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Kuwait Amir congratulates Saudi King, Crown Prince on Hajj success



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, commending the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the successful organization of the 1446 Hajj season.

His Highness the Amir lauded the outstanding efforts of the Saudi leadership and government institutions – especially the Ministry of Interior and other relevant sectors – for their dedicated service to pilgrims from around the world. He praised the continuous development of the holy sites and the integration of advanced technologies and smart services, which significantly contributed to facilitating the performance of Hajj rites.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah



Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud

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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Your Highness the Prime Minister, the thread and needle are in your hands. So what's next? Either work or leave

YOUR HIGHNESS the Prime Minister, Your Excellency the Minister of Finance, and Your Excellency the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if boosting the gross domestic product is truly a top priority for the state, then it must think outside the box, and avoid recycling outdated solutions.

Introducing fees and taxes will not yield results during an economic downturn, especially amid limited commercial activity, the absence of a clear structural development plan in all sectors, and a halt in reforming laws that hinder investment, such as the usufruct law, which still contains several obstacles, along with other legislation needed to stimulate growth in industry, agriculture, and various vital services.

Shuwaikh Industrial Area, and other industrial zones, are clear examples in this regard.

I urge His Highness the Prime Minister, along with the Ministers of Finance and Commerce and Industry, to visit these areas and witness firsthand the scale and vibrancy of economic activities being driven entirely by individual efforts, with minimal government involvement, while the government remains occupied with issues that provoke public concern and contribute to social unrest.

In Shuwaikh Industrial area, as in all similar areas, there are many activities that attract investors. These businesses operate almost entirely through the efforts of expatriate residents. Citizens are largely absent from these activities, benefiting only through rental income or by investing in licenses issued to them. As a result, a huge portion of profits is transferred abroad. Foreign workers, employees, and investors lack the motivation to remain in Kuwait long-term due to the absence of incentives found in neighboring countries, such as policies that support entrepreneurship, encourage innovation, and ensure economic stability.

In countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE, investors are offered strong incentives, attracting many Kuwaiti companies to invest there. In contrast, Kuwait ties usufruct rights to the annual renewal of licenses, creating

uncertainty for factory and facility owners and discouraging them from investing in development.

Therefore, the Council of Ministers should focus on utilizing the labor force represented by stateless residents (Bedoun) and those whose citizenship has been revoked, rather than relying solely on decisions to revoke citizenship and suppress creativity. To be clear, I am not referring to those who lost their citizenship due to fraud or dual nationality.

I hope the government encourages the Bedoun residents and those whose citizenship has been revoked to work in these areas, and makes them feel secure, so they can spend their money inside Kuwait.

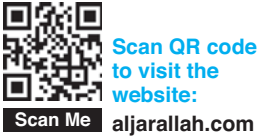
I suggest the government offer investors the option to purchase industrial and commercial plots during a specific grace period, similar to the system in Saudi Arabia, or will become a fair partner in the rental value. This approach would kill two birds with a stone. Also, Saudi Arabia provides tax incentives for industrial, agricultural, and renewable energy projects.

It is true that in recent years, some parliamentary blocs have attempted to obstruct development under flimsy pretexts, but their real aim was to secure a "share of the cake" or fuel disputes between MPs and ministers. Today, ministerial positions have largely stabilized, giving ministers significant potential to drive development and amend obstructive, outdated laws enacted during previous National Assembly terms.

Indeed, several laws need reconsideration, and Kuwait must break free from the constraints imposed by the stagnation of innovative ideas that encourage investment and the growth of the national economy.

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Custody law reforms expand rights of marginalized youth

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Decree No. 74/2025, which was published in the official gazette "Kuwait Al-Yaum", has been issued to amend certain provisions of Law No. 80/2015 concerning family custody, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decree consists of three articles, and the main amendments include the following:

Article One:
Articles 6 (paragraph 1), 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 of Law No. 80/2015 shall be replaced with the following texts:

Article 6, Clause 1 - A permanent committee called the "Family Custody Committee" shall be formed by a decision of the minister. This committee will be chaired by the relevant assistant undersecretary and will include representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood

Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Supreme Council for Family Affairs.

Article 12 - The ministry shall be responsible for the care of individuals of unknown parentage, those whose father is unknown and whose mother is known to be Kuwaiti, and other similar special cases. This care includes meeting their basic needs, and providing consistent medical and rehabilitation services, as well as psychological, social, and educational support and guidance. The ministry shall also work to protect them from delinquency in coordination with the relevant state authorities.

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Gulf Air bomb hoax handled with 'high efficiency': DGCA

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) revealed that the recent landing of a Gulf Air flight from Bahrain was due to a hoax bomb threat.

Reliable sources revealed that the person, who made the false threat, was a Gulf passenger who was arrested and investigated at the airport, pending security and legal action.

Sources confirmed that the specialized teams at the airport handled the situation with high efficiency and professionalism after the plane landed at 11:00 am recently. Sources said an emergency plan was in place to deal with such situations, including the evacuation of aircraft in the event of suspected explosives or any other security threat.

In the same context, the DGCA said in a statement that the threat was dealt

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5 Ahmed Al-Jarallah visits Diwanias of Al-Dughaisheem, Al-Ghannam and Al-Muajjil



6 Trump's new travel ban takes effect as tensions escalate over immigration enforcement



8 NBK exclusively partners with iconic luxury retailer Harrods to launch Kuwait's first 'NBK-Harrods Visa Infinite Credit Card'



11 Tony Awards laud android rom-com 'Maybe Happy Ending' and history-making 'Purpose'

PM follows up on housing

– Details Page 4 –



HH the PM chairs housing services meeting at Bayan Palace.

Amir congratulates Jordan monarch on throne anniversary

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Monday a cable of congratulations to King Abdullah II of Jordan on the 26th throne ascension anniversary.

His Highness the Amir commended the progress of Jordan during his reign and the sturdy ties between the two nations, wishing the King good health and the people of Jordan further prosperity under his wise leadership.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Monday to King Abdullah II of Jordan on the 26th throne ascension anniversary.

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Tears and prayers as pilgrims return

Seamless arrival concludes successful Hajj season

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: In an atmosphere filled with tears of joy and bouquets of flowers, Kuwait International Airport warmly welcomed the first group of pilgrims who returned from the Holy Land on Monday, following the successful completion of Hajj rituals.

The airport received praises for its seamless organization, reflecting the tremendous efforts exerted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in serving the guests of Allah.

The arrival halls were abuzz with activity, as various airport and governmental agencies worked in unison to ensure a smooth reception for the pilgrims. The atmosphere reflected the coordinated efforts, particularly as the return of the pilgrims coincided with increased traffic due to a large number of people coming back from Eid Al-Adha holidays.

In statements to the newspaper, several pilgrims expressed their ap-



Photo by Mohammad Morsi
Joy and tears flow freely as pilgrims are embraced by loved ones in a heartfelt homecoming at Kuwait International Airport.

preciation for Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for the unwavering support and state-of-the-art facilities provided during Hajj. They affirmed that these efforts ensured the performance of rituals in an environment of comfort,

safety and ease. The pilgrims described the Hajj season this year as "exemplary"; citing the efficient organization, comprehensive services, and smooth movement between the holy sites as standout features.

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Fake exam leaks busted

Grade 12 tests begin Wednesday

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The end-of-year examinations for Grade 12 students in the Science and Arts sections commences Wednesday, with more than 43,000 students in all educational districts set to take their second-semester examinations for the 2024/2025 academic year.

Around 26,000 of these students are enrolled in the Science section; while around 17,000 are in the Arts section.

In a bid to ensure a smooth and secure examination process, the Ministry of Education has implemented stringent oversight measures and approved the list of committee heads responsible for administering the Grade 12 exams. It detailed the regulations governing the formation and conduct of these examination committees.

Following are the ministry guide-

lines:

■ All committee members must be current employees of schools under the ministry.
■ No member may be seconded to the school where the exam committee is based.

■ Committee members must not have any first or second-degree relatives among the students in that committee, and must submit a formal declaration affirming this.

■ Individuals with academic specializations related to the core exam subjects are prohibited from serving in these committees.

An assistant principal will be assigned to oversee administrative functions at the original school during the examination period; ensuring proper attendance, discipline and adherence to regulations.

Committee headquarters to be handed over to designated heads in

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NewsWatch

PACI removes 500 outdated addresses

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has deleted the residential addresses of 500 individuals from its records, either based on declarations submitted by property owners or due to the demolition of the listed buildings.

PACI has called on these individuals to update their address within 30 days, either by visiting the authority or completing the process via the Sa-hel application, after submitting the required supporting documents. The authority confirmed that failure to register a new address will result in a fine of KD 100 per person, in accordance with Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982.

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:13	Asr	15:21
Sunrise ..	04:48	Maghrib ..	18:46
Zohr	11:47	Isha	20:18

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot and relatively humid with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind to south-westerly wind, with speeds of 15-50 km/h causing rising dust.
By Night: Rather hot and humid especially over coastal areas

Weather			
with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-45 km/h with a chance for rising dust.	Bubyan	42	27
	Jahra	47	29
	Failaka Island	43	32
	Salmiyah	37	29
	Ahmadi	41	27
	Nuwaisib	45	25
	Wafra	45	25
	Salmiya	46	27



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince



HH the Prime Minister

Amir congratulates Sweden’s King on Nat’l Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to King of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf on his country’s National Day on Friday, wishing him a long healthy life and more prosperity for Sweden and its friendly people.

Crown Prince congratulates

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to King of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf on his country’s National Day on Friday, wishing him a long healthy life.

Prime Minister congratulates

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to King of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf on his country’s National Day on Friday.



Crown Prince Diwan photo
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah entering the Grand Mosque for Eid prayer.

Crown Prince prays at Grand Mosque

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah performed the Eid Al-Adha prayers at the State Grand Mosque early on Friday.
His Highness the Crown Prince was accompanied by senior sheikhs, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, President of the Supreme Judicial Council and Head of the Court of Cassation Counselor Dr. Adel Maged Bouresli as well as senior State officials.

Eid Greetings

Amir receives Eid greetings from Qatar & UAE leaders

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday received a phone contact from Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani who congratulated him on advent of Eid Al-Adha.
The Qatari Amir hoped that the Eid may recur with bounties and blessings for the two countries’ peoples, the Arab and Muslim nations. He also wished His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal lasting good health and for Kuwait further promotion and prosperity.
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal expressed deep gratitude for the good gesture that depicts depth of the brotherly relations between the two countries and peoples, presented Eid felicitations to Sheikh

ther promoting them in various fields in a way that serves the common interests of both countries and their sisterly peoples.

Info Minister greetings

Kuwait’s Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi on Friday congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the gracious people of Kuwait and the Islamic nation on advent of Eid Al-Adha.
In a statement to KUNA, the minister who was visiting the workers at the ministry’s divisions, lauded the personnel for



Kuwaitis and residents perform the early morning Eid prayers at one of the open areas designated by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs.

People of Kuwait perform Eid Al-Adha prayers amid jubilation

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): Thousands of people performed Eid Al-Adha prayers at the mosques and prayer places early on Friday amid

an atmosphere of jubilation and faith.

Waves of men, women, elderly and children headed to the prayer places in the six govern-

norates to perform the prayers on the heels of the closing rites at the pilgrimage sites in Saudi Arabia.



KUNA photo

A potential buyer checks the sacrificial animal before making a deal.

Kuwaitis, expats flock to perform sacrificial ritual

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): The people of Kuwait, upon advent of Eid Al-Adha, perform the sacrifice rite and head to slaughter houses to buy livestock for the ritual.

The sacrificial lamb or other livestock species must be in good health and free of any illnesses, in line with the shariaa (Islamic law).

The meat is distributed to people in need.

Al-Mashaan on site to check work progress

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan inspected the Fourth Ring Road project site to personally look into the progress of work and assess the latest developments at the site during the Eid Al-Adha holiday.

During her tour, the engineering team supervising the road project briefed the minister on the most significant technical challenges being faced in the implementation phase, as well as the proposed solutions to ensure work continues according to the approved timetables and technical standards. The minister also reviewed the procedures followed to achieve the highest level of quality and safety in implementation.

She asserted in a statement to the press during the tour that this visit is part of the commitment of the ministry to regularly conduct field monitoring of infrastructure projects, affirming the importance of the Fourth Ring Road project in easing traffic flow and enhancing the connectivity of the road network in the country.



Dr. Al-Mashaan

Mol hands over 4,520 ‘Article 8’ passports

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): Ministry of Interior on Sunday announced that 4,520 passports have been handed over to the wives of Kuwaiti citizens whose citizenships were revoked under Article 8 of the Nationality Act.

The General Directorate of Nationality and Travel Documents will continue to deliver these passports during the Eid Al-Adha holiday from 9:00 am. to 9:00 pm., according to a statement from the Ministry.

Doctors build bridges, diaspora unity sought

‘Kuwait-Lebanon ties deep-rooted’

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Embassy of the Lebanese Republic in the State of Kuwait held a special introductory meeting for a number of Lebanese doctors with various specializations at the Lebanon Hall in the embassy on Sunday evening.

This is the first of its kind initiative, aiming to strengthen ties between Lebanese medical personnel and enhance their professional and societal presence in Kuwait.

This meeting is part of the efforts of the embassy to enhance communication among members of the Lebanese community and activate its role in supporting Lebanese talent abroad. It reflects the spirit of solidarity, national belongingness and building bridges of cooperation between doctors and the Lebanese public in Kuwait.

Chargé d’Affaires at the Lebanese Embassy in Kuwait Counselor Ahmed Arafa affirmed the strength of the long-standing Lebanese-Kuwaiti relations, built on mutual respect and a spirit of brotherhood. He highlighted the embassy’s role in uniting the Lebanese community and strengthening national cohesion abroad.

He cited the visit of Lebanese President General Joseph Aoun to Kuwait

last month, indicating that it opened new horizons for bilateral cooperation and increased communication between the two countries, especially in light of the influx of Kuwaiti visitors to Lebanon during summer and the Eid Al-Adha holiday.

He praised the humanitarian and societal role of Lebanese doctors residing in Kuwait and their dedication to serve patients and the community. He emphasized that the meeting was a tribute to their standing and efforts, and that it would be the first of a series of meetings aimed at strengthening professional and social ties among members of the community.

On the other hand, Dr. Khalida Azzam expressed her gratitude for the embassy’s sponsorship of this event; underscoring the importance of bringing together the Lebanese medical community under one roof, strengthening cohesion and encouraging the exchange of knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the Lebanese and Kuwaiti societies.

Azzam called for the establishment of a Lebanese medical committee in Kuwait; tasked to organize periodic medical, cultural and humanitarian activities and events under the auspices of the embassy.

She revealed the committee’s mission includes serving the community, spreading health awareness, and fostering a sense of patriotism among Lebanese doctors abroad.

She stressed that Lebanese doctors are an added value and an effective intellectual force in any society in which they are present.

Ministry teams conduct visits

Care for elderly in their homes

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Director of the Elderly Care Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Enezi confirmed that the ministry provides comprehensive care services to around 4,000 elderly people at home through mobile service centers, as part of the State’s efforts to improve the quality of life for the elderly and support their families that are taking care of them.

In a press statement, Al-Enezi disclosed that the mobile teams of the ministry are currently conducting periodic home visits to the elderly to check their conditions and review the living environment provided by their families. He said these teams help the

families identify health changes that may occur in the elderly, educate them about the diseases associated with old age, and teach them how to properly deal with this group.

Regarding digital services, Al-Enezi stated that priority cards can be applied for through the ‘Sahel’ app and delivered electronically through ‘Kuwait Mobile ID’ app.

Meanwhile, parking plates for the elderly are delivered either to the elderly themselves or to their caregiver through the mobile service centers.

He said the number of parking plates designated for the elderly has so far reached around 3,000; while around 7,000 priority cards have been issued, reflecting the high demand for this service and the effectiveness of the system launched by the ministry to better serve the elderly.



Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi



Abdullah Al-Yahya



Sheikh Mubarak

Tamim and Qatar’s Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani.

He also expressed identical wishes to the Qatari Amir.

UAE President greetings

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Thursday received a call from UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha.

During the phone conversation, the UAE president wished His Highness the Amir good health and the State of Kuwait further progress and prosperity under his wise leadership.

In turn, His Highness the Amir thanked the UAE president for this good gesture that reflected the depth of firm relations between both countries and peoples, congratulating him on Eid Al-Adha, wishing him well and the UAE and its people more development and prosperity under his wise leadership.

Pakistani PM greetings

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Saturday received a phone call from Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif, expressing sincere congratulations on Eid Al-Adha and invoking his Almighty to recur the occasion with blessing for the two countries and peoples and the Muslim nation.

The Pakistani Prime Minister also expressed good wishes to His Highness the Crown Prince, hoped to see further progress and prosperity for the State of Kuwait under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In reply, His Highness the Crown Prince forwarded heartfelt gratitude to the prime minister for the gracious gesture that mirrored the good bilateral relations and expressed identical wishes to him, his country and people.

Greetings from Egypt

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Sunday a call from his Egyptian counterpart Mustafa Madbouly, voicing sincere contractions on Eid Al-Adha and wishing both Arab and Muslim worlds goodness and blessings.

During the phone conversation, both sides tackled firm fraternal relations between Kuwait and Egypt and ways of fur-

pursuing their duties devoutly during the Eid holiday.

For her part, Dr. Nora Al-Meshaan, the Minister of Public Works addressed Eid felicitations to the top leaders and the people of Kuwait on the blessed occasion.

FM congratulates leadership

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Eid Al-Ahdha.

In statements to KUNA on Friday, Al-Yahya wished the political leadership everlasting wellbeing and the generous people of Kuwait perpetual stability, prosperity and progress under wise leadership of His Highness the Amir.

KNG chief congratulates leadership

Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Chief Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Eid Al-Ahdha on Friday.

In a press statement, the KNG chief, on behalf of the KNG command and personnel, to the country’s political leadership on the holy occasion, wishing His Highness the Amir wellness and the nation perpetual security, stability, prosperity and progress under his wise leadership.

Awqaf Min. congratulates leadership

Kuwaiti Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Edid Al-Ahdha on Thursday.

Speaking to KUNA, the minister wished the country’s political leadership wellness and good health and the nation perpetual security, peace and stability under the wise leadership.

Authority sans power: Elon Musk to Morsi, Imran Khan

“THERE are striking similarities between political leadership and the management of war. It is not enough to possess weapons, or even the ability to use them at will against anyone,” columnist **Abdulaziz Mohammad Al-Anjari** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Success requires a deep understanding of the field, identifying allies and adversaries, and mapping out the complex web of interests. In war, no bullet is fired without a propaganda cover to justify it, and no battle is fought without securing public opinion to sustain it. The same holds true in politics. Victory goes to those who are skilled at managing the hidden shadows as well as promoting the bright lights.



Abdulaziz Al-Anjari

“Those who fail to master this art and who oversimplify the nature of the state and believe they alone can reshape it often fall into the trap of miscalculation. This pattern of failure has repeated itself in many places, including Washington, Cairo, Islamabad, and beyond.

“Elon Musk was neither a head of state nor a party leader. Yet, due to his immense wealth, technological and media influence, and his unique standing during the Trump administration, he emerged as a figure with influence rivaling that of world leaders, despite holding no official title.

“From this perspective, his failure to sway American political decision-making or achieve his stated objectives is no less significant than the failures of presidents who actually held power. Musk’s success in business and innovation earned him comparisons to the great pioneers of industrial history. However, when he attempted to apply his administrative logic to the political realm, he encountered an invisible wall of entrenched institutional traditions and behind-the-scenes power brokers. The result was a quiet marginalization.

