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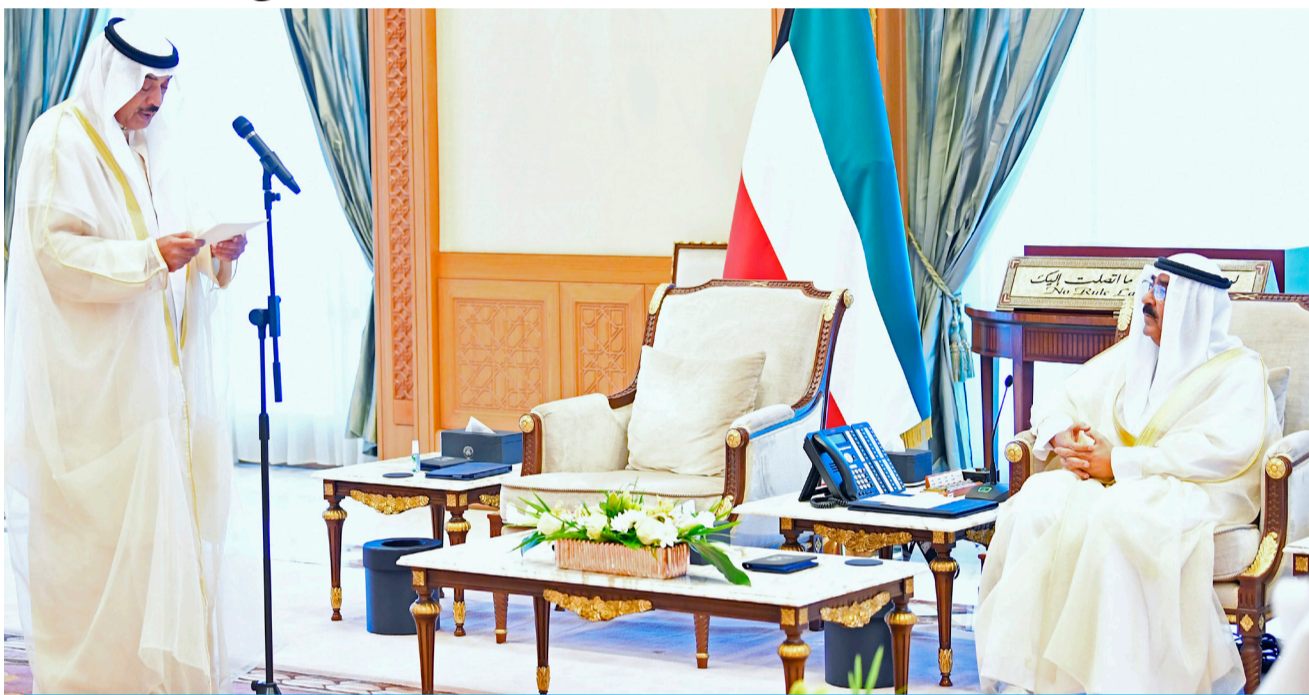
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New Crown Prince sworn in, vows to serve Kuwait

Amir congratulates Sheikh Sabah, who also takes oath to become Deputy Amir



By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Sunday signed an Amiri order officially appointing HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as the new Crown Prince. The move came after the Council of Ministers endorsed HH the Amir's nomination of HH Sheikh Sabah. HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled took the oath to become the Crown Prince during an extraordinary session of the Cabinet. He was congratulated by HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah and the entire Cabinet.

HH the Amir on Sunday hosted HH the Crown Prince, who took the constitutional oath to become the Deputy Amir during his absence overseas. HH Sheikh Mishal congratulated HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and wished him success in serving Kuwait and its people in pushing development and progress forward.

HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah expressed gratitude to HH the Amir for nominating him as Crown Prince, voicing his great pride and deep appreciation for this great honor. He vowed he will work to serve

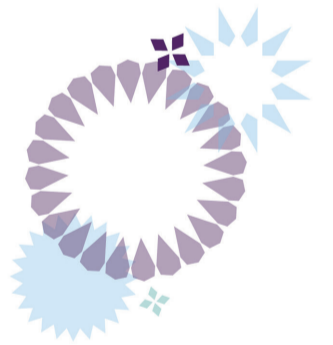
the country and its people and expressed determination to fulfil responsibilities outlined by the country's leadership, wishing Kuwait and its people continuous progress and development.

HH the Crown Prince, a graduate of political science from Kuwait University, began his career as a senior employee in the ministry of foreign affairs. In 2006, he took his first ministerial post as minister of social affairs and labor and later became information minister, and then justice and Islamic affairs minister. In 2011, he was appointed foreign minister, until 2019, when he was appointed prime minister. A large number of politicians including several former MPs congratulated HH the Crown Prince and hailed his appointment.

The Kuwaiti constitution states that upon nomination by HH the Amir, the Crown Prince must be approved by the National Assembly and then he should take the oath in the Assembly. But the National Assembly has been dissolved and parts of the constitution frozen for four years by HH the Amir. Under the Kuwaiti constitution, succession is restricted to the descendants of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Kabeer, who ruled Kuwait between 1896 and 1915.

KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah takes the constitutional oath as Deputy Amir before HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at a ceremony at Seif Palace on June 2, 2024. — KUNA

Wishing continued success
and prosperity for Kuwait
under the wise leadership of
H.H. the Amir and H.H. the Crown Prince



Crown Prince ushers in new era



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah after taking the constitutional oath. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah takes the constitutional oath.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah signed an order on Saturday nominating His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as Crown Prince. Born in 1953, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled got a bachelor degree in political science from Kuwait University in 1977. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1978 as a diplomatic attaché, serving in the Arab Affairs Department (1978–1983), and joined the Kuwait Permanent Mission at the UN (1982–1999).

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled served as Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Permanent Representative to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (1995–1998), during which he participated in GCC ministerial meetings. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled was appointed head of the Kuwait National Security Bureau at the rank of minister in 1998. He was named Minister of Social Affairs and Labor in July 2006 and in March 2007, and an Information Minister between May 2008 and January 2009.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled was named Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2011 and named Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs in February 2012. He was named Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister in December 2012. In January 2014, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled was named First Deputy

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and retained the post in December 2016.

In December 2017, he was named Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. On November 19, 2019, His Highness the late Amir signed an order appointing His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled as Prime Minister and another order to address him as His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. On December 14, 2020, Kuwait's late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah assigned His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled to form his second government and assigned him to form his third government on March 2, 2021.

The late Amir accepted His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's resignation on November 18, 2021. The late Amir signed a decree assigning His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled to form the country's 39th government and his fourth. Saudi Arabia's late King Fahad awarded His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled with the King Abdulaziz Order of the First Class in 1998.

Former Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir awarded His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled with the Two Niles Order in 2012. Senegalese President Macky Sall awarded His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled the National Order of the Lion in 2015. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas awarded His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled with the AlQuds Star Order in 2018. — KUNA



وَفَقَّكُمْ اللَّهُ، وَكَانَ لَكُمْ عَوْنًا

مجلس إدارة شركة الاتصالات الكويتية stc
وكافة موظفيها والعاملين فيها يتقدمون بأسمى آيات التهنئة والتبريكات

إلى سمو الشيخ

صباح خالد الحمد المبارك الصباح

لحصوله على ثقة سمو أمير البلاد حفظه الله وتعيينه ولياً للعهد

سائلين الله عزّ وجل أن يوفقه ويسدّد خطاه لما فيه استمرار مسيرة العطاء والازدهار لكويتنا الحبيبة،
وشعبها الأصيل، في ظل القيادة الحكيمة

لصاحب السمو الشيخ

مشعل الأحمد الجابر الصباح

أمير دولة الكويت حفظه الله ورعاه

stc

May God protect our Amir
and the Crown Prince.

May God bless Kuwait
with peace and prosperity...



Sierra Leone Ambassador Haja Ishata Thomas

On behalf of Sierra Leone government, Embassy and the Sierra Leoneans in Kuwait, I extend my warmest congratulations to the new Crown Prince HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for the trust bestowed upon him by the Amir His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. On this landmark occasion, I would like to also extend my congratulations to the Kuwait's wise leadership, the government, and the people of Kuwait. It is my fervent hope that the friendly relations between our two countries will continue to further strengthen for the mutual benefit of our two nations. I pray that Allah continue to bestow peace and security, love and prosperity upon Kuwait.



German Ambassador Hans-Christian von Reibnitz

On behalf of German Embassy and my fellow countrymen in Kuwait, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on your appointment as new Crown Prince of Kuwait. The successful approach to the many responsibilities associated with this important appointment will be crucial for Kuwait's future development. For your challenging new tasks, I would like to wish you also personally all the best as well as strength and vision. Time and again, Kuwait stood out - guaranteeing peace, international solidarity and humanitarian assistance in times of turmoil or amidst global changes. We are by your sides in these endeavors. Our two countries are looking back at 60 years of traditionally close and trusting friendly relations. And we aim to deepen our cooperation even further, as friends and partners on many fronts and in matters of substance and in the further development of your country. On the auspicious occasion of your appointment, Your Highness, I am wishing you and your country personally all the best as well as enduring peace and prosperity.



Crown Prince receives congratulatory messages

Minister of Health Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi

Kuwaiti Minister of Health Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi congratulated His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah for being nominated as the Crown Prince by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. In a statement to KUNA on Sunday, Dr Al-Awadhi said that His Highness the Crown Prince has a distinguished and successful record in both diplomatic and governmental realms. He commended the Crown Prince's efforts in the digital transformation projects for ministries and state institutions, as well as qualitative leap in the quality of public services. He praised His Highness' efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, sparing no efforts in serving the country and ensuring the health and safety of citizens and residents, as these efforts were admired and appreciated by the political leadership, as well as by international and regional organizations. — KUNA



Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub

It is my honor to extend, on my own behalf of the Palestinian community my warmest congratulations and best wishes to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, for the great and well-deserved trust bestowed by the Amir His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. On this honorable occasion, I recall that the Crown Prince His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled was the first senior Kuwaiti official to visit Palestine and its capital Jerusalem, when he was First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs in September 2014. During this historic visit, he prayed in the first two qiblas of the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque. I wish his Honorable Highness success in carrying the trust of Amir. May God protect Kuwait's leadership and Kuwaiti people.



Indian Ambassador Dr Adarsh Swaika

I extend my sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on assuming the office of the Crown Prince of Kuwait. Having been in public service for over four decades, His Highness the Crown Prince brings with him a great amount of experience and expertise to lead the country in the future. Under his patronage, we look forward to deepening the historic and multifaceted relationship between India and Kuwait. I wish His Highness good health, well-being and success.



EU Ambassador Anne Koistinen

On behalf of the European Union Delegation to Kuwait, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, after being nominated as the Crown Prince of Kuwait. I would like to wish the Crown Prince His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah all success in serving his country under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait. The European Union looks forward to working closely with the Crown Prince His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to continue strengthening our long, strong and friendly relations with Kuwait. The European Union considers Kuwait as a close and reliable friend and an important strategic partner.



KPC chief executive officer Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah

The chief executive officer of state-run Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah, congratulated His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah on being named the country's new Crown Prince on Sunday, saying he has earned the trust of the political leadership. Hailing the competence and adeptness of His Highness the Crown Prince, the KPC CEO said Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled was the right man for the job, given his vast accomplishments and numerous roles he had assumed over his political career. Kuwait's oil sector will remain firm on its long-term strategies that aim to usher in perpetual development and growth, as per the vision of the country's political leaders, he underlined. — KUNA



US Ambassador Karen Hideko Sasahara

Congratulations to HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on his nomination as Crown Prince. US-Kuwait relations are rooted in shared values and goals, and we look forward to a new era of partnership with new Crown Prince HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the Amir His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Spanish Ambassador Miguel Moro Aguilar

On behalf of the Spain Embassy, I want to convey my heartfelt congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on his designation yesterday as the Crown Prince of Kuwait. My best wishes to the new Crown Prince for success in his high responsibilities at the service of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti People, under the wise guidance of the Amir His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Kuwait enters now a new era at which I sincerely hope will be one of stability and prosperity and bring even closer together both our friendly nations.



In my view

Congratulations to His Highness and the Kuwaiti nation

By Azzah Al-Ghamdi



Local@kuwaittimes.com

An atmosphere of joy and happiness prevailed among the Kuwaiti people following the issuance of the Amiri decree appointing His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as Crown Prince. Kuwaitis were delighted with His Highness' appointment, recalling his years of dedicated service to Kuwait and its people.

HH Sheikh Sabah began his career as a diplomat in the ministry of foreign affairs, eventually becoming head of the National Security Agency. He then rose through the ranks, first as minister of social affairs, then as minister of information, until his appointment in 2011 as minister of foreign affairs, a position he held for eight years before becoming prime minister. Throughout his career, he was known for his honesty, integrity and excellent management skills.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled played a crucial role in managing the crisis. While the pandemic caused global confusion and claimed many lives, Kuwait experienced fewer impacts, thanks to his effective management of the Council of Ministers. He risked his life to protect Kuwait from the disaster of the pandemic, being present in the field and personally overseeing the progress of work. Despite the unprecedented nature of the pandemic, he demonstrated intelligence and skill in management, prioritizing the health of citizens and ensuring there were no shortages of essential medicines, which were delivered to patients at home. His concern for citizens with chronic diseases was evident.

In addition to managing the health crisis, HH Sheikh Sabah adopted distance education to safeguard the academic future of students. Kuwait was one of the first countries to successfully implement remote learning, thanks to His Highness' foresight and ability to provide the necessary infrastructure. Internationally, HH Sheikh Sabah is highly regarded for his negotiation skills and political acumen, earning popularity both locally and globally. His good character, modesty and wisdom have saved the country from numerous crises, demonstrating his ability to address thorny issues without causing harm to citizens.

The people of Kuwait are hopeful that God will assist him in carrying out his duties and bless him with good companions who will support him. They extend their gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for choosing HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled as Crown Prince, bringing joy to the hearts of Kuwaitis. Known for his justice and integrity, he is trusted and respected. The people of Kuwait hope that God grants both HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince health and wellness and provides them with capable leaders to assist them.

Russian Ambassador Vladimir Zheltov

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest congratulations on behalf of the Embassy's team to the new Crown Prince HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for the high honor and trust bestowed upon him by the Amir His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. On this landmark occasion, I would like to express to the leadership of Kuwait our deep keenness on strengthening the traditionally friendly Russian-Kuwaiti relations based on a solid fundament. We are sure that Kuwait under the guidance of its wise leadership will witness further development, progress and prosperity for the benefit of the Kuwaiti people.



Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Totonji

Kuwaiti people celebrate with joy the decision of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait to choose His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, as Crown Prince. HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled is renowned for his experience and skill, having learned wisdom and diplomacy from the late Amir of Humanity, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. I congratulate His Highness the trustworthy Crown Prince for this lofty trust, and I extend my congratulations to the brotherly Kuwaiti people on this wise choice. May the Almighty God guide his steps and help him carry the trust to achieve progress and prosperity for Kuwait.



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Minister launches nephrology and kidney transplant center

Center equipped with latest and best medical equipment



Kuwait Center for Nephrology and Kidney Transplant.



Health Minister inaugurates the new Nephrology and Kidney Transplant Center.



Minister of Health
Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi



Head of the Nephrology and
Kidney Transplant Department
at the center Dr. Turki Al-Otaibi



Representative of the fundraising
social committee Qais Al-Nusif



Minister of Health Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi and officials visit the center. — KUNA photos

KUWAIT: Minister of Health, Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi, said that the new all-inclusive center for nephrology and kidney transplants is a qualitative addition to Kuwait's health system. Al-Awadhi stated this after the opening of the center, which is fully funded by the fundraising social committee. The center is equipped with the latest and best medical equipment for kidney transplants and includes 80 beds - divided into four wards, 15 kidney dialysis machines, and several other clinics, as well as a fully equipped emergency room, intensive care unit, laboratory, radiology department and pharmacy.

Al-Awadhi also said that the center provides care

and examinations for pre- and post-kidney transplant operations, noting that the operation is carried out at Jaber Hospital. He pointed out that the Ministry set a plan for the expansion of the organ transplant centers, where they recently opened a new center in the Ali Sabah Al-Salem area, noting that other centers are set to open in the upcoming weeks all around the country to serve everyone.

On his part, the representative of the fundraising social committee, Qais Al-Nusif, stated that the cost of the Nephrology and Kidney Transplant Center reached KD 7 million, affirming that they will continue to fund other health projects. Head of the Nephrology

and Kidney Transplant Department at the center, Dr Turki Al-Otaibi, said that the center serves all kidney patients by providing blood tests and medical examinations, noting that the success rate of kidney trans-

plants has reached 90 percent. The new Nephrology and Kidney Transplant Center is an expansion of the Hamid Al-Essa Organ Transplant Center in the Sabah Health Region. — KUNA



May Allah
Enlighten Your Path

His Highness the
Crown Prince of Kuwait
Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled
Al-Hamad Al-Sabah
May Allah Preserve and Bless You

talabat



Modi top opponent returns to jail

Minister: China ready to 'forcefully' stop Taiwan independence

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GAZA: (Left) A hospital worker adjusts the body of a Palestinian child killed in a Zionist strike at the morgue of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip on June 2, 2024. (Right) Palestinians mourn the death of their relatives in a Zionist strike at the hospital. — AFP photos

Zionists bent on Gaza bloodshed

Mediators urge both sides to accept ceasefire plan

RAFAH: The Zionist entity bombarded the Gaza Strip and battled Hamas Sunday as mediators called on both sides to agree to a truce and captive release deal outlined by US President Joe Biden. Since Biden spoke at the White House on Friday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted the Zionist entity will pursue the war, now nearing its ninth month, until it has destroyed Hamas and freed the captives.

Palestinian group Hamas, meanwhile, has said it "views positively" what Biden described as a Zionist proposal. Netanyahu, a hawkish political veteran leading a fragile rightwing coalition government, is under intense domestic pressure from two sides. Protesters backing an immediate hostage release, who rallied again Saturday in Tel Aviv, want him to strike a truce deal, but his far-right allies are threatening to bring down the government if he does.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid has offered Netanyahu political support if the government secures a deal. Fighting rocked Gaza overnight and Sunday, with the Zionist entity's military reporting air strikes and ground combat. Mediators the United States, Qatar and Egypt later said they "call on both Hamas and (the Zionist entity) to finalize the agreement embodying the principles outlined by President Joe Biden".

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told ABC News Sunday that "we have ev-

ery expectation that if Hamas agrees to the proposal, as was transmitted to them - a (Zionist) proposal - that (the Zionist entity) would say yes". "We're waiting for an official response from Hamas," he added.

Political pressure

The Zionist entity's bombardments and ground offensive have killed at least 36,439 people in Gaza, mostly women and children. According to Biden, the Zionist entity's three-stage offer would begin with a six-week phase that would see Zionist forces withdraw from all populated areas of Gaza and an initial hostage-prisoner exchange. The Zionist entity and the Palestinians would then negotiate for a lasting ceasefire, with the truce to continue as long as talks are ongoing, Biden said, adding it was "time for this war to end".

Netanyahu took issue with Biden's presentation, insisting that according to the "exact outline proposed by (the Zionist entity)" the transition from one stage to the next was "conditional" and crafted to allow it to maintain its war aims. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, leaders of the two extreme-right parties in parliament, warned they would leave the government if it endorsed the truce proposal - potentially costing Netanyahu's coalition its majority.

Smotrich said on X he opposed the "wholesale re-

lease of terrorists" in a prisoner swap, adding: "We demand the continuation of the war until Hamas is destroyed and all hostages return." Lapid, a centrist former premier, said that the government "cannot ignore Biden's important speech" and vowed to back Netanyahu if his far-right coalition partners quit. "I remind Netanyahu that he has our safety net for a hostage deal," Lapid said on X. Zionist Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Sunday the defense establishment was "assessing a governing alternative" to Hamas for post-war Gaza.

Helicopter strikes

Heavy fighting has flared in Gaza's far-southern Rafah city, where the Zionist entity sent tanks and troops in early May, ignoring concerns for displaced civilians there. The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said Sunday all 36 of its shelters in Rafah "are now empty", after at least a million people have fled the city. "The humanitarian space continues to shrink", UNRWA said, adding that about 1.7 million people were now sheltering in southern Gaza's main city of Khan Yunis and in central areas.

Witnesses said Zionist Apache attack helicopters struck central Rafah Sunday, while a jet fired a missile at a house in the western Tal al-Sultan district and artillery targeted the southern Brazil neighborhood. There

were also clashes in the city center and drone attacks, witnesses told AFP. The Palestinian Red Crescent said it was "very difficult" to access Rafah because of the Zionist bombardment.

In the besieged territory's north, Zionist helicopters fired at Gaza City's Zeitun and Sabra areas, and an air strike hit a house in the city's east, AFP reporters said. A hospital medic said three people were killed when an air strike hit a family apartment in Gaza City's Daraj district. And in central Gaza, shelling hit areas of Deir al-Balah and the Bureij and Nuseirat refugee camps, witnesses said.

The Zionist entity's seizure last month of the Rafah crossing has further slowed sporadic aid deliveries for Gaza's 2.4 million people and effectively closed its main exit point on the Egyptian border. Egyptian state-linked Al-Qahera News said a Sunday meeting in Cairo with Zionist and US officials to discuss reopening the crossing had ended, without saying whether an agreement was reached.

Quoting a senior official, Al-Qahera said Egypt reiterated its demand that "(the Zionist entity) withdraw from the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing so it can resume operations". Cairo refuses to coordinate with Zionist humanitarian deliveries through Rafah, but has agreed to send some aid via the Zionist entity's Kerem Shalom crossing. — AFP

Gazans back in Jabalia 'shocked' by destruction

JABALIA: Mohammed Al-Najjar, a 33-year-old Gazan, said Saturday he was "shocked" and feeling "lost" as he returned home, only to find much of Jabalia refugee camp in ruins after a Zionist offensive. "All the houses have been reduced to rubble," Najjar told AFP in Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip. "You are lost, you do not know where exactly your house is in the middle of this massive destruction."

Zionist forces carried out a massive bombardment campaign in Jabalia in recent weeks, part of a fierce ground offensive in northern Gaza. "I was shocked by the extent of the destruction in the latest aggression on Jabalia camp," said Najjar.

In recent days, AFP correspondents have seen scores of Palestinians streaming into the area, trying to find their homes and salvage whatever belongings are left. Men, women and children were walking through streets where their houses once stood, now full of grey concrete slabs.

Charred furniture, beds and mangled iron doors littered almost every street in the camp, an area once bustling with activity and home to more than 100,000 people, according to UN figures from before the war. Many families carried their belongings on donkey carts, while others walked with beds

and mattresses on their heads. "We have no other place other than our homes," said Suad Abu Salah, 47, who has also returned after having fled the area earlier on in the Zionist war on Gaza, now nearing its eighth month. But "Jabalia has been wiped off the map," she said.

Rescue and civil defense teams recovered the 50 bodies from the Jabalia refugee camp on Sunday, according to Palestinian state news agency Wafa. This brings the total number of bodies retrieved since the withdrawal of the Zionist occupation army from the camp to more than 120. The Zionist offensive has killed at least 36,379 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to the territory's health ministry.

'Stay on our land'

Despite the destruction, Najjar said people were "determined" to return to the neighborhoods they had left to avoid the fighting. Residents were willing to "set up tents and temporary shelters in the middle of the rubble", he said, even though "there's fear, fear that the (Zionist) occupation might come back." "But we will stay on our land. We have nowhere else."

On Friday the Zionist military announced it had completed its mission in eastern Jabalia, where it had previously said Hamas militants had regrouped. On Saturday Jabalia residents said they could still hear constant gunfire and artillery shelling from the east.

During the latest operation, Zionist forces in Jabalia had retrieved the bodies of seven hostages, and last month the military reported "perhaps the fiercest" fighting there since the start of the war.



JABALIA: Palestinians carry some salvaged belongings as they leave the Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip after returning to check on their homes on May 30, 2024. — AFP

Mahmud Assaliyah, 50, said "houses have been torn apart and entire apartment blocks have been completely destroyed in Jabalia." "There's not a single house that has not been targeted by the (Zionist) occupation army."

He has returned to find his house, too, had been flattened. "Cement pillars have fallen, walls have been destroyed, furniture has been scattered, burnt down and torn apart," Assaliyah said.

Abu Salah said many residents are tired of being displaced and just want to stay put, whatever happens. "We want to live like other people in the world," she said. "We need a solution and an end to this war, so that we can live in peace." — Agencies

'Elephant in the room'

Environmental parties across Europe like the Greens had enjoyed a strong showing at the last EU elections in 2019 but have since steadily lost ground. In Germany, the Greens captured 20.5 percent of the vote. But their popularity slumped to just 12 percent in April, the lowest level since 2018.

Climate activists have criticized the party over moves such as the temporary reopening of coal-fired power stations in 2022 and increased imports of liquefied natural gas after Russia slashed energy supplies following its invasion of Ukraine. "The Greens are being criticized both from the right, because their measures threaten the economy, and from the left, because they have given up on their climate objectives," Marie Krpata, an expert on German politics at the French Institute of International Relations, told AFP.

The Letzte Generation wants to put climate back at the center of the debate. "There's an elephant in the room we're not talking about, and that's the climate crisis. We're here to bring it out into the open," said Carla Hinrichs, 27, co-founder of Letzte Generation and one of the group's election candidates.

Asked if her group's participation could be counter-productive by sapping support from the Greens, Hinrichs said it is "not our problem". "The Greens are gradually throwing their values overboard and making compromises that are unsustainable." — AFP

Fed up with inaction, climate activists contest EU elections

BERLIN: German activist Lina Eichler regularly used to stick her hands to roads to block traffic in protest at what she saw as inaction in combating the climate crisis. Now the 21-year-old can be found sticking up posters in Berlin as her environmental group Letzte Generation (Last Generation) vies for votes at the forthcoming EU elections.

The climate activists - known for controversial protests ranging from throwing mashed potato at paintings to storming airports - are moving into mainstream politics by contesting this month's European Parliament polls. The group is aiming to "get out there and get people talking about the coming climate catastrophe," Eichler told AFP, as she stuck up a red poster showing a flame under the word "ALARM".

Letzte Generation - whose tactics have proved deeply divisive and have led to some of their members being convicted - are making the push as they feel global warming has dropped down the political agen-



ERFURT: A climate activist of "Letzte Generation" (Last Generation) holds a banner as the German Chancellor (not pictured) speaks during an official appearance on May 31, 2024. — AFP

da in many countries. For the group, Germany's Green party, which is part of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's three-way coalition, has failed to bring about real change in favor of the environment. "People have the impression that with the Greens in government, the situation is improving, but that's not true - they're doing absolutely nothing," said Eichler.

Iran ex-president Ahmadinejad in new bid for post

TEHRAN: Iran's hardline former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Sunday registered his candidacy for a presidential election this month, state media reported. The Islamic republic goes to the polls on June 28 to replace ultra-conservative president Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash on May 19.

Ahmadinejad, 67, held the post for two straight terms from 2005 to 2013, a period marked by a standoff with the West especially over Iran's nuclear program and his incendiary remarks on the Zionist entity. Like all presidential hopefuls, his bid is pending the approval of the Guardian Council, a conservative-dominated body of 12 jurists that vets all candidates for public office.

Ahmadinejad was previously disqualified from entering the presidential race in the 2021 and 2017 elections. "I am confident that all the country's problems can be solved by making maximum use of national capacities," he said after submitting his bid at the interior ministry on Sunday. In 2005, Ahmadinejad gained worldwide notoriety when he said Iran's archfoe the Zionist entity was doomed to be "wiped off the map" and also asserted that the Holocaust was a "myth".

Nationwide protests broke out against Ahmadinejad's disputed re-election in 2009 and the state's response led to dozens of deaths and thousands of arrests. Candidate registration opened on Thursday and closes on Monday. Other prominent figures including moderate ex-parliament speaker Ali Larijani and ultra-conservative former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili have also registered their bids. The Guardian Council will announce the final list of candidates on June 11 after it has completed its vetting procedures. — AFP



TEHRAN: Former Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad poses for a picture as he registers his candidacy for Iran's upcoming presidential election on June 2, 2024. — AFP



Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait's

Chairman, Executive Management, and employees
extend their congratulations to
His Highness

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

on being announced as Crown Prince, appointed by
His Highness the Amir

Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

May Allah protect and guide them in carrying out
their responsibilities for the greater good of Kuwait
and its people

International

Modi's top opponent returns to jail

BJP looks poised for its big entry in prosperous south India, analysts say

NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD: A top opponent of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed Sunday to keep fighting "dictatorship" before he returned to jail Sunday, following elections widely expected to produce another landslide victory for the Hindu-nationalist leader.

