47 percent, or 32.76 points, closing at 7059.16

Liquidity approached 60 million dinars, with activity reaching 304.6 million shares traded through 18,629 transactions. Of the 120 shares traded, 64 gained, 43 lost, and 13 remained unchanged.

The Premier Market Index gained of 55 parents of 44,22 points also

0.58 percent, or 44.32 points, closing at 7689.87 points, with liquidity totaling 37.7 million dinars. Trading volume reached 93.5 million shares across 8666 transactions. Among the 33 shares traded, 18 gained, 9 lost,

and 6 remained unchanged.

However, the main market index

declined by 0.08 percent, or 4.93 points, closing at 5,966.14 points, with liquidity amounting to 21.3 million dinars. Trading volume reached 211 million shares through 9,963 transactions. Of the 87 shares traded, 46 gained, 34 lost, and 7 remained unchanged.

At the opening of trading on the Boursa Kuwait, liquidity increased significantly, with purchases predominantly focused on small and medium-

Market Movements

Change Closing pts +14.23

26,003.16 +21.97 72.697.56

- DFMGI DUBAI **JAPAN** - Nikkei 225

Change Closing pts -175.70 12,284.41 -13.61 4.179.74 -128.39 38,073.98 -116.72 6,542.46

Business

KDIPA represents Kuwait as vice president of WAIPA

Kuwait hosts WAIPA steering committee meeting

KUWAIT CITY, May 9, (KUNA): The Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), hosted, Thursday, the periodic meeting of the Steering Committee of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) at its premises.

The meeting capitalizes on KDIPA mandated role and its commitment to enhance Kuwait's presence in the international community, building mutually beneficial partnerships, and engaging in joint collaboration in economic, investment, and developmental areas.

A KDIPA press release said that the association headed the meeting in its capacity as the Vice President of the of the newly elected Steering Committee, with the participation of several of the Executive Regional Directors of the Steering Committee as well as members of WAIPA's Permanent Secretariat.

The Steering Committee members started by a courtesy meeting with Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Director General of KDIPA.

Afterwards, they resumed their meeting by reviewing global developments, and updates relating to WAIPA's first quarter Q1 Plan of Activities and Budget 2024, as well as the arrangements for upholding the upcoming 28th WAIPA General Assembly and World Investment Conference (WIC 28) during the period



KUNA photo

Meeting of the KDIPA with the Steering Committee of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies. November 25-27, 2024.

The WAIPA Steering Committee members concluded their meeting by deliberating on and undertaking the needed decisions on several pertinent agenda items relating to coordinating

efforts and collaboration mechanisms to increase initiative, global FDI relat-

ed studies, organizing regional events, and developing communications and media channels

The World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), was established in 1995 in Geneva,

Kuwait had joined it in 2006, but cur-

rently Kuwait represented by KDIPA holds the post of Vice Presidency of WAIPA for the new term (2023-2025); previously KDIPA was elected as the Executive Director for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region within WAIPA's Steering Committee for the previous term (2021-2023).

'Seamless travel experiences'

Kuwait Airways and Saudia to expand codeshare partnership

KUWAIT CITY, May 9, (KUNA): Kuwait Airways and Saudia expanded codeshare partnership, an agreement that enables the use of Kuwait Airways' code on Saudi Arabian Airlines flights to Washington and Los Angeles.

In a press release, Kuwait Airways explained that the new agreement will further promote bilateral partnership between the national carriers, while providing better travel options and connectivity to passengers between the State of Kuwait and the United States of America.

Kuwait Airways Chairman, Abdulmohsen Salem Al-Fagaan stated, "We firmly believe that this agreement will enhance commercial and tourism relations between United States of America and Kuwait, and between the Middle East, GCC, Asia and USA, via Kuwait-Jeddah or Ri-

yadh." "Passengers and travel agents will be able to book these flights directly through our websites or the travel agents' reservation systems. Both airlines have also agreed to explore additional possibilities of cooperation in the future with the

Frequent Flyer Program and expan-

sion of codeshare agreements," he explained.

Al-Fagaan pointed out the agreement is a continuation of the objectives established by Kuwait Airways and is within the framework of its strategic plans to provide the best levels of service to its esteemed customers.

He also indicated that this is in line with the company's objectives to link Kuwait to all parts of the world, through these partnerships and to accomplish its desired goals.

As for Saudia's Chief Commercial expert, Arved Von Zur Muehlen, stated that this expansion "reflects Saudia's commitment to providing seamless travel experiences and enhanced connectivity,"

"This agreement not only strengthens our ties with Kuwait Airways but also fosters greater collaboration between our two nations, opening up new avenues for commercial and tourism relations," he added.

Kuwait Airways and Saudi Arabian Airlines had signed a Codeshare Agreement in May 2023 to promote bilateral and strategic partnership for the benefit of customers of both air-

Investment funds rebound with 'strong performance' in Kuwait

KAMCO Islamic Fund leads with 8.41% return in four months

proximately 30 investment funds have surged back into petitiveness among funds promises long-term positive impacts, as sustained strong performance, capitalizing on market momentum fueled by last year's distributions and positive profit indicators from banks and various sectors, reports Al-Jarida

Leading the pack, the KAMCO Islamic Fund boasted the highest performance from January through April, delivering an impressive return of 8.41 percent among all investment funds managed by local, traditional, and Gulf companies.

The resurgence of these funds holds significant importance for the financial market, bolstering institutional performance within the stock exchange and reinstating confidence among liquidity holders to re-engage in subscriptions. This recovery not only enhances market stability but also benefits opera-

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Over the past four months, aptional and blue-chip companies, prime targets for these funds. Increased comstrong performance will attract more institutional liquidity, rather than individual investors.

> In a related development, sources suggest that certain funds are eyeing liquidity and participation from the Kuwait Investment Authority, mirroring the Authority's successful collaborations with reputable companies and aligning with its strategy to expand managerial scope. This underscores the evolving landscape of investment practices.

> Moreover, the activity of investment funds, alongside other institutional players, significantly influences the revenues of the stock exchange, with trading commissions being a vital resource.

> This should incentivize collaborative efforts between exchanges and investment firms to introduce initiatives and support the success of approved but currently underutilized financial instruments. Such initiatives are essential for advancing the development of the stock market and maximizing its potential.



H.E. UAE Ambassador Dr. Mutar Al Nevadi honors Waleed Al Khashti in recognition of Zain's support.



Al Neyadi, Alrushood, and Al Khashti with Zain and Embassy officials.

Company recently sponsored UAE Companies Investment Meet

UAE Embassy recognizes Zain for role in enhancing local business landscape

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Zain was recognized by the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Kuwait for its role in enhancing the local business landscape. The recognition came during the ceremony held to honor sponsors and supporters of the UAE Companies Investment Meet, which the Embassy recently

organized under the title Unlocking Kuwait's Potential. The ceremony was held at the Embassy's headquarters, attended by H.E. UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Mutar Al Neyadi, Kuwait Finance House Acting Group CEO Abdulwahab Iesa Alrushood, and Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti.

Zain expressed its appreciation to the Embassy for this recognition, which acts as a testament to the company's efforts to foster sustainable growth and enhance the business landscape. The event contributed to achieving economic

diversification, promoting competitiveness, and positioning Kuwait on the regional map as an investment hub.

Zain strongly believes that Kuwait's private sector is a key strategic partner to local developmental goals and remains a main pillar of success, as it plays a prominent role in promoting diversification, enhancing productivity, and fostering long-term sustainable growth. This has led Zain to support this event, which contributed to achieving these goals.

The UAE Companies Investment Meet aimed to enhance Kuwaiti-Emirati bilateral relations, diversify commercial partnerships in the Kuwaiti market and support their growth, explore promising investment opportunities to achieve sustainable growth, and offer space for exchanging ideas and expertise. It was joined by 20 UAE-based companies from across the market's most vibrant sectors.

MENA region saw 10 IPOs valued at \$1.2 bln in Q1 2024

DUBAI, May 9: According to the EY MENA IPO Eye Q1 2024 report, IPO activity in the MENA region retained strong momentum. The quarter saw 10 IPOs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with combined proceeds of US\$1.2b.

Globally, Q1 2024 witnessed a total of 287 IPOs, raising US\$23.7b - a 7% increase in value year on year (YoY) – as market participants navigated uncertainties stemming from recent economic fluctuations and a global election year. An additional 25 private companies and 10 funds across various sectors intend

to list on MENA exchanges in 2024. KSA leads with 21 announced IPOs, fol-

lowed by the UAE with one. Outside of the GCC, Raya Information Technology in Egypt and Crédit Populaire d'Algérie in Algeria have announced their planned

In terms of MENA stock exchange performance, the Egyptian Exchange (EGX30) emerged at the top with an 8% gain during Q1 2024, followed by Boursa Kuwait Premier Market with 7.5% and Dubai Financial Market (DFM) with 4.6%. At the end of the quarter, eight out of the 10 MENA IPOs had a positive return compared to their IPO price, with MBC Group achieving the highest gain of 128%. Brad Watson, EY MENA Strategy and Transactions Leader, says:

UAE's non-oil sector to maintain strong growth

By National Bank of Kuwait

United Arab Emirates

Non-oil growth is forecast to remain at 4%+ in 2024-25, with demand underpinned by the ongoing property sector expansion, solid financial sector performance, booming tourism, and the attractive investment climate. Oil sector growth will be weaker, but capacity expansions provide scope for more rapid growth when global market conditions allow. The real estate boom has proved durable in the face of high interest rates, though we expect moderating economic growth, higher pricing, and supply additions to eventually take a toll. Successful diversification has reduced but not eliminated vulnerability to oil shocks versus the past. Other key risks include global growth and interest rate prospects, and regional geopolitical tensions.

Non-oil growth to be sustained at a high rate

Economic growth is set to remain robust, with strong demand underpinned by the ongoing property market expansion, solid performance by the financial sector, booming tourism, attractive foreign investment climate and capacity expansion initiatives in the hydrocarbon sector alongside renewables. The non-oil sector grew a very solid 5.9% y/y in H1 2023, driven by tourism-related sectors, finance, trade, and logistics. The PMI gauge points to activity remaining strong since (despite disruptions to Red Sea trade), and we look for non-oil growth to reach a still impressive 4-5% in 2024-25, only slightly down on last year. Notably, credit growth (5.3% in 2023) has not been the main driving force behind non-oil growth post-pandemic, perhaps helping to extend the economic cycle in the face of high interest rates. The government will continue to provide very active support for the business climate, reflecting commitment to its various diversification and development plans including UAE 2031 (doubling GDP in 10 years), Abu Dhabi 2030 (private sector-driven, knowledge-based economy) and D33 (dramatically expand Dubai's trade and investment). The business impact of the introduction of corporation tax in mid-2023 so far seems to have been well absorbed, reflected in a region-leading gain in Dubai's stock market last year (+22%)

In the near term, oil sector growth will be minimal with OPEC+ cuts rolled over in H2 2024, resulting in a mild decline in oil GDP this year then a modest rise (output at 2.96mb/d) in 2025. ADNOC's crude oil production capacity reportedly increased 4% to 4.85mb/d at the end of 2023, leaving scope for rapid growth in future if global market conditions allow. Completion of the Crude Flexibility Project this year will allow the Ruwais refinery to process 420kb/d of heavier and sour feedstock while unlocking higher-value crude for export. Natural gas output is also being expanded under a plan to achieve gas self-sufficiency by 2030, including associated gas from higher oil output.

Property market shows resilience, but slowdown likely

After slowing earlier in 2023, indicators of real estate activity have reaccelerated, with residential prices and rents in Dubai for example up 20% y/y as of March 2024. Strong economic growth, a rising population and improved longterm residency and visa regulations are likely underpinning demand. Although the property market has proved highly durable, we still expect this buoyancy to fade over the forecast period as moderating economic growth, higher pricing and supply additions take a toll. However, tighter real estate financing regulations versus previous cycles and relatively modest post-pandemic credit growth should limit the wider impact of any market correction. Meanwhile, CPI inflation is projected to pick up in 2024-25 to 2.5% on average from 1.6% in 2023, on strong domestic demand and an expected increase in fuel prices. Rising housing rents (which account for 35% of the CPI basket) will also be a supporting factor

Strong fiscal and external positions

A combination of lower oil revenues and rising welfare spending (subsidies and social benefits) narrowed the fiscal surplus in 2023 to an estimated 4.6% of GDP, from 9.9% in 2022, despite the introduction of the 9% corporate income tax in mid-2023 (which it is estimated could eventually yield revenues of 1.5% of GDP per year). We expect the budget surplus to continue declining to 3.5% in 2024-25 mainly on lower oil revenues. Strong non-oil growth and new revenue streams (non-oil revenues estimated at 38% of all revenues in 2024) will offset part of the expected increase in welfare and capital spending, given rise in the 2024 federal (+1.6% to AED63.1 billion) and Dubai (+17.2%) to AED79.1 billion; +5.8% to AED83.7 billion in 2025) budgets. According to IMF figures, government debt will remain low by international standards at around 30% of GDP in 2024-25, though rising to around 55% once GRE debt is included. Near-term fresh debt issuance is unlikely to be high given budget surpluses and elevated interest rates, but the federal government may issue more dirham-denominated debt to help develop domestic capital markets.

The external finances meanwhile remain very comfortable with sizeable current account surpluses (7-8% of GDP in 2024-25), strong credit ratings (S&P: AA; Moody's: Aa2) and sovereign wealth assets (ADIA & Mubadala) estimated at \$1.07 trillion by the SWF Institute and central bank gross reserves of \$190

billion in 2023 Risks include oil prices and regional geopolitics

Strong economic growth and successful diversification are reducing the UAE economy's exposure to oil shocks versus the past. Nevertheless, higher-thanforecast oil prices would still boost government finances and investment, while prospects would also be helped by a pick-up in global growth and/or rapid cuts in interest rates. A severe drop in oil prices, rising regional geopolitical tensions that hurt trade and regional supply chains, as well as a sharper-than-expected property market downturn are key downside risks.

Philippines' GDP expands by 5.7 pct in Q1

The Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 5.7 percent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2024, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said

Thursday. The latest figure is higher than the 5.5 percent growth in the fourth quarter of 2023, but lower than the 6.4 percent expansion posted in the first quarter of 2023.