“In this context, an insightful comparison can be drawn between Musk and both Mohammad Morsi and Imran Khan. These comparisons highlight a common pattern, which is a confrontation with the state apparatus, a misreading of who truly holds power, and their growing confidence in the ability to impose their will.

“When the late Egyptian President Mohammad Morsi came to power following a popular revolution, he entered the presidential palace with legal, electoral, and international legitimacy. However, as he began to exercise his authority, it became increasingly clear too late that the entrenched establishment was not prepared to hand over control to an outsider from beyond the deep state. The old guard still held the real levers of power. Morsi combined political goodwill with a limited understanding of the depth and complexity of the state at a time that required strategic cunning and heightened awareness.

“Similarly, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan rose to power with the backing of the military establishment, which at the time saw him as a popular, presentable civilian alternative. The military cleared the path for him in the 2018 elections by sidelining his political rivals and curating the media environment in his favor. However, once in power, Khan moved to curtail the military’s influence and expand his own authority, without fully grasping the delicate balance of power that had enabled his rise. He began resisting interference in his decisions, openly criticized military leaders, and assumed that his growing popularity would be enough to dismantle old alliances. Khan found himself isolated after the military withdrew its support, ultimately paving the way for the overthrow of his government in 2022.

“Elon Musk, for his part, behaved as though entrepreneurial tools could be seamlessly applied to the political arena. But he overlooked the fact that American politics, like any other, is governed by careful balancing acts rooted in networks of interests, institutional expertise, and entrenched relationships. Musk’s influence, symbolized in part by his push against Apple, was met with quiet resistance rather than open confrontation, and it gradually diminished without fanfare.

“What unites these three cases is not the official position or level of power, but the mistaken belief that legitimacy or authority alone guarantees success in a realm dominated by hidden forces with the power to marginalize discreetly. This recurring clash between individual ambition and the logic of state institutions is evident in many experiences around the world. Some leaders enter office with bold visions and grand ambitions, only to encounter a reality that prevents their realization, not due to a lack of desire or capability, but because they lack the necessary backing, whether visible or behind the scenes, to bring their ideas to life.

“The lesson here isn’t unique to Elon Musk, but lies in the essence of his experience, and that of others who believed that possessing power alone was enough to reshape the system. Governing a state has never rested solely in the hands of those who hold formal power. It also belongs to those who wield influence. In many cases, influence not only rivals power in importance but it shapes it. Those who fail to grasp this balance often collapse under the illusion that decision-making lies entirely in their hands, when in reality, the true decisions are made by those who operate out of sight.

“In a world governed by delicate

balances and quiet forces, those who cannot see what lies behind the curtain often find it drawn on them, before the public ever realizes.”

Also:

“I have an opinion. While the Ministry of Interior plays a vital role in maintaining security, safety, and good traffic management, especially through the implementation of the new traffic law, it also actively combats drug use and behaviors that are foreign to Kuwaiti society. However, the ministry cannot act alone.” Doctor of Law and Kuwaiti Lawyer **Dr. Nayef Al-Adwani** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The ministry needs the support of community members and encourages citizens to fulfill their civic duties. There are many old and new proposals presented by activists within the security sector and the media that the ministry can consider implementing.

“Among these proposals is the activation of the “Neighborhood Patrol,” which involves a group of residents from certain residential areas, both male and female, selected either technically or randomly, and who are willing to cooperate with security personnel in maintaining safety and reporting suspicious activities. This initiative is supported by laws related to reporting flagrantly illegal acts, the right to legitimate defense, and the protection of public funds.

“Another proposal is the establishment of a “Comprehensive Patrol,” consisting of two individuals: one specialized in traffic matters, such as accident investigation, initial technical inspections, and issuing citations, and the other responsible for security and crime prevention. Both should receive professional and technical training at security colleges to effectively fulfill their roles. Women patrol teams could also be activated in markets, malls, and public places to combat crimes against women, as well as deal with female and child begging, which requires privacy and sensitivity, given the principle that a woman may only be searched or arrested in the presence of female personnel.

“Police officers should receive proper training on arrest, search, and detention procedures, as the ministry faces many legal challenges due to gaps in this knowledge. The philosophy of the police station and its security and social role must be redefined. It should serve as both a security and community hub that reflects the ministry’s professionalism and capabilities. The uncivilized practice of turning police station yards into scrap yards for vehicles damaged in traffic accidents must be brought to an end. Instead, photos of the accident can be sent via WhatsApp to the investigator or patrol officer, eliminating the need to tow the vehicles to the station.

“One proposal suggests requiring co-operative societies to install cameras on roads and at neighborhood entrances, preferably solar-powered. These cameras should be linked directly to the Ministry of Interior’s Operations Room to enable rapid response to accidents and ensure effective, modern monitoring of public areas.”

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“In an age where the pace of life accelerates and moments race to outdo one another, life has become an endless sprint. We chase after work, pack our days with tasks, and measure time in minutes and seconds, until we become prisoners of our schedules and appointments, forgetting the true taste of life. Times have changed, but we have changed even more.” Kuwaiti lawyer **Yousef Rashid Al-Hajri** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“In the past, a simple family gathering could fill the heart with warmth. We used to sip coffee slowly, not in haste. Smiles were shared freely, without expectation or return.



Al-Hajri

“We used to walk more than we rode in enclosed vehicles, which, over time, robbed us of reflection and the simple joy of movement. Life unfolded slowly, giving us the chance to savor its smallest details.

“Today, we eat quickly, work quickly, love quickly, and forget just as quickly. Even our dreams no longer wait for nightfall. We compress them into images and posts, rushing to share them on social media before we have even lived them.

“Technology has brought the distant closer, but in many ways, it has pushed the close farther away. Sitting without a screen now feels unfamiliar.

“Have we lost the true meaning of life? Life is not just about achievement, but it is about feeling. It is not about how many steps we take, but how deeply we live each moment.

“The taste of life lies in spontaneity, in the sound of a genuine laugh, in the smell of freshly baked bread, in the stillness of dawn, and in a quiet moment away from the world’s relentless noise.

“Perhaps it is time to pause, not to go back, but to restore balance. We need to slow down, and switch off our smartphones for a while. We need to return to listening to ourselves and to those we love. To truly live in the moment, not just document it.

“In this age of speed, life is still beautiful, but it pleads with us to see it slowly and to notice it carefully.”

— **Compiled by Mahmoud Attiyeh/Simi K. Kutty**



KUNA photo

Deputy Chief of Staff, Air Staff Vice Marshal, Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah during his visit to a military post in northern Kuwait.

Deputy Chief of Staff inspects Kuwait military outposts

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): The Deputy Chief of Staff, Air Staff Vice Marshal, Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, on Saturday inspected positions of “Wajeb Mubarak” force in the north on Eid Al-Adha occasion.

The military said Jaber Al-Ahmad conveyed greetings and congratulations from the Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah to the personnel on the blessed occasion,

lauding their field tasks that manifest a spirit of restraint and efficiency.

He was received upon arrival at the outposts by the commander of the special force “Maghaweer-25” Staff Major General, Abdullah Al-Terkait, and a number of officers.

Elsewhere, the acting interior undersecretary, Major General Ali Al-Adwani, visited headquarters of directorate general for citizenship

and travel documents.

Maj. Gen. Al-Adwani, who was accompanied by ranking officers, was briefed about work mechanisms and the procedures adopted during the Eid holiday. He relayed salutes from the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah to the department staff, lauding their presence at their offices during the eid.

‘Stay away from fake chalet offer websites’

Fraud shopkeepers targeted

By **Marwa Al-Bahrawi/Munif Naif**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The inspection and emergency teams at the Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Department in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have intensified their inspection efforts in commercial markets and shops to ensure that vendors and shop owners strictly comply with the commercial rules and regulations.

Director of the Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Department Faisal Al-Ansari revealed that the Farwaniya Governorate Emergency Department organized an intensive inspection campaign in various markets; resulting in the closure of three shops, including a party and wedding supply store and two furniture stores in Dajeej for violating the terms stated in the invoices.

Al-Ansari praised the efforts of the emergency team, headed by Farwaniya Inspector Mansour Al-Juraidan and inspectors Hamad Al-Bidan, Turki Al-Duwailah, Mishari Al-Mutairi and Ghamlas Al-Khurainij.

He confirmed that the inspection teams

will continue to check all markets to ensure the safety of food products and other items in preparation for Eid Al-Adha.

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‘Don’t book via websites’: The Ministry of Interior has warned citizens and expatriates against booking chalets and recreational events through unreliable websites and applications on the internet.

A security source revealed to the newspaper that scammers are carrying out fraudulent operations during seasons. “With the onset of summer and the rush to book chalets; the scammers carry out fraudulent operations by promoting chalets on social media platforms, such as Instagram and TikTok. During these fraudulent operations, victims are lured as they receive photos of attractive and luxurious chalets at reduced prices. After paying the deposit through a bank link, the scammers disappear from sight, as is the case with booking tickets for games, plays and other recreational events,” the source revealed.

The source confirmed that the security authorities -- represented by the Cybercrime Department -- are constantly monitoring fraudsters, most of whom operate outside the country. They added the authorities are also shutting down and blocking fake websites.”

The source then urged the citizens and expatriates to refrain from dealing with any unreliable platform or website, as this exposes them to fraud and scams, as well as the possible hacking of their accounts.



KUNA photo

The customs department.

Drugs sent through cargo seized by airport customs

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): The General Administration of Customs said Saturday air cargo operatives managed to intercept a shipment of 50 kg of illicit drugs coming from a European country.

The seizures include nearly 33 kg of hashish, 17 kg of marijuana packed into a number of suitcases, according to a press release from the Administration.

The seizures alongside with a suspect were referred to concerned bodies pending the adoption of legal measures, the statement added.

Road closure announced

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The General Traffic Department has announced the closure of the left lane, middle lane, and half of the right lane of Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al-Saud Road (Fahaheel Road) in the direction of Rumaithiya and Salmiya leading to Kuwait City, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The closure began on Sunday evening and will remain in effect for a period of 20 days.



KFF photo

A vanette slams into a light pole killing the driver on the spot.

Motorist dies as vanette crashes into a light pole

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: A vehicle collided with a light pole in Abdali Farming area near the local clinic on Friday evening, resulting in the death of an individual.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), firefighters from Abdali fire station rushed to the location, and dealt with the situation, after which they handed the site over to the relevant authorities.

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KFF rescues 2 persons: Two individuals, who were reported as missing near Failaka Island, have been rescued.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), marine fire and rescue teams, upon receiving the alert on Saturday evening, quickly embarked on a search operation, managed to track them down and rescue them, and then handed them over to the relevant authorities.

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No casualties in fire: Firefighting teams from the Ardiya and Sumoud fire stations controlled a fire in an industrial plot in Ardiya Industrial Area recently.

The firefighters extinguished the fire in record time. No casualties or injuries were reported.

Meanwhile, three people sustained injuries and fractures when a truck rolled over in Doha Interchange and rammed into two other vehicles, reports Al-Anba daily.

Rescuers, medical emergency workers, firefighters and security officers rushed to the accident site immediately after the Operations Unit in the Ministry of Interior received information about the accident. All the injured were taken to the nearest hospital and investigations are ongoing to determine the circumstances that led to the accident.

And, the Ministry of Interior reported a traffic accident involving a truck that overturned and caused a collision between three vehicles before the Amghara Bridge in the direction towards Jahra, reports Al-Jarida daily.

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PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister convened a meeting of the coordinating committee to address housing project services in various ministries and the Credit Bank of Kuwait.

PM presides housing project services committee meeting

Ministers, senior officials assess readiness

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired on Monday a meeting of the coordinating committee tasked with following up on the provision of services related to housing projects in the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, the Ministry of Public Works, the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation, the

Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, and the Credit Bank of Kuwait.
The meeting was held in Bayan Palace, during which the committee reviewed several housing developments and their progress.
Head of the Prime Minister's Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dekheel, Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Minister of Municipality and Housing Abdullatif Al-Mishari, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Resources Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem, in addition to a number of senior officials attended the meeting.

GCC chief congratulates Arabs, Muslims on Eid Al-Adha

KRCS echoes backing to humanitarian endeavors on religious, nat'l occasions

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): Director-General of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Fawaz Al-Mazrouei on Saturday reiterated his charity's support for humanitarian and voluntary efforts and initiatives during religious and national occasions.
Speaking to KUNA while visiting a nursing home on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha, Al-Mazrouei said such humanitarian initiatives are primarily intended to promote and cement the values of solidarity and togetherness in the

Kuwaiti society.
He regarded his visit to the social institution as part of the KRCS's keenness on keeping in touch with the country's social facilities.
The KRCS chief noted that during the visit gifts were given to old people just to delight them and voice gratitude to their role in the Kuwaiti society.
Also:

Ministers share Eid messages

Al-Huwailah visits elderly care house on Eid

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs and Childhood Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah on Friday visited the Farah Specialized Center for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Elderly, offering Eid greetings to the elderly and cases of special needs.
The minister in a statement, affirmed the State adherence to continue providing care for the old citizens, those of special challenges and furnish them with means of dignified and stable living.
Shortly earlier, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadi addressed congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, on Eid Al-Adha advent.
He also congratulated the people of Kuwait, the Arab and Muslim nations wishing recurrence of the occasion with security and peace.
The minister affirmed that the medical personnel were all ready to provide required services and care during the Eid.
For his part, Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the gracious people of Kuwait and the Islamic nation on advent of Eid Al-Adha.



KUNA photo
Minister Al-Huwailah during her visit at the elderly care house on Eid occasion.

In a statement to KUNA, the minister who was visiting the workers at the ministry's divisions, lauded the personnel for pursuing their duties devoutly during the Eid holiday.
For her part, Dr. Nora Al-Meshaan, the Minister of Public Works addressed Eid felicitations to the top leaders and the people of Kuwait on the blessed occasion.

Zakat House distributes Eid meat in Yemen

ADEN, June 9, (KUNA): Kuwait's Zakat House has launched the distribution of Eid Al-Adha sacrificial meat to 40,800 people across nine Yemeni provinces, as part of "Kuwait by Your Side" campaign, for the tenth year.
The implementing organization, Al-Wosool Humanitarian Association, stated on Saturday that the distribution covered the provinces of Taiz, Aden, Lahij, Abyan, Shabwa, Hodeidah, Hajjah, Marib, and Ibb.
In a press statement, the association's Secretary-General, Abdulwasae Al-Wasai, praised Kuwait's leadership and people for their vital humanitarian

role, noting that the project aims to support impoverished families during Eid al-Adha.
He added that that the aid brought joy to struggling families, especially amid rising meat prices and economic hardship, enabling them to celebrate the holiday with dignity.

KU announces 2025/26 non-degree admissions
By Abdulrahman Al-Sham-mari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The College of Graduate Studies at Kuwait University has announced the results of applicants who have been accepted and nominated for admission to its non-degree programs for the 2025/2026 academic year. Applicants are invited to use the QR code available on the university's official website to verify their acceptance.



KUNA photo
Health officials visited several hospitals, health centers on first day of Eid al-Adha.

MoH officials conduct field visits at health facilities on Eid al-Adha

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): Ministry of Health officials conducted field visits to hospitals and health facilities across the country on Friday as part of their commitment to providing continuous healthcare during official holidays.
Led by Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, the inspections focused on technical departments, overall preparedness, and the availability of medical supplies for efficient services during Eid.
Eng. Adel Al-Rashidi, Assistant Undersecretary for Digital Health Affairs, emphasized the importance of digital infrastructure in improving service quality.
Abdulrahman Al-Fares, Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs, stressed the importance of high coordination during official holidays.
At Al-Sabah Hospital, Dr. Munther Al-Hasawi, Assistant Undersecretary for Pub-

lic Health Affairs, underlined the importance of preventive services, even during holidays.
Khalid Al-Yassin, Assistant Undersecretary for Medicines and Medical Equipment, noted that maintaining vital supplies during Eid is a priority.
At Al-Adan Hospital, Dr. Abdullah Al-Fares monitored preparations and praised the staff's responsiveness.
At the same time, Dr. Hisham Kalandar inspected emergency services at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, affirming the facility's role in ensuring access to healthcare.
Eng. Abdulaziz Al-Tasha at Jahra Hospital discussed logistical support, and Dr. Ahmad Asad inspected dental clinics for readiness during Eid, commending medical teams for their dedication. Officials expressed gratitude to staff for maintaining 24-hour health services even on holidays.

New decision limits eligibility

MoJ tightens rules on OT assignments

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice Tariq Al-Asfour has issued Administrative Decision No. 986/2025 on the conditions, regulations, and mechanisms for assigning overtime work, reports Al-Anba daily.
According to Article 1 of the decision, overtime assignments in all sectors and departments of the ministry must be based on actual work needs and subject to the following conditions:
1. The employee's last two performance evaluations must be rated as "Excellent."
2. The employee must not hold a position associated with judicial work (i.e., positions within the judicial assistants' incentive cadre).
3. The employee must have completed at least four years of service with the ministry by the date the overtime assignment is issued.
4. The employee must not be subject to any reduced working hours or partial absence from work, regardless of the reason.
5. The employee must not be a shift worker, or assigned to evening sessions, or working in service centers during the evening shift.
6. The employee must not have received any financial reward for participating in a work team or committee during the same fiscal year in which the overtime assignment is requested.
7. The employee must not have been suspended from work or referred to the Public Prosecution or criminal court for a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude or dishonesty, unless the suspension period has ended, the investigation concluded that the employee is not responsible, or the employee has been acquitted prior to being assigned overtime work.
8. The employee must not have been subjected to a disciplinary penalty that restricts promotion, in accordance with Article 68 of the Civil Service Law, unless the penalty was rescinded prior to the overtime assignment.

9. The total overtime work period for an employee must not exceed 40 working days during the fiscal year in all sectors and departments of the ministry, including those under the Judicial Affairs budget.
10. The number of employees assigned to overtime work within any fiscal year must not exceed 25 percent of the total staff in the requesting organizational unit, whether it is a department, division, or section.
11. No employee may be assigned to overtime work unless it has been approved by the competent authority and a formal assignment decision has been issued.
Article Two, which specifies the mechanism for assigning overtime work, stipulates the following:
1. Requests for overtime work submitted by any department must first be referred to the head of the sector, who will then refer them to the Undersecretary.
The Administrative Affairs Department shall conduct the necessary study to ensure the requests meet the established conditions and regulations. The requests will then be submitted to the Undersecretary for final approval. If the request is not approved, the Administrative Affairs Department shall send a written explanation to the requesting department for its information.
2. The fingerprint system shall be used to verify that the employee was present during the designated overtime period. The overtime compensation shall not be disbursed until the end of the workday, and only after confirming that all assigned tasks have been completed and the employee has fully committed to working the required number of hours in person.
Article Three stipulates that all relevant authorities shall implement this decision and notify the concerned parties accordingly. Administrative Decisions No. 932/2018 and 994/2024 are hereby repealed.

EID ADHA

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Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah attends the Al-Dughaishem diwaniya.

Al-Jarallah visits diwaniyas of Al-Dughaishem, Al-Ghannam and Al-Muajjil



KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah visited the Al-Dughaishem, Al-Ghannam and Al-Muajjil diwaniyas where he expressed his heart-felt greetings to the hosts and attendees on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha.

His visits took place in an atmosphere that reflected the spiritual essence of the blessed occasion and affirmed the deep-rooted Kuwaiti tradition of mutual visits and warm social interaction during religious occasions.

The gatherings were marked by cordial conversations and discussions on various social matters of public interest, reinforcing bonds of brotherhood and confirming the shared societal values that unite Kuwaitis regardless of affiliations.

The diwaniya is the ideal venue of social life -- an ideal setting for exchanging greetings and strengthening communal ties, in a scene that truly captures the spirit of one united Kuwaiti family.