Arvind Kejriwal is among several opposition leaders under criminal investigation, with colleagues describing his arrest the month before the general elections began in April as a "political conspiracy" orchestrated by Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The chief minister of the capital Delhi and a key leader in an alliance formed to compete against Modi, Kejriwal was detained in March over a long-running corruption probe. He was later released and allowed to campaign but ordered to return to jail once voting ended.

"When power becomes dictatorship, then jail becomes a responsibility," said Kejriwal, who promised to continue "fighting" from behind bars. "I don't know when I will return," he told supporters in an emotional departure speech at his Aam Aadmi party headquarters. "I don't know what they will do to me ... every drop of my blood is for the country." Kejriwal later returned to jail, his party spokesman told AFP.

Victory in the south

Exit polls showed Modi was well on track to triumph, with the premier saying he was confident that "the people of India have voted in record numbers" to re-elect his government. Results are expected Tuesday but supporters of Modi in his constituency of Varanasi - the spiritual capital of the Hindu faith - said they believed their leader's win was secure. "His government is coming back," said Nand Lal, selling flowers outside a temple.

Voting in the seventh and final staggered round of the six-week poll ended on Saturday, held in brutally hot conditions across swaths of the country. At least 33 polling staff died from heatstroke in Uttar Pradesh state alone, where temperatures hit 46.9 degrees Celsius (116.4 degrees Fahrenheit), election officials said. Analysts say Modi's alliance could double its parliamentary seats in the pros-



NEW DELHI: Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister of the capital Delhi and leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), addresses his supporters and party workers at the AAP's headquarters before returning to prison on June 2, 2024.

perous south of the country, in a sign that he can widen his appeal even after 10 years in office. The BJP has long been seen as a party dependent on the big and poor northern states such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, but analysts say it is now making inroads in the more industrialized south.

This is thanks to Modi's popularity, big spending on roads and bridges, his wooing of the majority Hindus including by inaugurating a temple to Lord Ram on a contested site in January, and forming alliances with strong regional groups.

Modi's National Democratic Alliance (NDA) coalition could win 55 to 64 seats in the five southern states - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, according to ABP-Cvoter, nearly doubling the 32 seats it won in the 2019 election. The exit poll showed that though the BJP is not in power in any of those states, it is expected to win more than 30 seats there alone.

"The BJP is now poised for its big entry in south India," said CVoter founder Yashwant Deshmukh, predicting it had substantially increased its vote share in all those states to worry the ruling parties there. "Now they can say they are a pan-India party. Modi's popularity is the biggest thing."

Minister: China ready to 'forcefully' stop Taiwan independence

SINGAPORE: Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun warned Sunday his military is ready to "forcefully" stop Taiwan independence but called for greater exchanges with the United States. The remarks at an annual security forum in Singapore followed the first substantive face-to-face talks in 18 months between the two countries' defense chiefs.

"We have always been open to exchanges and cooperation, but this requires both sides to meet each other halfway," Dong told the Shangri-La Dialogue where he met with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Friday. "We believe that we need more exchanges precisely because there are differences between our two militaries."

Dong and Austin met for over an hour at the luxury hotel hosting the forum, which is attended by defense officials from around the world and in recent years has been seen as a barometer of US-China relations.

After the meeting, Austin said that telephone conversations between US and Chinese military commanders would resume "in the coming months", while Beijing hailed the "stabilizing" security relations between the countries. This year's Shangri-La Dialogue comes a week after China held military drills around self-ruled Taiwan and warned of war

S Africa's potential kingmakers struggle with white image

CAPE TOWN: Looking out of his window at Cape Town's False Bay, Nick Searra acknowledges that things do work better in South Africa's second biggest city, a stronghold of the opposition Democratic Alliance (DA).

But that doesn't mean he is ready to see the party or its 48-year-old leader John Steenhuisen running the rest of the country. "Imagine an old white man as the president of South Africa," said Searra, a 44-year-old white Johannesburg native who moved to Cape Town in 2022.

In a seismic shift, voters this week dismantled the majority which the African National Congress (ANC) has held since the end of white minority rule in 1994, leaving the party of the late Nelson Mandela little choice but to seek a coalition with a major rival.

Despite their own lackluster performance, an improvement of just one percentage point from the last vote in 2019, the DA and Steenhuisen suddenly find themselves in an unprecedented position.

The ANC remains the largest party despite the damage done by an upstart rival led by former President Jacob Zuma, and is therefore expected to retain the presidency. But as the second biggest political force with 21.8 percent of votes, the DA is one of three parties with the clout to help it form a new majority and potentially shape the future of the nation.

"We've said for the last 30 years that the way to rescue South Africa is to break the ANC majority. We've done that," Steenhuisen said as the outcome of Wednesday's vote became clear. Yet in a country with a painful history of codified racism - apartheid - where white South Africans make up just 7 percent of the population, the DA is struggling to shake off an image as a party of rich whites and prove it reflects the make-up and aspirations of all.

For political analyst Melanie Verwoerd, the problem is as much ideological as racial. Steenhuisen, a



VARANASI: Polling officials gather to submit electronic voting machines and other polling materials at a collection center in Varanasi on June 1, 2024, at the end of the final phase of voting in India's general election. — AFP photos

If the polls are right, the BJP looks set to open its account in Kerala, a Communist bastion where Modi's colleagues have been reaching out to Hindus and Christians. "There is a Modi wave ..." said A Jayashankar, a political analyst. "The Ram temple move worked silently in the state. The BJP has also managed to sway Christian denominations in Kerala."

Target political opponents

Modi's political opponents and international rights groups have long sounded the alarm about threats to India's democracy. US think tank Freedom House said this year the BJP had "increasingly used government institutions to target political opponents". Rahul Gandhi, the most prominent mem-

ber of the opposition Congress party and scion of a dynasty that dominated Indian politics for decades, was convicted of criminal libel last year after a complaint by a member of Modi's party.

His two-year prison sentence saw him disqualified from parliament until the verdict was suspended by a higher court and raised concerns over democratic norms in the world's most populous country.

Hemant Soren, the former chief minister of the eastern state of Jharkhand, was also arrested in February in a separate corruption probe. Kejriwal, Rahul Gandhi and Soren are all members of an opposition alliance composed of more than two dozen parties, but the bloc struggled to make inroads against Modi. — Agencies

been involved in confrontations with Philippine vessels, Dong warned of "limits" to Beijing's restraint. "China has maintained sufficient restraint in the face of rights infringements and provocation, but there are limits to this," Dong said.

Flashpoint disputes

President Joe Biden's administration and China have been stepping up communication to ease friction between the nuclear-armed rivals, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken visiting Beijing and Shanghai last month. A key focus has been the resumption of military-to-military dialogue, which is seen as critical to preventing flashpoint disputes from spinning out of control.

China scrapped military communications with the United States in 2022 in response to then-US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. Tensions between Washington and Beijing were further stoked by issues including an alleged Chinese spy balloon that was shot down over US airspace, a meeting between Taiwan's then-president Tsai Ing-wen and Pelosi's successor Kevin McCarthy and American military aid for Taipei.

China is also furious over the United States' deepening defense ties in the Asia-Pacific, particularly with the Philippines, and its regular deployment of warships and fighter jets in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea. Beijing views this as part of a decades-long US effort to contain it. The two sides agreed after a summit between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Biden last November to restart high-level military talks, including over military operations near Taiwan, Japan and in the South China Sea. — AFP



China's Defense Minister Dong Jun

over the US-backed island following the inauguration of President Lai Ching-te, who Beijing has described as a "dangerous separatist".

"The Chinese People's Liberation Army has always been an indestructible and powerful force in defense of the unification of the motherland, and it will act resolutely and forcefully at all times to curb the independence of Taiwan and to ensure that it never succeeds in its attempts," Dong told the forum on Sunday. "Whoever dares to split Taiwan from China will be crushed to pieces and suffer his own destruction."

Taipei hit back, describing Chinese officials' comments at the forum as "irrational" and insisted it would "work tirelessly for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait", according to a statement from Taiwan's presidential office. On the South China Sea, which China claims almost entirely and where it has



TOKAI, Cape Town: Voters queue inside a polling station in Tokai, Cape Town, on May 29, 2024, during South Africa's general election. — AFP

champion of economic liberalism, has vowed to end a racial quota system for employers established by the ANC to redress decades of apartheid discrimination and wants to loosen labor laws.

And, in a country of 62 million people where 24 million survive on welfare, he is pushing for a smaller role for government. "I don't believe that they set out to be a party of white privilege," said Verwoerd. "But they end up being that." That's a common accusation the DA has repeatedly rejected.

Better than other provinces

In contrast to South Africa's broader economic stagnation, crisis-level unemployment and crumbling infrastructure, Western Cape - the province the DA has controlled since 2009 - has done measurably better. It boasts the country's lowest jobless rate. Its main city Cape Town is a major tourist destination. Even the country's notorious power cuts are less severe.

According to one opinion survey, Western Cape and Cape Town are viewed as far South Africa's best governed province and major city. "It's better than the other provinces," said Luran Musgrave, 31, a Cape Town resident and DA supporter. "They are

the guys that should be ruling the whole country." But in a city that remains heavily segregated - a lingering legacy of apartheid's legal separation of the races - not everyone agrees.

Black tour guide Theo Makhaphela, 39, frequents both the immaculately maintained seafront and poor crime-ravaged townships where the army has in the past been deployed to quell deadly gang violence. "They talk a good game. But on the ground, if you're from here, you know what's on," he said.

Solly Malatsi, a Black DA leader, says the party is making progress with Black voters. "Our support among Black voters is on an upward trajectory," he said, claiming the party had improved its scores in predominately Black areas in Wednesday's election.

In Western Cape, DA officials say the Cape Town and provincial governments spend more on services for poorer areas than wealthy ones. Zwelivelile 'Mandla' Mandela - the grandson of Nelson Mandela and a traditional tribal leader - doesn't buy it. "As much as they can claim successes, those successes continue to be only for the few," he told Reuters. "The poorest of the poor are still living without any access to clean drinkable water, without any proper sewer systems." — Reuters



NEWARK: Donald Trump attends UFC 302 at Prudential Center on June 1, 2024. — AFP

Trump joins TikTok, which he once tried to ban

WASHINGTON: Within hours of joining TikTok, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump had attracted over 1.3 million followers on the short video social media platform that he tried to ban as president on national security grounds.

The decision to join the platform on Saturday could help the former president reach younger voters in his third bid for the White House. He is in a close race with Democratic incumbent Joe Biden ahead of the Nov 5 presidential election.

Biden's election campaign is already on TikTok, although Biden has signed a bill that would ban the app, which is used by 170 million Americans, if its Chinese owner ByteDance fails to divest it. Trump posted a launch video on his account, which has the address @realdonaldtrump, on Saturday night. The video showed Trump greeting fans at an Ultimate Fighting Championship fight in Newark, New Jersey.

Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung said it will leave "no front undefended and this represents the continued outreach to a younger audience consuming pro-Trump and anti-Biden content."

ByteDance is challenging in courts the law that requires it to sell TikTok by next January or face a ban. The White House says it wants to see Chinese-based ownership ended on national security grounds. TikTok has argued it will not share US user data with the Chinese government and that it has taken substantial measures to protect the privacy of its users.

Trump's attempt to ban TikTok in 2020 when he was president was blocked by the courts. He said in March that the platform was a national security threat but also that a ban on it would hurt some young people and only strengthen Meta Platforms' Facebook, which he has strongly criticized.

Trump already has an active social media presence with more than 87 million followers on X and over 7 million followers on his own platform, Truth Social, where he posts almost daily. A US appeals court last week set a fast-track schedule to consider the legal challenges to the new law. The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ordered the case set for oral arguments in September after TikTok, ByteDance and a group of TikTok content creators joined with the Justice Department earlier this month in asking the court for a quick schedule. — Reuters

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024

OPEC+ agrees to extend deep oil production cuts to buttress prices

Supply cuts of 2.2m bpd to be extended until Sept 2024 and 'phased out' by Sept 2025

Next Boeing CEO should realize past mistakes: IATA boss

DUBAI: The next CEO of Boeing should have an understanding of what led to its current crisis and be prepared to look outside for examples of best industrial practices, the head of the International Air Transport Association said on Sunday. US planemaker Boeing is engulfed in a sprawling safety crisis, exacerbated by a January mid-air panel blowout on a near new 737 MAX plane. CEO Dave Calhoun is due to leave the company by the end of the year as part of a broader management shake-up, but Boeing has not yet named a replacement.

"It is not for me to say who should be running Boeing. But I think an understanding of what went wrong in the past, that's very important," IATA Director General Willie Walsh told Reuters TV at an airlines conference in Dubai, adding that Boeing was taking the right steps. IATA represents more than 300 airlines or around 80 percent of global traffic. "Our industry benefits from learning from mistakes, and sharing that learning with everybody," he said, adding that this process should include "an acknowledgement of what went wrong, looking at best practice, looking at what others do".

He said it was critical that the industry has a culture "where people feel secure in putting their hands up and saying things aren't working the way they should do". Boeing is facing investigations by US regulators, possible prosecution for past actions and slumping production of its strongest-selling jet, the 737 MAX.

Calhoun, a Boeing board member since 2009 and former GE executive, was brought in as CEO in 2020 to help turn the planemaker around following two fatal crashes involving the MAX, its strongest-selling jet. But the planemaker has lost market share to competitor Airbus, with its stock losing nearly 32 percent of its value this year as MAX production plummeted this spring.

"The industry is frustrated by the problems as a result of the issues that Boeing have encountered. But personally, I'm pleased to see that they are taking the right steps," Walsh said. Delays in the delivery of new jets from both Boeing and Airbus are part of wider problems in the aerospace supply chain and aircraft maintenance industry complicating airline growth plans. Walsh said supply chain problems are not easing as fast as airlines want and could last into 2025 or 2026.

"It's probably a positive that it's not getting worse, but I think it's going to be a feature of the industry for a couple of years to come," he said. Earlier this year IATA brought together a number of airlines and manufacturers to discuss ways to ease the situation, Walsh said. "We're trying to ensure that there's an open dialogue and honesty," between them, he said. — Reuters



Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud speaks at the Future Investment Initiative conference, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in this file photo. — Reuters photos



The logo of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is seen at OPEC's headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

LONDON/DUBAI: OPEC+ agreed on Sunday to extend most of its deep oil output cuts for 2024 but to start phasing them out in 2025, as the group seeks to shore up the market amid tepid global demand growth, high interest rates and rising rival US production.