PSA head Dennis Mapa told a

press conference that the main contributors to the first quarter's growth were financial and insurance activities, wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, and manu-

All major economic sectors, namely agriculture, forestry, and fishing; industry; and services, posted year-on-year growths of 0.4 percent, 5.1 percent, and 6.9 percent, respectively, Mapa said

National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said the Philippines' first quarter GDP performance demonstrates the economy's resilience despite the El Nino phenomenon and geo-political tensions.

The Philippine government's economic team forecasts a 6 to 7 percent GDP target for 2024 and 6.5 to 7.5 percent in 2025.

Swedish central bank cuts interest rate

Sweden's central bank on Wednesday announced a 25-basis point cut of its benchmark interest rate to 3.75 percent amid weak economic activity.

This is the first rate cut in eight years. The Riksbank said the decision on the policy rate will apply from May 15.

The Riksbank's board said that if the outlook for inflation still holds, the policy rate is expected to be cut two more

times in the second half of the

"It was expected. They cut the interest rate because inflation is sinking towards the target even faster than the Riksbank had predicted, and the economy is weak," said Alexander Noren, an economic commentator of Swedish Television (SVT).

"However, they will proceed carefully and not spring any surprises. I am totally convinced

that there will be no shock cut as there was a shock rise," Noren added. Statistics Sweden's figure shows that the country's inflation rate, the CPI, was 4.1 percent in March, down from 4.5 percent in February. The central bank said the outlook for inflation is still uncertain. Due to factors such as geopolitical tension and a weak Swedish krona, there are risks to cause inflation to rise again. (Xinhua)

Development suggests demand is improving

China's exports and imports return to growth in April

HONG KONG, May 9, (AP): China's exports and imports returned to growth in April, suggesting that demand is improving despite an uneven economic

recovery, according to customs data released Thursday. The report showed exports grew 1.5% in April compared to a year earlier, after falling 7.5% in March, the first contraction since November. Imports surged 8.4% in April, beating analysts' expectations and up from a 1.9% decline in March.

China has introduced various policy support measures in recent months to support growth and boost confidence in the world's second-largest economy. China's trade surplus grew to \$72.35 billion, up from \$58.55 billion in

However, the outlook is not entirely positive given broader global trends, analysts said.

"We think export volumes will retreat over the coming months due to cooling consumer spending in advanced economies and the diminishing tailwind from lower export prices," Zichun Huang of Capital Economics said in a note. Export growth was mainly due to a lower base of comparison in the previous year, Huang said. She said that import volumes were likely to bounce back further in the near future due to "fiscal spending supporting import-

heavy construction. The 10-nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations remained the largest destination for China's exports, accounting for 16.9% of the total for the first four months of the year, the report said.

Dormant Bitcoin wallet activation sparks speculation

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The recent activation of a long-dormant Bitcoin wallet from the era of Satoshi Nakamoto has stirred speculation within the cryptocurrency community, reports Al-Jarida daily.

After more than 10 years of dormancy, the wallet moved a substantial amount of cryptocurrencies, totaling \$43.89 million worth of Bitcoin.

This sudden activity has raised concerns about a potential sell-off, especially considering the significant profit the whale has accumulated since receiving the Bitcoin windfall in 2014.

However, experts believe that this portfolio reactivation is unlikely to be directly linked to recent price movements in the cryptocurrency market.

Exports to the U.S. fell 1.6% in April compared to the same time a year earlier. Shipments to the European Union also declined, slipping 3.3% yearon-year. "Considering import demand could remain resilient but exports face a higher level of risk in coming months, we expect a smaller contribution from trade to growth starting in the second quarter," Lynn Song, an economist at ING Economics, said in a commentary.

Chainalysis data does not indicate a direct correlation between Bitcoin price performance and the activation of old wallets.

Despite the intrigue surrounding the dormant wallet's sudden activity, there is no concrete evidence to suggest that it influenced the current price of Bitcoin. Currently, Bitcoin is trading at \$65,296.60 with a market cap of \$1.28 trillion. While the price remains high, the 24-hour trading volume has seen a slight decline to \$18.27 billion.

Investors continue to monitor developments in the cryptocurrency market, including the prospects for monetary easing in the United States and the implications of potential monetary tightening cycles worldwide.

China has struggled to bounce back after the COVID-19 pandemic, as it grapples with weaker demand globally after the Federal Reserve and other central banks raised interest rates to counter inflation. A slump in China's property sector also is weighing on growth.

China has set a target of around 5% for economic growth this year, an ambition that will require more policy support, economists say.

Experts come to conclusion

China's growth offers valuable lessons to developing countries

By Olatunji Saliu

ABUJA, May 9, (Xinhua): China has increasingly emerged as a prominent player in global development, offering valuable lessons and insights to developing countries striving for progress, Nigerian scholars have said.

"Nigeria can benefit greatly by learning from Chinese development models, the 'Chinese Dream' vision, and poverty alleviation programs that emphasize scientific innovation and holistic development, offering valuable policy approaches," Adetoro Banwo, a lecturer with the Department of Linguistics, African and Asian Studies at the University of Lagos, said in an article recently published on several local media

In the article titled "Building a Community of a Shared Future in Nigeria -- A Policy of Win-Win Initiatives," Banwo urged Nigerian policymakers to carefully adapt and integrate these models into the country's development framework.

"China has emerged as a key development partner for Nigeria. Through various projects and collaborations, China is actively driving progress in Nigeria's economy, infrastructure, and cultural sectors,' said Banwo, highlighting that cooperation with China presents a wealth of opportunities for mutual growth.

Ikenna Emewu, an international research expert, told Xinhua in a recent interview that China's remarkable achievements in poverty alleviation will continue to inspire nations grappling with similar chal-

"China's success in lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty demonstrates the efficacy of targeted policies that effectively prioritize human development," Emewu said, adding that Nigeria can draw valuable lessons from China's emphasis on scientific innovation and inclusive growth.

Nigeria and other developing countries can leverage China's vision to forge mutually beneficial collaborations while tapping into its expertise and resources, Emewu said, noting that a series of development initiatives proposed by China have well proved to be "not merely a national aspiration but a vision for global cooperation and shared pros-

Sheriff Ghali Ibrahim, head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Abuja, urged African countries to embrace the three initiatives for China-Africa practical cooperation in support of Africa's industrialization, agricultural modernization, and talent development and assist in Africa's integration and modernization.

He said Chinese enterprises could contribute more in areas of industrialization, agricultural mechanization, and talent cultivation, which offer a roadmap for sustainable growth and prosperity.

"Chinese enterprises can contribute to the realization of Africa's dream and goals in terms of development, growth, infrastructure, knowledge, healthcare, and agriculture," Ibrahim said.

Banwo also shared a similar view, saying that by embracing the principles of innovation, inclusivity, and cooperation espoused by China, developing nations can chart a course toward a brighter future for their citizens and the world at large.

"To excel, we must collaborate to tackle the teething problems grip-ping most nations," he said. "China and Africa share a history of similar challenges. China-Africa relations are built on the idea of win-win cooperation, aiming to forge a future where all of humanity benefits."

Tennessee Valley Authority moving forward with new natural gas plant

US's largest public utility ignores warnings

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 9, (AP): The nation's largest public utility is moving ahead with a plan for a new natural gas plant in Tennessee despite warnings that its environmental review of the project doesn't comply with federal law. The Tennessee Valley **Authority announced in April** that it would replace the aging coal-burning Kingston Fossil Plant with gas amid growing calls for the agency's new board of directors to invest in renewables.

The board, with six of nine members appointed by President Biden, is expected to meet on Thursday in Nashville, a day after a planned protest by a coalition of environmental groups demanding the utility stop investing in fossil

Decommissioning the Kingston plant, the site of a massive 2008 coal ash spill, is part of TVA's overall plan to reduce its reliance on coal. In analyzing alternatives to replace the plant, the utility considered either a new 1,500-megawatt gas plant or 1,500 megawatts of solar combined with 2,200 megawatts of battery storage. TVA concluded that a 2027 deadline for retiring the current plant does not give it enough time to develop the renewables alternative.

The Environmental Protection Agency asked the utility in a March 25 letter to redo several aspects of its analysis, citing "numerous" concerns with the plan to install new gas turbines. Among other things, the EPA accused the utility of defining the Kingston project so narrowly that only its predetermined choice of a new gas plant would meet the parameters, making the evaluation process a "foreordained formality." EPA said the utility did not adequately explain the need for the 2027 closure or look at possible alternatives

The EPA said the environmental review does not meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires federal agencies like the Tennessee Valley Authority to assess the environmental impact of proposed actions before making a de-

TVA declined to follow the Environmental Protection Agency's suggestion for a do-over. It decided in April to forge ahead with gas - continuing to follow a plan of action that the EPA says fails to consider recent changes in the energy sector, includ-



In this Aug. 7, 2019, photo, the Kingston Fossil Plant stands near a waterway in Kingston, Tenn. The nation's largest public utility is moving ahead with a plan for a new natural gas plant in Tennessee despite warnings that its environmental review of the project doesn't comply with federal law. The Environmental Protection Agency asked the Tennessee Valley Authority in a March 25, 2024 letter to redo several aspects of its environmental impact statement for converting the coal-burning Kingston Fossil Plant. (AP)

With inflation 'soaring,' Argentina to start printing 10,000 peso notes

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, May 9, (AP): Prices in Argentina have surged so dramatically in recent months that the government has multiplied the size of its biggest bank note in circulation by five - to 10,000 pesos, worth about

The central bank announcement Tuesday promised to lighten the load for many Argentines who must carry around giant bags - occasionally, suitcases - stuffed with cash for simple transactions. Argentina's annual inflation rate reached 287% in March, among the highest in the world.

The new denomination note - five times the value of the previous biggest bill - is expected to hit the streets next month in a bid to "facilitate transactions between users," the central bank said. The 10,000 peso note is worth \$11 at the country's official exchange rate and \$9 at the black market exchange rate.

Across Argentina, hard currency specifically, the country's ubiquitous 1,000-peso notes - remains the most popular way to pay for things. When first printed in 2017, the 1,000-peso note was worth \$58 on the black market. Now, it's worth a dollar.

Given the instability unleashed by Argentina's worst financial crisis in two decades, vendors prefer old-fashioned cash payments for big purchases and offer steep discounts to incentivize paper bills over electronic transfers.

Argentina's libertarian President Javier Milei, who took office last December, campaigned on a promise to tame inflation and stabilize the local currency by reversing the policies of past left-leaning governments that printed money to finance public spend-

But in the meantime, his harsh austerity drive has pushed prices up to levels in the U.S. and Europe, adding to the economic woes of ordinary Argentines. A massive nationwide strike, the latest in a series of protests, is planned for Thursday.

Even as annual inflation remains high, Milei cites a gradual slowdown in Argentina's monthly inflation rate since last December to insist his plan is working. Confident consumer prices can continue creeping downward, policymakers lowered the central bank's key interest rate three times last month.

Dennis Wamsted, an energy analyst

ing falling prices for renewables, billions of federal dollars for clean energy projects, and ever stricter environmental regulations. The corporation remains off track to meet the

Biden administration's goal of elimi-

nating carbon pollution from power

plants by 2035 to try to limit the ef-

fects of climate change.

The utility said in a statement that "we met with EPA following the letter and addressed their concerns." EPA, meanwhile, maintained in an email to The Associated Press that its request that TVA revise its environmental impact statement still stands.

at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, said even with TVA's 2027 deadline, "They could build twice the amount of solar that they say they need and twice the amount of battery storage they say they need."

three billion US dollar deficit AMMAN, May 9, (KUNA): Jordan launched the electronic website,

Jordan bets on mining to heal

at the official level is seeking to create new local income resources to cope with the state budget deficit projected at USD three billion in

Jordan, a country with scarce economic resources, focused over the past two years on mining and signed 11 memoranda of understanding with Arab and foreign companies to explore profit-generating raw mate-

Minister of Energy Saleh Al-Kaharbshe, cited by a statement released by his department, said the memos, of 12-24 months mandates, aim at exploring raw materials namely gold, copper, lithium, phosphates and other underground resources.

He said Jordan is seeking to expand the mining industry and investment for sake of creating more jobs, and companies are studying the memos before signing concessions'

For its part, the Ministry of Energy, he said, had signed a memorandum of understanding with a local company to work out a map determining the most feasible explorations for minerals. Moreover, the ministry launched an electronic website for investment opportunities in minerals, petroleum and shale oil.

The Ministry of Investments has

"Invest in Jordan," promoting plenty of mining ventures.

The inked memos include one that had been signed by the Ministry of Energy to explore for copper in Dana, in the south of the Kingdom, for phosphate in Al-Risha in the East, gold in Jabal Al-Mubarak in the Jordan Valley, lithium in Vinan Valley, in addition to potash in the Dead Sea region.

The memos stipulate exploration for copper in Abu Khashiba region, gold in the same regions, lithium in the Dead Sea and other rare underground materials in Dbaidib in the South in addition to searching for copper in Malaqa, the Dead

According to official statistics, proceeds from the mining industry in 2024 would hit USD 4.39 billion, including USD 2.74 billion from the extraction industries and USD 1.64 billion from the processing indus-

The mining industry contributed to the gross domestic product, in 2021, with 9.12 percent proportion, with the mining industry accounting to 30.4 percent of the whole exports, the same year.

The Jordanian Government has recently endorsed the 2024 budget with a projected deficit amounting to USD three billion.

Bank of England holds benchmark rate at 5.25 pct LONDON, May 9, (AP): The Bank of England maintained its key U.K. interest rate at a 16-year high of 5.25% though it gave a broad hint that a reduction

forecast to fall below target. In a statement Thursday, the bank's nine-member Monetary Policy Committee voted 7-2 to keep rates unchanged, with the 2 dissenters backing a quarterpoint reduction. Last time, only one member voted for a quarter-point cut. Like the U.S. Federal Reserve last week, which also kept rates, on hold the majority on the panel wanted to see more evidence that infla-

could be on the cards as soon as June as inflation is

tion is under control. The increase in the number of those backing a U.K. rate reduction is a clear indication that there is a shifting balance on the committee in favor of cuts.

think it will fall close to our 2% target in the next couple of months," said Bank Gov. Andrew Bailey. "We need to see more evidence that inflation will stay low before we can cut interest rates. I'm optimistic that things are moving in the right direction.'