Photos during the Al-Ghannam diwaniya.

Attendees during the Al-Muajjil diwaniya

Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Continued from Page 1

Your Highness

We have repeatedly stated that undeveloped land holds little value unless facilities are established on it and profitable production is achieved. Only then does its value increase significantly. Moreover, trademarks gain importance as indicators of economic strength and stability. Unfortunately, in Kuwait, these matters are often treated as if they were mere market transactions, rather than issues of national significance.

Your Highness the Prime Minister, the Council of Ministers can no longer claim any excuse for failing to develop the economy. The Cabinet now holds "the thread and the needle" in its hands and has full control over the process. The Council today combines both legislative and executive powers. Therefore, either work or leave!

Kuwait Amir

His Highness the Amir also highlighted the distinguished roles of Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Governor of the Makkah Region, and Head of the Central Hajj Committee, and Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef Al-Saud, Minister of Interior and President of the Supreme Hajj Committee, for their exemplary coordination and leadership.

He prayed to Almighty Allah to accept the pilgrims' good deeds and to grant Saudi Arabia and its people continued progress and prosperity under its wise leadership.

His Highness the Amir also sent a separate cable to Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, congratulating him on the Kingdom's success in organizing this year's Hajj. He commended the Kingdom's use of modern technologies and comprehensive services to ensure a safe, seamless, and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to both Saudi King Salman and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, praising the Kingdom's tireless efforts and organization. He also extended appreciation to Prince Khaled Al-Faisal and Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud for their vital roles in ensuring the comfort and safety of millions of pilgrims.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent congratulatory cables to both King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, lauding their leadership and the Kingdom's effective planning and execution during the pilgrimage.

Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah also sent a cable to Saudi Interior Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud, applauding the efforts of Saudi security forces in ensuring a smooth, secure, and peaceful Hajj season.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi congratulated Saudi Arabia on its successful management of this year's Hajj, praising the comprehensive care extended to pilgrims and the Kingdom's commitment to their safety, comfort, and smooth movement.

In a statement to KUNA, Dr. Al-Wasmi also commended Kuwait's own Hajj mission, noting the successful execution of operations and thanking campaign organizers for their cooperation in serving Kuwaiti pilgrims.

For his part, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Head of Kuwait's Hajj Mission, Bader Al-Mutairi, praised the outstanding organization and high-quality services provided by Kuwaiti Hajj campaigns. Following an inspection visit to campaign headquarters in Mina, Al-Mutairi noted the dedication of mission teams working around the clock to ensure pilgrims' comfort. He also expressed appreciation for the cooperation extended by Saudi authorities,

which greatly facilitated the mission's efforts.

Custody law

Custody under the competent administration ends when the individual is no longer affiliated with the administration or upon marriage. It also ends in the following cases:

- Upon reaching adulthood, unless the individual is continuing their education or has a disability.
- In the case of a daughter who has reached adulthood and fails to comply with the rules and regulations governing residence in guest houses.

In all cases, the care provided under this article ends when a male beneficiary reaches the age of 25, or a female beneficiary reaches the age of 30, and they obtain a stable, ongoing job.

Article 13 - Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 2, the Ministry may temporarily provide care for individuals with unknown fathers and known non-Kuwaiti mothers until their legal status is resolved, in coordination with the relevant authorities. The Family Custody Committee shall issue the regulations governing this process.

Article 14 - Homes and institutions under the jurisdiction of the competent authority shall take all necessary administrative and organizational measures to enroll residents in compulsory education stages. They must also develop appropriate programs to ensure their rehabilitation and integration into society.

Article 15 - The Ministry shall promote fostering and take the necessary measures to support this objective, including encouraging kinship through breastfeeding, in accordance with the terms and conditions set by a decision of the Family Fostering Committee.

Article 16 - The Ministry shall work, in coordination with the relevant governmental and private entities, to provide private housing for those who have reached the age of 21, allowing them to reside there in exchange for a reasonable monthly rent paid from

their own funds. The regulations governing this arrangement shall be issued by a decision of the Minister.

Article 17 - The Ministry shall, in coordination with the relevant authorities, work to secure suitable job opportunities for children, based on their qualifications and experience.

Article Two:

A new clause, numbered 7, shall be added to Article 1 of Law No. 80/2015, as follows:

7 - Son/Daughter/Children: Refers to individuals included in foster care.

Gulf Air

with immediately in accordance with the security procedures and protocols adopted at Kuwait International Airport and in full coordination with the Ministry of Interior and other concerned authorities.

The plane landed safely, the security plans established for dealing with such threats were implemented, and all passengers disembarked unscathed, the DGCA stressed.

Official spokesperson of the DGCA Abdullah Al-Rajhi confirmed that all passengers were subjected to established security measures, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, to ensure their safety; as well as the safety of the crew and the airport in general.

He added the DGCA also ensured that the aircraft was free of any potential threat, stressing that all scheduled flights at Kuwait International Airport were not affected.

He disclosed that the DGCA, in cooperation with the relevant security authorities, monitored the situation and completed procedures in accordance with applicable regulations and protocols to ensure the highest level of security and safety.

He also stated that the person responsible for this report was detained and security measures were taken against him.

He said the DGCA commends the cooperation of all relevant authorities and affirms its continuous com-

mitment to maintain the security and safety of air navigation in the State of Kuwait.

Grade 12

preparation for the official start of exams. The committee assignment period spans from June 10 to 23 -- a total of 14 working days. Exams will conclude in the final week of June, followed by the start of grading and result compilation.

The ministry reaffirmed its commitment to ensure a fair, transparent and secure examination environment where equal opportunities are guaranteed. It underscored a zero-tolerance policy toward cheating, rule violations or the spread of misinformation.

Meanwhile, in a press statement Monday, the ministry confirmed the referral of 17 social media accounts and groups to the relevant security authorities. These platforms were found to have shared misleading information and fake exam questions, falsely attributed as Grade 12 tests. All infractions were documented and handed over to the Cybercrime Combating Department for legal action.

The ministry emphasized its continued efforts to monitor online activity during the exam period in coordination with security agencies, and that it will act swiftly against any attempt to spread rumors or incite panic among students.

Students have been strongly urged to fully comply with the rules and regulations, follow instructions issued by monitoring teams and school administrators, and refrain from bringing any electronic devices into the examination venues -- an act considered a serious breach of exam integrity.

Amir congratulates

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the King good health and wellbeing and the Kingdom of Jordan

further progress under his wise leadership.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent Monday a cable of congratulations to King Abdullah II of Jordan on the 26th throne ascension anniversary.

Tears and

Pilgrims commended the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the efficient management of crowds. They highlighted the early issuance of permits and the 'Nusuk Card', which significantly streamlined access and movement between sacred locations. The journey from Mina to Arafat, Muzdalifah; and finally the stoning of the Jamarat were carried out with remarkable efficiency and minimal delay.

They also lauded Kuwait International Airport for its efforts, including the establishment of special counters and fast-track lanes exclusively for pilgrims. From disembarkation to baggage collection and onward travel, pilgrims reported a smooth and trouble-free experience.

They expressed deep appreciation for the efforts of Kuwaiti Hajj caravans, commending them for their exceptional organization and close follow up throughout the pilgrimage. They described these campaigns as "pioneering," particularly the initiative in collecting luggage prior to departure from the Holy Land. "This advance handling of baggage streamlined arrival procedures at Kuwait International Airport, allowing pilgrims to bypass traditional baggage claim areas and exit the terminals with ease," they disclosed.

Meanwhile, Mansour Al-Hashemi -- Director of Operations at Kuwait International Airport -- announced that 28 inbound flights from the Holy Land are scheduled over the coming days. He said 12 of these flights are operated by Kuwait Airways, 11 by Saudia Airline and five by Flynas.

'I don't think it's a good thing, I think it's very upsetting'

Trump's new travel ban takes effect as tensions escalate over immigration enforcement

WASHINGTON, June 9, (AP): US President Donald Trump's new ban on travel to the US by citizens from 12 mainly African and Middle Eastern countries took effect Monday amid rising tension over the president's escalating campaign of immigration enforcement.

The new proclamation, which Trump signed last week, applies to citizens of Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. It also imposes heightened restrictions on people from Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela who are outside the US and don't hold a valid visa.

The new ban does not revoke visas previously issued to people from countries on the list, according to guidance issued Friday to all US diplomatic missions. However, unless an applicant meets narrow criteria for an exemption to the ban, his or her application will be rejected starting Monday. Travelers with previously issued visas should still be able to enter the US even after the ban takes effect.

During Trump's first term, a hastily written executive order ordering the denial of entry to citizens of mainly Muslim countries created chaos at numerous airports and other ports of entry, prompting successful legal challenges and major revisions to the policy.

No such disruption was immediately discernible at Los Angeles International Airport in the hours after the new ban took effect.

Haitian-American Elvanise Louis-Juste, who was at the airport earlier Sunday in Newark, New Jersey, awaiting a flight to her home state of Florida, said many Haitians wanting to come to the US are simply seeking to escape violence and unrest.



People carrying suitcases arrive from international flight at Newark Liberty International Airport on June 9 in New Jersey. (AP)

"I have family in Haiti, so it's pretty upsetting to see and hear," Louis-Juste, 23, said of the travel ban. "I don't think it's a good thing. I think it's very upsetting."

Many immigration experts say the new ban is more carefully crafted and

appears designed to beat court challenges that hampered the first by focusing on the visa application process.

Trump said this time that some countries had "deficient" screening for passports and other public documents or have historically refused to take back their own citizens. He relied extensively on an annual Homeland Security report of people who remain in the US after their visas expired.

Measuring overstay rates has challenged experts for decades, but the government has made a limited attempt annually since 2016. Trump's proclamation cites overstay rates for eight of the 12 banned countries.

Trump also tied the new ban to a terrorist attack in Boulder, Colorado, saying it underscored the dangers posed by some visitors who overstay visas. U.S. officials say the man charged in the attack overstayed a tourist visa. He is from Egypt, a country that is not on Trump's restricted list.

The ban was quickly denounced by groups that provide aid and resettlement help to refugees.

"This policy is not about national security - it is about sowing division and vilifying communities that are seeking safety and opportunity in the United States," said Abby Maxman, president of Oxfam America, a nonprofit international relief organization.

The inclusion of Afghanistan angered some supporters who have worked to resettle its people. The ban does make exceptions for Afghans on Special Immigrant Visas, generally people who worked most closely with the US government during the two-decade-long war there.

Afghanistan had been one of the largest sources of resettled refugees, with about 14,000 arrivals in a 12-month period through September 2024. Trump suspended refugee resettlement his first day in office.

'Republicans will pass Trump's tax and budget bill'

Speaker Johnson downplays Musk's influence

WASHINGTON, June 9, (AP): With an uncharacteristically feistiness, Speaker Mike Johnson took clear sides Sunday in President Donald Trump's breakup with mega-billionaire Elon Musk.

The Republican House leader and staunch Trump ally said Musk's criticism of the GOP's massive tax and budget policy bill will not derail the measure, and he downplayed Musk's influence over the GOP-controlled Congress.

"I didn't go out to craft a piece of legislation to please the richest man in the world," Johnson said on ABC's "This Week." "What we're trying to do is help hardworking Americans who are trying to provide for their families and make ends meet," Johnson insisted.

Johnson said he has exchanged text messages with Musk since the former chief of Trump's Department of Government Efficiency came out against the GOP bill.

Musk called it an "abomination" that would add to U.S. debts and threaten economic stability. He urged voters to flood Capitol Hill with calls to vote against the measure, which is pending in the Senate after clearing the House. His criticism sparked an angry social media back-and-forth with Trump, who told reporters over the weekend that he has no desire to repair his relationship with Musk.

The speaker was dismissive of Musk's threats to finance opponents - even Democrats - of Republican members who back Trump's bill.

"We've got almost no calls to the offices, any Republican member of Congress," Johnson said. "And I think that indicates that people are taking a wait and see attitude. Some who may be convinced by some of his arguments, but the rest understand: this is a very exciting piece of legislation."



US Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, wraps up a news conference on President Donald Trump's bill of tax breaks and spending cuts, at the Capitol in Washington on June 4. (AP)

Johnson argued that Musk still believes "that our policies are better for human flourishing. They're better for the US economy. They're better for everything that he's involved in with his innovation and job creation and entrepreneurship."

The speaker and other Republicans, including Trump's White House budget chief, continued their push back Sunday against forecasts that their tax and budget plans will add to annual deficits and thus balloon a national debt already climbing toward \$40 trillion.

Johnson insisted that Musk has bad information, and the speaker disputed the forecasts of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office that scores budget legislation. The bill would extend the 2017 Trump tax cuts, cut spending and reduce some other levies but also leave some 10.9 million more people without health insurance

and spike deficits by \$2.4 trillion over the decade, according to the CBO's analysis.

The speaker countered with arguments Republicans have made for decades: That lower taxes and spending cuts would spur economic growth that ensure deficits fall. Annual deficits and the overall debt actually climbed during the administrations of Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush, and during Trump's first presidency, even after sweeping tax cuts.

Russell Vought, who leads the White House Office of Budget and Management, said on Fox News Sunday that CBO analysts base their models of "artificial baselines." Because the 2017 tax law set the lower rates to expire, CBO's cost estimates, Vought argued, presuming a return to the higher rates before that law went into effect.

NATO chief calls for 400% increase in alliance's air and missile defense

LONDON, June 9, (AP): NATO members need to increase their air and missile defenses by 400% to counter the threat from Russia, the head of the military alliance plans to say on Monday.

Secretary-General Mark Rutte will say during a visit to London that NATO must take a "quantum leap in our collective defense" to face growing instability and threats, according to extracts released by NATO before Rutte's speech.

Rutte is due to meet UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer at 10 Downing St. ahead of a NATO summit in the Netherlands where the 32-nation alliance is likely to commit to a big hike in military spending.

Like other NATO members, the UK has been reassessing its defense spending since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Starmer has pledged to increase British defense spending to 2.5% of gross domestic product by 2027 and to 3% by 2034.

Rutte has proposed a target of 3.5% of economic output on military spending and another 1.5% on "defense-related expenditure" such as roads, bridges, airfields and sea ports. He said last week he is confident the alliance will agree to the target at its summit in The Hague on June 24-25.

At the moment, 22 of the 32 mem-



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte speaks during a media conference prior to a meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group at the NATO headquarters in Brussels on June 4. (AP)

ber countries meet or exceed NATO's current 2% target.

The new target would meet a demand by President Donald Trump that member states spend 5% of gross domestic product on defense. Trump has

long questioned the value of NATO and complained that the US provides security to European countries that don't contribute enough.

Rutte plans to say in a speech at the Chatham House think tank in London that NATO needs thousands more armored vehicles and millions more artillery shells, as well as a 400% increase in air and missile defense.

"We see in Ukraine how Russia delivers terror from above, so we will strengthen the shield that protects our skies," he plans to say.

"Wishful thinking will not keep us safe. We cannot dream away the danger. Hope is not a strategy. So NATO has to become a stronger, fairer and more lethal alliance."

European NATO members, led by the UK and France, have scrambled to coordinate their defense posture as Trump transforms American foreign policy, seemingly sidelining Europe as he looks to end the war in Ukraine.

Last week the UK government said it would build new nuclear-powered attack submarines, prepare its army to fight a war in Europe and become "a battle-ready, armor-clad nation."

The plans represent the most sweeping changes to British defenses since the collapse of the Soviet Union more than three decades ago.

Protests intensify in LA after Trump deploys hundreds of National Guard

LOS ANGELES, June 9, (AP): Tensions in Los Angeles escalated Sunday as thousands of protesters took to the streets in response to President Donald Trump's extraordinary deployment of the National Guard, blocking off a major freeway and setting self-driving cars on fire as law enforcement used tear gas, rubber bullets and flash bangs to control the crowd.

Many protesters dispersed as evening fell and police declared an unlawful moving, a precursor to officers moving in and making arrests of people who don't leave. Some of those remaining threw objects at police from behind a makeshift barrier that spanned the width of a street and others hurled chunks of concrete, rocks, electric scooters and fireworks at California Highway Patrol officers and their vehicles parked on the closed southbound 101 Freeway. Officers ran under an overpass to take cover.

Sunday's protests in Los Angeles, a sprawling city of 4 million people, were centered in several blocks of downtown. It was the third and most intense day of demonstrations against Trump's immigration crackdown in the region, as the arrival of around 300 Guard troops spurred anger and fear among many residents.

The Guard was deployed specifically to protect federal buildings,



Protesters start fire in the trash dumpster near the metropolitan detention center of downtown Los Angeles on June 8. (AP)

including the downtown detention center where protesters concentrated.

Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell said officers were "overwhelmed" by the remaining protesters. He said they included regular agitators who show up at demonstrations to cause trouble.

Several dozen people were arrested throughout the weekend of protest. One was detained Sunday for throwing a Molotov cocktail at the police, and another for ramming a motorcycle into a line of officers.

Trump responded to McDonnell on Truth Social, telling him to arrest protesters in face masks.

"Looking really bad in L.A. BRING IN THE TROOPS!!!" he wrote.

Starting in the morning, the troops stood shoulder to shoulder, carrying long guns and riot shields as protesters shouted "shame" and "go home." After some closely approached the guard members, another set of uniformed officers advanced on the group, shooting smoke-filled canisters into the street.



Supporters of Spain's mainstream conservative Popular Party wave Spanish national flags during a protest against Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's government, in Madrid, Spain, on June 8. (AP)

Spanish opp'n party rallies tens of thousands of protesters in Madrid

Spain's opposition party staged a protest in Madrid that drew tens of thousands of attendees on Sunday, calling for the resignation of socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and demanding new elections.

The Popular Party organized the rally with the slogan 'Mafia or democracy,' in response to alleged corruption scandals involving Sanchez's political allies and family.

Sanchez is being corralled by a series of legal cases - all still in the investigative phase - that have focused on a former member of his Cabinet as well as his wife and, most recently, his brother. (AP)

Pope Leo criticizes political nationalism

VATICAN CITY, June 9, (AP): Pope Leo XIV criticized the surge of nationalist political movements in the world as he prayed Sunday for reconciliation and dialogue - a message in line with his pledges to make the Catholic Church a symbol of peace.

The pope celebrated Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square in front of tens of thousands faithful, and asked the Holy Spirit to "break down barriers and tear down the walls of indifference and hatred."

"Where there is love, there is no room for prejudice, for 'security' zones separating us from our neighbors, for the exclusionary mindset that, tragically, we now see emerging also in political nationalisms," the first American pontiff said.



Pope Leo XIV arrives for a meditation on the occasion of the Jubilee of the Holy See in the Paul VI Hall at the Vatican on June 9. (AP)

Russia launches biggest overnight drone bombardment of war: Kyiv

KYIV, Ukraine, June 9, (AP): Russia launched 479 drones in Ukraine in the biggest overnight drone bombardment of the 3-year war, the Ukrainian air force said Monday, as the Kremlin presses its summer offensive against the backdrop of direct peace talks.

As well as drones, 20 missiles of various types were fired at different parts of Ukraine, according to the air force, which said the barrage targeted mainly central and western areas of Ukraine.

Ukraine's air force said its air defenses destroyed 277 drones and 19 missiles in mid-flight on Sunday night, claiming that only 10 drones or missiles hit their target. Officials said one person was injured.

It was not possible to independently verify the claims.

A recent escalation in aerial attacks has coincided with a renewed Russian battlefield push on eastern and north-eastern parts of the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Ze-



In this photo taken from a video released by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on June 9, a Russian T-90 tank takes a position on an undisclosed location in Ukraine. (AP)

lenskyy said late Sunday that in some of those areas "the situation is very difficult." He provided no details.