The Saudi energy ministry said after the meeting that eight members of the OPEC+ group of oil-producing nations agreed Sunday to extend their voluntary supply cuts by a few months before gradually phasing them out. The eight OPEC+ nations are Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman. Their voluntary supply cuts of 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd) will be extended until September 2024 and then "phased out" by September 2025, the statement said. In addition, voluntary cuts of 1.65 million bpd announced in April 2023 have been extended until the end of 2025, the statement added.

Oil prices trade near \$80 per barrel, below what many OPEC+ members need to balance their budget. Worries over slow demand growth in top oil importer China have weighed on prices alongside rising oil stocks in developed economies. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and

allies led by Russia, together known as OPEC+, have made a series of deep output cuts since late 2022.

OPEC+ members are currently cutting output by a total of 5.86 million barrels per day (bpd), or about 5.7 percent of global demand. The cuts include 2 million bpd by all OPEC+ members, the first round of voluntary cuts by nine members of 1.66 million bpd, and the second round of voluntary cuts by eight members of 2.2 million bpd. OPEC+ extended the first round of cuts until the end of 2025 from the end of 2024, the group said in a statement. It also agreed to extend the third round of voluntary cuts into the third quarter of 2024, OPEC+ sources said, adding that more details were being worked out.

The countries which have made voluntary cuts in the second round are Algeria, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Oman, Russia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and Gabon. The same countries except Gabon participated in the third round. The group also agreed to allocate the United Arab Emirates a higher production quota of 3.5 million bpd in 2025, up from the current level of 2.9 million.

OPEC+ also postponed the deadline for an independent assessment of its members' production

capacities to the end of November 2025 from June 2024. The figures will be used as guidance for 2026 reference production levels. OPEC+ will hold its next meeting on Dec 1, 2024.

According to Mukesh Sahdev at the Rystad Energy research group, the alliance faces the issue of "actual barrels flowing to the market likely being higher than what is accounted for", which could potentially undermine the cartel's strategy.

Moreover, Iraq and Kazakhstan exceeded their quotas in the first quarter, while Russia overproduced in April. Oil prices have changed little since the last meeting in November, hovering at around \$80 a barrel.

Amid questions surrounding global demand, some analysts say that gradually allowing more oil to hit markets might be ahead in 2025.

OPEC continues to stick to its demand forecasts for 2024, while the International Energy Agency has revised its estimates downwards.

Amid "above-average inflation, slowing global growth outlook, central bank uncertainties, rising US oil production and Middle East tensions, the environment is challenging", said Ipek Ozkardeska, a market analyst at Swissquote Bank. — Agencies

Burgan Bank launches upgraded Youth Account

KUWAIT: In continued efforts to address the different market segments' needs, Burgan Bank recently announced the launch of its revamped and upgraded Youth interest-bearing savings account, designed around the evolving lifestyles and aspirations of Kuwaiti high school and university students, aged 15 to 25.

The launch of the all-new Youth account is a testament to Burgan's unwavering commitment to serving all groups of its community through tailoring and developing innovative products and services to meet their ever-changing needs.

"Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders, that's why it is crucial that we provide them with the proper financial tools that enable them to practice the responsibility of managing their finances soundly and wisely at an early age," said Nasser Al-Qaisi, General Manager – Retail Banking at Burgan Bank.

"Our Youth account centers on the evolving needs and lifestyles of today's young adults, whereby every account feature stems from our insights about this dynamic market segment. With this revamped product, we aim to raise our youths' financial literacy and banking awareness in an engaging and rewarding way, and, most importantly, encourage them to adopt the saving culture."

Opening a Youth account requires its applicants to transfer their student allowance to it, noting that no minimum deposit value is mandated for opening the account or for it to start yielding interest. Upon opening the account, young account holders can enjoy a wide range of year-long tailored benefits, exclusive offers, promotions, and events.

Among the special benefits that Youth account holders can enjoy are a KD 100 cash gift upon student allowance transfer, a referral-based re-



Nasser Al-Qaisi, GM, Retail Banking at Burgan Bank.

wards program, and an annual draw to win a car. Furthermore, Youth account customers are eligible for a VIP Mastercard prepaid that's free of charge for the first year.

Burgan's Youth account is in tune with the Bank's efforts to raise financial literacy and spread banking awareness amongst its customers and the different groups of society. In addition to motivating more customers to adopt the saving culture, the Bank also continues to share valuable information about the safest and most secure banking practices. This comes as part of its ongoing support of the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) banking awareness campaign, which was launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) in cooperation with Kuwaiti banks.

Stemming from its institutional philosophy, "Driven by You", Burgan Bank continues to innovate new banking products and services that respond to the ever-changing market needs and growing aspirations of its various segments. This includes the Al-Rateb salary account, which earns its customers a cash gift of up to KD 2,000 upon salary transfer, the flagship draw and savings Kanz account as well as the Awal savings account for children up to 14 years of age.

Investors flock to Aramco share sale that could raise \$13bn

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's sale of shares in oil giant Aramco drew more demand than the stock on offer within hours of kicking off on Sunday, a landmark deal that could raise up to \$13.1 billion in a major test of international appetite for the kingdom's assets. The banks on the deal will take institutional orders through Thursday and will price the shares the following day, with trading expected to start next Sunday on Riyadh's Saudi Exchange.

The offering will be a gauge of Riyadh's appeal to foreign investors, a key plank of the kingdom's ambitious plan to overhaul its economy. Foreign direct investment has repeatedly missed its targets. The sale will also bolster efforts by the government to wean itself off its "oil addiction", as Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman once called it, analysts and sources have said.

The sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund (PIF), the preferred vehicle driving the mammoth agenda that has poured tens of billions of dollars into everything from sports to futuristic desert cities, is likely to be a beneficiary of the funds, they said.

Aramco's shares were down 2.6 percent on Sunday to 28.25 riyals (\$7.53) as of 0825 GMT. Saudi Arabia is offering investors about 1.545 billion Aramco shares, or 0.64 percent, at 26.7 to 29 riyals, or just under \$12 billion at the top end of the range. "Books are covered on the full deal size within the price range," meaning indicated demand exceeded deal size, one of the banks on the deal said.

The banks can increase the offering by a further roughly \$1 billion. If all the shares are sold, the Saudi government will be cutting its stake in the world's top oil exporter by 0.7 percent.

The world's top investment banks are helping to man-



General view of Aramco's oil field in the Empty Quarter, Shaybah, Saudi Arabia. — Reuters

age the sale - Citi, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, JPMorgan, Bank of America and Morgan Stanley - along with local firms Saudi National Bank, Al Rajhi Capital, Riyadh Capital and Saudi Fransi. M Klein and Company and Moelis are independent financial advisers for the deal.

UBS Group's Credit Suisse Saudi Arabia unit alongside BNP Paribas, Bank of China International and China International Capital Corporation are also helping to seek buyers for the shares, according to a stock exchange filing on Sunday. About 10 percent of the new offering will be reserved for retail investors, subject to demand.

The deal kicks off as the OPEC+ group of oil producers is set to meet on Sunday to determine output policy, with some ministers meeting in Riyadh, according

to OPEC+ sources. The de facto Saudi-led Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia, together known as OPEC+, is currently cutting output by a total of 5.86 million barrels per day (mbpd), equal to about 5.7 percent of global demand.

Still, Aramco - long a cash cow for the Saudi state - has boosted its dividends, introducing a new performance-linked payout mechanism last year, despite lower profits as a result of the lower volumes. Saudi Arabia is producing about 9 mbpd of crude, roughly 75 percent of its maximum capacity. The Saudi government directly holds just over 82 percent of Aramco. PIF owns 16 percent - 12 percent directly and 4 percent through subsidiary Sanabil, with the remainder held by public investors. — Reuters

Nvidia boss unveils AI products ahead of Taiwan expo

TAIPEI: Nvidia on Sunday unveiled new products and plans to accelerate the advance of artificial intelligence, with the AI hardware titan's CEO telling a packed stadium in Taipei that "the next industrial revolution has begun".

Jensen Huang is in Taiwan for the island's premier tech expo, Computex, along with the CEOs of some of the world's biggest semiconductor heavyweights - including AMD, Intel and Qualcomm - and their plans for a tech industry dominated by AI are top of the agenda. Taiwan-born Huang has celebrity status on the island, and there was huge media and public interest in his visit thanks in large part to Nvidia's status as the undisputed leader in the specialized chips and hardware needed to build and run cutting-edge AI. "Companies and countries are partnering with Nvidia to shift the trillion-dollar traditional data centers to accelerated computing and build a new type of data center - AI factories - to produce a new commodity: artificial intelligence," Huang told the crowd at National Taiwan University's sports center.

He announced the general availability of Nvidia ACE generative AI, which can create lifelike human avatars for industries such as customer support. He also outlined how some top tech companies such as Taiwan's Foxconn - the world's largest contract electronics manufacturer - and German industrial giant Siemens are using Nvidia's platforms to develop AI-powered autonomous robots. — AFP

Business

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

Mixed data increases uncertainty for central banks on cutting rates

US consumer confidence raises as layoffs remain at historical lows

KUWAIT: Consumer confidence in the US rose for the first time in four months, with the conference board index coming in at an unexpected 102.0 in May from 97.5 in April, surpassing forecasts of a 96.0 print. The survey showed increased optimism with regards to the labor market as layoffs remain at historical lows while jobs remain plentiful.

Additionally, consumers reacted strongly to a rising stock market with the majority expecting equity prices to increase over the coming year. Despite this, consumers are still worried about inflation as their one year expectation rose to 5.4 percent from 5.3 percent previously. They cited food prices as having the greatest impact on their outlook for the economy. Furthermore, the share of consumers expecting higher interest rates over the year increased to 56.2 percent from 55.2 percent in April.

Core PCE price index unchanged

The Fed's preferred measure of inflation was seen unchanged in April, where the PCE figure came in at 2.7 percent, same as the previous month. Core PCE was also unchanged in the year-over-year figure at 2.8 percent. Meanwhile, the m/m core PCE figure decreased slightly from the previous month at 0.2 percent versus 0.3 percent expected. Following a stronger than expected figures in the first quarter, the report came in line with expectations and could signal signs of hope that the Fed would be able to cut rates as anticipated. However, prolonged sticky inflation could result in a delay in interest rate cuts, where the first rate cut is currently fully priced in by markets in December, with a 92 percent probability of a cut priced in November. The US dollar index closed the week at 104.625.

Inflation in Germany eases

Inflation in Germany eased in April, where the prelim CPI figure increasing 0.1 percent for the month, below expectations of a 0.2 percent drop and the previous month's 0.5 percent increase. The

Rates - 2nd June 2024

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.0852	1.0786	1.0888	1.0841	1.0740	1.0950	1.0888
GBP	1.2726	1.2678	1.2800	1.2739	1.2640	1.2840	1.2748
JPY	157.01	156.37	157.76	157.31	156.20	158.40	155.16
CHF	0.9141	0.9000	0.9153	0.9019	0.8820	0.9140	0.8927

data comes a week before the European Central Bank monetary policy meeting, where markets expect them to begin their rate cutting cycle after inflation rates moderated to 2.60 percent in April.

Eurozone CPI flash estimates raises

Inflation in Europe is expected to tick higher in May, with the flash estimate y/y CPI at 2.6 percent, up from 2.4 percent and beating expectations of 2.5 percent. Core CPI y/y came in at 2.9 percent, up from 2.7 percent the previous month. With expectations for an increase in services, estimated to be at 4.1 percent compared to 3.7 percent, as well as an increase in food and non-energy industrial goods. The estimates came a week before the European Central Bank is scheduled to meet, where they were expected to begin cutting interest rates by markets. The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.0841.

Services prices rising in Japan

Japan's service prices are rising at the fastest pace in over 30 years, which could lead to higher inflation overall. This is putting pressure on the Bank of Japan to raise interest rates for the first time in many years. Service prices rose 2.8 percent year-over-year, exceeding expectations and marking the highest growth since 1991. Rising service costs are

due to factors like higher repair costs, transportation fees, and wages. The weak yen is also making imports more expensive. This inflation trend is causing public concern and hurting the value of the Japanese yen. The BOJ may raise interest rates sooner than expected, potentially in July, to combat inflation. This shift comes after years of keeping rates low to boost economic growth. Service prices are expected to keep climbing due to wage increases and the weak yen, and this could lead to sustained inflation.

Consumer confidence drops

Consumer confidence in Japan decreased more than expected in May, where the seasonally adjusted index dropped to a seven-month low of 36.2, down from 38.3 in April, and below expectations of a rise to 39.1. The survey, which is conducted on 8,400 households, registered declines in all subcategories, where overall livelihood declined to 33.9, and employment fell to 42.0. Furthermore, household willingness to buy durable goods also dropped to 29.0, down from 31.8. The USD/JPY currency pair closed the week at 157.31.

Inflation in Australia rises

Australia's inflation rate rose unexpectedly to a 5-month high in April, driven by increases in petrol,

healthcare, and holidays. This data suggests interest rates might stay the same instead of going down. The consumer price index rose 3.6 percent annually in April, higher than forecasts of a 3.4 percent rise. Interest rate swaps now see a higher chance of rates going up in September, but economists still mostly predict a rate cut well over a year from now. Policymakers also face uncertainty because April's data focuses on goods, and doesn't capture price changes for services, which can take longer to change.

Australian retail sales up

Australian retail sales are barely growing, showing cautious consumer spending. This weakness is likely to continue due to several factors like rising interest rates and rents reducing disposable income, along with inflation in service costs outpacing inflation in goods prices. This situation makes it unlikely for the Reserve Bank of Australia to lower interest rates this year. While there's a slight chance of a small rate cut by December, significant easing is not expected until next year. Even though tax cuts are coming in July, consumers are planning to save most of the extra money, further limiting growth in retail spending.

China manufacturing PMI drops

Manufacturing in China slipped into contraction territory in May, where the PMI index fell to 49.5, down from 50.4 in April. Non-manufacturing PMI also declined slightly for the month at 51.1, down from 51.2 the previous month, and below forecasts of a 51.5 rise. As weak domestic demand continues to weigh on China's economy, the government has indicated plans to buy unsold residential real estate in an effort to improve confidence and stimulate the economy. The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6652.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30660.