2 dissenters back a quarter-point reduction

Bailey indicated that the financial markets are more pessimistic about the path of interest rates and that "it is likely that we'll need to cut bank rates in the coming quarters, possibly more so than is currently priced into markets."

However, he said a cut at the next meeting in June has "not been ruled out" but insisted that it was "not a fait accompli.

Headline inflation in the U.K. is down at an annual rate of 3.2%, its lowest level in two and a half

In forecasts accompanying its decision, the Bank of England said it expects inflation to fall below the target between April and June, but rise again to 2.6% in the second half of this year as the impact of recent drops in energy prices fades.

Longer-term, it said it expects inflation to fall more than previously thought over the coming years to 1.5% in 2026. Given that it sets policy to target inflation months and years ahead, that's a further hint that rates will be cut soon. That was certainly the view in financial markets, where the British pound fell against other currencies. It was down 0.4% against the dollar, for example, at \$1.2450 in the immediate aftermath of the decision as traders priced in the prospect of lower returns on holding pounds.



Program offers insight into banking industry for students

NBK opens registration in NBK Aspire Summer Internship program for 2024

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Underscoring its social responsibility by showing support to the young generation and students, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has announced opening registration for NBK Aspire Summer Internship Program for 2024, targeting students between the age of 14 and 18 years, which is scheduled to kickstart on June 30.

The program's curriculum for this year is divided into 4 two-week sessions, which include training courses and workshops delivered in cooperation with Creative Confidence. The first session scheduled from June 30 to July 11, 2024 focuses on integrity at work, whereas the second session scheduled from July 14 to 25 includes trips to NBK's different divisions. The third session is from July 28 to August 8 addresses cybercrime and the "Let's Be Aware" banking awareness campaign by familiarizing students to cybercrime and how to protect themselves from financial fraud, and finally the last session from August 11 to 22, 2024 focuses on training, development and sustainability.

The program also includes a set of training and study materials that include working group mechanisms, creative thinking, optimal self-expression, customer-dealing skills, as well as service quality concept. This aims to qualify and empower students, and to provide them with the opportunity to benefit from the



Yaqoub Al Baqer

Al Baqer:
■ The program's goal is to encourage students to engage in the banking business experience during their summer vacation
■ NBK is always keen to empower and upskill the youth to

program. These courses also include tours for participants to give them a closer look at the work mechanism in the bank's divisions and branches.

play an active role in the future

Commenting on this, Yaqoub Al Baqer, NBK Public Relations Senior Manager at National Bank of Kuwait, said, "NBK Aspire Program's goal is to encourage students during their summer vacation to receive training and engage in the banking business experience. It also reflects the bank's steadfast commitment to deliver its social responsibility by empowering and upskilling the young generation to play an active role in the future."

"In light of the program's resounding success over the past years, NBK always seeks to enhance its content with the aim of developing participants' personal skills, such as training on presentation skills, and devising solutions for problem solving," he added.

"NBK shows steadfast commitment to supporting the youth and students and developing their skills and experience through the most advanced training programs, which translates in upskilling and qualifying them to actively contribute to the success of public and private sector institutions in the future, thus promoting sustainability among national cadres," he noted.

It is worth mentioning that since founding, NBK has fostered corporate social responsibility culture as a cardinal principle for serving the community at large. To this end, it contributed large investments in social support, and introduced many meaningful programs in areas including education, healthcare, training and recruitment of national talent, social support and welfare programs as well as environmental and sports initiatives.







Photos from the blood donation campaign

UP NRI Forum Kuwait 'collaborates' with AMUOBA for Blood Donation Camp 2024

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: UP NRI Forum-Kuwait, established in 2015 is now one of the premier social and charitable organization representing people from across Uttar Pradesh (India), residing in Kuwait. We undertake various Social, Charitable and Cultural activities e.g. Indian Independence Day Celebration, Free Health Check-up / Guidance Camps, Blood Donation Camps, Cultural and Social Meets etc., since inception of the Forum.

In continuation of the same, a Blood Donation Camp was organised by the UP NRI Forum (UPNRIFK) in association with Aligarh Muslim University Old Boys' Association (AMUOBA) on the Friday May03rd-2024. The AMU Old Boys' Association (AMUOBA), Kuwait Chapter is for the Alumni of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) residingin Kuwait. This is non-political, non-profitable organization devoted exclusively to educational, literary, cultural, social & community services activities.

Blood Donation Camp was conducted at Adan Hospital Blood Bank Branch, Kuwait, from Afternoon1pm to 6pm, attracting an impressive turnout of 86 donors. However, only 45 units of blood were collected as few of the donors were rejected due to travel history and medical grounds. In a remarkable display of community spirit and generosity,the donors showcased their unwavering commitment to saving lives through their selfless act of donating blood.

The event was graced by the presence of the Second Secretary (Community Affairs & Association), Mr. Harit Ketan Shelat from Indian Embassy. Mr. Shelat acknowledged the vital role played by blood donors in the healthcare system and expressed his gratitude to the donors for their generosity. Other prominent Indian dignitaries also attended the Camp to

donate the blood and inspire others for the same. Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of volunteers worked

Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth execution of the Blood Donation Camp. These selfless individuals and their family members organized and managed the event, ensuring that each donor had a positive and comfortable experience. From registration to post-donation care, the volunteers diligently oversaw every aspect of the camp, demonstrating their exceptional commitment to the noble cause. The Hospital Staff fully cooperated with the volunteers and donors and executed the transfusion process in a truly professional man-

The Blood Donation Camp left a lasting impact on both the organizers and the donors, reaffirming the power of collective action in bringing about positive change. The event not only replenished the blood banks but also raised awareness about the ongoing need for blood donation drives to save lives.

As the volunteers and organizers of the event under leadership of both UP NRI Forum's President Dr. Mohan Ram & AMUOBA's President Mr. Aslam Parvez reflect on their accomplishments, they express gratitude to all the Blood Donors, Forum's EC Members & Volunteers, Camp Sponsors BEC Currency Exchange and Associate Organiser AMUOBA and their dedicated team members for their staunch support. Their combined efforts have undoubtedly made a difference in the lives of those in need of blood

The Grand Success of this Blood Donation Camp serves as a reminder that, together, we can make a significant impact and bring hope to those facing medical emergencies.

ABK announces Abdulfattah Abdulmohsen Alali as winner of Alfouz KD 10,000 weekly draw prize

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced Abdulfattah Abdulmohsen Alali, as the KD10,000 Alfouz weekly draw winner on Monday, 6 May, 2024, whereby the draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Since its launch, the Alfouz account continues to offer an impressive weekly draw of KD10,000. The Bank has recently expanded its offering by adding a new alluring monthly draw of KD 20,000 and an exceptional quarterly draw of KD100,000.

The account also retains its hallmark mega annual draw of a KD 5,000 monthly salary for ten years. Furthermore, the Bank now offers customers an increased opportunity to win for every KD 10 as opposed to KD 100 previously.

ABK encourages everyone to open an Alfouz draw account and/or increase their balances to have more chances in winning in the upcoming weekly draw winner announcement, which will take place on Monday, 13 May, 2024. The higher the deposits, the higher the chances to win.



For more information about ABK, please follow the

Bank's Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Kuwait.

Experts convene at AUK to discuss sustainable future

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The Office of Research and Grants (ORG) at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) hosted a panel discussion entitled "Energy and Environmental Sustainability in Kuwait" at the campus theater. The panel discussion brought together experts in energy conservation, government policy, and artificial intelligence to review current efforts and plan for a more sustainable future in Kuwait.

Participating in the panel discussion were AUK assistant professor of management, Dr. Ahmad Al-Saber; Dr. Yehya Al-Hadban from the Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR); Dr. Dhary Al Kandary, assistant professor in the Environmental Sciences Department at Kuwait University (KU); and Dr. Marwan Al-Dimashki from the Kuwait Environment Protection Agency.

ORG director, Dr. Iyad Abu Doush, commenced the event by extending a warm welcome and emphasizing the importance of delving into sustainable energy and environmental concerns, particularly given their profound implications for future generations.

Dr. Al-Hadban elaborated on effective operational tactics for air conditioning systems, the significance of thermal energy storage, and forthcoming trends in energy conservation, whilst Dr. Al-Kandary shared an overview of the effectiveness of recent efforts in monitoring and improving the seawater quality around Kuwait.

The status of Kuwait's government initiatives in controlling air quality and supporting environmental research was also discussed, whereby Dr. Al-Dimashki reflected on how these efforts align with international standards. Dr. Al-Saber provided his expertise on the application of artificial intelligence in environmental monitoring, discussing the potential for Al-driven solutions to further environmental research and policymaking in Kuwait.

AUK's endeavors are not merely academic pursuits but tangible expressions of its commitment to shaping a more sustainable future for Kuwait and beyond. As AUK continues to lead the charge in driving meaningful change, it reaffirms its position as a pioneer in its dedication to fostering a more environmentally conscious world



General photo of panel discussion.



AUK members with panelists



Leaders unite at AmCham Kuwait's Women in Business Diwaniya to champion Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

KWEEP founders advocate for sustainable inclusivity matrix

AmCham Kuwait hosts first 2024 Women in Business Diwaniya to promote Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: AmCham Kuwait successfully hosted its first Women in Business (WIB) Diwaniya for 2024. This landmark event brought together influential leaders and professionals from various sectors to discuss and develop initiatives promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in the workplace

Dr. Arezou, Vice Chair of AmCham Kuwait, expressed her gratitude to the attendees for their collaborative efforts in establishing the DEI Matrix, a framework aimed at fostering sustainable inclusive practices. During the event, Dr. Arezou outlined this year's agenda, which focuses on capacity-building with measurable outcomes, and scalable actions to ensure success for women in business. Founding members of KWEEP (Kuwait Women's Economic Empowerment Platform) were in attendance and expressed their advocacy and endorsement for the Sustainable Inclusivity Matrix.

Event Highlights and Key Discussions

The Diwaniya emphasized the importance of capacity-building through initiatives like mentorship, workshops, and further studies. AmCham Kuwait aims to leverage its networks to support these efforts. Dr. Arezou encouraged attendees to share their insights on what has worked in terms of capacity-building and what can create a lasting impact.

ailding and what can create a lasting impact.

KWEEP and Its Role in Promoting Inclusion

The event also featured discussions about KWEEP, established as an innovative and pioneering initiative. The Platform aims to support the growth and advancement of women in the workplace by promoting the adoption of real and sustainable policies focused on various aspects of women's empowerment in the private sector. With a particular emphasis on recruitment, retention, and leadership in Kuwait's private sector. Founded by eight companies and aims to have Kuwait's top 50 companies as signatories, KWEEP facilitates networking and creating a positive impact in the business community.

Salma Hajaj, Head of HR at Gulf Bank, highlighted KWEEP's commitment to mentoring and empowering younger generations.

Exploring Themes and Challenges

The Diwaniya also explored the need to establish clear themes for future events and the importance of tailoring engagement with various stakeholders. Attendees shared their perspectives as women in leadership, highlighting how the perception of Women Business groups in Kuwait differs from those in other countries. Dr. Arezou expressed that AmCham Kuwait's WIB mandate is non-political and advocacy-oriented, focusing on capacity-building and community impact.

community impact.
Next Steps and Future Plans

Next Steps and Future Plans
Dr. Arezou announced that the Diwaniya series would be held quarterly, with measurable outputs to track progress. The next event will focus on different themes and seek feedback from experts and attendees. The goal is to develop a reference point for companies and organizations looking to implement effective DEI practices. These will be taken and shared from the suc-

cesses of member organizations.

The event concluded with a call to action for attendees to continue contributing their expertise and insights to shape the future of women in business in Kuwait. AmCham Kuwait is committed to fostering a culture of inclusion and

creating opportunities for women at all levels of their careers.

ABCK-AmCham Kuwait: is a non-profit organization operating since 1985 and is composed of Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium-sized companies, and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs, both American and Kuwaiti. ABCK-AmCham Kuwait has acted as an advocate for American interests in the state of Kuwait. For More Information, please visit our website at www.amchamkuwait.org or follow us on our social media channel @ abck1985.

sands of pro-Palestinian protesters are also expected in the city for demonstrations urging a cease-fire in the Gaza war and criticizing Israel's participation in the contest.

Here's a guide to what Eurovision means, how it works and what to watch for: The short answer: Eurovision is a music competition, in which per-

formers from countries across Europe, and a few beyond it, compete under their national flags with the aim of being crowned continental champion. Think of it as the Olympics of pop music.

The longer answer is that Eurovision is an extravaganza that melds pop, partying and politics - a cross between a music festival, an awards show and a meeting of the United Nations Security Council. It's an event full of silly fun, a celebration of music's unifying power, and also a place where politics and regional rivalries play out.

Thirty-seven countries are entered in the contest, which this year is taking place over several days in the Swedish port city of Malmo. The country is hosting because Swedish singer Loreen won last year's competition in Liverpool, England.

Through two semifinals, the 37 acts are narrowed to 26 who will compete in Saturday's final in front of thousands of spectators in the Malmo Arena and a global television audience estimated at 180 million.

Nations can enter a solo act or a band. They can perform in any genre and language, but the rules state they must sing live and songs must be

no more than three minutes long. Staging has grown ever more elaborate, incorporating flashy pyrotechnics and elaborate choreography. This year is particularly strong on topless male dancers.

Once all the acts have performed, the winner is chosen by a famously complex mix of phone and online votes from viewers around the world and rankings by music-industry juries in each of the Eurovision countries. As the results are announced, countries slide up and down the rankings and tensions build. Ending up with "nul points," or zero, ranks as a national humiliation.

The musical style of Eurovision has diversified dramatically since the contest was founded in 1956. The early years of crooners and ballads gave way to perky pop - epitomized by perhaps the greatest Eurovision song of all time, ABBA's "Waterloo," which won the contest 50 years ago.

Popular

Nowadays, Euro-techno and power ballads remain popular, but viewers have also shown a taste for rock, folk-rap and eccentric and unclassifiable songs.