Ukraine is short-handed on the front line against its bigger enemy and needs

further military support from its Western partners, especially air defenses. But uncertainty about the U.S. policy on the war has fueled doubts about how much help Kyiv can count on.

Explosion at US air base in southern Japan injures four Japanese soldiers

TOKYO, June 9, (Agencies): An explosion at a storage site for unexploded ordnance at a US military base on Japan's southern island of Okinawa injured four Japanese soldiers, though the injuries are not life-threatening, officials said Monday. The four soldiers sustained finger injuries while working at a facility that belongs to Okinawa prefecture and temporarily stores unexploded ordnance, mostly from wartime and found on the island, local officials said. One of the harshest battles of World War II was fought on Okinawa.

Prefectural officials said the injuries were not life-threatening, but no other details were immediately known. The US Air Force said in a statement that the explosion occurred at the facility managed by the Okinawa prefectural government at Kadena Air Base's munitions storage area. It said no U.S. servicemembers were involved in the incident.

The Self Defense Force's joint staff said one of the devices suddenly exploded when the soldiers were inspecting it at the facility. The blast occurred when the soldiers were trying to remove rust, NHK television reported.

Also:
TOKYO: Japan's weather agency on Sunday announced the start of the rainy season for two southwestern regions and the end of it in the southernmost prefecture of **Okinawa**. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said the season arrived four days later than the average for northern **Kyushu** and three days later for **Shikoku**, but nine days earlier than last year for both regions. Fifty-three millimeters of rain were recorded in just one hour Sunday morning in the town of **Yakushima** in Kagoshima Prefecture, while similar rainfalls are expected in northern Kyushu starting on Monday. Over the next 24 hours through Monday morning, the expected maximum precipitation is 80 millimeters in northern Kyushu and 120 millimeters in southern Kyushu, where the rainy season started earlier.



A Japan Self-Defence Forces vehicle enters an area of ammunition store in the town of Yomitanson, Okinawa prefecture, southern Japan on June 9. A yellow sign reads 'Bomb Disposal.' (AP)

Asia

Thailand, Cambodia reach agreement: Thailand and Cambodia have agreed to reposition troops to alleviate tensions following a brief conflict that took place earlier in a border area. Thai Prime Minister **Paetongtarn Shinawatra** said on Sunday. Paetongtarn posted on X that her discussion with the Cambodian government has led to a positive result. Both sides have agreed to modify military deployments in areas of conflict to help ease tensions. Thailand and Cambodia will have discussions at all levels to bring their relationship back to normal as soon as possible, she said. In a separate statement, Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Phumtham Wechayachai confirmed that Thai and Cambodian troops have been repositioned to the previously agreed 2024 positions. Phumtham said ongoing coordination at all levels has helped ease tensions, with both countries committed to reducing conflict and avoiding confrontation.

Meanwhile, Cambodian Senate President Samdech Techo Hun Sen said Sunday night that adjusting military forces in conflict-prone areas with Thailand is essential to avoid large-scale violent clashes. "Adjusting military forces in conflict-prone areas through mutual understanding between the military commanders of both Cambodia and Thailand is essential to avoid large-scale violent clashes," he said in a post on his official Facebook page. "The people of both Cambodia and Thailand genuinely desire lasting peace and do not wish to see war," he said. "Efforts to find a resolution through dialogue have taken place at all levels -- from the government to front-line military commanders -- and are now bearing fruit." Cambodian and Thai soldiers briefly exchanged gunfire at a disputed border area on May 28, resulting in the death of a Cambodian soldier. (Xinhua)



Paetongtarn

Man shot dead in Sydney: A man has died following a shooting southwest of Sydney in the early hours of Monday morning. Police in the state of New South Wales (NSW) said that emergency services were called to reports of a shooting at a property in the city of Wagga Wagga, 380 km southwest of Sydney, shortly before 3 a.m. on Monday. Officers arrived and located an injured man who was treated by ambulance paramedics but died at the scene. Detectives have launched an investigation into the incident with assistance from the NSW Police homicide squad.

A crime scene has been established at the property and specialist forensic officers have been deployed to examine the site. Anyone with information about the shooting or with dashcam or CCTV footage from the local area has been urged to contact police. (Xinhua)

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Malaysia's road accident kills 15: At least 15 people were killed when a bus transporting students was struck by a multipurpose vehicle along the East-West Highway in Perak state early on Monday, authorities said. The collision, which was reported at 1:10 a.m. local time, involved 48 individuals, with 13 of them being found dead at the scene, the Civil Defense Force said in a statement.

Two more victims were reported to have died in the hospital, according to Bernama. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has expressed his condolences to the families of all the victims in the crash and instructed the Higher Education Ministry to coordinate appropriate assistance for the families of the victims. (Xinhua)

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Myanmar arrests 16 suspects: Security forces in military-ruled Myanmar have arrested a six-year-old girl along with 15 other people suspected of involvement in the assassination of a retired high-ranking army officer, state-run media reported on Friday.

Former Brig. Gen. Cho Tun Aung, 68, was shot outside his home in Mayangon township, in Yangon, the country's biggest city, on May 22. A militant group calling itself the Golden Valley Warriors claimed responsibility for the attack. (AP)

Explosion, fire hit Singapore-flagged container ship off southern Indian coast

Carney invites Modi to G7 summit despite strained ties between Canada and India

TORONTO, June 9, (AP): Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has invited Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the G7 summit in Alberta later this month, an invitation Modi accepted despite strained ties between the countries.

The countries expelled each other's top diplomats last year over the killing of a Sikh Canadian activist in Canada and allegations of other crimes.

The invitation prompted anger from the World Sikh Organization of Canada, which wrote to Carney in May asking him not to invite Modi. Tensions remain high between Canada and India over accusations about Indian government agents being involved in the murder of a Canadian activist for Sikh separatism in British Columbia in 2023.

Carney extended the invitation to Modi in a phone call between the two leaders on Friday. The summit runs from June 15 to 17.

Carney noted Canada is in the role of G7 chair and said there are important discussions that India should be a part of.

"India is the fifth largest economy in the world, the most populous country in the world and central to supply chains," Carney told reporters, adding that there has been some progress on law enforcement dialogue between the two countries.

"I extended the invitation to Prime Minister Modi and, in that context, he has accepted," Carney said. Carney said there is a legal process underway in the killing of the Canadian Sikh activist and said he would not comment on the case when asked by a reporter if he thought Modi was involved.

The tit-for-tat expulsions came after Canada told India that its top diplomat in the country is a person of interest in the 2023 assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, and that police have uncovered evidence of an intensifying campaign against Canadian citizens by agents of the Indian government.

Modi said he was glad to receive a call from Carney and congratulated him on his recent election victory.

"As vibrant democracies bound by deep people-to-people ties, India and Canada will work together with renewed vigour, guided by mutual respect and shared interests. Look forward to our meeting at the summit," Modi said in a social media statement. Nijjar, 45, was fatally shot in his pickup truck after he left the Sikh temple he led in Surrey, British Columbia. An Indian-born citizen of Canada, he owned a plumbing business and was a leader in what remains of a once-strong movement to create an independent Sikh homeland.

Four Indian nationals living in Canada were charged with Nijjar's murder. Balpreet Singh, legal counsel and spokesperson for the World Sikh Organization



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi displays a postal ticket at a public rally after inaugurating Vande Bharat Express train which will run between Katra and Srinagar, in Katra, India on June 6. (AP)

of Canada, called Carney's invitation to Modi a "betrayal of Canadian values."

"The summit to which Mr. Modi is being invited falls on the anniversary of the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar two years ago," he said. "So for us, this is unacceptable, it's shocking and it's a complete reversal of the principled stand that Prime Minister Trudeau had taken." Canada is not the only country that has accused Indian officials of plotting an association on foreign soil.

In 2023 US prosecutors said an Indian government official directed a failed plot to assassinate another Sikh separatist leader in New York.

Also:
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on Friday inaugurated one of the

most ambitious railway projects ever built in **India**, which will connect the Kashmir Valley to the vast Indian plains by train for the first time.

Dubbed by government-operated Indian Railways as one of the most challenging tracks in the world, the 272-kilometer (169-mile) line begins in the garrison city of **Udhampur** in Jammu region and runs through Indian-controlled **Kashmir's** main city of **Srinagar**. The line ends in **Baramulla**, a town near the highly militarized Line of Control dividing the Himalayan region between India and **Pakistan**.

The line travels through 36 tunnels and over 943 bridges. The Indian government pegged the total project cost at around \$5 billion.

One of the project's highlights is a 1,315-meter-long (4,314-foot) steel and concrete bridge above the **Chenab** River connecting two mountains with an arch 359 meters (1,177 feet) above the water. Indian Railways compared the height to the Eiffel Tower in **Paris**, which stands 330 meters (1,082 feet), and said the bridge is built to last 120 years and endure extreme weather, including wind speeds up to 260 kph (161 mph).

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NEW DELHI: An explosion and subsequent fire were reported onboard a Singapore-flagged container ship off the coast of Kerala in southern India on Monday, a spokesperson for the Indian Coast Guard said.

Of the 22 crew members onboard the MV Wan Hai 503, 18 abandoned the vessel with assistance from the Indian Navy and Coast Guard while four are missing, Commandant Amit Uniyal said in a statement.

One of the rescued crew members sustained serious injuries. Two of the four missing are nationals of Taiwan, one is from Indonesia and one from Myanmar, Uniyal said.

The navy and coast guard have launched a search operation for the missing, aided by a Dornier aircraft. The navy uses Dornier aircraft primarily for maritime surveillance, search and rescue operations. A number of ships have also been sent to help put out the fire some 88 nautical miles from the coast of Bepore in Kerala.

"The vessel is presently adrift, and firefighting efforts have commenced to bring the situation under control," said Uniyal. "Saving lives of the crew in distress, fire-fighting and mitigating environment hazard remains the priority for coast guard."

He said they were working to establish the details of the ship's cargo and any potential risks it could cause.

Bangladesh to hold national elections in April '26, says interim leader Yunus

DHAKA, Bangladesh, June 9, (AP): Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus on Friday said that the country will hold national elections in the first half of April 2026.

In a televised address to the nation on Friday, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate said that the Election Commission would roll out a detailed roadmap for the election in due course.

Yunus took over three days after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was ousted in a student-led mass uprising in August 2024, ending her 15-year rule. Hasina has been in exile in India since. The interim government banned Hasina's Awami League party, which is one of the country's two largest political parties. Hasina faces trial for hundreds of deaths related to the uprising in July and August last year.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party, or BNP, headed by Hasina's archrival and former prime minister Khaleda Zia, had been demanding the elections be held in December. The BNP is the main political party and is hoping to form the next government in the absence of Hasina's party.

Salahuddin Ahmed, a spokesman for BNP, criticized Yunus for failing to "meet the expectation of the nation" about the polls schedule.

He told Channel 24 television that April is not ideal for an election because the annual month of fasting that starts in mid-February makes campaigning challenging. He said it would also be difficult for a new government to formulate the year's budget, usually announced in June.

The Jamaat-e-Islami party, the



Muhammad Yunus, head of Bangladesh's interim government speaks to members of the media at the COP29 U.N. Climate Summit on Nov 13, 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan. (AP)

country's largest Islamist party, may also be able to take part in the elections after the country's Supreme Court on June 1 cleared the path for the party to regain its registration as a political party.

Hasina's party had fiercely criticized it for its opposition to Bangladesh gaining independence from Pakistan in 1971. Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was the country's independence leader.

Yunus had earlier said that the elec-

tion would be held between December and next June. The relationship between Yunus and the BNP has been frosty in recent months over a disagreement about the election schedule. Zia's party accused Yunus of tactics to delay a vote.

In February, a new party was formed by student leaders who led the anti-Hasina uprising. Yunus' critics say the party had backing from him, and Hasina's party calls the new National Citizen Party a "king's party."

Tropical Storm Barbara forecast to become hurricane Monday

MIAMI, June 9, (AP): Two tropical storms gathered strength off Mexico's Pacific coast Monday, with one forecast to become a hurricane later in the day, forecasters warned.

Tropical Storm Barbara was about 185 miles (295 kilometers) southwest of Manzanillo, Mexico early on Monday, with maximum sustained winds of 70 mph (110 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Barbara is expected to continue moving toward the west-northwest near 12 mph for the next couple of days. It will reach hurricane strength later on Monday but should begin weakening by Tuesday, the NHC said.

The storm may bring total rainfall of 2 to 4 inches (51 to 101 millimeters) to coastal areas of Guerrero, Michoacan, Colima and Jalisco states, with the possibility of localized flooding on Monday.

The NHC said swells from Barbara were likely to form life-threatening surf and rip current conditions along the southwestern Mexican coast, with gusty winds likely.



In this satellite image released by NOAA, Tropical Storm Barbara forms off the southwest coast of Mexico. (AP)

Africa

Rwanda withdraws from ECCAS: Rwanda on Sunday withdrew from the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) due to being deprived of assuming the bloc's rotating chairmanship and disagreements with Congo.

In a press release, the Rwandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "Rwanda deplores the instrumentalization of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with the support of certain Member States." "This distortion of the organization's purpose was once again evident during the

26th Ordinary Summit held today in Malabo, where Rwanda's right to assume the rotating Chairmanship, stipulated in Article 6 of the Treaty, was deliberately ignored in order to impose the DRC's diktat," it added. (KUNA)

Mali political activist freed: A leading political activist whose family said that he was abducted by Mali's military authorities has been released after a month in captivity, his relatives said Sunday.

Alassane Abba, one of the leaders of the former political party Codem, was dropped off along a road in Mali's capital, Bamako, Alhousseini Jannatta Alassane, his son, told The Associated Press. (AP)

CBK Bonds and related Tawarruq

THE Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the most recent issues of CBK Bonds and related Tawarruq at a total value of KWD (200) million for 3 months with Rate of Return (4.125%).

Business

Move in line with their strategic partnership

NBK exclusively partners with iconic luxury retailer Harrods to launch Kuwait's first 'NBK-Harrods Visa Infinite Credit Card'

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has taken a significant step in its strategic alliance with Harrods—the world-class luxury retailer—by taking an exclusive partnership in Kuwait to launch the NBK-Harrods Visa Infinite Credit Card, Kuwait's first Luxury retail co-branded card designed for the high-end customer segment.

True to NBK's commitment - meeting evolving customer needs and catering all segment types - this comes as the second co-branded credit card launched by NBK this year. It follows the introduction of the first retailer co-branded Card in the region. Both launches reflect the bank's ongoing commitment to delivering a distinctive banking experience, defined by exceptional service and premium lifestyle offerings.

The NBK Harrods Visa Infinite Credit Card caters to avid shoppers and frequent travelers with a host of exclusive benefits tailored to their lifestyle—offered not only to NBK customers in Kuwait, but also to those residing in London through the bank's local branch. This launch underscores NBK's strategy to leverage its international footprint and deliver seamless, high-end banking experiences to its customers wherever they are in the world.

The new card offers holders 7 Harrods Rewards points for every KD spent at Harrods Knightsbridge, Harrods Heathrow and Gatwick airport stores, at H beauty stores, on harrods.com and via the Harrods app.

Furthermore, cardholders will accumulate 5 Harrods Rewards points for every KD spent on international purchases, and 2 points for every KD spent on domestic transactions.

Upon registration, the customer will be rewarded with 10,000 Harrods Rewards points when they activate the card and make their first purchase. Additionally, they will receive an annual reward of 10,000 Harrods Rewards points when their total purchases from Harrods reach KD 10,000.

Cardholders will enjoy a suite of exclusive benefits, including an automatic upgrade to the Harrods Black tier membership, dedicated Harrods Dining Credit redeemable at restaurants within the Knightsbridge store, and a range of bespoke rewards, from priority access to Harrods events and



Mohammed Al-Othman, Alex Unitt, and Dr. Saïda Jaafar pictured during the launch ceremony of the new CardCheck service.

personalised shopping services to complimentary lounge access at numerous international airports.

Commenting on the launch of the new NBK-Harrods Visa Infinite Credit Card, Mr. Mohammed Al-Othman, CEO, Consumer and Digital Banking Group at National Bank of Kuwait, said: "The launch of this card, the first of its kind in the local market, underscores the bank's commitment to enhancing the banking experience for its customers. Through strategic partnerships with leading institutions across various sectors, both locally and globally, we are able to offer exclusive benefits and rewards that go beyond traditional banking. This initiative is designed to cater to the finer details of our customers' lives, providing them with added value that not only meets their needs but often exceeds their expectations."

He emphasised that the expansion of NBK's premium product offerings is aligned with the bank's strategy to deliver a comprehensive range of products that cater to diverse customer segments, including shopping enthusiasts and

A suite of exclusive benefits for cardholders of the newly launched NBK-Harrods Card:

- Earn 7 Harrods Rewards Points for every KD spent at Harrods Knightsbridge, Harrods Heathrow and Gatwick airport stores, at H beauty stores, on harrods.com and via the Harrods app
- Earn 5 Harrods Rewards Points per KD spent on international purchases
- Get 2 Harrods Rewards Points per KD spent on local purchases within Kuwait
- Enjoy a welcome bonus of 10,000 Harrods Rewards Points upon making your first purchase with the card
- Earn an annual bonus of 10,000 Harrods Rewards points when you spend KD 10,000 annually
- Benefit from automatic upgrade to Harrods Black Tier membership
- Enjoy £50 dining credit every 6 months to redeem at any Harrods Knightsbridge store restaurant
- Complimentary VIP lounge access at numerous airports worldwide

luxury seekers. This approach ensures that customers receive rewarding solutions specifically designed to meet their unique needs and preferences.

Alex Unitt, Partnerships Director, Harrods commented: "We are delighted to introduce this new co-branded card in

partnership with NBK, offering exceptional rewards to our valued customers in Kuwait. This exclusive partnership reflects Harrods legacy of excellence and our commitment to strengthening our global presence. Kuwait is an important element of this vision and we are proud to bring the unique Harrods experience closer to our customers here and around the world."

As for Visa, Shashank Singh, Visa's VP and General Manager for Kuwait and Qatar, stated: "Visa's collaboration with NBK and Harrods in launching the NBK-Harrods Visa Infinite Credit Card reflects our ongoing commitment to enhancing the payment experience for our premium cardholders in Kuwait in line with the government's digital commerce agenda. The new card offers holders a wide range of exclusive privileges and benefits, backed by Visa's latest security technologies and global acceptance at more than 150 million merchant partners, ensuring cardholders can use the card with complete confidence, both inside and outside Kuwait."

NBK is consistently dedicated to offering rewarding promotions and exclusive value-added benefits to its diverse customer base, reinforcing its leadership position in the banking sector both locally, regionally, and globally.

Harrods has been welcoming customers to its Knightsbridge store since 1849, and remains standing as an iconic beacon of luxury. With its diverse range of exquisite boutiques and architectural magnificence, Harrods attracts a distinguished clientele from every corner of the globe, cementing its status as the epitome of elegance and refinement.

Harrods is home to more than 3000 curated brands as well as over 20 dining destinations and expert fashion, home, beauty and wellness services. In addition, Harrods serves customers via harrods.com, H beauty and airport stores and hospitality destinations in China and Qatar. Harrods continues to be guided by its philosophy of "anything is possible" to ensure that customers enjoy unparalleled experiences with every visit.

Administrative specialization tests for those who meet the conditions on June 13

KPC approves new emergency leave rules

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: In light of the tremendous efforts exerted by nationals working in the oil sector, their dedication to work and the desire of the oil leadership to provide more comfort that motivates them to join the sector, which has become an attractive environment for Kuwaiti talent of both genders; Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ku-

wait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah issued a decision approving the amendment of the regulations for granting emergency leave, in accordance with the powers stipulated in the administrative regulations in force at the corporation, with the addition of some amendments, say reliable sources.