World Bank and IMF deepen joint effort to boost climate action

WASHINGTON: The World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are deepening their cooperation through an enhanced framework to help countries scale up action to confront the threat of climate change. The collaboration will provide critical support for countries' climate strategies—through an integrated, country-led approach to policy reforms and climate investments. Within their respective mandates, the World Bank Group and the IMF will leverage their analytics, technical assistance, financing, and policy expertise to enhance country-driven reform programs.

First, countries, the World Bank Group, and the IMF will work together closely to identify each country's climate challenges—and the priority policy reforms needed to address them. This process will be informed by the World Bank Group's Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs), the IMF's climate-related analytics, and countries' own climate ambitions. The World Bank Group and the IMF will work with other Multilateral Development Banks and development partners to help countries implement the reforms through technical assistance and financing.

Upon request, the World Bank Group and the IMF will help establish country-led platforms designed to mobilize additional climate finance, including from the private sector.

The enhanced framework will build on lessons learned since the release of the institutions' joint statement on enhancing IMF-World Bank Collaboration in September 2023. This enhanced cooperation between the two institutions will foster country-driven partnerships, galvanize policy changes, and scale up investments to meet countries' climate needs. The joint effort will also optimize the increased resources the institutions are dedicating to climate action and crowd-in additional resources from development partners and private sector.

The World Bank Group is ramping up its climate action with new measures including devoting 45 percent of annual financing to climate change adaptation and mitigation by 2025, working to bring renewable power to 250 million people in Africa by 2030, and expanding its crisis toolkit to support people on the front lines of the climate crisis. The institution has also optimized its balance sheet and is raising funds for a robust IDA21 replenishment and a new Livable Planet Fund. The IMF is helping countries build resilience to climate change with support from its Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST), which is funded by generous contributions from 23 countries. Since it became operational in October 2022, 18 countries have already benefitted from the RST. The enhanced WBG-IMF collaboration framework is expected to further raise the impact of the SDRs channeled through the RST.

China making youth unemployment a 'top priority'

SHANGHAI: At a job fair for soon-to-be graduates in central Shanghai, recruiters sat bored under washed-out tarpaulins as rain and an apparent lack of interest kept potential young employees away. The empty seats belied China's stubbornly high youth unemployment rate—a problem so pressing that President Xi Jinping this week told top Communist Party (CCP) cadres it should be a "top priority".

His words have been seen by many analysts as a signal that reforms could be in the pipeline ahead of July's Third Plenum, a meeting that has historically unveiled important changes in economic policy direction. Youth unemployment stood at 14.7 percent in April, official data showed—and in June, another 11.8 million students will graduate from university, adding to the bottleneck.

That number had soared to an unprecedented 21.3 percent in mid-2023, before officials paused publishing monthly figures. They began releasing them again in December after adjusting the calculation method. Hospitality and human resources firms dominated Friday's small job fair, one of many hosted by local authorities over recent weeks in anticipation of the imminent influx of university leavers. "It's difficult to find a job that matches your degree and aspirations," one of the few young jobseekers at the fair, a data sciences student, told AFP.

"Lots of college students actually have too high expectations," said Julia Shao, who was recruiting for a restaurant chain. "They do not prefer this kind of basic position. They prefer... a fancy job."

Xi specifically mentioned graduates in his speech to the CCP Politburo on Monday, noting that "more jobs should be created for them to apply what they have learned and what they are adept at". His remarks follow "a steady drumbeat of comments from China's leadership underlining the urgency" of the matter. Erica Tay, director of macro research at Maybank, told

African tech startups cater to continent's burgeoning needs

MARRAKESH, Morocco: African startups, addressing overlooked needs, are putting the spotlight on a burgeoning tech scene, despite challenges like inequality and limited digitalization. At the GITEX Africa fair in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh this week, innovations in remittances and healthcare that cater to the continent's demands underscored the thriving sector.

One of those at the show, Jean-Charles Mendy, launched an app with his business partner three years ago, giving people working abroad better control over the money they send to their families back home.

"The market for sending money by Africans in the diaspora is huge," the 40-year-old Senegalese entrepreneur told AFP on the sidelines of the gathering that drew about 1,500 startups, companies and banks. The app, only available to the Senegalese diaspora for now, enables direct payment of bills, including electricity or phone expenses, or conversion into vouchers for supermarket purchases. Remittances to sub-Saharan Africa reached over



SHANGHAI: People visit a job fair in Shanghai on May 31, 2024. — AFP

AFP. The issue has been hanging over the government for some time. Together with persistently low consumption and a long-running property sector crisis, the unemployment situation has been labeled a key culprit for China's uneven post-pandemic recovery.

"While details in Xi's comments are vague, it's clear a policy shift is underway," said Harry Murphy Cruise of Moody's Analytics. "We expect policies aimed at reducing youth unemployment to be a key pillar of the discussions (at the Third Plenum)."

In the remarks published Monday, Xi said young people should be encouraged "to find jobs or start businesses in key fields (and) industries".

"Market-oriented and social channels should be expanded for young people to find a job," he was quoted as saying. Murphy Cruise said he expected the government to increase wage subsidies to persuade companies to hire recent graduates, as well as

create more work placements for students. However, these were only "band-aid solutions", he said.

In the long term, "larger industrial and education policy reforms" were needed to ensure a better match between graduates' skills and employer demands, he said. There is now a push to fill roles that "dovetail with key policy priorities" or where skills shortages exist, said Tay, like industrial upgrading and scientific innovation. With job opportunities drying up for those holding sociology, journalism and law degrees, she said, some kind of "government-sponsored earn-as-you-learn training programs" might be needed to fill more in-demand roles. Near the law faculty of a top Shanghai university, final-year students said the job market was indeed tough. "Post-pandemic, it is a little more difficult than before," 22-year-old Qian Le said, referencing recent lay-offs and pay cuts at top Chinese law firms. — AFP

\$50 billion last year, according to the World Bank.

People in the diaspora "find that they sacrifice too much for their money to be misused", said Mendy. "If you are not Senegalese, you won't imagine that this is a problem that people encounter," he said. "All solutions we have put in place are a combination of European solutions used to meet African needs, thanks to technology."

The International Finance Corporation, the World Bank's private sector arm, says Africa's startup ecosystem, particularly in mobile payments, is the world's fastest growing.

But significant inequality plagues the continent, characterized by widespread lack of digitalization and a challenging financial environment. The Partech Africa private equity fund says the continent's tech ecosystem was valued at \$3.5 billion last year, marking a 46 percent decline from 2022, with half of its active investors lost. Bennie Mmbaga, head of investments at Maua Mazuri, a biotechnology startup aimed at boosting banana yields, said when it was established in 2020, foreign investors "failed to understand the need" for its innovative approach.

"In East Africa, bananas are used for everything," and although Tanzania has some of the largest banana plantations in the world, yields fall far behind other countries, partially owing to a virus that has been particularly rampant since 2020, he added.

Today, his startup helps 1,000 farmers with resistant seeds and makes up to \$655,000 in reve-



MARRAKESH: France's Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, Attractiveness, Francophony and French Nationals Abroad Franck Riester (R) tries VR goggles during the GITEX Africa Tech and Startup show in Marrakesh on May 30, 2024. — AFP

nues per year. "Investors realize now that there is a need," he added.

Healthcare technology is another growing sector in Africa, where more than half of the 1.4 billion people currently live in poverty and lack medical coverage, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, or UNECA. "Governments spend only six percent of their GDP on healthcare," said Mactar Seck, head of innovation and technology at UNECA. — AFP

NBK inaugurates Kuwait's first international mortgages center

Center in line with the Group's dedication to delivering exceptional financing solutions



KUWAIT: Isam Al-Sager, Shaikha Al-Bahar, Salah Al-Fulaij, Omar Bouhadiba, Zaid Al-Sager, and Mohammed Al-Othman pose for a group photo with other key executives during the launch of Kuwait's first international mortgages center at the NBK headquarters.

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has inaugurated Kuwait's first international mortgages center at its headquarters, offering services to customers interested in purchasing or financing properties in the UK, France, and the UAE. The inauguration of the new center was marked by the presence of the Bank's executive management and aligns with the strategic vision articulated by NBK's senior leadership.

The initiative was led by Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group CEO of NBK, with the support of Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO of NBK, and Salah Al-Fulaij, CEO of NBK-Kuwait. Joining them were Omar Bouhadiba, CEO of International Banking Group at NBK, Zaid Al-Sager, Deputy Head of International Banking Group at NBK, and Mohammed Al-Othman, CEO of Consumer and Digital Banking Group at NBK, among other key executives.

This initiative highlights the Group's dedication to expanding its global banking services and providing bespoke mortgage and service solutions to meet the international real estate investment needs of its customers. Located in downtown Kuwait, the International Mortgages Centre complements the services provided by the Bank's Ras Salmiya and Surra branches, enhancing customer convenience. These branches offer a comprehensive array of international banking products and services, includ-

ing mortgages. This initiative aligns perfectly with NBK Group's strategic efforts to expand its footprint in real estate financing services both regionally and globally. By leveraging its extensive network of international branches and solid presence in key real estate markets worldwide, NBK capitalizes on its strong reputation and the deep trust it enjoys in Kuwait, the region, and beyond.

Through its international mortgage services, the Group empowers customers to fulfill their aspirations of owning properties in the UK, France, and UAE markets. This is facilitated by flexible financing terms, competitive interest rates, extended repayment periods, and financing covering up to 75 percent of the property value.

To facilitate overseas property purchases for its customers, the bank has introduced the new International Mortgages Center, providing convenient access to mortgage services and a variety of international real estate products. This initiative enables customers in Kuwait to access financing solutions and comprehensive real estate services without the need to travel, complementing the offerings at the Ras Salmiya and Surra branches. This streamlined process simplifies the path for customers aiming to own property outside Kuwait and to capitalize on unique opportunities in global markets.

The expansion of NBK Group's international mortgage

services aligns with the bank's strategy of diversifying its revenue streams across different industries and geographical regions. Notably, international operations contributed 24 percent of net operating income and 21 percent of the Group's profits in the first quarter of 2024. Moreover, as of the end of March, their share of the Group's total assets had increased to 41 percent. This underscores the growing significance of International Banking Group in improving the Group's financial performance.

High credit limits

NBK Group clients looking to purchase real estate in the UK, France, or the UAE enjoy a range of advantages, such as substantial credit limits, competitive interest rates, and extended repayment terms.

The International Banking Group, with a presence in key financial and business hubs, is dedicated to providing top-notch products and services. This commitment empowers customers to efficiently manage their personal and business affairs with ease and convenience.

NBK remains committed to being readily accessible to its customers by offering a comprehensive suite of banking services, as well as investment and financing solutions. This dedication allows customers to easily access vital regional and global markets from Kuwait.

- An initiative consistent with the Group's strategy to diversify its revenue streams across various sectors and regions
- NBK's strong presence in the most attractive real estate markets supports its growth in international real estate financing
- Financing covers up to 75 percent of the property value, with competitive interest rates and extended repayment terms
- International Banking Group plays an increasingly significant role in enhancing NBK Group's financial performance



شركة الصفاء للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 30 MAY 2024

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Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	35,022	7,682.60	-1.3%	-0.1%	2.7%	643,082,285	270,017,598	47,718	17.0	1.2	81.8%
Main Market	7,808	5,957.65	-0.4%	0.6%	7.0%	686,983,937	63,473,133	35,803	11.3	0.9	18.2%
All Share	42,830	7,051.92	-1.2%	0.0%	3.4%	1,330,066,222	333,490,730	83,521	12.9	1.0	100%

Sector	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Banking	26,103	1,741.62	-1.2%	0.6%	5.7%	314,468,748	177,587,650	20,169	16.9	1.2	60.95%
Basic Materials	475	840.22	1.0%	-1.7%	12.6%	4,578,112	3,032,549	1,507	9.4	1.8	1.11%
Consumer Discretionary	1,079	1,568.26	-4.8%	-6.7%	-2.2%	91,041,521	12,835,262	6,067	11.6	1.3	2.52%
Consumer Staples	267	876.78	-5.7%	5.3%	33.1%	2,191,632	560,369	371	25.8	1.4	0.62%
Energy	224	1,068.89	-1.7%	0.7%	12.6%	20,267,389	2,129,511	1,245	9.9	0.8	0.52%
Financial Services	4,855	1,360.31	-1.3%	2.0%	12.2%	536,958,247	62,081,567	22,975	12.4	0.9	11.34%
Health Care	214	445.90	0.0%	-8.5%	-7.5%	0	0.000	0	11.6	1.5	0.50%
Industrials	2,515	741.57	-0.7%	-3.5%	-18.3%	79,162,240	25,866,726	10,707	12.3	0.9	5.87%
Insurance	1,028	2,510.51	0.8%	0.9%	9.5%	9,746,533	1,419,553	1,101	8.8	1.2	2.40%
Real Estate	2,822	1,326.41	-0.4%	3.2%	9.4%	233,319,651	31,667,477	13,838	14.4	0.8	6.59%
Technology	23	1,702.35	-10.7%	-10.7%	194.3%	96,784	22,640.24	51	NM	2.0	0.05%
Telecommunications	3,049	997.00	-0.7%	-4.5%	-9.8%	33,817,687	15,595,009	5,037	16.5	1.3	7.12%
Utilities	175	418.42	0.6%	-4.2%	-8.1%	4,417,678	692,418	453	13.6	1.3	0.41%

Top Gainers

Stock	Last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
CGC	599	14.10%	6,976,446	3,909,324,248	1,078
KFOUC	672	12.00%	1,333,425	906,748	516
ALOLA	42.3	11.02%	33,736,990	1,467,409	1,378
ARKAN	91.5	10.24%	1,320,763	118,297	161
KCPC	290	8.12%	1,340,794	380,228	261