According to bookmakers, a leading contender is Swiss singer Nemo, who is performing a melodic, operatic song titled "The Code. Another nonbinary performer generating huge buzz is Ireland's Bambie Thug, whose song "Doomsday Blue" is Gothic, intense, over the top and a real crowd-pleaser. (They're the only contestant known to have brought a scream coach to Malmo). Ireland has won Eurovision seven times - a total equaled only by Sweden - but has fared poorly in recent years.

Other acts tipped to do well include operatic Slovenian singer Raiv-

en, Ukrainian rap-pop duo alyona alyona and Jerry Heil and Spain's Nebulosa, whose song "Zorra" has caused a stir because its title can be translated as an anti-female slur.

So far the act with the most momentum is Croatian singer Baby Lasagna. His song "Rim Tim Tagi Dim" is perfect Eurovision: exuberant, silly,

a little emotional and incredibly catchy. It's already a huge fan favorite. Eurovision's motto is "united by music," and its organizer, the European Broadcasting Union, strives to keep politics out of the contest.

But it often intrudes. Meanwhile, no matter whether Nemo wins the Eurovision Song Contest this weekend - which would make them the first nonbinary contestant to take home the crystal microphone - the singer is already

Representing Switzerland with a track called "The Code," Nemo says there is now more understanding and awareness in their country about being nonbinary and what it means.

"People start understanding more and I think that understanding means the world to me. And just being able to represent this community at Eurovision is amazing. And I'm so glad that I am not even the only one this year. You know, like that's even better because it just, it just shows that it's needed.'

Among the contestants who've made it to Thursday's next semi-final round is Ireland's gothic fairy Bambie Thug, who is also nonbinary and uses they/them pronouns.

Nemo's powerhouse number "The Code" is about struggling to find their place and discovering it "somewhere between the zeroes and ones" of a binary system. It's one of the favorites to win Eurovision, which takes place this week in Malmö. Sweden.

Variety



This image released by 20th Century Studios shows Noa, played by Owen Teague, (from left), Freya Allan as Nova, and Raka, played by Peter Macon, in a scene from 'Kingdom of the Planet of the

Film

Visual marvels and moral dilemmas in new 'Kingdom'

'Planet of the Apes' finds new hero

By Mark Kennedy

 \mathbf{F} ans of the "Planet of the Apes" franchise may still be mourning the 2017 death of Caesar, the first smart chimp and the charismatic ape leader. Not to worry: He haunts the next episode, the thrilling, visually stunning "Kingdom of the Planet of the

We actually start with Caesar's funeral, his body decorated with flowers and then set alight like a Viking, before fast-forwarding "many generations later." All apes talk now and most humans don't, reduced to caveman loin cloths and running wide-eyed

and scared, evolution in reverse. Our new hero is the young ape Noa (Owen Teague) who is like all young adult chimps - seeking his father's approval (even chimp dads just don't understand) and testing his bravery. He is part of a clan that raises pet eagles, smokes fish and lives peacefully.

That all changes when his village is attacked not by humans but by fellow apes - masked soldiers from a nasty kingdom led by the crown-wearing Proximus Caesar (Kevin Durand, playing it to the hilt). He has taken Caesar's name but twisted his words to become a tyrannical strongman - sorry, strongape.

Unlike the last movie which dealt with man's inhumanity to animals - concentration camps included - ape-on-ape violence is in the cards for this one, including capturing an entire clan as prisoners. Proximus Caesar's goons use makeshift cattle prods on fellow apes and force them to work while declaring "For Caesar!

Screenwriter Josh Friedman has cleverly created a movie that examines how ancient stories can be hijacked and manipulated, like how Caesar's non-violent message gets twisted by bad actors. There's also a lot of "Avatar" primitive naivete, and that makes sense since the reboot was shaped by several of that blue alien movie's makers.

The movie poses some uncomfortable questions about collaborationists. William H. Macy plays a human who has become a sort of teacher-prisoner to Proximus Caesar - reading Kurt Vonnegut to him and won't fight back. "It is already their world," he rationalizes.

Along for the heroic ride is a human young woman (Freya Allan, a budding star) who is hiding an agenda but offers Noa help along the way. Peter Macon plays a kindly, book-loving orangutan who adds a jolt of gleeful electricity to the movie and is missed

The effects are just jaw-dropping, from the ability to see individual hairs on the back of a monkey to the way leaves fall and the crack of tree limbs echoing in the forest. The sight of apes on horseback, which seemed glitchy just seven years ago, are now seamless. There are also inside jokes, like the use of the name Nova again this time.

Director Wes Ball nicely handles all the thrilling sequences - though the two-and-a-half hour runtime is somewhat taxing - and some really cool ones, like the sight of apes on horseback on a beach, a nod to the original 1968 movie. And like when the apes look through some old illustrated kids' books and see themselves depicted in zoo cages. That makes for some awkward human-ape interaction. "What is next for apes? Should we go back to silence?" our hero asks.

The movie races to a complex face-off between good and bad apes and good and bad humans outside a hulking silo that holds promise to each group. Can apes and humans live in peace, as Caesar hoped? "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes" doesn't answer that but it does open up plenty more to ponder. Starting with the potentially crippling proposition of a key death, this franchise has somehow found new vibrancy

"Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes," a 20th Century Studios release that is exclusively in theaters May 10, is rated PG-13 for "intense sequences of scifi violence and action." Running time: 145 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.

PARK CITY, Utah: Carol Kane really wanted to work with Jason Schwartzman, but the opportunity would require her to step a little outside of her com-

Filmmaker Nathan Silver came to her with an idea for "Between the Temples," about a widow and a widower who become friends one winter. Her character, Carla, is a retired music teacher who wants to get her bat mitzvah. Schwartzman's Ben is her former student, and currently a cantor, who agrees to help (reluctantly at first). Silver and his cowriter C. Mason Wells didn't have a script, not in any traditional sense. It was something in between a script and a treatment, a novella of sorts with some written lines and lots of opportunity for creativity and character development.

"The idea sounded pretty fascinating," Kane, 71, said in a recent phone interview. "But I was a little trepidatious about working in a way that I never had

She was willing to take the leap with her collaborators, however. It helped that she felt like she knew Carla in a way.

"The story of Carla is somewhat similar to my mom's story. She moved to France and started an entirely new life at 55. She just changed her life,' said Kane, with her 97-year-old mother nearby. "I think that there are a lot of very brave women out there sort of trying to reinvent themselves at a certain age when certain responsibilities have freed them to make that choice."

The film premiered this week at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, where it is seeking distribution. And working with Schwartzman on the complex, loving relationship between Carla and Ben was as good as she hoped.

"It was like having a great dancing partner," Kane said. "He's just a great actor and he's a great human being. I certainly hope that we will get to do this again sooner rather than later."

Kane considers herself extremely lucky for all the great filmmakers she's gotten to work with over the years. Her first film, "Carnal Knowledge," was with Mike Nichols after all. She'd go on to work with Hal Ashby ("The Last Detail"), Joan Micklin Silver ("Hester Street," for which Kane got an Oscar nomination), Sidney Lumet ("Dog Day Afternoon"), Woody Allen ("Annie Hall"), Elaine May ("Ishtar") and Rob Reiner ("The Princess Bride"), and act in the much-loved series "Taxi."

More recently she's gained new fans through "The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" and her current series "Star Trek: Strange New Worlds." But there's at least one dream collaborator on her list that she hasn't gotten to work with yet.

"I hope to one day get a chance to work with Marty Scorsese," Kane said. "That's been my lifelong dream." (AP)

BEIJING: Hong Kong action crime thriller "Twilight of the

Thursday

screening

on the day.

Warriors: Walled In" continued to top the Chinese mainland's daily box office chart on Wednesday, data from the China Movie Data Information Network showed

The film, directed by celebrated

Hong Kong director Soi Cheang

Sammo Hung, grossed over 15.72

million yuan (about 2.21 million

It was followed by Chinese

comedy "The Last Frenzy," which

raked in over 15.05 million yuan

focuses on China's peacekeeping

lion yuan of daily box office sales.

legendary producer who shaped the

musical landscape through his work

with Nirvana, the Pixies, PJ Harvey

LOS ANGELES: Steve Albini,

an alternative rock pioneer and

and more, has died. He was 61.

Brian Fox, an engineer at

Albini's studio, Electrical Audio

Recording, said Wednesday that

ized rock albums such as Nirvana

through "Surfer Rosa," and **PJ Harvey**'s "Rid of Me," Albini was

the frontman of the underground

He dismissed the term "pro-

ducer," refused to take royalties

from the albums he worked on, and

requested he be credited with "Recorded by Steve Albini," a fabled

At the time of his death, Al-

to tour their first new album in a

decade, "To All Trains," which

Other acts whose music was

shaped by Albini include Joanna

Albini was born in California,

grew up in Montana, and fell in

love with the do-it-yourself punk

studying journalism at Northwest-

As a teenager, he played in

about music for the prescient

indie zine "Forced Exposure."

punk bands, and in college, wrote

music scene in Chicago while

Newsom's indie-folk opus, "Ys, and releases from bands like the Breeders, the Jesus Lizard, Hum, Superchunk, Low and Mogwai.

releases next week.

ern University.

bini's band Shellac were preparing

label on albums he worked on.

bands Big Black and Shellac.

's "In Utero," the Pixies' break-

In addition to his work on canon-

Albini died after a heart attack

police missions on foreign soil. came in third with nearly 8.16 mil-

Tuesday night.

Domestic action thriller

"Formed Police Unit," which

and starring Louis Koo and

US dollars) on the 8th day of

While attending Northwestern in the early '80s, he founded the abrasive, noisy post-punk band Big Black, known for its mordant riffs, violent and taboo lyrics and drum machine in lieu of a live drummer. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: While his



superstar girlfriend Taylor Swift resumes her world Eras tour, Travis Kelce is keeping busy. The NFL player has joined the

cast of "Grotesquerie" on FX. The series is a horror drama from Ryan Murphy, but a spokesperson for the network says it is not under the "American Horror Story" umbrella.

Late Tuesday, cast member Niecy Nash posted a series of videos to Instagram featuring her on set with Kelce.

"Guys, guess who I am working with on 'Grotesquerie'?" Kelce pops into frame and says, "Jumpin' into new territory with Niecy." A later video where she wrote "late night shenanigans"

showed the two in what appeared to be a red convertible. "Look at this guy," she says. "Buckle up!" added Kelce.

And a final video featured Murphy embracing Kelce and saying, 'You were wonderful." Off camera, Nash asks, "How do you feel?" Kelce replied, "Whoo! I'm just glad I didn't hurt nobody." (AP)

People & Places

Artistry in Cabric



Award winners with Sheikha Altaf Al Sabah, Sheikha Bibi Al Sabah and Dr Al Jassar of the NCCAL.

Weaving dreams...

KTAA exhibition celebrates creativity

By Chaitali B. Roy Special to the Arab Times

Inder the auspices of Sadu House and the National Council of Culture, Arts, and Letters, Kuwait Textiles Arts Association held their 23rd Annual Textile Arts Association Exhibition at Ahmed Al Adwany Hall at Dahiyat Abdulla Salem from April 30 to May 2. As usual, the show was a joyous coming together of artists who put their emotions, passions and skills into thread and fabric, creating a wonderful display of work that has continued for 23 years. The exhibition was launched in the presence of Dr Mohammed Khaled Al Jassar, Secretary General of the NCCAL, Sheikha Altaf Salem Al Ali Al Sabah, Founder and Patron of Sadu House and Sheikha Bibi Duaij Al Sabah, the Al Sadu Society Chairperson. The show was judged by Lorraine Chwazi from USA.

"Under the leadership of our new president, Dr Batoul AlSayegh, and her executive team, the KTAA has been focused on fostering our community and exposing them to multiple exclusive workshops by international visiting textile artists," shared Sheikha Bibi Al Sabah. "The exhibition not only showcased some of the participant's works as examples of the techniques learnt during the workshops, but it has also provided the community with a platform to sell their items for the first time.'

It was evident that the artworks adorning the walls of Ahmed Al Adwany Hall were not just creations, but labors of love. These are creations of textile artists who are constantly seeking new challenges and opportunities to expand their knowledge and love of textiles. The annual exhibition is traditionally renowned for its quilting display, but this year, there was tremendous work achieved in the field of fibre arts category.

Diverse

"Since my tenure as the President of KTAA, the exhibition has witnessed remarkable growth and evolution," shared Batoul Al Sayegh, the committed President of KTAA. "What initially started with a modest number of entries of quilts and crochet items has now expanded significantly, with a diverse range of artworks on display. The quality of the pieces has also seen a notable improvement, reflecting the increasing skill and creativity of our members. We have also made efforts to attract a larger audience to promote textile art."

The exhibition introduced several new categories in the fibre arts section and there was also a KTAA shop where textile arts made by KTAA members were sold. "The introduction of new categories in the KTAA exhibition was a deliberate effort to keep pace with the evolving landscape of textile arts. We recognized the need to provide our members with fresh opportunities to explore their creativity and expand

their skills," added Al Sayegh. Sawsan Khalaf, the Exhibition



Top: Yan Liu and Lorraine Chwazik with the 'Best of the Show.' Above: Hanan Al Kazemi and Sheikha Bibi Al Sabah

Coordinator who took up the challenge of curating and setting up the largest annual celebration of textile arts in the country, did a commendable job. "The biggest challenge for me was to make improvements and introduce new ideas in this exhibition." Sawsan and her team rose to the challenge and succeeded in introducing new categories and sections. Apart from the dukkan or shop, the exhibition also had an activity centre. "Furthermore, we made sure that the people enjoyed their time by visiting the activity corner (Crochet, needle punch and shuttle tatting).' She aimed to spread awareness regarding textile art and highlight its impact on mental health. "Of course, this exhibition is important for all the members to show their hard work," she says. "However, educating the coming generations about the arts of textiles and its psychological effects is essential. I like quilting categories the most, and that's because I find myself in this type of art, and it takes me away from reality.'

KTAA

Nisreen Poonawala, a senior member of the fibre arts group with the KTAA, says, "The new catego-

ries encouraged more ladies to take part and get creative. I was personally impressed with some of the pieces that were exhibited." The new categories introduced allowed members to express their playful and whimsical side with beautiful accessories, fibre and fabric-made Spongebob, fancy purses, and other items on display.