Sources disclosed that the most important amendment states "an employee or worker may be granted emergency leave not exceeding four

days during the calendar year in the presence of emergency circumstances specific to him without submitting documents, provided that he obtains the approval of his direct supervisor before taking this leave. The leave shall be used separately, not interconnected, and shall not be linked to any other leave stipulated in the approved regulations."

Sources informed the newspaper that the aforementioned emergency leave shall be deducted from the 10 days allocated for emergency leave during the calendar year. The conditions also include standardizing the calculation of emergency leave, so that

it shall be taken during the calendar year rather than the contractual year. The regulations in force regarding emergency leave related to the illness of a family member of the employee or worker, their hospitalization or a medical appointment shall be maintained.

The resolution also requires the relevant authorities to take the necessary measures to implement this amendment. This resolution shall take effect at the beginning of July, and all conflicting resolutions shall be repealed, sources added.

It is worth mentioning that the approval of the CEO of KPC to amend the emergency leave system is based on the recommendations issued by the Labor

Relations Committee in its meeting no. 3/2025 held on April 8, 2025 regarding approval to amend the emergency leave system for workers in the oil sector, by allowing the employee or worker to go on emergency leave not exceeding four non-consecutive days during the calendar year, deducted from the 10 days approved for emergency leave with the approval of the direct supervisor before enjoying the leave.

Sources also revealed that KPC will conduct administrative specialization tests for those who meet the conditions on June 13; indicating that the corporation -- through the job advertisements that it announces from time to time -- aims to attract competent man-

power with the required specializations to ensure continuous leadership in the oil sector. Sources said there are more advantages for all employees in the companies affiliated with the corporation, especially since Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah always recommends to all leaders of the companies affiliated with the corporation the necessity of motivating the nationals working in the oil sector, while listening to all their demands in accordance with the regulations, especially since the approach of KPC is to implement a strategy to enhance reliance on national workforce and provide all the privileges that guarantee job security for nationals.

CEO checks on progress of work at the refineries

KPC chief visits oil refineries, congratulates staff on Eid Al-Adha

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah conducted an inspection visit to the Mina Al-Ahmadi, Mina Abdullah, and Al-Zour refineries.

During the visit, he congratulated employees on Eid Al-Adha and checked on the progress of work at the refineries during the holiday.

Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation (KNPC) said in a statement to KUNA that Sheikh Nawaf was accompanied by the Corporation's Managing Director for Human Re-



Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah greeting some of the workers.

sources and Comprehensive Services, Hisham Al-Rifai, and Managing Director for Planning and Finance, Bader Al-Attar.

Sheikh Nawaf praised the efforts of KNPC and KIPIC employees, conveying to them the praise of the country's political leadership for their achievements in advancing Kuwait and promoting this vital sector.

He also stressed the importance of everyone's commitment to health, safety, and environmental standards to ensure their safety.

Other Voices

Shifting sands of dollar dominance

By Hassan F. Beidas

The US dollar has long stood as the undisputed cornerstone of international finance, serving as the primary payment method for global transactions and a safe haven for investors during times of uncertainty.

However, recent movements in the dollar's value suggest a more complex and potentially changing environment for the world's reserve currency. After plummeting more than 8% from its late February peak, the US Dollar Index (DXY) – which measures the dollar's value against a basket of major currencies including the Euro, Japanese Yen, British Pound, Canadian Dollar, Swedish Krona, and Swiss Franc – has experienced a notable bounce, recovering from lows of 98.28 to a high of 101.98. This rebound has been partly attributed to reduced uncertainty surrounding the extent of US tariffs.

Traditionally, economic and market stress has prompted investors to flock to dollar-denominated assets like US Treasuries, even when the US itself was at the heart of the turmoil. Yet, this year has presented a sheer departure from this pattern. The rapid decline in the US currency, which saw the DXY tumble a remarkable 10.6% from January – one of its sharpest three-month retreats – raises significant concerns on two fronts.

Firstly, it underscores the speed with which investors can divest from dollar assets when confidence in US policy is low. This swift withdrawal of capital highlights a growing sensitivity to policy decisions. Secondly, the sell-off was not merely driven by private capital but notably by major countries and their central banks. As data indicates, the Chinese central bank, alongside several of its emerging market peers, has actively shifted away from dollar assets, signaling a broader strategic reallocation.

Part of this "banishment" of the dollar can be attributed to its relatively rich valuation. According to CFTC data, the dollar was trading in January as high as 22% above its 20-year average of 90 on the DXY. While currently, it is hovering at 10% above its long-term average, suggesting that its high valuation may have contributed to the recent correction.

Longer-term fiscal concerns for the US are weighing on investor sentiment. Projections indicate that sweeping tax cuts could add an estimated \$3 trillion to \$5 trillion to the nation's already substantial \$36 trillion debt over the next decade, raising questions about the sustainability of US public finances.

Despite recent foreign selling, the enduring appreciation of US assets over the years means that global entities still hold trillions in US equities and Treasuries. However, increased hedging by investors is leading to less direct demand for the dollar and, consequently, more dollar selling.

Furthermore, the likelihood of a US recession has increased since the unveiling of new tariffs. This heightened risk has fueled anticipation that the Federal Reserve would cut interest rates. Historically, lower interest rates in the US tend to weaken the dollar as investors seek higher yields elsewhere. This dynamic has already seen capital flow into European and Japanese markets as investors seek to protect against potential losses in dollar-denominated assets. Concurrently, increased defense spending across Europe, fueled by anticipation of a potential US pullback in military support, has particularly boosted the appeal of European Union bonds as a safe investment.

In conclusion, while the US dollar retains its global significance, its recent volatility signals a more complex and dynamic environment. A combination of valuation concerns, shifts in central bank policies, fiscal concerns, and evolving geopolitical landscapes are all contributing to a re-evaluation of the dollar's traditional role, prompting investors to diversify and seek new havens for their capital. The coming months will be crucial in observing whether these shifts represent a temporary adjustment or the early stages of a more fundamental rebalancing of global financial power.



Hassan F. Beidas

Dubai orders Mall of the Emirates owner to restructure its board

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, June 9, (AP): A special judicial committee in Dubai has reportedly ordered the parent company of one of the region's retail giants to restructure its board, trying to end years of turmoil after the death of its billionaire founder and secure the future of the owner of the Mall of the Emirates.

The changes at Majid Al Futtaim come as Dubai tries to guide the family-run businesses that powered the city-state's growth in the United Arab Emirates through generational change. Authorities also likely want to avoid any further infighting that could slow down the growth of a firm that long has made hiring Emiratis a key goal.

The Financial Times first reported on the changes to Majid Al Futtaim's board, saying it came at the orders of a government-established special judicial committee.

In 2022, Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, established a special judicial committee to look after the estate of Majid Al Futtaim's founder - also named Majid Al Futtaim - following his death in 2021.

Responding to questions Monday from The Associated Press, the company appeared to acknowledge the



A man walks past a storefront inside Mall of the Emirates in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, April 17, 2025. (AP)

changes at Majid Al Futtaim Capital, which oversees its group of companies.

The changes "reflect a shareholder-led effort to evolve governance in line with the long-term interests of the Group," the company said in a statement. "These changes do not affect the operations or governance of Majid Al Futtaim Holding. Majid Al Futtaim

continues to operate under an independent board and strong oversight."

Dubai's government did not respond to a request for comment.

The Financial Times described Majid Al Futtaim's parent company as now being overseen by five government and four family representatives.

Succession battles aren't unusual in

FTSE 100 was little changed at 8,836.20

Global shares mixed as investors await details from the US-China trade talks

HONG KONG, June 9, (AP): Global markets were mixed on Monday as investors waited to see the outcome of trade talks between Washington and Beijing in London.

The futures for the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average were 0.1% higher.

The CAC 40 in Paris lost 0.1% to 7,797.64 and Germany's DAX edged 0.4% lower to 24,210.06.

The British FTSE 100 was little changed at 8,836.20.

In Asian trading, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 gained 0.9% to 38,088.57 as the government reported that the Japanese economy contracted by 0.2% in the January-March quarter.

In South Korea, the Kospi added 1.6% to 2,855.77.

Chinese markets rose even though the government reported that exports slowed in May, growing 4.8% from a year earlier after jumping more than 8% in April. Exports to the United States fell 35% in May and nearly 10% in January-May in annual terms.

China also reported that consumer prices fell 0.1% in May from a year earlier, marking the fourth consecutive month of deflation.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng picked up 1.6% to 24,181.43 while the Shanghai Composite Index climbed 0.4% to 3,399.77.

Australia's markets were closed for a holiday.

On Friday, stocks gained ground on Wall Street following a better-than-expected report on the U.S. job market.

The gains were broad, with every sector in the S&P 500 rising. That solidified a second consecutive winning week for the benchmark index, which has rallied back from a slump two months ago to come within striking distance of its record high.

The S&P 500 rose 1% and the Dow industrials lost 1%. The Nasdaq gained 1.2%.

Technology stocks, with their outsized values, led the broad gains. Chipmaker Nvidia jumped 1.2% and iPhone maker Apple rose 1.6%.

Tesla rose 3.7%, regaining some of the big losses it suffered on Thursday when Trump and Musk sparred feverishly on social media.

Circle Internet Group, the U.S.-based issuer of one of the most popular cryptocurrencies, rose 29.4%. That adds to its 168% gain from Thursday when it debuted on the New York Stock Exchange.

U.S. employers slowed their hiring last month, but still added a solid 139,000 jobs amid uncertainty over President Donald Trump's trade war. The closely watched monthly update reaffirmed that the job market remains resilient, despite worries from businesses and consumers about the impact of tariffs on goods going to and coming from the U.S. and its most im-

portant trading partners.

Hopes that Trump will lower his tariffs after reaching trade deals with other countries are a main reason the S&P 500 has rallied back so furiously since dropping roughly 20% two months ago from an all-time high.

The economy is absorbing the impact from tariffs on a wide range of goods from key trading partners, along with raw materials such as steel. Heavier tariffs could hit businesses and consumers in the coming months.

The U.S. economy contracted during the first quarter. Recent surveys by the Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, found that both American manufacturing and services businesses contracted last month. On Tuesday, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development forecast 1.6% growth for the U.S. economy this year, down from 2.8% last year.

The uncertainty over tariffs and their economic impact has put the Federal Reserve in a delicate position.

In other trading early Monday, U.S. benchmark crude oil lost 21 cents to \$64.37 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, gave up 23 cents to \$66.24 per barrel.

The U.S. dollar retreated to 144.09 Japanese yen from 144.85 yen. The euro edged higher, to \$1.1426 from \$1.1399.



Currency traders work near a screen showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI), left, and the foreign exchange rate between U.S. dollar and South Korean won, center, at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, June 9, 2025. (AP)

Personal consumption revised up

Japan's Q1 GDP down less than expected at 0.2 pct contraction

TOKYO, June 9, (KUNA): Japan's economy shrank at an annualized pace of 0.2 percent during January to March, declining less than initially estimated, thanks to an upward revision to consumer spending, government data showed on Monday.

The world's third economy's gross domestic product (GDP) was revised upward from a preliminary figure of 0.7 percent contraction released last month, according to the Cabinet Office.

Still, it confirmed the first contraction of the GDP in four quarters following a revised 2.2 percent growth in the October-December quarter of 2023.

On a quarterly basis, GDP edged down 0.04 percent in the

three months ended March 31 from the previous quarter, compared to an initial reading of 0.2 percent decline.

Personal consumption, which makes up more than half of Japan's GDP, was revised up 0.1 percent from 0.04 percent.

However, corporate capital spending, another major contributor to growth, grew 1.1 percent, smaller than a 1.4 percent expansion in the preliminary data.

According to Kyodo News Agency, economists said the revised GDP data underscored that Japan lacked a growth engine even before the full impact of US President Donald Trump's higher tariffs set in, while inflation hit household sentiment.

Beijing says its exports to US fell 35 percent in May

Trade talks are due to start in London

BEIJING, June 9, (AP): China's exports to the United States fell 35% in May from a year earlier, new customs data show, adding to pressure on the world's second largest economy as a new round of trade talks with Washington was due to start later Monday in London.

China's total exports rose 4.8% last month, slowing from an 8.1% year-on-year increase in April. Imports declined 3.4% year-on-year, leaving a trade surplus of \$103.2 billion.

China exported \$28.8 billion to the United States in May, compared with \$44 billion a year earlier. Its imports from the U.S. fell to \$10.8 billion, the report said.

Still, exports to Southeast Asia and the Euro-

pean Union remained robust, growing 14.8% and 12%, year-on-year. Exports to Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia were sharply higher, and exports to Germany jumped more than 12%.

"The acceleration of exports to other economies has helped China's exports to remain relatively buoyant in the face of the trade war," Lynne Song of ING Economics said in a commentary.

Many businesses had rushed orders earlier in the year to try to beat higher tariffs. Once new import duties took effect, shipments slowed. Exports will likely rebound somewhat in June thanks to a 90-day suspension of most of the tariffs China and the U.S. imposed on each other in their escalating trade war, Zichun Huang of Capital Economics said in a report.

"But with tariffs likely to remain elevated and Chinese manufacturers facing broader constraints

on their ability to sustain rapid gains in global market share, we think export growth will slow further by year-end," Huang said.

Despite the tariff's truce, rancor between Beijing and Washington has persisted, with angry exchanges over advanced semiconductors, "rare earths" that are vital to many industries and visas for Chinese students at American universities.

The round of negotiations due to take place later Monday in London follow a phone call last week between Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

It's unclear if that exchange will lead to any significant progress during the talks this week.

Speaking to reporters on Air Force One on Friday, Trump said Xi had agreed to restart exports of rare earth minerals and magnets to the U.S. which China had slowed, threatening a range of U.S. manufacturers that relied on the critical materials.

Move described as significant for members of the bloc

EU adopts cyber blueprint crisis management plan

BRUSSELS, June 9, (KUNA): Telecom ministers from across the European Union (EU) formally adopted on Friday the EU Cyber Blueprint for cyber crisis management, marking a significant step in how the bloc prepares for and responds to large-scale cybersecurity incidents.

The newly endorsed framework provides clear guidance for coordinated detection, response, and recovery efforts across member states in the event of a major cyberattack or digital disruption that could affect critical infrastructure or services across the EU.

The blueprint aims to streamline cooperation between national authorities, EU institutions, and private-sector partners, ensuring faster and more effective incident response.

It also emphasizes the importance of learning from each crisis to improve resilience over time.

The move reflects growing urgency among EU leaders to address cross-border cyber threats through unified action, especially as cyberattacks targeting energy, transport, health, and digital services continue to rise.

The updated cybersecurity blueprint refines the comprehensive EU framework for Cybersecurity Crisis Management, detailing the roles of relevant EU actors throughout the entire crisis lifecycle.

The EU Cyber Blueprint is an important guideline for member states to enhance their preparedness, detection capabilities, and response to cyberse-



EU headquarters hoisting flags of member states.

curity incidents, while building on the foundations laid by the 2017 Cybersecurity Blueprint and taking on board important recently adopted legislation such as the NIS2 directive and the Cyber Solidarity Act.

The EU Cyber Blueprint aims to tackle an increasingly complex cyber threat landscape by strengthening existing EU networks, fostering cooperation between member states and actors involved, and overcoming hurdles that may exist.

It defines roles and responsibilities, detailing the key actors and mechanisms involved at all stages of a crisis. It enhances information sharing and response coordination

at political and technical levels throughout a crisis.

"Today, we take a decisive step forward in strengthening Europe's cybersecurity resilience," Krzysztof Gawkowski, deputy prime minister, minister of digital affairs, said in a Friday media statement.

"The EU Blueprint for cyber crisis management clarifies how member states can detect, respond to, recover, and learn from large-scale cybersecurity incidents and cyber crises that could affect the whole EU.

The EU Blueprint shows our clear commitment to a safer, more resilient and better prepared Europe - an important priority of the Polish Presidency."

Employers add a solid 139,000 jobs in May

WASHINGTON, June 9, (AP): U.S. employers slowed hiring last month, but still added a solid 139,000 jobs amid uncertainty over President Donald Trump's trade wars.

Hiring fell from a revised 147,000 in April, the Department of Labor said Friday. The job gains last month were above the 130,000 that economists had forecast.

Healthcare companies added 62,000 jobs and bars and restaurants 30,000. The federal government shed 22,000 jobs, however, the most since November 2020, as Trump's job cuts and hiring freeze had an impact. And factories lost 8,000 jobs last month.

Average hourly wages rose 0.4% from April and 3.9% from a year earlier - a bit higher than forecast.

There were a few signs of potential weakening. Labor Department revisions shaved 95,000 jobs from March and April payrolls. The number of people in the U.S. labor force - those working or looking for work - fell by 625,000 last month, the biggest drop since December 2023. And the percentage of those who had jobs fell last month to 59.7%, the lowest since January 2022.

Trump's aggressive and unpredictable policies - especially his sweeping taxes on imports - have muddled the outlook for the economy and the job market and raised fears that the American economy could be headed toward recession. But so far the damage hasn't shown up clearly in government economic data.

"The job market is still standing tall even as some of these headwinds start to blow," said Daniel Zhao, lead economist at the jobs website Glassdoor. "But ultimately we're all still waiting for the other shoe to drop. It's still much too early for tariff impacts to be a significant drag on the economy."

The U.S. economy and job market have proven surprisingly resilient in recent years. When the inflation fighters at



A help wanted sign is posted in Lansdale, Pa., Friday, April 28, 2023. (AP)

the Federal Reserve raised their benchmark interest rate 11 times in 2022 and 2023, the higher borrowing costs were widely expected to tip the United States into a recession. They didn't.

Still, the job market has clearly decelerated. So far this year, American employers have added an average of less than 124,000 a month. That is down 26% from last year, down almost 43% from 2023, and down a whopping 67% compared with 2022.

The modest job gains and steady unemployment rate are likely to keep the Fed on the sidelines for at least the next few months, economists said. The central bank Fed has kept its key short-term interest rate unchanged this year, after cutting it three times last year.

Fed chair Jerome Powell and most other Fed policymakers have voiced concern that Trump's tariffs could push up inflation later this year, which they would seek to counter by raising rates. The Fed is only likely to accelerate interest rate cuts if the job market

sharply deteriorates. But so far hiring is holding up.

Investors still expect just two cuts by the Fed this year, starting in September. Jim Leventhal, chief equity strategist at Cerity Partners, said the central bank will likely stay on hold as it waits to see whether the sweeping tariffs that Trump imposed April 2, then delayed until July 9, return in some form. Those duties are also being challenged in court.

"They need to see the effects of the tariffs before they make any moves," Leventhal said.

Recent economic reports have sent mixed signals.

The Labor Department reported Tuesday that U.S. job openings rose unexpectedly to 7.4 million in April - seemingly a good sign. But the same report showed that layoffs ticked up and the number of Americans quitting their jobs fell, a sign they were less confident they could find something better elsewhere.

Bitcoin introduced into Africa's largest slum, with risks and rewards

KIBERA, Kenya, June 9, (AP): Dotting the roadside in what is widely considered Africa's largest urban slum are typical stands selling vegetables. What isn't typical is their acceptance of bitcoin as a form of payment.

Around 200 people use bitcoin in Soweto West, a neighborhood of the Kibera slum in Kenya's capital. It's part of an initiative to extend financial services to one of the country's poorest and most under-banked areas.

Its promoters say the adoption of crypto fits with the ideals of bitcoin as an accessible, democratic technology - but experts say it also has major risks.

Bitcoin came to Soweto West via AfriBit Africa, a Kenyan fintech company, through its nonprofit initiative to improve financial inclusion.