Top Losers

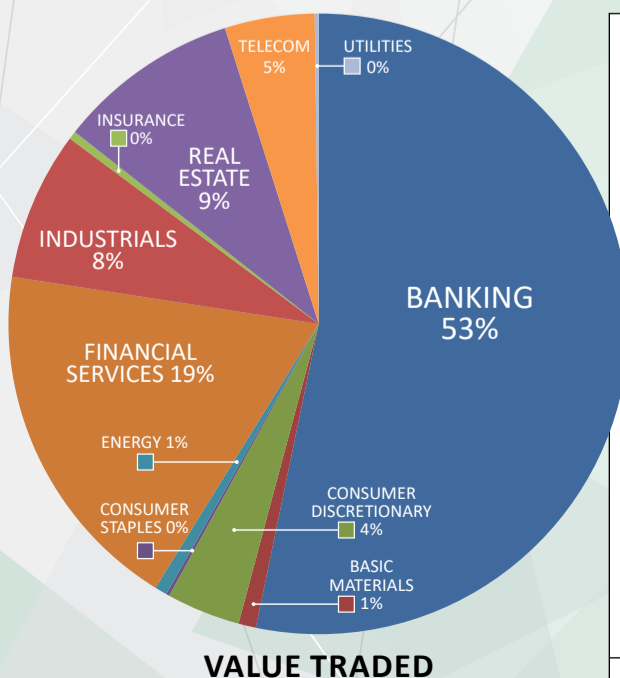
Stock	Last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
EQUIPMENT	35	-23.84%	23,045,451	916,414	1,619
ENERGYH	84	-20.48%	1,592,055	154,981	247
JAZEERA	920	-13.13%	2,086,685	2,049,786	1,232
FUTUREKID	140.0	-11.39%	9,946,280	1,461,614	778
UNICAP	140.0	-10.83%	25,643,744	3,996,872	1,441

Top Volume

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	730	-1.88%	140,063,913	102,619,260	9,941
MANAZEL	35.7	-3.51%	119,423,788	4,623,461	3,391
GFH	89.2	-0.56%	61,651,039	5,499,966	1,914
JIYAD	19.6	1.55%	52,191,324	1,021,371	1,131
NBK	857	-0.70%	51,497,104	44,262,217	3,740

Top Value

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	730	-1.88%	140,063,913	102,619,260	9,941
NBK	857	-0.70%	51,497,104	44,262,217	3,740
ZAIN	448	-2.40%	30,408,832	13,682,263	3,957
MABANEE	830	-0.24%	15,275,053	12,763,535	2,316
GBK	254	-1.93%	42,436,039	10,868,821	2,043



Market Summary:

- Premier volume and value rose 8% and 53%, while the Main market dropped 35% and 33%, respectively.
- The Premier index continues moving on a downtrend, while the Main index moves horizontally.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7051, with support levels at 7041, 7000, and 6981, while resistance at 7162. The Premier index closed at 7682, with support levels at 7650, 7591, and 7555, and resistance at 7716. The Main index closed at 5957, with support levels at 5940, 5925, and 5902, while resistance at 5959.

Lifestyle



A staff member makes a toilet at a factory of Japanese toilet manufacturer TOTO.

Workers are seen at an assembly line of the Washlet Techno factory of Japanese toilet manufacturer TOTO in Toki city of Gifu prefecture. — AFP photos

Feeling flush: Japan's high-tech toilets go global

As Japan plays host to a record influx of tourists, one of the country's more private attractions — the high-tech toilet — is becoming a must-have in luxury bathrooms worldwide. With their warm seats and precision spray technology, bidet toilets are the norm in Japan, where more than 80 percent of homes have one, according to a government survey.

Now sales are surging abroad and especially in the United States, led by A-list bidet fans such as Drake, the Kardashians and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Japanese company TOTO, which pioneered the electric bidets it claims have sparked "a global revolution from wiping to washing", says overseas revenue for toilets has roughly doubled from 100 billion yen (\$673 million) in 2012.

The pandemic was a key driver, bringing a home-renovation boom but also germ-conscious consumers desperate for an alternative to toilet paper after shelves were cleared by panic-buyers. Senior TOTO executive Shin-ya Tamura, who oversees international business, told AFP the brand's growth has been a word-of-mouth success.

When people first learn how the toilets' water jets work, with pressure

and temperature controls, "there's an image that it's not pleasant". But "we can't explain how good it is with words. You need to experience it", Tamura said. "After a while, most users can't live without it."

The company's international net sales for housing equipment are currently less than a third of those in Japan. It wants to boost sales in the Americas by 19 percent over two years to "establish a solid position" there and offset less urgent demand in China. But with more people in the market for a squeaky-clean bum, US competitors are challenging TOTO and its Japanese rivals such as Panasonic and LIXIL for their throne.

'Smartest toilet'

At a major tech fair in Las Vegas this year, the marketing manager of US brand Kohler called its Numi 2.0 — which takes spoken instructions via an in-built Amazon Alexa — "the smartest toilet that exists". Just like top-end Japanese models, the Numi 2.0 has an automatic deodorizer and a motion-activated lid that opens when you enter the bathroom and closes when you leave.

Its spray wand has pulsating and

oscillating functions, and users can adjust the warm-air dryer in minute detail. But such pampering comes at a price: around \$8,500 to \$10,000, compared to around \$500 for more basic bidet seats.

Americans who travel to Japan are often inspired to upgrade their toilet, a salesman at Ardy's Bath Collection in Beverly Hills told AFP. "They see it in the airport, and they see it in public restrooms, and they use it, and they're like, 'wow, this is great,'" he said.

Bidets are "popular everywhere" but it's still a "private experience" and "weird to talk about" for some customers. Although fancy Japanese-style toilets are fast becoming a status symbol, TOTO's executives have long fought prudishness when trying to expand abroad. After the US launch of its Washlet bidet in 1986, the firm struggled to place advertisements, and its pop-up event was kicked out of a high-end mall because other stores complained.

'Does it hurt?'

How things have changed in the share-all internet era. "Why am I nervous? Does it hurt? Is it cold?" 21-year-old Canadian Spencer Barbosa, who has 10 million TikTok followers, said in a clip of her trying a Japanese toilet.

Superstar rapper Drake made a grand public gesture of gifting his friend DJ Khaled luxury TOTO loos in 2022. And US congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez joked in an Instagram video last year that she was shopping for a bidet after going to Japan because "life will never be the same".

Funnily enough, when TOTO first began selling bidets — to hospitals in Japan — it imported them from the United States, but users complained that the stream was unstable. The company was founded in 1917 as a father and son from a wealthy business family tried to bring Western-style ceramic toilets to Japan.

With sewer systems still undeveloped and squat-style toilets common, the business struggled, so they relied on tableware sales until habits began



to change after the 1970 World Expo in Osaka, said Junichi Koga, head of TOTO's history museum.

More than 300 employees helped develop and test the Washlet by specifying their preferred location for the water jet. Now, worldwide, TOTO has sold 60 million Washlets — featured in episodes of "The Kardashians" and

"South Park", which parodied the company as "TOOTTOOT".

As the bidet craze grows, even the trepidatious might be converted in time, the Ardy's salesman said. He recommends customers put in the necessary electrics when they remodel their bathroom, telling them: "You could always buy it down the line". — AFP



Museum director Junichi Koga presents the washlet functions of one of the toilets at the museum of Japanese toilet manufacturer TOTO.



This picture shows different toilets at the TOTO museum.



A toilet seat is seen during its manufacturing process.





Agricultural fields are seen surrounding the recently refilled Balaa dam, that had fallen out of service for 12 years after the war broke out, in the rebel-held areas of Syria's northwestern Idlib province on May 22, 2024. — AFP photos

Revived reservoir a lifeline for Syria farmers



Sheep graze on the banks of the recently filled Balaa dam.



Children swim in the canal.

For the first time in over a decade of war, farmers in Syria's rebel-held northwest are irrigating their crops more easily thanks to the rehabilitation of a vital reservoir, bringing life back to parched fields. Water from the Bala reservoir is once again flowing to a fertile plain in the Idlib area, home to several million people, many of them displaced during the country's devastating civil war.

"More than 10 years ago, water stopped flowing into the reservoir because of a lack of electricity" for the pumps, said Mohammed Ramadan, 42, irrigating his crops in the village of Bala.

Farmers have relied on rainwater ever since, but it was never enough for their crops to thrive, he added. "Now, thank God, water is flowing again," he told AFP, with farmers diversifying their crops to include vegetables like eggplant and peppers rather than just the essentials.

The reservoir went back into service after years of problems, including poor maintenance and damage to some of its facilities due to bombardment. Pumps at a nearby station were repaired and reconnected to the electricity grid, while other cleaning and maintenance work was also carried out, according to the authorities.

It collects rainwater in the winter, while water is also pumped in from the Orontes River area nearby. Agriculture is the main source of income for many in the roughly 60 villages in the Rouj plain, a vast patchwork of green and golden crops cutting rectangular shapes around the reservoir. "When water began to flow again, the entire Rouj area was revived," Ramadan said, pumping water from a nearby canal.



Syrian farmers harvest a field irrigated from the canal into which water was recently pumped from the Balaa dam.

'Where will our sheep graze?'
Livestock grazed near the reservoir's edge, while children swam in an adjoining canal. "We were limited to growing beans and tomatoes" before the reservoir was rehabilitated, said farmer Walid Mohammadia, 40, as he harvested zucchinis.

"But today we can grow crops that we couldn't afford to plant before," he said, visibly excited. "When water flowed again, life returned," he added. The reservoir has a maximum storage capacity of 14.5 million cubic meters (512 million cubic feet), said Tammam al-Hamud, an official in charge of water resources.

The Syrian war erupted from 2011 anti-regime protests and evolved into a complex conflict involving international powers and proxies. More than half a million people lost their lives, with millions displaced.

Jihadist group Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham, led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, and affiliated armed factions run the Idlib bastion, which also includes slivers of neighboring Hama, Aleppo and Latakia provinces.

When the renovation project — expected to cost around \$2.5 million — is fully completed, the reservoir will be able to irrigate more than 10,000 hectares of farmland, compared to about 4,000 hectares currently, Hamud added.

He expressed hope the stores would help increase crop yields, especially for more water-intensive cotton, whose cultivation is crucial "because it provides raw material for factories" that employ many people in the region.

Jihad al-Sawaq, an official in charge of pumping stations in the area, said the aim of repairing the reservoir was to "increase the irrigated areas to boost crop production". "We will encourage planting several strategic types of crops including sugar beets, sunflowers and soybeans, which we had stopped producing in 2011," he said.

But not everybody is happy with the project. "Our sheep used to graze inside the reservoir, and now it's filled with water," said shepherd Zakwan al-Hamdun, 53, who lives in a nearby displacement camp. "Where will our sheep graze now?" he asked, his livestock nibbling on meagre tufts of grass between the camp's tents. "We want the (local) government to at least help by providing fodder," he added. — AFP



Syrian farmer Walid Mohammadia, 40, sorts out zucchinis that were planted in a field irrigated from a canal fed by the dam.



Ramadan irrigates his field with water pumped from the dam.



Syrian farmer Mohammed Ramadan 42, draws water to irrigate his field from the dam.



Children swim in the irrigation canal.



Sports

Jones blasts USA to debut T20 WCup win over Canada

‘It was the perfect start to the tournament for the co-hosts’

DALLAS: Aaron Jones struck an explosive unbeaten 94 from 40 balls as the USA beat Canada by seven wickets in the opening game of the T20 World Cup on Saturday. Jones, born in New York but raised in Barbados, bludgeoned the Canadian attack, smashing ten sixes as he totally changed the momentum of the game in a superb 131-run third wicket partnership with Andries Gous.

Jones took full control in the 13th over when he went on the attack against the slow left-arm of Canada captain, Saad Bin Zafar, smashing three sixes in one over. Then the game shifted decisively towards the Americans when Jeremy Gordon's medium-fast seamers went for 33 off one disastrous over, with the Canadian adding to his misery with three wickets and two no-balls, including a no-ball that cancelled out a potential dismissal of Gous.

Former South Africa Under-19 batsman Gous made 65 off 46 balls before he holed out to deep midwicket off Nikhil Dutta, ending a partnership that had taken the Americans from struggling at 42-2 in the seventh over to close to their finish line at 173-3 in the 16th.

Corey Anderson, the former New Zealand all-rounder, came in to accompany Jones who fittingly ended the contest with his 10th sixth of the night. It was the perfect start to the tournament for the co-hosts, with the crowd at the compact Grand Prairie Stadium roaring with delight as Jones smashed the Canadian attack around the ground.

“I don't think it is easy to put it into words,” said Jones, whose 10 sixes are the second most in a T20 World Cup innings behind West Indian

Chris Gayle's 11 against England in 2016.

“With our batting line-up, we knew anything under 200 is chaseable. I go through my processes and I like my power hitting. I know if I get it in the middle, it will go for sure. I like to come in when the team is under pressure, it brings out the best in me,” he said.

Canada, also making their T20 World Cup debut, had set what appeared a challenging target with Navneet Dhaliwal making a well-paced 61 off 44 balls, including six four and three sixes after opener Aaron Johnson had set the early pace with an aggressive 23 off 16 balls.

Nicholas Kirton maintained the momentum in the back half of the innings with 51 off 31 balls and Shreyas Movva's 32 off 16 was crucial in getting Canada to what looked to be a strong total in the Group A match before Jones wreaked havoc.

“We started well, But Jones and Gous batted exceptionally. Our bowlers had no chance,” said skipper Bin Zafar. “Our bowlers missed their lines and lengths, and we shouldn't have given away the no-balls and extras. We played an exceptional game overall. Nothing to be sad about, the effort from the boys was good. This is just the start and hope we can do well in the next game,” he said.

The USA is co-hosting the tournament with the West Indies with 16 of the group stage games being held in three American venues—South Florida and New York along with Dallas. India, Pakistan and Ireland are also competing in Group A with two nations qualifying for the Super Eight stage. — AFP



GRAND PRAIRIE: USA's vice-captain Aaron Jones (R) and USA's Harmeet Singh celebrate winning the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2024 group A cricket match against Canada at the Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium in Grand Prairie, Texas on June 1, 2024. — AFP

Seville runs fastest to beat Lyles in 100 at Kingston

KINGSTON: Jamaica's Oblique Seville ran the fastest 100 meters in the world this year, 9.82 seconds, to defeat reigning world champion Noah Lyles on Saturday at the Racer Grand Prix meet. The 23-year-old shocked himself with the effort, aided by a tailwind of 0.9 m/sec, to break his prior personal best of 9.86 and dominate American star Lyles, who crossed the line next in 9.85, just off his best of 9.83.

“I feel good,” Seville said. “I'm a little surprised. It's special to be able to run so fast without too much specific work. It shows that I can still do better.” The Jamaican is coached by Glen Mills, former mentor of legend Usain Bolt, for whom Jamaica has been looking for an heir since his 2017 retirement.