"The decision to introduce new categories to the fibre arts section stemmed from the diverse talent within our group," says Maddie Ellsawi, the gifted fibre arts coordinator at KTAA. "We wanted to provide a platform for our members to showcase their creativity and passion for textiles. We also have many new members, particularly Kuwaiti nationals who show great promise, dedication and love for textile arts." Maddie is an old member of the KTAA, and she initially documented KTAA and its activities when she joined in 2010.

"Fibre arts has always been my passion, and serving as the coordinator presents a fulfilling challenge,' she shares. "Planning weekly projects for the group activities is particularly rewarding, especially with such talented artists, and ensuring their skills are continuously developed is gratifying and demanding.'

Evolution

Maddie says of KTAA and its evolution, "Over the years, the KTAA exhibition has undergone significant evolution. What started with only a few entries in our fibre arts categories now encompasses many displayed items. We have embraced this growth by continually introducing new techniques and mediums, such as tatting, blackwork embroidery, painting embroidery, and needle felting. Moreover, we prioritize the professional development of our members by inviting esteemed international instructors and artists for fibre arts and quilting workshops, enriching their knowledge and skills through shared expe-

riences and expertise. Hanan Al Kazemi, an award-winning quilt artist, won first place in the Mixed techniques category. " I enjoy making quilts with many colours and shapes. I believe that this design perfectly captures the creations of my imagination. I completed the entire quilting process with feathers and other quilting designs and filled

the rest with micro stippling. Yan Liu won this year's Best of the Show, the fifth time she has won the accolade. Liu has enthralled textile art enthusiasts in Kuwait since she joined the KTAA in 2011."This accolade is a testament to the dedication invested in my craft," says Yan Liu. "It affirms my artistic pursuits, even as I pondered whether my work's themes, hues, and craftsman-



The Sadu Corner

From right clockwise: Harmonius Regrowth by Teresa Al Alban, Yan Liu and Susanna Johns; Rose Bag by Nisreen Poonawala and Batoul Al Sayegh, President of KTAA with Sawsan Khalaf, Exhibi-



ship truly mirrored their intended essence.

Their personal experiences deeply inspire most textile artists' art. Yan Liu is no exception. Her award-winning piece was inspired by a photograph she took in 2013 during a visit to Petra. "It featured a young boy in a vibrant red coat with his don-

key," she recalls. "His cheerful smile and the donkey's playful stubbornness struck me. It was a candid display of joy and the simplicity of life - a moment frozen in time that I've longed to translate into art for over a decade.

Harmonious

Yan's piece is a beautiful piece centred on Petra, the boy against a backdrop of swirling clouds is visually striking. It is a harmonious palette coupled with exquisite work-

Taste in the arts has changed over the years, as has the KTAA membership. The organization has taken these changes positively and turned them into a source of strength. Some years back, Donna Al Shaya, erstwhile President of the KTAA, told the Arab Times, " I want more Kuwaitis to join KTAA. There are many talented Kuwaitis around who should be members of KTAA." Today, that vision of Donna Al Shaya is fulfilled.

Teresa Alban, an award-winning textile artist, agrees. "Earlier, the KTAA used to be made up of expatriates from different parts of the world, but now it's more of Arabs from Yemen, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, and Kuwait, who are very talented. We have people from different walks of life on different committees, which is always wonderful because we get to see how things are handled differently. I don't think KTAA has changed a lot. We are still a community of women who get together with talents that we love to share, and we are there

to help each other. Teresa won this year for a piece on which she collaborated with Yan Liu and Susanna Johns. "It's a wonderful feeling because we have three different cultures involved, different identities, and different personalities, andyet we can unify as one. It is a wonderful way to show how people from different walks of life can become one. It shows that people aren't that different from each other. It was a humbling experience, and I hope to do it again.

Speaking of KTAA's evolution, Yan Liu says, "The organization has witnessed a remarkable evolution in the past 13 years. Initially dominated by Western expatriates, the KTAA now proudly reflects a majority of local Kuwaiti artisans, with a sprinkling of international members. Where once Western expatriates held sway in the executive board, there has been a significant shift towards predominantly Kuwaiti leadership." She also remarked on the creative transition that has taken place in the group.

"The KTAA's creative output has beautifully transitioned to embrace the rich tapestry of Middle Eastern motifs, harmoniously blended with Southeast Asian influences.Despite a perceived dip in artisanal expertise following the departure of long-established Western members, there is an encouraging upward trajectory in the craftsmanship skills among Kuwaiti members, signalling a promising future for the art form.



Brain needs to wind down before bedtime

Tips to combat late-night screen use for quality sleep

NEW YORK, May 9, (AP): Like many of us, Jessica Peoples has heard the warnings about excessive screen time at night. Still, she estimates spending 30 to 60 minutes on her phone before going to sleep, mostly scrolling through social media

"Recently, I've been trying to limit the amount," says Peoples, a discrimination investigator with the state of New Jersey. "I do notice that how much time I spend affects how long it takes to fall asleep."

Over half of Americans spend time on their phones within an hour of going to sleep, according to a survey by the National Sleep Foundation. That's the very latest we should shut off devices, experts say.

The brain needs to wind down long before bedtime to get the restorative deep sleep that helps the body function, said Melissa Milanak, an associate professor at Medical University of South Carolina specializing in sleep health.

Anxiety

"You wouldn't take a casserole out of the oven and stick it right in the fridge. It needs to cool down," Milanak said. "Our brains need to do that too."

Upending your bedtime routine may not be easy, but insufficient sleep has long been linked to anxiety, obesity and other negative outcomes. Research shows smartphones are particularly disruptive to the circadian clock that regulates sleep and other hormones.

"There are a million and one ways screens create problems with sleep," said Lisa Strauss, a licensed psychologist specializing in cognitive behavioral treatment of sleep disorders.

The brain, she said, processes electric light - not just a smartphone's much-maligned blue light - as sunshine. That suppresses melatonin production, delaying deep sleep. Even very little bright-light exposure in bed has an impact.

Of course, doomscrolling through the news, checking

emails or being tempted by ever more tailored videos on social media has its own consequences. So-called "technostress" amps you up - possibly even trig-

So-called "technostress" amps you up - possibly even triggering the brain's flight or flight response. And algorithms designed to be engaging compel many social media users to scroll longer than they intended.

"Now it's 30 minutes later, when you wanted to watch a couple videos and fall asleep," Milanak said.

Though much of the scientific research on online media

focuses on adolescents and young adults, Strauss said most of her clients struggling with insomnia are middle-aged. "People go down these rabbit holes of videos, and more and more people are getting hooked," she said.

The issue is not just curtailing phone use in bed, but phone use at night. That means redesigning your routine, particularly if you use your phone as a way to decompress.

It helps to create replacement behaviors that are rewarding. An obvious contender is reading a physical book (ereaders are better than phones but still cast artificial light). Milanak also suggests using that hour before bed to take a warm bath, listen to a podcast, make school lunches for the next day, spend time with family or call a relative in another time zone.

"Make a list of things you like that never get done. That's a great time to do stuff that doesn't involve screens," she said. Using a notepad to write down the to-do list for the next day helps keep you from ruminating in bed.

Do those activities in another room to train yourself to associate the bed with falling asleep. If there's no other private refuge at home, "establish a distinct microenvironment for wakefulness and sleep," Strauss said. That could mean sitting on the other side of the bed to read, or even just turning the other way around with your feet at the headboard.

Finally, sequester the phone in another room, or at least across the room. "Environmental control can work better than will power, especially when we're tired," she said.

Brightness

There are ways to reduce the harm. Setting the phone on night mode at a scheduled time every day is better than nothing, as is reducing screen brightness every night. Hold the phone far from your face and at an oblique angle to minimize the strength of the light.

Minimize tempting notifications by putting the phone on do not disturb, which can be adjusted to allow calls and messages from certain people - say, an ailing parent or a kid off at university - to go through. But none of these measures give you carte blanche to look at whatever you want at night, Strauss said

She also recommended asking yourself why checking social media has become your late-night reward.

"Think about the larger structure of the day," she said. Everyone deserves solitary moments to relax, but "maybe be more self-indulgent earlier so you have what you need."

AstraZeneca pulls COVID vaccine

US to test treatments for long **COVID**

LOS ANGELES, May 9, (Agencies): The US National Institutes of Health (NIH) will launch clinical trials to investigate potential treatments for long-term symptoms after COV-ID-19 infection, including sleep disturbances, exercise intolerance and the worsening of symptoms following physical or mental exertion known as post-exertional malaise (PEM), the agency announced on Wednesday.

The new trials will enroll approximately 1,660 people across 50 study sites to investigate potential treatments for some of the most frequent and burdensome symptoms reported by people suffering from long COVID, according to the NIH.

"The group of symptoms these trials will try to alleviate are truly disruptive and devastating for so many people struggling with long COVID," said Walter J. Koroshetz, director of the NIH's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Struggle

"When people can't get reliable sleep, can't exert themselves and feel sick following tasks that used to be simple, the physical and mental anguish can lead to feelings of utter helplessness. We urgently need to come up with answers to help those struggling with long COVID feel whole again," Koroshetz said.

The PEM trial was developed to address concerns expressed by patient advocacy groups about patient safety, and to better understand how this study program may help improve PEM symptoms according to the NIII.

prove PEM symptoms, according to the NIH.

Meanwhile, the pharma giant AstraZeneca has requested that the European authorization for its COVID-19 vaccine be pulled, according to the EU medicines regulator.

In an update on the European Medicines Agency's website Wednesday, the regulator said that the approval for AstraZeneca's Vaxzevria had been withdrawn "at the request of the marketing authorization holder."

AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine was first given the nod by the EMA in January 2021. Within weeks, however, concerns grew about the vaccine's safety, when dozens of countries suspended the vaccine's use after unusual but rare blood clots were detected in a small number of immunized people. The EU regulator concluded AstraZeneca's shot didn't raise the overall risk of clots, but doubts remained.

Partial results from its first major trial - which Britain used to authorize the vaccine - were clouded by a manufacturing mistake that researchers didn't immediately acknowledge. Insufficient data about how well the vaccine protected older people led some countries to initially restrict its use to younger populations before reversing course.

'Microchipping must'

US imposes rules for 'dogs' to curb rabies

NEW YORK, May 9, (AP): All dogs coming into the U.S. from other countries must be at least 6 months old and microchipped to help prevent the spread of rabies, according to new government rules published Wednesday.

The new rules require vaccination for dogs that have been in countries where rabies is common. The update applies to dogs brought in by breeders or rescue groups as well as pets traveling with their U.S. owners.

"This new regulation is going to address the current challenges that we're facing," said Emily Pieracci, a rabies expert at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who was involved in drafting the updated regulations.

The CDC posted the new rules in the federal register on

Wednesday. They take effect Aug. 1 when a temporary 2021 order expires. That order suspended bringing in dogs from more than 100 countries where rabies is still a problem.

The new rules require all dogs entering the U.S. to be at

least 6 months, old enough to be vaccinated if required and for the shots to take effect; have a microchip placed under their skin with a code that can be used to verify rabies vaccination; and have completed a new CDC import form.

There may be additional restrictions and requirements based on where the dog was the previous six months, which may include blood testing from CDC-approved labs.

The CDC regulations were last updated in 1956, and a lot has changed, Pieracci said. More people travel internationally with their pets, and more rescue groups and breeders have set up overseas operations to meet the demand for pets, she said. Now, about 1 million dogs enter the U.S. each year.

Billions of doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine were distributed to poorer countries through a U.N.-coordinated program, as it was cheaper and easier to produce and distribute. But studies later suggested that the pricier messenger RNA vaccines made by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna provided better protection against COVID-19 and its many variants, and most countries switched to those shots.



A Long March-3B carrier rocket carrying the Smart SkyNet-1 01 satellite blasts off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province, May 9. China on Thursday launched a Long March-3B carrier rocket, placing a new satellite in space. The rocket blasted off at 9:43 a.m. (Beijing Time), sending the Smart SkyNet-1 01 satellite into its preset orbit. (Xinhua)

Strong solar flares predicted

Rocky planet twice Earth's size has thick atmosphere

DALLAS, May 9, (Agencies): A thick atmosphere has been detected around a planet that's twice as big as Earth in a nearby solar system, researchers reported Wednesday.

The so-called super Earth - known as 55 Cancri e - is among the few rocky planets outside our solar system with a significant atmosphere, wrapped a blanket of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. The exact amounts are unclear. Earth's atmosphere is a blend of nitrogen, oxygen, argon and other gases.

"It's probably the firmest evidence yet that this planet has an atmosphere," said Ian Crossfield, an astronomer at the University of Kansas who studies exoplanets and was not involved with the research.

The research was published in the journal Nature.

Super Earth refers to a planet's size - bigger than Earth but smaller than Neptune. The boiling temperatures on this planet - which can reach as hot as 4,200 degrees Fahrenheit (2,300 degrees Celsius) - mean that it is unlikely to host life.

Discovery

Instead, scientists say the discovery is a promising sign that other such rocky planets with thick atmospheres could exist that may be more hospitable.

The exoplanet 41 light years away is eight times heavier than Earth and circles its star Copernicus so closely that it has permanent day and night sides. A light-year is nearly 6 trillion miles (9.7 trillion kilometers). Its surface is encrusted with magma oceans.

To identify the makeup of its atmosphere, researchers studied Webb Space Telescope observations before and after the planet passed behind its star.

They separated the light emitted

They separated the light emitted from the planet versus its star and used the data to calculate the planet's temperature. There's evidence the planet's heat was being distributed more evenly across its surface - a party trick atmospheres are known for.

Gases from its magma oceans may play a key role in holding its atmosphere steady. Exploring this super Earth may also yield clues to how Earth and Mars might have evolved first with magma oceans that have since cooled, scientists say.

"It's a rare window," said Renyu Hu, a planetary scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, who was part of the research. "We can look into this early phase of planet evolution."

Also:

BEIJING: China's National Center for Space Weather has predicted that there will be moderate to high levels of solar activity this week, with the possibility of more powerful solar flares.