"In many cases, people in Kibera do not have an opportunity to secure their lives with normal savings," said AfriBit Africa co-founder Ronnie Mdawida, a former community worker. With bitcoin, "they do not need documentation to have a bank account ... that gives them the foundation for financial freedom."

Bitcoin, the first and largest crypto, was created in 2009 in the wake of the global financial crisis as a decentralized digital asset that could act as an alternative method of payment.

The asset has found more popular use as a store of value, like a digital form of gold. Bitcoin has attracted enthusias-

tic supporters as prices have climbed almost 1,000% in the last five years. But its volatility and lack of regulation are concerns.

AfriBit Africa introduced bitcoin into Soweto West in early 2022 through crypto-denominated grants to local garbage collectors, who are often funded by nonprofits. The groups are made up of dozens of young people, who Mdawida says are more likely to be open to new tech.

After gathering on a Sunday to collect trash, garbage collectors are paid a few dollars' worth of bitcoin. AfriBit Africa estimates that it has put some \$10,000 into the community, with garbage collectors acting as the main agents of spreading bitcoin in Soweto West. In Kibera, many people earn about a dollar a day.

Now a small number of other residents hold bitcoin, and some merchants and motorcycle taxis accept payments in crypto.

Damiano Magak, 23, a garbage collector and food seller, said he prefers bitcoin to M-PESA, the ubiquitous mobile money platform in Kenya, because M-PESA transaction costs are higher and the network can be slower.

There are no fees for M-PESA transactions between individuals or businesses up to 100 Kenyan shillings (78 cents), but after that the fees increase with transaction size. Fees for the Lightning bitcoin network where transactions take

place are free if people use a platform that AfriBit Africa introduced into the community.

Onesmus Many, 30, another garbage collector, said he feels safer with his money in a bitcoin wallet instead of in cash because of crime.

Some merchants have found benefits to accepting crypto, including Dotea Anyim. She said around 10% of customers at her vegetable stand pay in bitcoin.

"I like it because it is cheap and fast and doesn't have any transaction costs," she says. "When people pay using bitcoin, I save that money and use cash to restock vegetables."

The possibility that crypto prices could keep rising also appeals to residents of Soweto West. Magak and Many said they now have around 70% to 80% of their net worth in bitcoin, a far higher level of exposure than most people.

"It is my worth and I'm risking it in bitcoin," Magak said.

That concerns Ali Hussein Kassim, a fintech entrepreneur and chair of the FinTech Alliance in Kenya.

"In an extremely volatile asset like bitcoin, it's overexposure. I can't afford to lose 80% of my wealth. How about a guy in Kibera?" Kassim said. "You are exposing a vulnerable community to an ecosystem and to financial services that they can't necessarily afford to play in."

Kassim acknowledged the potential benefits that digital

assets could bring, particularly in facilitating cheaper cross-border payments like remittances, but failed to see the benefit in Kibera.

Bitcoin's volatility could negate the benefits of cheaper transaction fees, Kassim said, and bitcoin does not have the same protections as other financial services due to a lack of regulation.

Mdawida disagreed, calling bitcoin's unregulated nature a benefit.

"We don't shy away from the risks involved," the AfriBit Africa co-founder said, noting the group's investments in bitcoin education in Kibera, including financial literacy training and crypto courses in the community.

Efforts to introduce bitcoin into developing countries have faced challenges. Bitcoin was adopted as legal tender in El Salvador and Central African Republic but both countries have reversed their decision.

In Kenya, the digital asset sector has faced legal and regulatory challenges, including crackdowns on cryptocurrency giveaways. This small project, focusing only on Soweto West, has been allowed.

"On my phone I put notifications on when bitcoin rises ... and it's all smiles," Magak said. "Whenever it fluctuates up and down, I know at the end of the day it will just rise."

Initiative reflects commitment to Kuwait's environmental vision and global goals

LuLu unveils eco-friendly campaign in honor of World Environment Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: In celebration of World Environment Day, LuLu Hypermarket Kuwait has launched a powerful and engaging eco-conscious initiative that puts sustainability at the heart of the shopping experience. This impactful campaign not only highlights LuLu's commitment to the environment but also encourages customers to take meaningful steps toward a greener future.

At the core of the campaign is a specially curated Environment Day Display showcased across select LuLu outlets, featuring an extensive range of sustainable, biodegradable, and reusable products. From eco-safe cleaning solutions and bamboo kitchenware to organic groceries and recycled paper goods, the display is designed to educate and inspire shoppers to adopt more environmentally friendly habits in their daily lives.

A key highlight of the campaign



Biodegradable products and digital receipts highlight retailer's commitment to the planet.

is the launch of LuLu's "Go Paperless" E-Receipt Initiative, aimed at reducing the environmental impact of printed receipts. Shoppers are encouraged to switch to digital re-

ceipts, helping to minimize paper waste while enjoying a more convenient, secure, and eco-friendly shopping experience.

This initiative is part of LuLu Hy-

permarket's ongoing commitment to sustainability, aligning with global environmental goals and supporting Kuwait's national vision for a greener tomorrow. Through this campaign,

LuLu continues to lead by example in promoting sustainable retail practices and creating greater environmental awareness within the community.

LuLu Hypermarket invites all shoppers to join in the celebration of World Environment Day by making conscious choices that protect the planet – because every small step counts toward a big change.



Photos during the Bharat Mahotsav anniversary celebrations.

Bhavans School wins Dance Beats finale

Bharat Mahotsav marks cultural milestone

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Bharat Mahotsav 2K25, organized by the Indian Arts Federation Kuwait (IAF) as part of its fifth anniversary celebrations, garnered significant attention with its diverse array of programs. The festival, which commenced with vibrant artistic performances at the Ahmadi DPS Theatre Auditorium, transformed into a grand celebration of Indian heritage for the expatriate community.

The cultural conference presided over by IAF President Sherine Mathew as part of the Mahotsavam was inaugurated by renowned film actress Sadhika Venugopal.

The proceedings began with a moment of remembrance for the siblings who tragically lost their lives in Fahal Al-Ghamim. Shifa Al Jazeera General Manager Mr. Azeem Sait and Dr. Haider Ali graced the occasion as distinguished guests. President Sherine Mathew detailed the past activities

of the organization during her address.

A mesmerizing musical night led by prominent playback singers Anne Anie and Prashobh Ramachandran turned the audience into a festive gathering.

The live music competition, Indian Star Voice 2K25, truly captivated hearts with its musical charm. Helen Susan of Carmel School emerged as the Star Voice winner. Ashi Baveja from FAIPS secured the second position, while Aisha Sanva, also from FAIPS, claimed the third spot.

In the Indian Dance Beats finale, students from Bhavans School were recognized as the deserving winners.

Chairman Preman Illath, General Secretary Leo Kizhakekvedan, Cultural Secretary Nirmala Devi, Program Coordinator Priya Kannan, Joint Secretary Murali Muruganandam, and Treasurer Lijo Jose extended their best wishes and addressed the gathering.

Academic achievers receive prestigious badges

FAIPS-DPS recognizes young scholars of 2024-25

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: FAIPS-DPS celebrated its academic excellence by honouring the meritorious students of Grades 5, 6, 7, along with those following the British Curriculum, for the academic year 2024-25. These students were honoured with the prestigious scholar badges and certificates on 21st May 2025. The spectacular ceremony, held at the school auditorium, was graced by the presence of the distinguished Chief Guest, Ms. Delphine Vallier, Principal of International British School, Kuwait.

The day's events unfolded with a reverential salutation to Kuwait, followed by the Kuwait National Anthem, the recitation of the Holy Quran and its translation. The Principal, Mr. Ravi Ayanoli, then led the Chief Guest on to the stage for the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing enlightenment and the dispelling of ignorance. The lamp was lighted in the presence of the Vice Principals, Head Mistresses and the coordinators of Grades V, VI, VII and the British Curriculum.

Sara Mohammed and Anvay Bansal, the Head Girl and Head Boy of the Middle School Student Council then extended a formal welcome to the Chief Guest and the other members of the audience. The Principal, Mr. Ravi Ayanoli then addressed the gathering, lauding the remarkable academic achievements of the scholars and appreciating the guidance, encouragement and unwavering support of their teachers and parents.

The cultural events that followed,



Students awarded for outstanding academic excellence.

showcased the myriad talents of the FAIPS students and added a distinct sparkle to the day's proceedings. A soul stirring rendition of Michael Jackson's 'Will You be There?' by the talented choir echoed the need for compassion and unwavering support in today's world. The auditorium came alive with the graceful movements and sweeping gestures of the dancers who displayed exuberant joy with the classic elegance and beauty of a Japanese dance. A thunderous round of applause greeted the 'Kalari' dance, which is inspired by an ancient Indian martial art form, from Kerala, celebrating women's empowerment, transporting one to a realm of myth and legends.

The Chief Guest, Ms. Delphine Vallier, enlightened the audience with her words of wisdom and expressed her

admiration and appreciation for the talent and hard work of the staff and the students. Finally, the much-awaited moment had arrived for the scholars, who had worked relentlessly to reach the pinnacle of success. The recipients proudly walked up on stage to receive their badges of excellence and certificates from the Chief Guest, Principal, Vice Principals and coordinators.

The beautiful morning came to a close as Alizah Kumar and Swajit Biswas, Vice Head Girl and Vice Head Boy of the Middle School Student Council, delivered the vote of thanks and expressed their whole-hearted gratitude to the Chief Guest, Principal, management, faculty, parents, support staff and students for their selfless efforts in making the day a truly memorable experience.

BDK to hold 'Art for Causes' competition

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Blood Donors Kerala (BDK) Kuwait Chapter, a dedicated fraternity promoting voluntary blood donation, has announced an art competition titled "Art for Causes."

The event aims to foster creativity among young students while raising awareness about the importance of blood donation.

The competition will be held on Friday, June 13, 2025, at 4:00 PM at the United Indian School, Abbasiya. It is open to students across three age categories:

- Category A: Ages 5 to 7 – Coloring
- Category B: Ages 8 to 12 – Drawing & Coloring
- Category C: Ages 13 to 16 – Water

Coloring

Participants are required to register via the Google Form: <https://forms.gle/g1SPGH-d35QKbaTL6>.

For further details or assistance, interested parties can contact the organizing team at: 55424201, 96602365, 99811972, 51137459.

Community unites to support youth success

IMA Kuwait recognizes meritorious students

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Kuwait, under the patronage of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs (Department of Foreign Relations), hosted its Grand Annual Students' Felicitation & Career Guidance Ceremony to honor Indian Students who achieved Academic Excellence in their 10th and 12th Grade Board Examinations.

The Event was held on Friday, 30th May 2025, at the prestigious Al Awqaf Auditorium, Reggae, and witnessed an enthusiastic turnout of Students, Parents, Educators, and Distinguished Guests. This Annual Initiative by IMA Kuwait continues to promote Academic Excellence, Educational Empowerment, and Career Guidance for the Youth of the Indian Expatriate Community in Kuwait.

An Evening of Honor and Enlightenment

The program commenced with the opening of the verification counters at 4:45 PM, ensuring an organized and welcoming experience for all attendees. The formal program began at 5:30 PM sharp, in the presence of distinguished Guest, Dignitaries, Principals and Proud Families.

In a powerful keynote session, Mr. Faizy Rahman, Centre In-Charge at the Centre for Training and Academic Guidance (CTAG), New Delhi, addressed the audience on the theme:

"Emerging Trends in Education: Pathway to What After 12th Standard"

His thought-provoking discourse explored modern educational paradigms, global career trends, and the importance of strategic decision-making in the post-secondary academic journey. Students and Parents alike were deeply engaged, gaining clarity and confidence about the road ahead.

Guest of Honor for the Event Fr. James Tuscano, Principal Don Bosco (IEAS) School delivered a heartfelt and thought-provoking address to the students. Emphasizing the pivotal roles they are poised to undertake in



Students honored for academic excellence.

their future journeys, he reflected on the tireless efforts of parents and teachers in shaping their growth and guiding their pursuit of excellence. Fr. James passionately articulated the true essence of education – not merely as academic achievement, but as a lifelong source of empowerment, purpose, and motivation. In an emotional tribute, he urged students to remember and honor those who stood by them – especially their mothers, whose silent sacrifices, from preparing nourishing meals to offering unwavering support, have been instrumental in their success. He concluded by beautifully likened a mother's devotion to a divine presence on Earth, nurturing and sustaining her child through every stage of life.

Mr. Mohammad Ali - Coordinator Community department Ministry of Islamic Affairs Kuwait, also graced the event by his presence who congratulated the students and acknowledged

IMA's efforts in hosting this special event to honor the Meritorious Students.

Recognizing Brilliance – Felicitation of Meritorious Students

The Speeches were followed by the much-anticipated 'Felicitation Ceremony'.

160 Top Ranked Students were selected on basis of their Merit, after strict scrutiny & evaluations of all Registered Students (85% being set as cut-off mark for registration) verified through their mark sheets submitted via an online link circulated during event promotion.

Each Awardee was called on stage and honored with a Certificate of Excellence and a Medal of Appreciation by the distinguished Guests & Speakers in recognition of their Outstanding Academic Achievements. Top 10 Students in each category (Grade-X & XII) were additionally presented with a Commemorative Memento recognizing their Stellar Performances.



Part of English Madrasa for Islamic Studies' Annual Day 2025 celebration.

English Madrasa for Islamic Studies marks Annual Day, honors student achievements

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The English Madrasa for Islamic Studies, Khaitan Branch, hosted its much-anticipated Annual Day 2025, bringing together students, teachers, parents and community members for a day of reflection, achievement, and celebration.

The event commenced with a soulful Quran recitation by Ihsan, setting a spiritual tone for the day. This was followed by a Welcome Note by PTA President Mohammed Arshad, who expressed gratitude to the attendees and emphasized the importance of community involvement in education. Principal Faisal KV then delivered the Preface, highlighting the madrasa's commitment to nurturing young minds with both academic and Islamic knowledge.

The Inaugural Speech was delivered by KIG General Secretary Firoz Hameed, who spoke about the significance of Islamic family values in shaping future generations and encouraged parents and students to strive for excellence in both their studies and faith.

Students showcased their talents through Islamic speeches, Powerpoint presentations, Islamic skit, and other cultural performances, demonstrating their skills.

A key highlight of the event was the award ceremony for Annual exam toppers, where outstanding students were recognized for their achievements in academic excellence, and with prizes distributed to Art Fest winners.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks and Closing Remarks de-

livered by Vice Principal Shamina Rashid, expressing gratitude to all attendees, sponsors, and organizers for their contributions to the success of the event. The event was proudly sponsored by Grand Hyper Market and Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Group with the program taking place at the Reggae Awqaf Hall.

PTA General Secretary Nooman Marakkar, Treasurer Shaikh Mohammed Sameer, Vice President Abdurahman, Assistant Secretary Sajid Lokhande, Joint Treasurer Althaf, and other Executive Members including Mohammed Yousef, Mohamed Nabeel, Mohamed Aslam, Naziya Muntaz, along with Program General Convenor Nayeem and Admin Sajid K, were present to extend their appreciation.

Kara Young makes history with back-to-back Tony wins

Tony Awards laud android rom-com 'Maybe Happy Ending' and history-making 'Purpose'



The cast and crew of 'Maybe Happy Ending' accept the award for best musical during the 78th Tony Awards on Sunday, June 8, at Radio City Music Hall in New York. (AP)



Michael Arden poses in the press room with award for best direction of a musical for 'Maybe Happy Ending' during the 78th Tony Awards on Sunday, June 8, at Radio City Music Hall in New York. (AP)

Tony winners

NEW YORK, June 9, (AP): Here are select winners at the 2025 Tony Awards, with the most recently announced awards first.

- Musical: "Maybe Happy Ending"
- Actress in a leading role in a musical: Nicole Scherzinger, "Sunset Blvd."
- Actor in a leading role in a musical: Darren Criss, "Maybe Happy Ending"
- Musical revival: "Sunset Blvd."
- Actor in a leading role in a play: Cole Escola, "Oh, Mary!"
- Direction of a musical: Michael Arden, "Maybe Happy Ending"
- Direction of a play: Sam Pinkleton, "Oh, Mary!"
- Play revival: "Eureka Day"
- Play: "Purpose"
- Actress in a featured role in a musical: Natalie Venetia Belcon, "Buena Vista Social Club"
- Actress in a featured role in a play: Kara Young, "Purpose"
- Actor in a featured role in a play: Francis Jue, "Yellow Face"
- Actress in a leading role in a play: Sarah Snook, "The Picture of Dorian Gray"
- Original score: "Maybe Happy Ending" (music: Will Aronson, lyrics: Will Aronson and Hue Park)
- Costume design of a musical: Paul Tazewell, "Death Becomes Her"
- Costume design of a play: Marg Horwell, "The Picture of Dorian Gray"
- Choreography: Patricia Delgado and Justin Peck, "Buena Vista Social Club"
- Book of a musical: Will Aronson and Hue Park, "Maybe Happy Ending"

NEW YORK, June 9, (AP): "Maybe Happy Ending," a rom-com about androids that crackles with humanity, had a definite happy ending at Sunday's Tony Awards. It won best new musical on a night when Kara Young made history as the first Black person to win two Tonys consecutively for "Purpose," which also won best new play.

Starring Darren Criss and Helen J. Shen, "Maybe Happy Ending" charts the relationship between two decommissioned robots, becoming a commentary on human themes and the passage of time. It won a leading six Tonys.

With "Purpose," a drawing-room drama about an accomplished Black family exposing hypocrisy and pressures during a snowed-in gathering, playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins caps a remarkable year: In addition to winning back-to-back Tonys - his "Appropriate" won best play revival last year - he earned the Pulitzer Prize for "Purpose."

Jacobs-Jenkins is the first Black playwright to win the category since August Wilson for "Fences" in 1987. He urged viewers to support regional theaters; "Purpose" was nurtured in Chicago.

"Theater is a sacred space that we have to honor and treasure, and it makes us united," Young said in her own acceptance speech.

Desperate

"Sunset Blvd.," with Nicole Scherzinger as a fallen screen idol desperate to reclaim her fame, won best musical revival, handing composer Andrew Lloyd Webber his first competitive Tony since 1995 - when the original show won. The current version is a stripped-down, minimalist production.

Scherzinger also won for best lead actress in a musical, muscling aside a considerable challenge from Audra McDonald in a remarkable career pivot for the former lead singer of pop group Pussycat Dolls and TV talent show judge.

"Growing up, I always felt like I didn't belong, but you all have made me feel like I belong and I have come home at last," she said. "So if there's anyone out there who feels like they don't belong, or your time hasn't come, don't give up. Just keep on giving and giving because the world needs your love and your light now more than ever."

Criss, who has starred in everything from "Glee" to "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story," won his first Tony for "Maybe Happy Ending," which he also co-produced. He said he shared it with Shen, who was not nominated.

Sarah Snook won leading actress in a play for her tireless work in "The Picture of Dorian Gray," where she plays all 26 roles.

"I don't feel alone any night that I do this show," Snook said, dismissing the idea of it as a one-woman show. "There are so many people onstage making it work and behind the stage



Sarah Snook wins the best leading actress in a play award for 'The Picture of Dorian Gray.' (AP)



Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, (center), accepts the award for best play for 'Purpose' during the Tony Awards. (AP)



Nicole Scherzinger accepts best leading actress in a musical award for 'Sunset Blvd.' (AP)

making it work."

Downtown cabaret star Cole Escola won best actor in a play for their deranged, repressed and over-the-top ahistorical version of Mary Todd Lincoln in "Oh Mary!," beating such Hollywood stars as George Clooney and Daniel Dae Kim. Sam Pinkleton won best director for "Oh, Mary!" and thanked Escola, saying they taught him, "Do what you love, not what you think people want to see."