Seville collected places of honor during the last major championships: Fourth in the 4x100m relay at the Tokyo Olympics and in the 100m at the Worlds in 2022 and 2023. His clear race allowed him to tame Lyles, to whom he gave a defiant look at the line. The two sprinters ran significantly faster than the best prior 2024 time, 9.93 by Americans Christian Miller and Kendal Williams.

Lyles won titles in the 100, 200 and 4x100 relay in last year's Worlds at Budapest and is considered a major favorite for the Paris Olympics. Saint Lucia athlete Julien Alfred, 22, also achieved a 2024 world-best performance in the women's 100m in 10.78 with a 1.3 m/s wind.

The 60m indoor world champion showed her ability to contend for gold in France. Jamaican 19-year-old Jaydon Hibbert, the junior world record holder, soared 17.75m to win the triple jump (-0.7 m/s wind) to establish the best world mark this year. — AFP

Panthers out Rangers to reach Stanley Cup Final

MIAMI: Sam Bennett and Vladimir Tarasenko scored as the Florida Panthers reached the NHL Stanley Cup Final for the second consecutive season by beating the New York Rangers 2-1 on Saturday. Bennett opened the scoring with 50 seconds remaining in the first period, Tarasenko netted another with 10:52 remaining and Russian goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky made 22 saves for the Panthers.

The Panthers defeated the Rangers 4-2 in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference final and will have the chance to capture their first NHL title when the Stanley Cup Final starts next Saturday. Florida will face the Western Conference champion, either the Edmonton Oilers or Dallas Stars, in the best-of-seven championship series.

The Oilers lead Dallas 3-2 in the West series, which continues on Sunday. The Panthers lost to Vegas in last year's Stanley Cup Final and were swept by Colorado in 1996 in their only prior championship series. The Rangers, who had the NHL's best regular-season record, lost in the conference final for the second time in three seasons, having been ousted by Tampa Bay in 2022.

Florida took 3-2 triumphs in games four and five to seize the series lead and set up the chance to return to the Stanley Cup Final at home. Bennett blasted a slap shot over the glove of Rangers goaltender Igor Shesterkin and into the upper right front corner to open the scoring with his fourth goal of the series and sixth of the playoffs.

Tarasenko tapped in a wrist shot for a 2-0 Florida edge. The 32-year-old Russian right wing, who helped St. Louis win the Stanley Cup in 2019, took a pass from Finnish center Anton Lundell that went through two defenders to the far edge of the goal and beat his countryman for his first point of the series. — AFP

Ex-champion Minjee in three-way tie for US Women's Open lead

LANCASTER: Former champion Minjee Lee fired a four-under par 66 to join a three-way tie for the US Women's Open lead on Saturday alongside Andrea Lee and overnight leader Wichanee Meechai. Australia's Lee, who won her second major title at the 2022 US Open at Pine Needles, matched the best round of the week at Lancaster Country Club in Pennsylvania, firing an eagle, three birdies and a bogey to join the top trio on five-under par 205.

Thailand's Wichanee, who has never posted a top-10 finish at a major nor won an LPGA title, held her nerve as the tension ratcheted up on the back nine, finishing with three birdies and two bogeys on 69 - her third straight round in the 60s.

Andrea Lee, a former amateur standout from California, had five birdies and two bogeys in her 67 to put herself in prime position to strike for a first major title on Sunday. The leading trio were two strokes in front of Japan's Hinako Shibuno, who had seven birdies in her 66 for 207.

Compatriot Yuka Saso, who won this championship when she played for the Philippines in 2021, carded a 69 and was a further stroke back on 208.

Minjee Lee, who started the round three shots off Wichanee's lead, jump-started her round with an eagle at the seventh, where her approach from the fairway took an “amazing kick” off the raised edge of the green and left her less than two feet from the pin.

“I thought the golf course was set up really well for moving day, round three,” the Aussie said. “There was a lot of opportunities for birdie out there.” Back-to-back birdies at 11 and 12 - with putts of two and four feet - saw her tied for first at five-under.

After a bogey at the 14th, Lee drained a 17-foot birdie at the 16th to regain a share of the lead. “It didn't feel super-simple, but I just tried to stick to my game plan, tried to make birdies, just stayed in the moment,” she said.

Only five players were under par for the tournament through 54 holes as low scores remained



LANCASTER: Minjee Lee of Australia acknowledges the crowd after a putt on the 17th green during the third round of the US Women's Open Presented by Ally at Lancaster Country Club on June 01, 2024 in Lancaster. — AFP

tough to come by after a brutal first two days saw world number one Nelly Korda headlining a list of big names to miss the cut.

Wichanee said she enjoyed the big galleries following the last group, but admitted she battled fatigue throughout the round as she sought to keep her grip on the lead. “I feel so tired, to be honest. But just have to be positive and then have fun on the course,” she said. “I was so excited this morning because all the par-fours, two sides of the hole, it's like filling with all the crowds.”

No bad thoughts

The 31-year-old from Bangkok launched her round with a 22-foot birdie at the first and birdied the par-five seventh. She bogeyed the 10th and 14th, - her second bogey coming after the last group was put on the clock for slow play.

are stones that I didn't look under. He was too fresh, was unprepared and that was the reality of it.

“I knew the ability he had but he was too fresh going into the Guineas. Since then, everything has been beautiful. The cruising speed that he has, and the ability he has, just an incredible horse.”

Drawn unfavorably on the inside rail in stall one Moore bided his time on the favorite as the 16-runner field was led by O'Brien's pacemaker Euphoric tracked by Los Angeles. There was drama just after the start when Voyage unseated his jockey, Pat Dobbs.

Euphoric led around Tattenham Corner with Los Angeles ranging up on his outside to take the lead entering the straight. Moore then made his move, weaving through the field on the inside to hit the front.

Ambiente Friendly emerged from the pack as his main danger but City of Troy never looked like crumbling. “It was hard to know what would happen today but we still thought we had the best horse. It just didn't happen in the Guineas,” Moore reported after partnering his fourth Derby winner.

Moore then reflected on the qualities that make 54-year-old O'Brien when of the stand out trainers of his or any generation. “There's no one like him, it's more than just being a genius and attention to detail and dedication. There's a lot more than that.”

“Everyone works in this game, but I've never known anyone that works harder than him. It's not all down to just brilliance, it's work as well, and time and effort” he said. O'Brien's record-extending 10th Derby success came 15 years to the day that legendary six-time Derby winning Irish trainer Vincent O'Brien died.

Aidan O'Brien took over his namesake's Ballydoyle stables and backed by the might of the Coolmore breeding operation has upheld and even embellished the late O'Brien's legacy. Michael Tabor, part of the Coolmore behemoth, said: “This means everything for today and also going forward.”

“As Aidan said, City of Troy is the best we have

She said her first reaction, to play faster “doesn't work for me,” so she tried to calm down and stay focused and got back to five-under with a three-foot birdie at the 15th. Several key saves kept her among the leaders, including a par from the creek bank at the fourth and a 12-foot par putt at 16.

“I think my focus on the game is pretty good today,” said the Thai, who on the advice of her manager turned off her social media to avoid any added pressure. “I hit a lot of bad shots, but I don't have any bad thoughts about my swing or about the result at all.”

America's Lee, ranked 49th in the world, was pleased to play a bogey-free back nine, her birdies at the 15th and 16th vaulting her into a share of the lead. “Overall I just played really solid, steady golf and had a few putts drop, which is nice to see,” the 25-year-old said. — AFP



EPSOM: Jockey Ryan Moore (L) and trainer Aidan O'Brien pose with the trophy after winning the Epsom Derby with City Of Troy on the second day of the Epsom Derby Festival horse racing event in Surrey, southern England. — AFP

ever had. Everything Aidan said has come true today.” Unlike O'Brien, James Fanshawe, the trainer of runner-up Ambiente Friendly, has only had a minor association with one of the iconic events that make up the British sporting year.

In his over 30-year career Fanshawe has only ever had one runner in the race before, and was understandably thrilled despite the defeat. “He did absolutely nothing wrong. I thought coming to the two-furlong pole we had a real chance, and then obviously City Of Troy was back to his best, so we got beaten fair and square.”

“No excuses, he ran a really good race and I'm delighted with him, and with the team back at home, who have done a great job,” he said. — AFP

‘Incredible’ City of Troy lands 10th Derby for O'Brien

EPSOM: City of Troy dominated the Derby on Saturday with trainer Aidan O'Brien saying he had “no doubt” this was the best of all his 10 Epsom classic winners.

The 3-1 favorite put a dismal run in the English 2,000 Guineas behind him to seal the Blue Riband, just as O'Brien's Auguste Rodin had done 12 months ago. City of Troy beat Ambiente Friendly (9-2) by two and three quarter lengths with another O'Brien runner Los Angeles (6-1) over three lengths back in third.

The result was the latest demonstration of O'Brien's magical ability to produce a horse for the big occasion. Asked if this was the best of all his 10 Derby winners O'Brien told ITV: “I would say no doubt, because he has the cruise, he has the balance, and he quickens and he stays. I don't think there is any doubt about that.”

“Listen, he is just an incredible horse.” City of Troy came in for a lot of criticism after the champion two-year-old in 2023 totally fluffed his lines in the Guineas, trailing in ninth of 11. O'Brien though as he had done last year with Auguste Rodin stuck by his conviction that City of Troy still had all the attributes to add his name to the illustrious roll call of Derby winners. “Ryan (Moore) gave him an incredible ride,” said O'Brien, before in typically modest fashion reeling off a long list of names of people involved in City of Troy's preparation.

The ‘genius’ of O'Brien

When he had caught his breath, he said: “We knew the Guineas went totally wrong, I made mistakes training him and that's the bottom line. “There

Sports

Pachuca sink Columbus to win CONCACAF Champions Cup

Pachuca's win continues Mexico's long record of dominance in the tournament

PACHUCA: Mexican side Pachuca won the CONCACAF Champions Cup for a sixth time on Saturday after outclassing Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew 3-0. Veteran striker Salomon Rondon scored twice either side of a Miguel Rodriguez effort to seal a deserved victory at Pachuca's 30,000-capacity Estadio Hidalgo.

Columbus entered the final in a confident mood after a superb campaign, which saw them eliminate Mexican sides UANL Tigres and Monterrey en route to Saturday's showpiece. But the MLS champions were overwhelmed by a blistering start from Pachuca, who took the lead after just 12 minutes when Venezuelan international Rondon burst clear of the Columbus defence and chipped a deft finish over advancing goalkeeper Patrick Schulte.

Pachuca thought they had made it 2-0 moments later when Oussama Idrissi finished off another well-worked move that split the Columbus defence. But the goal was overturned by referee Ivan Barton after an intervention from the VAR, which had spotted a foul in the build-up.

The reprieve was only fleeting for Columbus, however, with the MLS team struggling to cope with Pachuca's superior movement off the ball. Just after the half-hour mark, Rodriguez made it 2-0 to the home side, sweeping home an emphatic finish after Erick Sanchez's cross.

Columbus had prepared for Saturday's

final - played some 7,959 feet (2,426 metres) above sea level - by installing altitude tents at their players' homes and conducting workouts with the squad wearing elevation training masks.

But those attempts to acclimatize to the demanding local conditions appeared to have little noticeable effect on Saturday with Pachuca controlling play for long periods and carving out chances at will. Only some superb play from Columbus goalkeeper Schulte prevented Pachuca from adding to their tally as the second half got under way with wave after wave of attacks by the Liga-MX side.

Eventually though, the Columbus resistance was broken again, with Rondon sweeping a low finish into the bottom corner on 67 minutes after good work down the left by Idrissi. Rondon's second goal made it 3-0 to the Mexicans and Columbus never looked remotely capable of overturning the deficit.

Pachuca's win, meanwhile, continues Mexico's long record of dominance in the tournament, the premier continental club competition for teams from North America, Central America and the Caribbean. Mexican clubs have won 18 of the last 19 editions of the tournament.

Saturday's win also means Pachuca have scooped the last CONCACAF qualifying berth for next year's expanded FIFA Club World Cup, which is due to be staged in the United States. — AFP



PACHUCA: Pachuca's players celebrate with the trophy of the Concacaf Champions Cup after winning the final football match against USA's Columbus Crew at the Hidalgo stadium in Pachuca, Hidalgo State, Mexico. — AFP

Dortmund face tough challenges after defeat

LONDON: They threatened to shock Real Madrid in the Champions League final on Saturday before succumbing to a bitter 2-0 defeat at Wembley, but Borussia Dortmund face an uncertain future. The German underdogs carved out several chances in the first half and had Real on the back foot, with Niclas Füllkrug hitting the inside of the post and Karim Adeyemi troubling the Madrid defence with his speed.

On another night, with a little more luck and perhaps some more composure in front of goal, Dortmund could have produced one of the most unlikely victories in recent Champions League history. But Real, as they have done so often in this tournament, waited for their chance and struck, Dani Carvajal heading in after 74 minutes.

The goal cut Dortmund's stubborn resistance and Vinicius Junior added a second eight minutes later to put Madrid on course for a 15th Champions League trophy. The fight and resilience shown by Dortmund throughout the run to the final will give them plenty to draw from, as will the performances of Julian Brandt, Karim Adeyemi and Gregor Kobel, who are set to stay.

But the effort should not obscure the true nature of the task at hand for a club who have just finished fifth in the Bundesliga, a whopping 27 points behind Bayer Leverkusen, and are in a period of upheaval.

Terzic to stay

For a club of Dortmund's resources and history, there should be no shame in losing narrowly to Real Madrid. Several excellent sides have also fallen

at the final hurdle against Madrid, including the best versions of Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool and Diego Simeone's Atletico Madrid.

Tipped to not even make it out of a group featuring Paris Saint-Germain, Newcastle and AC Milan, Dortmund qualified first. They made it past Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven, Atletico Madrid and then PSG and Kylian Mbappe again in the semis, before reaching the final for the third time in their history.

Backed by a passionate travelling support, the winners in 1997 had come close to giving stalwarts Marco Reus and Mats Hummels a chance of redemption, 11 years after they were part of the team that lost at the same venue to domestic rivals Bayern Munich.

The deep run means coach Edin Terzic, who narrowly escaped the sack twice after poor showings in the league this season, will be backed to continue, with club CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke a strong advocate. Reus was playing his final game for the club and along with Hummels' likely exit, Dortmund are losing a wealth of experience and class in key positions.

Both players had also fallen out with Terzic, particularly Hummels who criticized the coach's defensive approach in interviews before Saturday's match. Only twice during the knockout rounds did Dortmund have more possession than their opponents - both times against Atletico - with even PSV seeing more of the ball.