Among the most intense phenomena from the sun, solar flares are characterized by sudden bursts of brightness in specific areas of the sun's atmosphere. They are often accompanied by an increase in electromagnetic radiation and the release of particles across various energy ranges. Solar flares are rated based on their strength, with A-class as the smallest, followed by B, C, M and X as the most potent.

According to the center, the sun unleashed a strong solar flare, classified as an X4.5, at 2:35 p.m. (Beijing Time) on Monday. Scientists at the space weather center issued a forecast on Tuesday, predicting that there is a possibility of M-class and X-class solar flares occurring in the next three days.

The sun's tantrums also follow a predictable cycle. According to Wang Jingsong, head of the center, the average duration of a Solar Cycle is 11.2 years. The first Solar Cycle commenced in 1755. Currently, the sun is in its 25th Solar Cycle.

The beginning of 2024 saw increased solar activities, with varying degrees of flares erupting in January and February.

Chen Anqin, chief forecaster of the center, said the number of X-class flares per Solar Cycle is approximately 100, and during the peak years, they would occur more frequently at a rate of about 10 to 20 per year.

Since the sun has reached the peak of the Solar Cycle, it is common to experience frequent X-class strong solar flares, Chen added.

The solar flares may affect people's lives on Earth. When solar flares occur, they can cause disruptions in the Earth's ionosphere due to their interaction with the sun. These disruptions have the potential to impact navigation and positioning systems, aviation communications, short-wave communications, as well as other emergency communication networks. They may also pose risks to satellites and inorbit astronauts.

However, scientists said the impact of the solar flares on Earth would be minimal

Childhood abuse

Autism linked to 'stress disorder'

CANBERRA, May 9, (Xinhua): People with autism are more likely to develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Australian research has found.

In a new study, researchers from the Australian National University (ANU) and the University of Queensland (UQ) found that people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are predisposed to PTSD.

PTSD is a mental and behavioral condition that typically develops after experiencing a traumatic event. It can last for months or years, with symptoms including disturbing thoughts, distress in response to trauma-related cues, flashbacks and difficulty concentrating and sleeping.

The research found that for people

The research found that for people on the autism spectrum, PTSD can be triggered by a single mild stress event such as entering a particularly noisy or unfamiliar environment.

Shaam Al Abed, lead author of the study from the John Curtin School of Medical Research at ANU, said that understanding the hypersensitivity to PTSD for people with autism was crucial to developing therapeutic treatments.

"PTSD in autism is currently challenging to diagnose," she said in a media release on Wednesday.

"If we can understand a bit more about the underlying mechanisms, it will go a long way to making sure people are managing their symptoms appropriately."

According to the federal government, over 200,000 Australians have been diagnosed with autism -- a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by challenges in communication and the presence of restricted and repetitive behavioral patterns.

The research found that PTSD can lead to the aggravation of repetitive behaviors and other core traits of autism and called for better awareness of PTSD in autism to allow for efficient intervention.

Maltreatment

Meanwhile, a new study led by the University of Sydney has found that childhood maltreatment is responsible for up to 40 percent of common mental health conditions in Australia.

In their meta-analysis published in the JAMA Psychiatry journal, researchers examined multiple mental health conditions, such as anxiety, depression, harmful alcohol and drug use, self-harm and suicide attempts, with childhood maltreatment classified as physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and emotional or physical neglect before the age of 18.

Results showed that childhood maltreatment accounted for 41 percent of suicide attempts in Australia, 35 percent for cases of self-harm, and 21 percent for depression.

The study also estimated that if childhood maltreatment was eradicated in Australia, more than 1.8 million cases of depressive, anxiety and substance use disorders could be prevented.

Accordingly, the research team un-

derlined the urgency of preventing childhood abuse and neglect to reduce the population prevalence and burden of mental disorders.

The results are devastating and are an urgent call to invest in prevention, not just giving individual support to children and families, but wider policies to reduce stress experienced by families, Lucinda Grummitt, lead author of the study and research associate from the University of Sydney, said on







Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp.Police station - Farwaniya

Head & Sharma in an electrifying opening stand

Hyderabad fashions out 10-wicket win over Lucknow

HYDERABAD, India, May 9, (AP): The opening pair of Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma shared a massive 167-run stand as Sunrisers Hyderabad required just 58 balls to rout Lucknow Super Giants by 10 wickets in the Indian Premier League.

Head and Sharma cranked 16 fours and 14 sixes in an extraordinary display of power-hitting in the first-ever IPL game that saw so many runs being scored inside the first 10 overs.

Head has been scoring consistently for the batting power-house of Hyderabad this season and raced to his half-century off 16 balls before he eventually finished on an unbeaten 89 off 30 balls.

Sharma followed the Australian left-hander soon when he reached his 50 off 19 balls as they raced to century-stand inside the batting power play. Sharma regained his

lost touch with an undefeated 75 off 28 balls

The win lifted Hyderabad to No. 3 with 14 points and more importantly gave it a healthy net runrate of 0.41 with two home games to go. The huge defeat has pushed Lucknow in the tight corner for the playoffs with 12 points from 12

CRICKET

Earlier, Ayush Badoni (55) and Nicholas Pooran (48) propelled Lucknow to 165-4 with a 99-run unbeaten fifth-wicket stand after Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2-12) gave away just 12 singles and dismissed the big hitters - Quinton de Kock (2) and Marcus Stoinis (3) - inside the power play.

Head and Sharma charged against



Sunrisers Hyderabad's Abhishek Sharma plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Lucknow Super Giants in Hyderabad, India. (AP)

pace and spin as Yash Thakur was smashed for 47 off his 16 balls while spinners Ravi Bishnoi and Krishnappa Gowtham gave away 63 runs off their four overs.

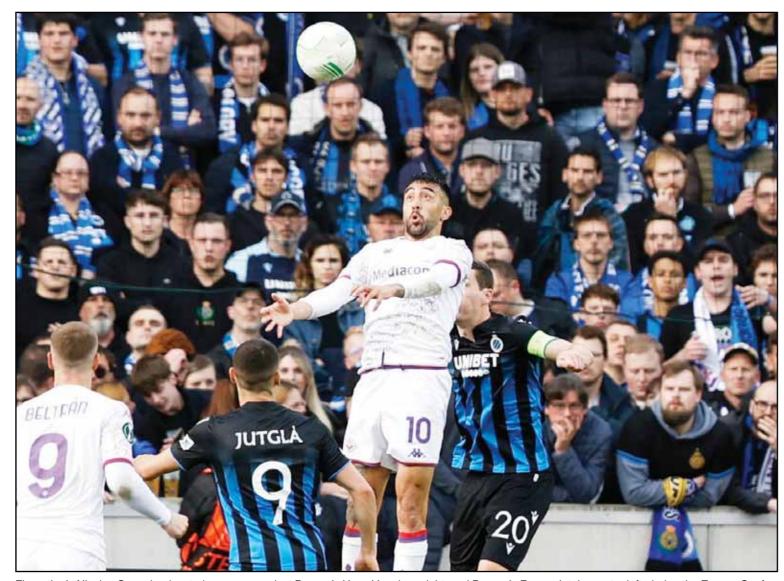
Lucknow had a moment to sepa-

rate the destructive pair but Thakur couldn't hold onto a sharp one-handed catch of Sharma at short third-man when the batter was on 18 in the third over. Sharma had another escape after completing his half-century when leg-spinner Bishnoi dropped a hard two-handed return catch.

Earlier, Kumar had buckled down Lucknow 27-2 in the first six overs on a tacky wicket and Rahul struggled to give the innings momentum before pulled skipper Pat Cummins to deep backward square leg and got dismissed for struggling 29 off 33 balls.

Pooran and Badoni countercharged in the death overs with Badoni playing some orthodox shots on square of the wicket as pace duo of T Natarajan and Cummins conceded 34 runs off the final two

Fiorentina into Europa Conference League final for second straight yr



Fiorentina's Nicolas Gonzalez (center), goes up against Brugge's Hans Vanaken, right, and Brugge's Ferran Jutgla, center left, during the Europa Conference League semi-final second leg soccer match between Club Brugge and Fiorentina at the Jan Breydel Stadium in Bruges, Belgium. (AP)

Beltran scores late penalty

BRUGGE, Belgium, May 9, (AP): A late penalty from Lucas Beltran that reward-Fiorentina's intense pressing ensured the Italian team progressed to the **Europa Conference League** final for the second straight year with an aggregate 4-3 win over Club Brugge.

Fiorentina, which hit the woodwork three times and was the better team in the second half, is now unbeaten in its last 13 European

Beltran's goal secured a 1-1 draw after Brugge captain Hans Vanaken put the hosts in front with a firsthalf goal to level the tie. Fiorentina had prevailed 3-2 in the first leg in

"It is extraordinary, we wanted this final and we proved it in a resounding second half despite the curse of the posts," Fiorentina coach Vincenzo Ítaliano said. "The boys brought out a great personality that is needed in these matches, here it was bedlam."

SOCCER

Club Brugge was in control early on at the Jan Breydel stadium. Playing in front of the backline, Ghana international Denis Odoi was excellent in mastering the midfield with Vanaken as Fiorentina players were pegged back in their half and defended with pugnacity.

Brugge found an opening in the 20th minute when Vanaken delivered a precise cross for Maxim De Cuyper in the box. The defender tried to head the ball home but could not connect with it, and it went straight into the back of the net.

Brugge suddenly lost its focus after scoring and allowed Fiorentina to kickstart its match with a series

of chances. Back from injury, Brugge goalkeeper Simon Mignolet made an excellent save to win a one-on-one

Box owners at iconic Azteca Stadium refuse to release their seats for the 2026 World Cup

MEXICO CITY, May 9, (AP): Roberto Ruano has a luxury box at Mexico City's Azteca Stadium where he and his family can watch soccer games and other events in privacy and comfort.

He's not planning to give that up for the 2026 World Cup.

When the stadium is handed over to FIFA for the tournament co-hosted by Mexico and the United States, Ruano expects the world soccer body to respect a deal dating from the stadium's construction six decades ago that gave box owners unlimited access to their seats for 99 years.

"We've already paid for the right to be there when we purchased the title and there can be no restrictions for us," says Ruano, 61, the spokesman of an association of 134 box owners. "We have a title to support us. It's not up for debate. It's unclear whether the stadium owner and FIFA see it that way.

FIFA wants full control of the World Cup stadiums 30 days before the first match and seven days after the last. But the peculiar history of how the boxes were purchased at Azteca makes things complicated.

To help finance the construction of the stadium in the 1960s, Mexican businessman Emilio Azcárraga Milmo sold boxes to private investors for 115,000 pesos, or about \$9,000 at the time, giving the owners rights to use them for 99 years. That included access to soccer matches, concerts and other events, including the 1970 and 1986 World Cups in Mexico, Ruano says.

The Azteca boxes are a top commodity in Mexico City. The current asking price for a 20-square-meter (65-square-foot) box ranges from 15 million to 25 million pesos (\$900,000 to \$1.5 million). Some owners rent them out for specific events.

The 83,000-seat stadium will host five games during the 2026 World Cup, including the opening match.

Ruano, whose father bought the title for the box, said he was hopeful the box issue would be resolved after talks with stadium officials last week, though no concrete proposal was on the table vet.

Emilio Azcarraga Jean, the owner of the stadium through multimedia company Televisa and the son of Emilio Azcárraga Milmo, says he expected an agreement soon.

Asked for comment, FIFA says it is collaborating with all 16 host cities of the 2026 World Cup, including on remodeling plans for Azteca Stadium, which is set to go down in soccer history as the first venue to host games in three World Cups.

"Specific details on fan access and other match information will be announced in due course," FIFA says.

with Nicolas Gonzalez. Forward Christian Kouame then came close with a stunning half-volley that

struck the crossbar and bounced in front of the goal line.

Both sides looked threatening



Brugge's Michal Skoras (right), fights for the ball with Fiorentina's Lucas Beltran during the Europa Conference League semi-final second leg soccer match between Club Brugge and Fiorentina at the Jan Breydel Stadium in Bruges, Belgium. (AP)

after the interval, with Fiorentina gradually taking control of the game.

The Italian team had a first chance to level the scoring from a free kick that Cristiano Biraghi fired onto the crossbar in the 74th. Fiorentina then hit the woodwork again in the next minute as Kouame headed a cross off the post.

The Italian club's efforts were rewarded in the 85th minute when Brandon Mechele conceded a penalty for a foul in the box. Beltran took the kick and sent the ball past Mignolet with a precise low shot.

Vanaken had a last opportunity to send the game into extra time after Odoi was sent off for a second booking, only for Filippo Terracciano to produce a fine save in stoppage time.

Fiorentina has now reached a European club competition final for the sixth time. Brugge's last appearance at a continental final was in 1978 when it lost to Liverpool in the European Cup title match.

Improvising to qualify for Paris

Paralympian loses medals & equipment in Brazilian floods

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil, May 9, (AP): Vanderson Chaves has faced many challenges in more than a decade as a Paralympic fencer, but none as fearsome as the massive floods in Brazil's Rio Grande do The waters washed away his equip-

ment, dozens of medals, his passport - and might have even thwarted his chances of reaching the Paris Games in September.

Chaves' ground-floor apartment, ideal for his wheelchair, lies in an elevated area of state capital Porto

Still, that didn't spare him from becoming one of the 230,000 people displaced by the floodwaters. Days later, his home remains submerged, his few remaining belongings fit in a car, and it's affecting his mental health ahead of two key competitions next week for him to secure his Paralympics berth.

PARALYMPICS

"There's no way this wouldn't affect me. To compete and to train well, you need to be well psychologically. And I'm not," Chaves told The Associated Press at the Gremio Nautico Uniao, a club that has been turned into shelter for about 300 people since the floods began. "I come from an impoverished area of Porto Alegre. Everything for me is more difficult to achieve. I am Black, I am

disabled. And now this.' The fencer competed at the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 and at Tokyo in 2021. For many years, he has been among the best in the Americas in foil and sabre competitions. He needs to score a few more points in two competitions in Sao Paulo to ensure he gets to travel to Paris. And to get that ticket, he will have to count on donated gear and an unexpectedly tiresome trip because Porto Alegre's airport is flooded, too.