Francis Jue won best featured actor in a play for the revival of "Yellow Face." He said he was gifted his tuxedo from another Asian actor who wanted him to wear it to the Tonys.

"I'm only here because of the encouragement and inspiration of generations of wonderful deserving Asian artists who came before me," he said.

Jak Malone won best featured actor in a musical for the British import "Operation Mincemeat: A New Musical," playing a woman every performance. He hoped his win could be powerful advocacy for trans



Natalie Venetia Belcon wins best featured actress in a musical award for 'Buena Vista Social Club.' (AP)



Darren Criss accepts best leading actor in a musical award for 'Maybe Happy Ending.' (AP)

rights. "Eureka Day," Jonathan Spector's social satire about well-meaning liberals debating a school's vaccine policy, won best play revival.

The original cast of "Hamilton," including creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, did a victory lap dressed in black to mark the show's 10th anniversary on Broadway, with a medley including "My Shot," "The Schuyler Sisters," "History Has Its Eyes on You" and "The Room Where It Happens."

Unsure

First-time host Cynthia Erivo kicked off the show from her Radio City Music Hall dressing room, unsure of her opening number. As she made her way through the backstage warren, she ran into various people offering advice until she reached Oprah Winfrey, who advised, "The only thing you need to do is just be yourself."

Erivo then appeared at the stage in a red, spangly gown with white accents, hip cocked, as she launched into the slow-burning original "Sometimes All



Kara Young accepts the award for best performance by an actress in a play for 'Purpose.' (AP)



Sara Bareilles speaks during Act One of the 78th Tony Awards on Sunday. (AP)

a moving in memoriam, singing "The Sun Will Come Out" from "Annie," and honoring its composer Charles Strouse as well as George Wendt, Richard Chamberlain, Athol Fugard, Joan Plowright, Quincy Jones, Linda Lavin, James Earl Jones and Gavin Creel.

Erivo was an amiable host, at one point appearing in the second mezzanine to comment that everyone likes the view from theater balconies - except perhaps Abraham Lincoln. She had fun with Winfrey later on, telling her to check under her chair, where she found a gift bag with a toy automobile. "You get a car!" Erivo cracked.

Awards

The best book and best score awards went to "Maybe Happy Ending," with lyrics written by Hue Park and music composed by Will Aronson. Its director, Michael Arden, won - "Happy Pride!" he said - and it also picked up best scenic design.

Justin Peck and Patricia Delgado won for choreographing "Buena Vista Social Club" and Peck noted a song from the renowned original album was played at their wedding. The musical takes its inspiration from Wim Wenders' 1999 Oscar-nominated documentary on the making of the Cuban album. It won four Tonys.

Best costumes in a play went to Marg Hornwell for "The Picture of Dorian Gray," while "Death Becomes Her" won the musical counterpart for Paul Tazewell months after he became the first Black man to win an Oscar for designing costumes.

Harvey Fierstein, the four-time Tony winner behind "Torch Song Trilogy" and "Kinky Boots," was honored with a lifetime achievement Tony and became emotional during his speech.

"There is nothing quite like bathing in the applause of a curtain call, but when I bow, I bow to the audience, with gratitude, knowing that without them I might as well be lip-syncing showtunes in my bedroom mirror," he said. "And so I dedicate this award to the people in the dark."



Oprah Winfrey presents the award for best performance by an actress in a leading role in a musical. (AP)



Host Cynthia Erivo speaks during the 78th Tony Awards, June 8, in New York. (AP)

Attenborough’s film uncovers underwater crisis and urges action

‘Ocean’ is a brutal, beautiful wake-up call from the sea

NICE, France, June 9, (AP): An ominous chain unspools through the water. Then comes chaos. A churning cloud of mud erupts as a net plows the seafloor, wrenching rays, fish and a squid from their home in a violent swirl of destruction. This is industrial bottom trawling. It’s not CGI. It’s real. And it’s legal.

“Ocean With David Attenborough” is a brutal reminder of how little we see and how much is at stake. The film is both a sweeping celebration of marine life and a stark exposé of the forces pushing the ocean toward collapse.

The British naturalist and broadcaster, now 99, anchors the film with a deeply personal reflection: “After living for nearly a hundred years on this planet, I now understand that the most important place on Earth is not on land, but at sea.”

The film traces Attenborough’s lifetime - an era of unprecedented ocean discovery - through the lush beauty of coral reefs, kelp forests and deep-sea wanderers, captured in breathtaking, revelatory ways.

But this is not the Attenborough film we grew up with. As the environment unravels, so too has the tone of his storytelling. “Ocean” is more urgent, more unflinching. Never-before-seen footage of mass coral bleaching, dwindling fish stocks and industrial-scale exploitation reveals just how vulnerable the sea has become. The film’s power lies not only in what it shows, but in how rarely such destruction is witnessed.

“I think we’ve got to the point where we’ve changed so much of the natural world that it’s almost remiss if you don’t show it,” co-director Colin Butfield said. “Nobody’s ever professionally filmed bottom trawling before. And yet it’s happening practically everywhere.”

The practice is not only legal, he adds, but often subsidized.

“For too long, everything in the ocean has been invisible,” Butfield said. “Most people picture fishing as small boats heading out from a local harbor. They’re not picturing factories at sea scraping the seabed.”

In one harrowing scene, mounds of unwanted catch are dumped back into the sea already dead. About 10 million tons (9 million metrics tonnes) of marine life are caught and discarded each year as bycatch. In some bottom trawl fisheries, discards make up more than half the haul.

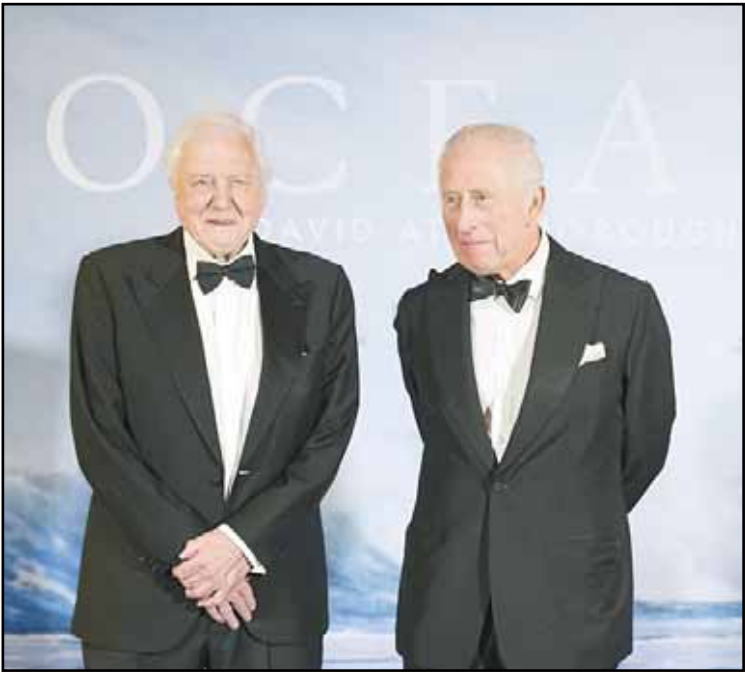
Still, “Ocean” is no eulogy. Its final act offers a stirring glimpse of what recovery can look like: kelp forests rebounding under protection, vast marine reserves teeming with life and the world’s largest albatross colony thriving in Hawaii’s Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. These aren’t fantasies; they’re evidence of what the ocean can become again, if given the chance.

Timed to World Oceans Day and the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, the film arrives amid a growing global push to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030 - a goal endorsed by more than 190 countries. But today, just 2.7% of the ocean is effectively protected from harmful industrial activity.

The film’s message is clear: The laws of today are failing the seas. So-called “protected” areas often aren’t. And banning destructive practices like bottom trawling is not just feasible - it’s imperative.

As always, Attenborough is a voice of moral clarity. “This could be the moment of change,” he says. “Ocean” gives us the reason to believe - and the evidence to demand - that it must be.

“Ocean” premieres Saturday on National Geographic in the US and streams globally on Disney+ and Hulu beginning Sunday.



Britain’s King Charles III meets broadcaster and biologist David Attenborough, (left), as he attends the ‘Ocean with David Attenborough’ film premiere in London, May 6, 2025. (AP)

Film



This image released by Lionsgate shows Ana de Armas in a scene from ‘Ballerina.’ (AP)

‘Lilo & Stitch’ leads again, ‘Ballerina’ takes No. 2

In the box office showdown between a deadly assassin and a chaotic CG alien, “Lilo & Stitch” still had the edge. The Disney juggernaut celebrated a third weekend at the top of the charts, while the John Wick spinoff “Ballerina” did not jeté as high as expected.

According to studio estimates Sunday, “From the World of John Wick: Ballerina” earned \$25 million from 3,409 theaters in the US and Canada. Several weeks ago it was tracking to open in the \$35 to \$40 million range, but that was adjusted down several times. Ultimately, it still came in lower than forecasts. The movie, directed by Len Wiseman, makes a sideline character out of Keanu Reeves’ John Wick and focuses on Ana de Armas. It takes place during the events of “John Wick 3.”

The box office performance is a bit perplexing result considering that “Ballerina” got good critic reviews and audience exit polls. Conventional wisdom would say that word of mouth might have given it a boost over the weekend. But, recently, opening weekend isn’t the end all that it used to be. “Ballerina” could be in the game for the long haul.

“Even though its part of the John Wick franchise, it’s playing like a true original. And that’s not a bad thing,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “This was not a movie that was ever going to open like a ‘Mission: Impossible’ or another huge franchise.”

The Lionsgate release, a Thunder Road Films and 87Eleven Entertainment production, had a hefty production price tag reported to be in the \$90 million range. But much of that cost has already been offset by foreign pre-sales. Internationally, it earned \$26 million from 82 countries, bringing its global opening to \$51 million.

As the first spinoff, it’s the second lowest opening of the five-film franchise - above only the first film which opened just over \$14 million in 2014, which does not account for inflation. The franchise overall has grossed more than \$1 billion worldwide. (AP)

Tech reshapes creative storytelling

Film fest highlights AI’s cinematic power

NEW YORK, June 9, (AP): Artificial intelligence’s use in movie making is exploding. And a young film festival, now in its junior year, is showcasing what this technology can do on screen today.

The annual AI Film Festival organized by Runway, a company that specializes in AI-generated video, kicked off in New York Thursday night with ten short films from around the world making their debut on the big screen.

“Three years ago, this was such a crazy idea,” Runway CEO Cristóbal Valenzuela told the crowd. “Today, millions of people are making billions of videos using tools we only dreamed of.”

The film festival itself has grown significantly since its 2023 debut. About 300 people submitted films when it first began, Valenzuela said, compared to about 6,000 submissions received this year.

The one and half-hour lineup stretched across a range of creative styles and ambitious themes - with Jacob Adler’s “Total Pixel Space” taking home the festival’s top prize. The 9-minute and 28-second film questions how many possible images - real or not - exist in the digital space, and uses math to calculate a colossal number. A stunning series of images, ranging from the familiar life moments to those that completely bend reality, gives viewers a glimpse of what’s out there.

Meanwhile, Andrew Salter’s “Jailbird,” which snagged second place, chronicles a chicken’s journey - from the bird’s perspective - to a human prison in the United Kingdom to take part in a joint-rehabilitation program. And “One,” a futuristic story by Ricardo Villavicencio and Edward Saatchi about interplanetary travel followed in third place.

The 10 films shown were finalists selected from thousands submitted to Runway’s AI Film Festival this year. The shorts will also be shown at screenings held in Los Angeles and Paris next week.

How AI is used and executed is a factor judges evaluate when determining festival winners. But not every film entered was made entirely using AI. While submission criteria requires each movie include the use of AI-generated video, there’s no set threshold, meaning some films can take a more “mixed media” approach - such as combining live shots of actors or real-life images and sounds with AI-generated elements.

“We’re trying to encourage people to explore and experiment with it,” Valenzuela said in an interview prior to Thursday’s screening.

Creating a coherent film using generative AI is no easy feat. It can take a long list of directions and numerous, detailed prompts to get even a short scene to make sense and look consistent. Still, the scope of what this kind of technology can do has grown significantly since Runway’s first AI Film Festival in 2023 - and Valenzuela says that’s reflected in today’s submissions. While there are still limits, AI-generated video is becoming more and more life-like and realistic.

Runway encourages the use of its own AI tools for films entered into its festival, but creators are also allowed to turn to other resources and tools as they put together the films - and across the industry, tools that use AI to create videos spanning from text, image and/or audio prompts have rapidly improved over recent years, while becoming increasingly available.

“The way (this technology) has lived within film and media culture, and pop culture, has really accelerated,” said Joshua Glick, an associate professor of film and electronic arts at Bard College.

He adds that Runway’s film fest, which is among a handful of showcases aimed at spotlighting AI’s creative capabilities, arrives as companies in this space are searching for heightened “legitimacy and recognition” for the tools they are creating - with aims to cement partnerships in Hollywood as a result.

AI’s presence in Hollywood is already far-reaching, and perhaps more expansive than many moviegoers realize. Beyond “headline-grabbing” (and at times controversial) applications that big-budget films have done to “de-age” actors or create eye-catching stunts, Glick notes, this technology is often incorporated in an array of post-production editing, digital touch-ups and additional behind-the-scenes work like sorting footage.

Industry executives repeatedly point to how AI can improve efficiency in the movie making process - allowing creatives to perform a task that once took hours, for example, in a matter of minutes - and foster further innovation.

Still, AI’s rapid growth and adoption has also heightened anxieties around the burgeoning technology - notably its implications for workers.

The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees - which represents behind-the-scenes entertainment workers in the U.S. and Canada - has “long embraced new technologies that enhance storytelling,” Vanessa Holtgrewe, IATSE’s international vice president, said in an emailed statement. “But we’ve also been clear: AI must not be used to undermine workers’ rights or livelihoods.”

IATSE and other unions have continued to meet with major studios and establish provisions in efforts to provide guardrails around the use of AI. The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists has also been vocal about AI protections for its members, a key sticking point in recent labor actions.

For Runway’s AI Film Festival, Valenzuela hopes screening films that incorporate AI-generated video can showcase what’s possible - and how he says this technology can help, not hurt, creatives in the work they do today.

“It’s natural to fear change ... (But) it’s important to understand what you can do with it,” Valenzuela said. Even filmmaking, he adds, was born “because of scientific breakthroughs that at the time were very uncomfortable for many people.”



Runway’s third-annual AI Film Festival kicks off with a screening at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall in New York on Thursday, June 5. (AP)

Storehouse breaks rules

V&A lets visitors touch millennia of creativity

LONDON, June 9, (AP): A museum is like an iceberg. Most of it is out of sight.

Most big collections have only a fraction of their items on display, with the rest locked away in storage. But not at the new V&A East Storehouse, where London’s Victoria and Albert Museum has opened up its storerooms for visitors to view - and in many cases touch - the items within.

The 16,000-square-meter (170,000-square-foot) building, bigger than 30 basketball courts, holds more than 250,000 objects, 350,000 books and 1,000 archives. Wandering its huge, three-story collections hall feels like a trip to IKEA, but with treasures at every turn.

The V&A is Britain’s national museum of design, performance and applied arts, and the storehouse holds aisle after aisle of open shelves lined with everything from ancient Egyptian shoes to Roman pottery, ancient Indian sculptures, Japanese armor, Modernist furniture, a Piaggio scooter and a brightly painted garbage can from the Glastonbury Festival.

“It’s 5,000 years of creativity,” said Kate Parsons, the museum’s director of collection care and access. It took more than a year, and 379 truckloads, to move the objects from the museum’s former storage facility in west London to the new site.

In the museum’s biggest innovation, anyone can book a one-on-one appointment with any object, from a Vivienne Westwood mohair sweater to a tiny Japanese netsuke figurine. Most of the items can even be handled, with exceptions for hazardous materials, such as Victorian wallpaper that contains arsenic.

The Order an Object service offers “a behind-the-scenes, very personal, close interaction” with the collection, Parsons said as she showed off one of the most requested items so far: a 1954 pink silk taffeta Balenciaga evening gown. Nearby in one of the study rooms were a Bob Mackie-designed military tunic worn by Elton John on his 1981 world tour and two silk kimonos laid out ready for a visit.

Parsons said there has been “a phenomenal response” from the public since the building opened at the end of May. Visitors have ranged from people seeking inspiration for their weddings to art students and “someone last week who was using equipment to measure the thread count of an 1850 dress.” She says strangers who have come to view different objects often strike up conversations.



A member of public looks at a work of art in the collection at the V&A Storehouse in London, Thursday, June 5. (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: Warner Bros. Discovery will split into two public companies by next year, calving off its cable operations from its streaming service.

Warner Bros. Discovery said Monday that Streaming & Studios will include Warner Bros. Television, Warner Bros. Motion Picture Group, DC Studios, HBO, and HBO Max, as well as their film and television libraries.

The Global Networks company will include CNN, TNT Sports in the US, and Discovery, too free-to-air channels across Europe, and digital products such as the Discovery+ streaming service and Bleacher Report. (AP)

NEW YORK: The jury in Harvey Weinstein’s New York sex crimes retrial is set to resume deliberations Monday, after two days without reaching a verdict the prior week.

The panel of seven women and five men on Thursday began weighing two counts of criminal sex act and one count of rape against the former movie mogul. Weinstein, 73, has pleaded not guilty.

On Friday, one juror asked to be removed from the case, saying he felt other jurors were treating one member of the panel in an “unfair and unjust” way. The judge told him he had to keep deliberating and also denied a defense request for a mistrial over the issue. (AP)

NEW YORK: Michelle Obama has a new book out this fall that offers a fresh take on her public life, a story not of politics but of fashion.

Obama announced on social media Thursday that “The Look” will be released Nov. 4 by the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House. With commentators ranging from Obama to stylist Meredith Koop to makeup artist Carl Ray, “The Look” traces Obama’s style choices throughout the rise of her husband, Barack Obama, to the presidency, and into their post-White House years.

During her eight years as first lady, fashionistas praised her for everything from her cardigan sweaters to her sleeveless dresses to her favoring ballet flats over high heels. (AP)

NEW YORK: Former White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre has a book out this fall that promises a close look at President Biden’s decision not to run for reelection and calls for thinking beyond the two-party system.

Jean-Pierre herself has switched her affiliation to independent after working in two Democratic administrations, according to Legacy Lit, a Hachette Book Group imprint that will publish “Independent: A Look Inside a Broken White House. Outside the Party Lines” on Oct. 21.

“Until January 20, I was responsible for speaking on behalf of the President of the United States,” Jean-Pierre, the first Black woman and openly gay person to hold the position of White House press secretary, said in a statement released Wednesday. (AP)

NIH policies harm global health, scientists warn

NIH scientists protest Trump’s cuts to health research

WASHINGTON, June 9, (AP): In his confirmation hearings to lead the National Institutes of Health, Jay Bhattacharya pledged his openness to views that might conflict with his own. “Dissent,” he said, “is the very essence of science.” That commitment is being put to the test.

On Monday, scores of scientists at the agency sent their Trump-appointed leader a letter titled the Bethesda Declaration, a frontal challenge to “policies that undermine the NIH mission, waste public resources, and harm the health of Americans and people across the globe.” It says: “We dissent.”

In a capital where insiders often insist on anonymity to say such things publicly, more than 90 NIH researchers, program directors, branch chiefs and scientific review officers put their signatures on the letter - and their careers on the line.

They went public in the face of a “culture of fear and suppression” they say President Donald Trump’s administration has spread through the federal civil service. “We are compelled to speak up when our leadership prioritizes political momentum over human safety and faithful stewardship of public resources,” the declaration says.