While the approach worked on the European stage against teams used to having more of the ball, its limitations



LONDON: Dortmund's German midfielder #19 Julian Brandt, Real Madrid's French defender #23 Ferland Mendy and Real Madrid's German midfielder #08 Toni Kroos vie for the ball during the UEFA Champions League final football match between Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid, at Wembley stadium, in London. — AFP

were clear in the Bundesliga, where Dortmund struggled to break down smaller sides who sat deep.

Bundesliga winners Bayer Leverkusen and surprise runners up Stuttgart, the two most impressive teams in Germany this season, each earned 40 points more than their previous campaign thanks to a pass-heavy, possession-based approach.

Financial challenges

Dortmund, under sporting director Sebastian Kehl, have also undertaken a marked shift in the way they sign players. Known as cultivators of future football talents such as Erling Haaland and Jude Bellingham, Dortmund have shifted towards signing established stars in recent seasons as other clubs have copied their approach.

The change brought stability and a long run in the Champions League, but for the first time in a decade there is no obvious Haaland, Bellingham, Ousmane Dembele or Christian Pulisic waiting in the wings - which will have financial implications.

Dortmund, a member-run club financially reliant on European competitions, will benefit from their run to the final and have qualified for the FIFA Club World Cup, but are still likely to be deprived of funds to undertake a major rebuilding effort.

Dortmund's financial model has relied on income generated from selling top talents but their two most exciting youngsters - Sancho and Ian Maatsen - are on loan and belong to Manchester United and Chelsea respectively. — AFP

Kroos bows out in style as Champions League record holder

LONDON: Toni Kroos brought down the curtain on a glorious club career in fitting style as he entered the history books by winning his sixth Champions League on Saturday. Kroos played a key role as Real Madrid beat Borussia Dortmund 2-0 at Wembley.

The German, along with teammates Dani Carvajal, Nacho and Luka Modric joined Madrid legend Paco Gento as the most decorated players in European Cup history. Real boss Carlo Ancelotti said his door remains open should the 34-year-old have a change of heart after announcing the shock decision last month that he will retire after representing his country on home soil at Euro 2024.

The normally unflappable Kroos had a rare emotive outburst as he punched the air and pointed to the Madrid club crest when he was replaced by his long-time comrade Modric with just a few minutes remaining at Wembley.

"He's finished at the top. It is not possible to go out better," said Ancelotti. "He is a legend of this club and obviously we all thank him for what he has done. "Not just in his play but his attitude, his professionalism. He never missed a day in these 10 years. We hope he changes his mind, we are here if he does."

Kroos' Champions League haul ended where it began, by beating Dortmund at Wembley. He was a Bayern Munich player when they won the competition at the home of English football in 2013, although injury prevented him from featuring in the final.

Fresh from helping Germany to win the World Cup in Brazil, Kroos then joined Madrid in 2014 and has become part of a generation that has marked a second era of European domination for the Spanish giants. Gento was part of the Madrid side that won the first five European Cups from 1955 to 1960. — AFP



LONDON: Real Madrid's German midfielder #08 Toni Kroos waves as he celebrates the victory at the end of the UEFA Champions League final football match between Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid, at Wembley stadium, in London. — AFP

Hayes off to flying start as US women thrash South Korea

DENVER: Emma Hayes got her international coaching career off to a flying start on Saturday as the United States defeated South Korea 4-0 in a friendly in Colorado. Mallory Swanson and Tiarna Davidson scored two goals apiece to give Hayes a resounding victory in her first game in charge of the American

women since her appointment was announced in November last year.

The 47-year-old former Chelsea boss was named to the US job in the wake of the USA's early exit at last year's Women's World Cup, and has been tasked with reviving the fortunes of the four-time world champions.

Hayes couldn't have hoped for a smoother start to her reign as a confident US line-up dismantled the Koreans in bright sunshine at a packed Dick's Sporting Goods Park in suburban Denver. "We were controlled in what we did in the first half, we struck to the structures and the coaching," Hayes said. "Everybody did what I asked of them."

"It's really nice to feel like I've got the trust and

the belief in the group to be able to play football. And while the American DNA and mentality is one that we don't want to lose, being able to play the way that we are is really exciting."

Hayes inherited a US squad grappling with controversy in April after anti-LGBTQ social media posts by midfielder Korbin Albert came to light. Albert was handed her first minutes under Hayes on Saturday after appearing as a substitute.

The English coach said after Saturday's game, which saw the US team wearing shirts emblazoned with rainbow-colored numbers to mark the start of Pride month, that she wanted to build a tolerant team culture. — AFP

Classifieds

Clinics & Hospitals

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752

Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300

Change of Name

We, Mohammed Asif Ali (father, Indian Passport No. W7984098) and Sabina Asif (mother, Indian Passport No. X8047738) of Faiza (Indian Passport No. W0760654), resident of Ballari (Dist), door No. 17/25 opposite Cantonment Mosque, Cantonment, Pin 583104, Karnataka (State), India, declare to change their daughter's name from Faiza to Faiza (given name) Asif (surname). (#5611, 03/06/2024)

I, ALEKHYA PASUPULETI, holder of Indian Passport No. U0192138, having Permanent Address 4-43/B Usman Nagar Rajampet Annamayya Dist, AP, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as (given name) ALEKHYA and (surname) POLISETTY. (#5612, 03/06/2024)

I, PAVITRA PASUPULETI, holder of Indian Passport No. M8740168, having Permanent Address 4-43/B Usman Nagar Rajampet Annamayya Dist, AP, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as (given name) PAVITHRA and (surname) POLISETTY. (#5613, 03/06/2024)

I, PASUPULETI SREENIVASULU, holder of Indian Passport No. T5329947, having Permanent Address 4-43/B Usman Nagar Rajampet Annamayya Dist, AP, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as (given name) ESWARAIHAH and (surname) POLISETTY. (#5614, 03/06/2024)

Real Madrid defy Dortmund to win 15th Champions League

Madrid have won their last nine European Cup finals



LONDON: Real Madrid's Spanish defender #06 Nacho Fernandez lifts the trophy to celebrate their victory at the end of the UEFA Champions League final football match between Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid, at Wembley stadium, in London. —AFP

LONDON: Real Madrid withstood a Borussia Dortmund barrage to win the Champions League for a 15th time as Dani Carvajal and Vinicius Junior struck late in a 2-0 win at Wembley on Saturday. Right-back Carvajal headed in from Toni Kroos' corner on 74 minutes before Vinicius fired home to extend the Spanish giants' record as the most successful club in Champions League history.

Madrid have now won their last nine European Cup finals and won the competition six times in the last 11 seasons. However, not for the first time in that run, they had to rely on some good fortune as underdogs Dortmund were left to bitterly regret not making the most of their first-half chances.

Niclas Füllkrug hit the post and Karim Adeyemi failed to convert a one-on-one with Thibaut Courtois. Madrid, though, always seem to find a way in Europe's elite competition and made more history in London. "They left us alive with the game level and in the second half we started to play better," said Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti.

"This squad leaves me very satisfied because we don't always play our best but we never give up." Carvajal, Kroos, Nacho and Luka Modric joined

Real legend Paco Gento as the only players to win the European Cup six times.

Ancelotti also extended his record as the most successful coach in the competition's history with his fifth title. A record number of more than 2,500 stewards were in place at Wembley with the authorities keen to avoid a repeat of the violent scenes that marred the Euro 2020 final three years ago when ticketless fans stormed the turnstiles.

But further questions over the security operation will be raised as three pitch invaders were able to enter the field in the opening minutes of the game, with one taking photos alongside Jude Bellingham and Vinicius. The Metropolitan Police said there had been 53 arrests, including five for pitch invasions.

Wasted Dortmund chances

Ancelotti said pre-match he felt "like a lion" after an afternoon siesta, but his side were caught napping for the first 45 minutes as, roared on by the travelling thousands from Germany, Dortmund dominated. The decision to recall Courtois for his first Champions League appearance of the season

after a serious knee injury paid dividends as the Belgian kept his side in the game.

Dortmund's best chances fell to Adeyemi as Carvajal could not deal with the German international's pace. A brilliant pass by Mats Hummels put Adeyemi clean through, but he took a heavy touch under pressure from Courtois and ran too wide before his shot was blocked by Carvajal.

Füllkrug's barrel-chested physique has made him a fan favourite in his first season at Dortmund. The German international striker came closest to breaking the deadlock before half-time when his effort from Ian Maatsen's through ball came back off the inside of the post.

Adeyemi was then denied once more by Courtois from a narrow angle and Füllkrug could not twist his frame to turn in the rebound. "We didn't show the efficiency to score," said Dortmund boss Edin Terzic. "We were close to taking the lead but then there was a momentum shift where the game turned around and you see why they are the champions of this competition."

Ancelotti, Nacho and Modric were keen to stress on the eve of the match that Madrid's habit of find-

ing a way to get over the line in the Champions League was no coincidence. Having ridden their luck once more in the first half, the Spanish champions found their feet in the second period.

Gregor Kobel was finally forced into a save on 48 minutes from Kroos, who came close to marking the final game of his club career with a spectacular free-kick. Bellingham was moulded into a world star during three years at Dortmund before leaving for Madrid 12 months ago for more than 100 million euros (\$108 million).

The England international was inches away from biting the hand that used to feed him as he just could not get a telling touch on Vinicius' teasing cross. Madrid landed the decisive blow 16 minutes from time when Carvajal rose highest to head in Kroos' corner. Kobel then briefly kept his side alive with fine saves from Eduardo Camavinga and Nacho, while Bellingham's goalbound effort was deflected behind by Nico Schlotterbeck. But Bellingham did have a moment to savour on his homecoming as his pass teed up Vinicius to kill off Dortmund despite Kobel getting a hand to the Brazilian's powerful shot. — AFP

Tanak wins Rally Italia

PARIS: Sebastien Ogier suffered a late puncture which allowed Ott Tanak to come from behind to steal a late and narrow victory from the Frenchman in the Rally Italia on Sunday. Leading by 6.2 seconds going into the 16th and final special stage in Sardinia, the blow-out in Ogier's Toyota allowed Tanak's Hyundai to edge past and ultimately claim the win by just 0.2sec.

The Estonian's teammate Dani Sordo completed the podium, finishing 2min 25.8sec off the pace with Welshman Elfyn Evans fourth in his Toyota. Another Hyundai driver Thierry Neuville, who finished a distant 19th in the overall standings following a mistake on Saturday, won that final stage and

still leads the championship standings after six rounds with 122 points, 18 ahead of Tanak and Evans.

Ogier has only contested a handful of events this season and had won two in a row in Croatia and Portugal. On Sunday morning, before the last four stages, he held a 17-second lead over the Estonian and still appeared on course for his third consecutive win of the year at the start of the final stage.

"Puncture. Not much I can do," he said disconsolately at the end. "It's not rally, it's like cross country. Not much I can do. That's life. I think we deserved more than that but at least Ott has done a good rally as well." The next leg in the calendar is Rally Poland at the end of the month.

Rally Italia final standings on Sunday

1. Ott Tanak/Martin Jarveoja (EST/Hyundai) 3hr 6min 5.6sec, 2. Sebas-



PATTADA: Estonian driver Ott Tanak steers his Hyundai assisted by his co-driver Martin Jarveoja, during the SS11 special at "Micky's Jump" in Monte Lerno of the Rally of Sardegna, 5th round of the FIA World Rally Championship. — AFP

tien Ogier/Vincent Landais (FRA/Toyota) at 0.2sec, 3. Daniel Sordo/Candido Carrera (ESP/Hyundai) 2min 25.8sec, 4. Elfyn Evans/Scott Mar-

tin (GBR/Toyota) 2:37.8, 5. Gregoire Munster/Louis Louka (LUX-BEL/M-Sport Ford) 6:42.9, 6. Sami Pajari/Enni Mäkkönen (FIN/Toyota) 7:13.4. — AFP

Swiatek races into French Open quarters

PARIS: Iga Swiatek cranked up her pursuit of a third successive French Open crown on Sunday by storming into the quarter-finals with a 40-minute blitz, while Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner attempt to keep their title bids on track. World number one Swiatek demol-

ished Russia's Anastasia Potapova 6-0, 6-0 and will go on to play Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova, the fifth seed who ended the run of Serbian qualifier Olga Danilovic in straight sets.

"It went pretty quickly," said Swiatek, a red-hot favourite to lift the Coupe Suzanne Lenglen and become only the fourth woman to win four Roland Garros titles in the Open era. "It felt the same but I was really focused and in the zone. I wasn't looking at the score so I continued working on my game."

The 23-year-old Pole's quickfire victory came on the same Court Philippe Chatrier where men's number one Novak Djokovic had completed his third round

win at 3:07 a.m., the latest finish to a French Open match after more than four hours and five sets.

Swiatek, who saved a match point against Naomi Osaka in the second round, is looking to become just the second woman after Serena Williams to complete the clay-court treble of Madrid, Rome and French Opens in the same season. US Open champion Coco Gauff faces a last-16 opponent who is embarking on her best run at a major in Italy's Elisabetta Cocciaretto. The world number 51 has already taken down two seeds—Beatriz Haddad Maia and Liudmila Samsonova—to surpass her third-round displays from both Roland Garros and Wimbledon last year. — AFP

Kuwait's medal tally up in West Asia Athletics

BAGHDAD: Kuwaiti athletes won three additional medals on Saturday, the final day of the fifth edition of the West Asia Athletics Championship for men and women, hosted by the city of Basra, southern Iraq.

Today's results raised Kuwait's final tally of medals to eight, including two gold, said Secretary of the Kuwait Athletics Federation Hussein Dashti in statements to KUNA. Player Issa Al-Zankawi won the gold medal in the discus throw, Amal Al-Roumi won the silver in the women's 1500m race, and Salsabil Al-Sayyar won the bronze in the heptathlon competition.

Ibrahim Al-Dhafiri and Issa Al-Zankawi won two gold medals each, while Ibrahim Al-Fadhli and Amal Al-Roumi won two silver medals. The remaining four bronze medals were won by Amal Al-Roumi, Aisha Walid, Abdullah Al-Amir and Salsabil Al-Sayyar.

Kuwait mission to the games is made up of 18 players and eight coaches. The championship started on May 29 at the Palm Trunk and Al-Faiha stadiums in Basra with 13 teams from western Asian countries taking part. — KUNA