Chaves will travel from Porto Alegre to Florianopolis on Tuesday in a minivan for about 6 hours and 460 kilometers (287 miles). Then he will take a short flight to Sao Paulo, so he can compete from Thursday into the weekend. His main rivals, who come from Argentina and the U.S., will be training and fine-tuning until then as they seek to overtake the Brazilian in the world rankings and

"I went to my mother-in-law's house, this is my first day back at the club. It is like war here, I don't even know whether I would have my mind to train," said Chaves, who has needed a wheelchair since an accident with a firearm at age 12. "But if there was some training I would be here, that was always my outlet."

There's little chance that he will return to his apartment anytime soon, with heavy rains still no the forecast. That's why authorities are rushing to rescue survivors of massive flooding that has killed at least 100 people and left another 130 missing. Some residents have refused to abandon their belongings. Others are returning to evacuated homes despite the risk of

Storms were expected in the state on Thursday, with hail and high

Chaves' coach, Eduardo Nunes, says the Brazilian fencer will face trouble beyond the mental stress and the unexpectedly long trip in his attempt to qualify for the Paralympics.

"He will have new gloves. For a soccer player, that's like having new boots. He could get blisters with that, the gloves won't be softened. His outfit also needs to be softened, and he won't have time to do that and get used to moving around with it. Those little details will affect him. But he can overcome all that," Nunes said. 'The toughest thing will still be his mental health. To focus on what he needs to focus.'

FIFA under threat

Review congested calendar or face legal action from unions, leagues

GENEVA, May 9, (AP): FIFA has been warned of legal action from players and national leagues if it does not backtrack on adding new and bigger competitions to the congested calendar of men's international soccer.

FIFA is criticized for "unilateral decisions that benefit its own competitions and commercial interests" - including the World Cup and expanded 32-team Club World Cup that debuts next year - in a letter sent by global players union FIFPRO and the World Leagues Association seen on Thursday by The Associated Press.

SOCCER

The letter claims it is "inherently abusive" for FIFA to continue adding games while forcing players and leagues to adapt.

FIFA is urged to reschedule the revamped Club World Cup due in the United States in June 2025. The lineup includes Champions League finalists Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund plus Manchester City and Bayern Mu-

That month-long tournament will test stadiums and logistics for the first 48-team, 104-game men's World Cup staged one year later across the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

The unions and leagues also want FIFA to "review its decision" - effectively scrap - the Intercontinental Cup set for this December involving the same continental champions that will play in the Club World Cup six months

Talks also should reopen on the FIFA-managed calendar through 2030 when clubs must release players for national team games, they wrote.

"FIFA has ignored repeated attempts by leagues and unions to engage on this issue," FIFPRO and World Leagues said, aiming to step up pressure before the soccer body's ruling council and



Jefferson Savarino of Brazil's Botafogo dribbles the ball against Ecuador's Liga Deportiva Universitaria during a Copa Libertadores Group D soccer match at the Olimpico Nilton Santos Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (AP)

congress of 211 member federations meet next week in Bangkok, Thailand.

"Should FIFA refuse to formally commit to resolving the issues, as set out above, at its upcoming council, we shall be compelled to advise our members on the options available to them, both individually and collectively, to proactively safeguard their interests,' the letter stated.

"These options include legal action against FIFA on which we have now commissioned external expert advice,' FIFPRO and Zurich-based World

Leagues warn. FIFA has been contacted for com-

Player workloads and domestic fixture schedules also are being squeezed by UEFA's expansion of its three season-long club competitions.

Knicks take commanding series lead over Pacers

Warrior Brunson returns from foot injury to score 29

NEW YORK, May 9, (AP): Jalen Brunson left the locker room on an injured leg, walked onto the court and sent the Madison Square Garden crowd into a frenzy, just as Willis Reed had exactly 54 years earlier.

As the roars turned into "MVP! MVP!" chants, Brunson tried to block out the pain in his body and the noise all around him as he warmed up at halftime.

"It was really cool to hear, but I just knew that I had to get my mind in the right place to figure out how I was going to attack the second half," Brunson said. He shook off his right foot injury to score 24 of his 29 points in the final two

BASKETBALL

quarters, leading the New York Knicks to a 130-121 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Wednesday night for a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference semifi-

On the anniversary of Reed's dramatic emergence from the locker room before Game 7 of the 1970 NBA Finals to lead the Knicks to their first title, Brunson had missed the entire second quarter while the Pacers surged ahead to a double-figure lead.

Reed's teammates have said they didn't know if he would play that night. Brunson's had no doubt

"I mean, he's a warrior. That's all I got." Donte DiVincenzo said. "There was no doubt in my mind that he'll be back. All season long, no matter what is thrown at him, injury bug or whatever, he always bounces back. And we knew the severity of the game and everything, so we knew, everybody had confidence he was coming back.

Brunson fell short of becoming the second player in NBA history to score 40 or more points in five straight playoff games, but he gave the Knicks everything they needed to move halfway to their first Eastern Conference finals ap-

pearance since 2000.
"He's a great leader, so I think the



New York Knicks' Jalen Brunson (11) drives past Indiana Pacers' Andrew Nembhard (2) during the second half of Game 2 in an NBA basketball second-round playoff series in New York. (AP)

players all have respect for that, when a guy goes out and is willing to give whatever he has, and so that says a lot about him," Knicks coach Tom Thibo-

OG Anunoby added a career playoffhigh 28 points before leaving with a left hamstring injury in the third quarter for the injury-riddled Knicks, who have already lost three key players to seasonending injuries

But they got Brunson back and re-

ceived huge efforts again from his two Villanova teammates. DiVincenzo scored 28 points and Josh Hart had 19 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists for the No. 2-seeded Knicks. Tyrese Haliburton rebounded from a poor Game 1 with 34 points, nine assists and six rebounds for the Pacers, who finished the game without coach Rick Carlisle after he got two tech-

"Small-market teams deserve an equal shot," Carlisle said during a post-

nical fouls and was ejected.

game complaint about the officiating. "They deserve a fair shot no matter where they are playing.

The series moves to Indiana for Game 3 on Friday and Game 4 on Sunday.

Former Knicks forward Obi Toppin added 20 points in another strong effort by Indiana's reserves, but the Pacers hurt themselves by shooting just 10 for 17 (59%) from the free throw line.

Knicks fans profanely jeered Pacers Hall of Famer Reggie Miller, an enemy from the heated 1990s era of this playoff rivalry who was calling the game as part of TNT's crew, during a delirious finish to what had been a nervous first half, when Brunson was missing for the entire second quarter.

He had made a 3-pointer for a 24-13 lead in the first quarter, giving the Knicks 10 baskets in their first 14 shots in a blistering start. But after Toppin made one for the Pacers on the other end, Brunson began waving to the bench for a substitution as he ran down the court on offense. That was early in an 11-0 run by Indiana to tie it, and it was tied again at 36 after Toppin made three free throws with 0.3 seconds remaining.

The Pacers then made 15 of 22 shots in the second quarter in Brunson's absence, outscoring the Knicks 37-27 to take a 73-63 lead

Brunson would only say he felt some discomfort and that once he warmed up, he knew he was going back into the

"I had a decision to make and I made a decision," Brunson said.

Indiana's lead was 79-70 before the Knicks stormed ahead with a 14-0 run, with Brunson contributing a three-point play during it as New York went ahead

Anunoby was hurt soon after, appearing to injure his hamstring while trying to finish a fast-break layup, but Brunson guided the Knicks through the finish with 14 points in the fourth quarter.

With All-Star Julius Randle gone to shoulder surgery and key re-serves Mitchell Robinson and Bojan Bogdanovic lost in the playoffs, the Knicks have been relying on their starters to play major minutes - all 48 of them for Hart in both games of the

So they can't afford to play without Brunson, who finished fifth in the voting for MVP that Nikola Jokic won

Wednesday. He had joined Jerry West, Michael Jordan and Bernard King as the only players with at least four straight 40-point games in the playoffs, and came in as the leading scorer in the postseason with 36.6 points per game.

Brunson ended up getting fairly close to that despite playing only 32 minutes, saying afterward that teammates were teasing him with Reed jokes.

Isaiah Hartenstein finished with 14 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists for the Knicks, forced to play 39 minutes after the Knicks announced Tuesday that Robinson would miss at least six weeks with a stress injury to his left ankle. The Knicks paid tribute to Reed's re-

turn, one of the most memorable moments in NBA and Madison Square Garden history, during the first quarter. His No. 19 jersey, hanging in the rafters, was spotlighted, and Hall of Fame teammate Walt Frazier came onto the court for an ovation.

Exciting conclusion to the season

No room for slip up as Kuwait Club, Al-Arabi 'resume' league title race

By Hassan Musa Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Kuwait Club is poised to uphold its position at the top of the Zain Premier League and edge closer to clinching the title as it faces Al-Nasr at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium. This matchup is part of the seventh round of the chamchallenging clash between Al-Arabi

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and Al-Salmiya. Al-Arabi seeks to maintain pressure on Kuwait Club, aiming to secure victory over Al-Salmiya and continue their pursuit of the league leaders.

Kuwait Club, currently leading with 57 points, aims to secure its nineteenth title by securing another victory in the tournament and extending its dominance over Al-Nasr. Despite facing several absences due to suspension and injury, Kuwait Club's coach, Nabil Maaloul, remains confident in his team's ability to secure a win.

Al-Nasr, while relieved from rele-



A file photo of players celebrating.

gation pressure, faces its match against Kuwait Club with depleted ranks due to various absences. Nonetheless, it aims to challenge Kuwait Club and potentially ends its winning streak. Meanwhile, Al-Arabi

Al-Salmiya gear up for a crucial showdown, with Al-Arabi looking to maintain their momentum after a resounding victory over Al-Nasr in the previous round. Al-Salmiya, led by coach Ante Misha, aims to secure fourth place in the league and prepare for the upcoming Amir Cup final.

As the race for the Zain Premier League title intensifies, each match holds significant implications for the participating teams, setting the stage for an exciting conclusion to the sea-

Kuwait Club square off against Al-Qadisiya in finals opener

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Kuwait Club will square off against Al-Qadisiya at Al-Ittihad Hall at 7:30 pm in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Hall Complex for the opening match of the "Playoff" final round in the Basketball League. Simultaneously, Kazma will take on Al-Arabi at 5:00 pm in the third deciding match to determine third and fourth places. The final round will follow a "play-off" system consisting of five matches, with the champion being crowned after win-

Defending champion Kuwait Club aims to secure victory in today's match to continue its quest for a sixth consecutive title. The team draws confidence from its recent victory in the West Asian Championship title for the Gulf region, boosting the morale of players and staff.

Meanwhile, Al-Qadisiya, making a return to the final after an absence since 2018, seeks to surprise its opponent with a potential upset victory.

Throughout the season, the two teams have clashed five times, with Kuwait Club emerging victorious in all encounters. However, Al-Qadisiya has displayed commendable performance levels in these matchups, providing a tougher challenge for Kuwait Club compared to previous years.

Kuwait Club's German coach, Peter Schumers, places trust in the skills of professional players such as Haitian



Kuwait Club and Al-Qadisiya players battling for the ball.

Cadillalan and Americans Anthony Marcus and Mitchell Young, alongside standout performers including the Hamad brothers, Muhammad Adnan, Imran Jawaher, Turki Hammoud, and Alexander Al-Ghais.

On the opposing side, Al-Qadisiya's

American coach relies on the talents of players such as Muhammad Ashkanani, Muhammad Al-Dakhil, Abdul-Mohsen Mortada, and Saleh Al-Yousef, supported by American professionals Lowry, Tilmon, and

From struggle to success

Can Manchester United replicate Arteta's Arsenal resurgence?

MANCHESTER, England, May 9, (AP): Two of England's most storied soccer teams go head to head on Sunday with their paths heading in wildly different direc-

Arsenal - top of the Premier League - is mounting a second consecutive title challenge and hoping to finally end a two-decades-long wait to be crowned champion.

Manchester United is desperately trying to avoid its lowest finish in the Premier League era.

Manager Erik ten Hag could yet salvage the campaign by winning the FA Cup this month. But even victory against Manchester City in the final would not disguise his team's woeful performance in the league, and at a time when new coowner Jim Ratcliffe is overhauling the failing club.

It wasn't so long ago that Mikel Arteta's fate was similarly doomed at Arsenal.

Lured from City in 2019, when he was Pep Guardiola's trusted assistant, Arteta delivered a first trophy by winning the FA Cup after an eighth-place finish in the league.

Three straight defeats at the start of the following season included a 5-0 rout at City and calls for Arteta to be fired. Arsenal blew the chance of Champions League qualification by losing seven of the last 12 games.

The jury was out on Arteta but Arsenal backed his methods and proved its faith in him by giving him the power to dispose of highly paid players like Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Mesut Ozil. Fo-

SOCCER

cus and money was spent on young players who would grow with Arteta and buy into his methods such as Martin Odegaard, Ben White and Declan Rice, who have been key figures in their rise over the past two seasons.

They led the league for 248 days last season but another collapse was a cause for criticism. However, the manner in which Arteta has transformed a club that hadn't qualified for the Champions League since 2016 until last year is a lesson in the benefits of patience and trust in a manager.

How Ten Hag will hope United

follow Arsenal's lead. The Dutchman has repeatedly



Manchester United's goalkeeper Andre Onana kicks the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Crystal Palace and Manchester United at Selhurst Park stadium in London, England. (AP)

called for trust in his process in the face of ever-worsening results.

United's 13 league defeats are its most in the Premier League era. United has 18 losses overall.

United has won only one of its last seven league games, against last-placed Sheffield United. At eighth in the standings, it is on course for its lowest finish of the

Such damning numbers are the reason there is so much uncertainty around Ten Hag's position, even with the chance of silverware.

He has pointed to a debilitating injury list all season, and if he can defy the odds in the FA Cup final, he can point to consecutive campaigns with a trophy which no United manager has achieved since Alex Ferguson.

Having also secured a top-four finish in his first season, Ten Hag could make the case that his second season is an outlier.

Ferguson, himself, believed he needed the FA Cup in 1990 to take the pressure off after a 13th-place finish in the division.

But Ten Hag's squad looks unbalanced. United appears tactically naive and has conceded 81 goals in all competitions so far, the most since 1976-77.

United supporters are more hopeful than confident their team can spoil Arsenal's title chase this

Kuwait Olympic Committee affirms 'recognition' of Al-Nasr Club Board

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The Kuwait Olympic Committee recently communicated with sports entities in Kuwait via a circular issued, affirming its acknowledgment of the recommendation made by the Board of Directors of Al-Nasr Club, under the leadership of Khaled Al-Sharaida.

Following the nullification of previous elections by the Sports Arbitration Authority, the current Board of Directors of Al-Nasr Club, led by Khaled Al-Shraida, was recommended nearly two months ago. This recommendation opened the door for new election candidacy for the 2024-2028 terms, rendering the upcoming elections scheduled for the 24th of this month unnecessary.

In its correspondence, the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee expressed its adherence to the rulings of the Sports Arbitration Board. It emphasized that the recognition of Al-Nasr Club's Board of Directors, headed by Khaled



Khaled Al-Shuraida

Al-Shuraida, aligns with Arbitration Board's decision validating the current Board's recommenda-

Best of the Rest

Girls finalist suspended: Wimbledon girls finalist Nikola Bartunkova was provisionally suspended by the International Tennis Integrity

Agency for doping on Thursday.

The agency said the 18-year-old Czech player tested positive for the banned heart medication trimetazidine at tournaments in Trnava, Slovakia, and Maribor, Slovenia, in February and March, respectively. (AP)

Shoma Uno says he's retiring:

Olympic medalist and two-time world champion Shoma Uno of Japan is set to retire from figure skating.

The 26-year-old placed fourth in March in the most recent world championships. He announced his decision Thursday on social media, saying he'd been skating since he was 5. (AP)



Gilberto Flores, (right), of Paraguay's Sportivo Trinidense heads the ball challenged by Jorge Figal of Argentina's Boca Juniors during a Copa Sudamericana Group D soccer match at La Nueva Olla Stadium in Asuncion, Paraguay. (AP)

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The technical staff of Kuwait handball team.

Kuwaiti Special Olympics badminton delegation ready for departure.

Kuwait handball team wraps up friendly matches in Turkey

Bv Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

IZMIR, May 9: The Kuwait national handball team will wrap up its series of friendly matches in Turkey tomorrow with a face-off against its Turkish counterpart in the second trial at the sports complex hall in Izmir.

HANDBALL

Invited by the Turkish Handball Federation, the Handball Federation of Kuwait engaged in two friendly encounters during the international break. Kuwait is gearing up for participation in the 2025 World Cup finals, slated to be held in Croatia, Denmark, and Norway. Their qualification for the World Cup was secured by clinching the fourth qualifying spot in the Asian Cup, hosted in the Kingdom of Bahrain last January. This marks Kuwait's ninth qualification for the World Handball Cup, following

successful qualifications in 1982, 1995, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, and finally in 2009 in Croatia.

Heading the handball delegation in Turkey is Khaled Ghuloum, Treasurer of the Federation, accompanied by Abdullah Al-Dhiyab, the Assistant Secretary of the Federation, and the technical staff of the first national team. The team is under the guidance of Algerian coach Saeed Hegazy, assisted by compatriot Mohamed Masoudan, Hungarian goalkeeping coach Levy, technical analyst Ayman Al-Sheikh, and physiotherapist. The team comprises 18 players: Abdullah Al-Khamis, Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, Fawaz Al-Shammari, Muhammad Amer, Abdulaziz Salmeen, Ali Nusair, Saleh Al-Moussawi, Fawaz Al-Mishari, Haider Dashti, Fawaz Abdul-Hadi, Youssef Dhaif, Muhammad Ali Ghazanfar, Muhammad Al-Sanea, Ali Safar, Fahd Salboukh, Abdulaziz Al-Dhafiri, Faraj Al-Salem, and Fahd Abdul-Hadi.

Cubarsi signs new contract with Barca

MADRID, May 9, (Xinhua): FC Barcelona on Thursday assured the future of teenage central defender Pau Cubarsi after the club and the player signed a new contract.

The 17-year-old has signed a new contract until the end of June 2027 with a release clause of 500 million euros (538 million U.S. dollars), which is only half of those of his teammates

Real Madrid's Joselu celebrates after winning the Champions League

semifinal second leg soccer match

between Real Madrid and Bayern

Munich at the Santiago Bernábeu

stadium in Madrid, Špain. (AP)

in 2019-20. The loss meant there will

be no rematch of the all-German final

in 2013, when Bayern beat Dortmund to

"It hurts. It'll take a while to re-

cover, but on the one hand it's a loss

where we left it all out on the pitch,"

Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel said.

"Of course, it's tough to accept. It's

Dortmund, the 1997 European

It was a mostly even match but Ma-

drid created the most significant scoring

chances. But it had not been able to get

past what was a terrific performance by

Neuer, who had made a series of difficult

But the German international fal-

tered in the final minutes, dropping

an easy ball after a shot by Vinícius

Júnior and allowing Joselu - who came

off the bench in the 81st - to equalize

saving us all night, made a mistake he

wouldn't make in another 100 years,'

"Manu, who had been exceptional in

Neuer said "anyone who's ever

"That we've been knocked out in the

played football knows how I'm feeling

closing stages, having led 1-0 until the

85th minute, it's extremely bitter," he

saves to keep Bayern in the match.

champion, eliminated Paris Saint-Ger-

win its fifth European title.

part of reality. No regrets.

main 2-0 on aggregate.

from in front of the goal.

Tuchel said.

right now.

Lamine Yamal, Gavi and Pedri, but still way beyond the reach of nearly every club in the world.

The Barcelona youth team product made his first-team debut in the Copa del Rey on January 18, and has quickly become a regular with 20 first-team appearances - 15 in La Liga, three in the UEFA Champions League and two in the Copa del Rey.

Kuwaiti Special Olympics badminton team 'heads' to Abu Dhabi for Gulf competition



Bayern's Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting, (left), fights for the ball with Real Madrid's Dani Carvajal during the Champions League semifinal second leg soccer match between Real Madrid and Bayern Munich at the Santiago

Real pull off another thrilling comeback to reach Champs League final as Bayern fume

Joselu the hero

MADRID, May 9, (AP): After yet another magical night at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, Real Madrid is back in the Champions League final.

The 14-time European champion pulled off another thrilling comeback, rallying to defeat Bayern Munich 2-1 and reach the final for the second time in three seasons.

Like it happened so many times in 2022, Madrid needed some late drama

Joselu scored in the 88th minute and then in stoppage time as Madrid advanced 4-3 on aggregate to set up a final against Borussia Dortmund on June 1 in London.

"Well, it has happened again what has happened so many times before," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "It's inexplicable. Fans who push us

SOCCER

on, a fantastic stadium, players who never stop believing - it's simply something magical.'

Bayern had taken the lead on an Alphonso Davies goal in the 68th - and then deep in stoppage time thought it had equalized but hadn't because of an offside call that Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel described as "disastrous" and "against the rules."

Joselu's first goal was a tap in after Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer spilled an easy save. The second was initially called off for offside but was eventually allowed after video review.

"You always dream of being part of moments like this," the 34-year-old Joselu said. "Not even my best dreams were as good as this.'

It will be Madrid's record-extending 18th European Cup final, and ninth in the Champions League era, also a record. Madrid beat Liverpool when it last made it to the final in 2022, a season marked by several late comebacks like that one it pulled off on Wednesday.

Madrid at the time pulled off thrilling comebacks at the Bernabeu against Manchester City in the semifinals, Chelsea in the quarterfinals and Paris Saint-Germain in the round of 16.

Six-time European champion Bayern was looking to return to the final for the first time since winning the competition



MARSEILLE, France, May 9, (AP): Torchbearers carried the Olympic flame through the streets of France's southern port city of Marseille on Thursday, a day after it arrived on a majestic three-mast ship for a welcom-

ing ceremony. The torch begins its 11-week journey across the country with about 10,000 bearers passing through more than 450 towns until the Games' opening ceremony in Paris on July 26.

Former soccer player Basile Boli, who played with the Marseille team in the 1990s, kicked off Thursday's relay from the Notre Dame de la Garde ba-

Basketball player Tony Parker then

took his turn in the relay. On a nearby crowded beach, swimmers and sunbathers cheered the torch bearers as the flame passed.

silica that overlooks Marseille and the

feel like you're on top of the world,

because with an Olympic flame there's

a special fervor. ... It's the symbol of

"I'm very proud," Boli said. "You

Mediterranean.

'Let's go for a fantastic celebration'

A fencing champion, a skateboarder, a Michelin-starred chef and a comedian were also chosen to carry the



Maria Vysotchanska of Ukraine participates in the Olympic torch relay in Marseille, southern France. Torchbearers are to carry the Olympic flame through the streets of France's southern port city of Marseille, one day after it arrived on a majestic three-mast ship for the welcoming ceremony. (AP)

said. "We'd taken one step to London, we saw ourselves in the final and now I'm lost for words.'

Joselu, a German-born striker, then gave Madrid the lead a minute into stoppage time after a cross by Madrid defender Antonio Rüdiger off the left side.

The linesman initially raised the flag for offside, and it took a few moments before Madrid players and the crowd at the Bernabeu could celebrate the winner.

Bayern loudly complained at the end after a goal by Matthijs de Ligt didn't count because the referee blew the whistle for offside without letting the play be completed. De Ligt said the linesman apolo-

gized to him, saying he "made a mistake" for raising the flag without letting the play continue.

Davies, who had entered the match in the 27th to replace the injured Serge Gnabry, had given Bayern the lead by beating Rüdiger in a one-on-one situation, cutting back toward the middle of the area before firing a right-footed shot into the far corner past Madrid goalkeeper Andriy Lunin.

gles and doubles events, along with Sheikha Al-Hindi participating in singles competitions. The delegation also includes Rawan Al-Foudari as the coach, and administrators Hazem Al-Tarkait and Mustafa Hassouna. Hanaa Al-Zawawi expressed that this participation aligns with the

"Let's go for a fantastic celebra-tion," said Tony Estanguet, president

of the Paris Olympics organizing com-

mittee. "The Games are back in our

country. ... Let's share this fantastic

moment of celebration with millions

all day past landmarks in the city to

bring the torch to the roof of the famed

Stade Velodrome, home to Marseille's

Many residents and visitors were

Sports Minister Amélie Oudéa-

Castéra said "it's fantastic to give that

sense of pride to the French people and

to show to the whole world what we're

OLYMPICS

One of the torchbearers is Ukrain-

ian gymnast Mariia Vysochanska, who

won two gold medals at the 2020 Euro-

pean Championships and competed at

It's an expression of solidarity with

Ukraine as well as a symbolic gesture to

mark Europe Day, which falls on May

9 each year. Vysochanska will lead a

group of 27 other athletes who repre-

sent all European Union member states.

rope, its values and also to demonstrate

our attachment to the European sport

model," Oudéa-Castéra said. Ukraine

received a green light last year to start sped-up talks on joining the EU.
"(Ukrainians) face that terrible war

of aggression, and we want to really

express that we support them the best

we can," she added. "This is unity. This is hope. This is solidarity. And

we want their victory."

Marseille on Wednesday celebrated

with great fanfare the flame's arrival,

with more than 230,000 people at-

tending the ceremony in the Old Port,

according to the city's mayor, Benoît

"It's a way to really celebrate Eu-

the whole world," she added.

the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

"We're going to give happiness to

strolling along the Old Port, enjoying

the sunny weather while waiting for

Participants were scheduled to run

of people in the country."

passionate soccer fans.

the torch to arrive.

capable to achieve.'

sports program of Special Olympics Kuwait, aimed at providing their players with opportunities to engage, compete, and enhance their skills across various sports disciplines. She highlighted the thorough preparation of the badminton players for the competition, aiming to continue Kuwait's success in the sport, as evidenced by their gold medal win in badminton at the previous World Games held in Berlin last summer.

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The Ku-

waiti Special Olympics Badminton

Team delegation embarked on their

journey to Abu Dhabi to partake in

the Gulf Special Olympics Badmin-

ton Competition, hosted by the UAE

Special Olympics in collaboration

with the Special Olympics Regional Presidency for the Middle East and

North Africa. The event is scheduled

to take place from May 9th to May

BADMINTON

Leading the Kuwaiti delegation is

Hana Al-Zawawi, the head of Spe-

cial Olympics Kuwait. Accompa-

nying her are players Mohammed

Walid Bourbaa and Fawzan Al-Qas-

sar, who will compete in both sin-

Best of the Rest

Sao Paulo clinch KO spot: Sao Paulo secured a berth in the Copa Libertadores knockout stage on Wednesday by recovering from a goal down to win 3-1 at Cobresal.

Diego Coelho gave the Chilean side an early lead but Luciano Neves equalized for the visitors just before halftime at the Zorros del Desierto stadium.

Rodrigo Nestor and Jonathan Calleri added second-half goals as the Brazilian side secured their third straight victory in South America's premier club competition.

The result leaves Sao Paulo second in Group B, a point behind leaders Talleres Cordoba and eight points

clear of fourth-placed Cobresal.
"We played with great authority in an important Libertadores match," Sao Paulo manager Luis Zubeldia told reporters.

"We've managed to maintain a really high level and have found ways to adapt to different situa-tions." In other Copa Libertadores fixtures on Wednesday, Botafogo clinched a 2-1 home victory over LDU Quito, Talleres won 3-1 at home to Barcelona SC and Alianza Lima were held to a 1-1 home draw by Cerro Porteno. (Xinhua)

Boca Juniors beat Trinidense: Edinson Cavani struck in the 92nd minute as Boca Juniors recovered from a goal down to secure a 2-1 away win over Trinidense in their

match on Wednesday. Brian Andrada gave the Para-guayan side the lead on the stroke of halftime when he fired a left-footed effort into the top-left corner after Fernando Romero's headed pass.

Copa Sudamericana Group D

The visitors equalized through Nicolas Figal, who latched onto Lautaro Blanco's corner with a glancing header beyond the reach of goalkeeper Wilson Quinonez.

Cavani continued his prolific scoring form by curling a 25-yard free kick into the top-left corner in stoppage time. (Xinhua)

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