Named for the agency’s headquarters location in Maryland, the Bethesda Declaration details upheaval in the world’s premier public health research institution over the course of mere months.

It addresses the abrupt termination of 2,100 research grants valued at more than \$12 billion and some of the human costs that have resulted, such as cutting off medication regimens to participants in clinical trials or leaving them with unmonitored device implants.

In one case, an NIH-supported study of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis in Haiti had to be stopped, ceasing antibiotic treatment mid-course for patients.

In a number of cases, trials that were mostly completed were rendered useless without the money to finish and analyze the work, the letter says. “Ending a \$5 million research study when it is 80% complete does not save \$1 million,” it says, “it wastes \$4 million.”

The four-page letter, addressed to Bhattacharya but also sent to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and members of Congress who oversee the NIH, was endorsed by 250 anonymous employees of the agency besides the 92 who signed.

Jenna Norton, who oversees health disparity research at the agency’s National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, recently appeared at a forum by Sen. Angela Alsobrooks, D-Md., to talk about what’s happening at the NIH.

At the event, she masked to conceal her identity. Now the mask is off. She was



This photo obtained by The Associated Press shows cardboard tombstones symbolizing canceled research grants at the NIH Visitors Center in Bethesda, Md., Saturday, on June 7. (AP)

a lead organizer of the declaration.

“I want people to know how bad things are at NIH,” Norton told The Associated Press.

The signers said they modeled their indictment after Bhattacharya’s own Great Barrington Declaration of October 2020, when he was a professor at Stanford University Medical School.

His declaration drew together likeminded infectious disease epidemiologists and public health scientists who dissented from what they saw as excessive COVID-19 lockdown policies and felt ostracized by the larger public health community

that pushed those policies, including the NIH.

“He is proud of his statement, and we are proud of ours,” said Sarah Kobrin, a branch chief at the NIH’s National Cancer Institute who signed the Bethesda Declaration.

As chief of the Health Systems and Interventions Research Branch, Kobrin provides scientific oversight of researchers across the country who’ve been funded by the cancer institute or want to be. But sudden cuts in personnel and money have shifted her work from improving cancer care research to what she sees as minimizing its destruction. “So much of it is gone - my work,” she said.

The 21-year NIH veteran said she signed because “I don’t want to be a collaborator” in the political manipulation of biomedical science.

Ian Morgan, a postdoctoral fellow with the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, also signed the declaration. “We have a saying in basic science,” he said. “You go and become a physician if you want to treat thousands of patients. You go and become a researcher if you want to save billions of patients.

“We are doing the research that is going to go and create the cures of the future,” he added. But that won’t happen, he said, if Trump’s Republican administration prevails with its searing cuts to grants.

The NIH employees interviewed by the AP emphasized they were speaking for themselves and not for their institutes or the NIH.

Employees from all 27 NIH institutes and centers gave their support to the declaration. Most who signed are intimately involved with evaluating and overseeing extramural research grants.

Some NIH employees have previously come forward in televised protests to air grievances, and many walked out of Bhattacharya’s town hall with staff. The declaration is the first cohesive effort to register agency-wide dismay with the NIH’s direction.

A Signal group became the place for participants to sort through NIH chatter on Reddit, discern rumor from reality and offer mutual support. The declaration took shape in that group and as word spread neighbor to neighbor in NIH offices.

The dissenters remind Bhattacharya in their letter of his oft-stated ethic that academic freedom must be a lynchpin in science.

With that in place, he said in a statement in April, “NIH scientists can be certain they are afforded the ability to engage in open, academic discourse as part of their official duties and in their personal capacities without risk of official interference, professional disadvantage or workplace retaliation.”



Chironomid midges are seen at the site of the World Exposition in Osaka, western Japan on May 21, 2025. (AP)

Legionella bacteria detected

Osaka Expo water shows stopped due to bacteria

TOKYO, June 9, (AP): Popular daily fountain shows and a shallow pool area at Expo 2025 in Osaka have been temporarily suspended due to bacterial contamination that required cleaning and safety checks, the event organisers said on Monday.

The aquatic show at the Water Plaza has been suspended since June 4 when legionella bacteria of up to 20 times the legal limit was detected in the water, a week after lower levels of contamination had been found.

Another water area, called the Forest of Tranquility - a shallow reservoir over 2.3 hectares (5.7 acres) where visitors can soak their feet and relax - has also been closed for cleaning due to the legionella contamination, which can cause pneumonia.

The bacteria contamination is the latest problem hitting the Expo site, where swarms of midges have been bothering visitors for weeks.

The venue, built on a former industrial waste burial site in the Osaka Bay in western Japan, where methane gas was detected days before the opening in April.

The use of insecticides have so far not effectively blocked the midges.

Organizers say they now believe the source of the midges is the Water Plaza and that additional measures are under way, such as installing an insect screen.

Organizers have also taken anti-bacterial measures at the water areas, including increased sanitation, cleaning drainage pipes and increasing water circulation, to improve water quality at the reservoir and get approval for a reopening from the health authorities.

Hiroyuki Ishige, secretary general of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition, said the organizers should have acted more quickly to close down the water area after detecting increased levels of contamination.

“We deeply apologize over the inconveniences we have caused to the visitors who were looking forward to the (water) shows,” Ishige told a media briefing on Monday.

Organizers says there has been no reported health issues.

The Osaka Expo involves participants from more than 160 countries, regions and organizations who are showcasing their futuristic exhibits. Organizers had expected 28 million visitors through mid-October.

‘Ocean is critical for Earth’s climate, sustaining life’

UN Ocean meeting in France calls to turn promises into protection

NICE, France, June 9, (AP): The third UN Ocean Conference opened Monday as pressure mounts for nations to turn decades of promises into real protection for the sea.

French President Emmanuel Macron, delivering the keynote address in the host city of Nice, urged countries to move “from words to deeds” in safeguarding the oceans. He warned that “the fight for the ocean is at the heart of the years-long battles we’ve been waging - for biodiversity, for climate, for our environment and for our health.”

The conference comes as just 2.7% of the ocean is effectively protected from destructive extractive activities, according to the nonprofit Marine Conservation Institute. That’s far below the target agreed under the “30x30” pledge to conserve 30% of land and sea by 2030.

Atop this year’s agenda is ratification of the High Seas Treaty. Adopted in 2023, the treaty would for the first time allow nations to establish marine protected areas in international waters, which cover nearly two-thirds of the ocean and are largely ungoverned.

Regulation

“It’s the Wild West out there with countries just fishing anywhere without any sort of regulation, and that needs to change,” said Mauro Randone, regional projects manager at the World Wildlife Fund’s Mediterranean Marine Initiative. “The high seas belong to everyone and no one practically at the same time, and countries are finally committing to establish some rules.”

The ocean is critical in stabilizing Earth’s climate and sustaining life. It generates 50% of the oxygen we breathe, absorbs around 30% of carbon dioxide emissions and captures more than 90% of the excess heat caused by those emissions. Without a healthy ocean, experts warn, climate goals will remain out of reach.

The treaty will only come into force once 60 countries ratify it. As of Monday, just 32 countries had. Advocates hope UNOC can build enough momentum to cross the threshold, which would allow for the first official



French President Emmanuel Macron, (right), speaks as he sits with Costa Rica’s President Rodrigo Chaves Robles, (center), and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres during the opening of the third UN Ocean Conference in Nice, French Riviera, Monday, June 9. (AP)

Oceans Conference of Parties.

“Two-thirds of the ocean is areas beyond national jurisdiction - that’s half our planet,” said Minna Epps, director of global ocean policy the International Union for Conservation of Nature. “We cannot possibly protect 30% of the ocean if it doesn’t include the high seas.”

South Korea, France and the European Union have championed the treaty, but most large ocean nations have yet to ratify it, including the rest of the G20. Thousands of attendees are expected in Nice - from delegates and heads of state to scientists and industry leaders. The United States has yet to confirm a formal delegation.

Beyond new commitments, the conference highlights the growing gap between marine protection declarations and real-world conservation.

France, the conference co-host, claims to have surpassed the 30% target for marine protection. But environmental groups say only 3% of French waters are fully protected from harmful activities like bottom trawling and industrial fishing.

In 2024 alone, more than 100 bottom-trawling vessels were recorded

spending over 17,000 hours fishing within France’s six marine nature parks, according to ocean advocacy group Oceana.

“The government declares these as protected areas, but this is a lie,” said Enric Sala, founder of National Geographic Pristine Seas marine reserve project. “Most of it is political box-ticking. It’s all paper parks.”

That criticism is echoed across the continent. A new World Wildlife Fund report found that although more than 11% of Europe’s marine area is designated for protection, just 2% of EU waters have management plans in place.

Fabien Boileau, director of marine protected areas at France’s Office for Biodiversity, acknowledged the presence of bottom trawling in French protected areas, but said it was part of a phased strategy.

“In France, we made the choice to designate large marine protected areas with relatively low levels of regulation at first, betting that stronger protections would be developed over time through local governance,” he said. “Today, we’re gradually increasing the number of zones with stricter protections within those areas.”

Egg recall

Cholera kills 7 in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, June 9, (AP): Ivory Coast announced a cholera outbreak on Thursday, confirming seven deaths from the disease.

Daniel Kouadio Ekra, head of the National Institute of Public Hygiene, confirmed the epidemic, saying stool sample analyses conducted by the Pasteur Institute of Côte d’Ivoire, detected “cholera vibrio.”

“On May 25, 2025, the Port-Bouët-Vridi health district reported five deaths in the village of Vridi Akobrate,” he said.

So far, 45 cases have been recorded in Vridi Akobrate, in the outskirts of Abidjan, the capital, including the seven fatalities. All of the deaths occurred within the community in the first two days.

Ivory Coast has experienced several major cholera epidemics since the 1990s.

The World Health Organization calls cholera a disease of poverty, as it thrives where there is poor sanitation and a lack of clean water. Africa has had eight times as many deaths this year as the Middle East, the second-most affected region.

Historically vulnerable, Africa is even more at risk as it faces the worst impacts of climate change as well as the effect of the El Niño weather phenomenon, health experts say. In what’s become a perfect storm, there’s also a global shortage of cholera vaccines, which are needed only in poorer countries.

□ □ □

Salmonella: A salmonella outbreak linked to a large egg recall has made dozens of people sick in seven states in the West and Midwest, federal health officials said Saturday.

The August Egg Company recalled about 1.7 million brown organic and brown cage-free egg varieties distributed to grocery stores between February and May because of the potential for salmonella, according to a posted announcement Friday on the Food and Drug Administration’s website.

At least 79 people in seven states have gotten a strain of salmonella that was linked to the eggs, and 21 people have been hospitalized, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

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Niemann claims fourth LIV Golf victory of season

Fox wins thrilling playoff to capture Canadian Open title

CALEDON, Ontario, June 9, (AP): Ryan Fox of New Zealand won for the second time in five weeks on the PGA Tour with another memorable shot in a playoff, this time a 3-wood to 7 feet on the fourth extra hole Sunday to beat Sam Burns in the RBC Canadian Open.

Fox won the Myrtle Beach Classic last month by chipping in for birdie to win a three-man playoff. This one on the TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley took a little longer.

What turned out to be the winning shot might be more memorable. Fox smoked a 3-wood that landed softly just left of the pin and settled 7 feet away. Burns pulled his 3-wood some 55 feet left of the front right pin. He ran his eagle putt 8 feet by and missed that one.

Fox missed his eagle try before tapping in for birdie.

Fox holed a birdie putt from just inside 18 feet on the par-5 18th in regulation for a 4-under 66 that allowed him to join Sam Burns at 18-under 262. Burns had finished some two hours earlier with a birdie on the final hole for a 62.

They played the 18th four more times - the PGA Tour moved the pin position from far left to front right after two extra holes - and there was nothing compelling about the extra holes.

Fox delivered the goods on the final hole and now has two wins in just over a month. The victory moved the 38-year-old Fox from No. 75 to No. 32 in the world, getting him into the U.S. Open next week for being among the top 60 in the world ranking.

Joaquin Niemann of Chile won LIV Golf Virginia for his fourth victory in the Saudi-funded tour's first eight events of the season, closing with an 8-under 63 to beat Graeme McDowell (66) and Anirban Lahiri (68) by a stroke.

Niemann broke out of a logjam at the top with birdies on Nos. 14-17 and parred



Ryan Fox poses with the championship trophy after winning the RBC Canadian Open golf tournament in Caledon, Ontario. (AP)

the par-4 18th to finish at 15-under 198 at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club. The 26-year-old Niemann also won this year in Australia, Singapore and Mexico. He

has six career LIV victories after winning twice on the PGA Tour.

Bryson DeChambeau, preparing for his U.S. Open title defense at Oakmont, had a 65 to tie for fourth with Phil Mickelson (65) and Bubba Watson (67) at 13 under.

Jennifer Kupcho closed with an 8-foot birdie putt in light rain to hold off Ilhee Lee in the ShopRite LPGA Classic, ending a drought of nearly three years without winning.

Kupcho, whose four LPGA Tour titles include a major at the Chevron Championship, birdied three of the last five holes for a 5-under 66. She took the lead with a 20-foot birdie putt from just off the green on the 14th, and avoided a playoff with the putt on 18.

Lee was the 36-hole leader going into the final round on a rain-soaked Bay Course at Seaview Hotel, so drenched that the par-3 17th was moved up to play only 76 yards. She had two early bogeys and shot 39 on the front to fall back.

But the South Korean finished strong, with five birdies on the back, including the last two holes, for a 68. It wasn't enough to catch Kupcho, who finished at 15-under 198 in one of only two LPGA events contested over 54 holes.

Connor Syme of Scotland captured his first European tour title when he held steady for a 1-under 70 for a two-shot victory over Joakim Lagergren on Sweden in the KLM Open.

Syme went into the final round with a two-shot lead and Lagergren never got any closer at The International course. The Swede was still in range with four holes to play, but Lagergren came up woefully short on the par-5 15th and took two to reach the green, making bogey.

Lagergren also missed an 8-foot par putt on the par-3 17th to fall four shots behind. He closed with an eagle for a 70.

Alcaraz completes incredible comeback for 5th Grand Slam



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates with ball boys and girls after winning the final match of the French Tennis Open against Italy's Jannik Sinner at the Roland-Garros Stadium in Paris. (AP)

Spaniard saves 3 match points against Sinner

PARIS, June 9, (AP): Bad starts in Grand Slam finals are nothing new for Carlos Alcaraz, and each time it's happened, he has won the tournament anyway.

But not in such dramatic style as Sunday's French Open final, when the Spaniard rallied from two sets down and saved three match points to beat top-ranked Jannik Sinner 4-6, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (10-2) for his fifth major title in as many finals.

It was Alcaraz's second straight French Open title with a comeback, after trailing 2-1 in sets to Alexander Zverev in last year's final, and a third major title from behind, following his five-set win against Novak Djokovic in the 2023 Wimbledon final.

"When the situations are against you, then you have to keep fighting. It's a Grand Slam final, it's no time to be tired, no time to give up," Alcaraz said. "Do I enjoy that? The real champions are made in those situations."

In producing one of the greatest comebacks in the history of the clay-court tournament on Sunday, he emulated Djokovic's feat from the 2021 final at Roland-Garros - when the now 24-time major winner fought back from two sets down to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas.

"Today it was all about the belief in myself," Alcaraz said.

He became just the ninth player to rally from two sets down and win



Italy's Jannik Sinner returns to Spain's Carlos Alcaraz during the final match of the French Tennis Open at the Roland-Garros Stadium in Paris. (AP)

a Grand Slam final in the Open Era, which began in 1968. The first was Bjorn Borg in 1974 against Manuel Orantes at the French Open, a feat also achieved by Ivan Lendl and Andre Agassi. Rafael Nadal also did so, at the Australian Open, as did Sinner.

It was the first time that Sinner had lost a Grand Slam final, but the fifth time in succession he has now lost to Alcaraz, who clinched the 20th title of his career at the age of 22.

It was also the longest-ever French Open final - 5 hours, 29 minutes - in the Open Era. It was so tight that Sinner won 193 points, Alcaraz 192.

It might not have been close to those numbers.

After 3 hours, 43 minutes, Sinner had his first match point. But with just

over five hours since the match began, Alcaraz served for the title at 5-4 up.

The drama was still not over.

Sinner made a remarkable retrieve from yet another superb Alcaraz drop shot. At the very limit he could stretch to, Sinner glided the ball over the net, with the ball landing with the softness of an autumn leaf and out of Alcaraz's reach to make it 15-40.

When Sinner won the game to make it 5-5, it was his turn to milk the applause, and he was two points away from victory in the 12th game, with Alcaraz on serve and at 15-30 and at deuce.

But Alcaraz made a staggering cross-court backhand to make it 6-6 and force a tiebreaker, with the crowd going wild when Alcaraz's cross-court

winner made it 4-0.

"Just amazing, the support you have given me today," Alcaraz said. "During the whole tournament."

Alcaraz won the match with a superb forehand pass down the line, fell onto his back to celebrate, then rushed over to dance and hug the team members in his box.

"I'm very happy for you, and you deserve it, so congrats," the 23-year-old Sinner told Alcaraz. "It's an amazing trophy, so I won't sleep tonight very well, but it's okay."

Sinner may have nightmares about the ninth game of the fourth set.

Serving to stay in the match at 5-3 down, Alcaraz trailed 0-40 to give Sinner three match points.

On the second match point, and with Alcaraz on second serve, he hit a hurried backhand which landed just out. He then hit a forehand into the net for another unforced error, making it deuce.

The crowd chanted "Carlos, Carlos," and roared when Alcaraz hit an ace, then gave him a standing ovation when his audacious forehand down the line went in - to win that game - and again when he broke Sinner's serve to level at 5-5.

"That's what the real champions have done in their whole careers. Not being afraid," Alcaraz said. "That's why I had my best tennis in crucial moments."

Despite having just lost a chance to win another major, Sinner showed great sportsmanship to give Alcaraz the point for a 30-0 lead in the 11th game.

Gibbs matches season best

Hamlin stays hot with victory at Michigan

BROOKLYN, Mich., June 9, (AP): Denny Hamlin is pulling off quite a juggling act.

Hamlin outlasted the competition at Michigan International Speedway for his third NASCAR Cup Series victory of the season and 57th of his career, juggling his roles as a driver, expectant father and co-owner of a racing team that's suing NASCAR.

"The tackle box is full," Hamlin said Sunday. "There's all kinds of stuff going on."

Hamlin, in the No. 11 Toyota, went low to pass William Byron on the 197th of 200 laps and pulled away from the pack to win by more than a second over Chris Buescher.

"Just worked over the guys one by one, giving them different looks," he said.

Ty Gibbs finished third, matching a season best, followed by Bubba Wallace and Kyle Larson.

The 44-year-old Hamlin was prepared to leave his team to join his fiancée, Jordan Fish, who is due to give birth to their third child, a boy. If she was in labor by Lap 50 or sooner at Michigan, he was prepared to leave the track.

Hamlin said he would skip next week's race in Mexico City if necessary to witness the birth.

To add something else to Hamlin's plate, he is also co-owner of 23XI Racing with Michael Jordan, which is involved in a lawsuit against NASCAR.

He drives for Joe Gibbs Racing, which hadn't won at Michigan in a decade. "I think it's the most underrated track that we go to," said Hamlin, who has won three times on the 2-mile oval.

Hamlin became JGR's winningest driver, surpassing Kyle Busch's 56 victories, and the 10th driver in NASCAR history to win after his 700th start.

"It feels good because I'm going to hate it when I'm not at the level I'm at now," he said. "I will certainly retire very quickly after that."

Hamlin's team set him up with enough fuel to win while many drivers, including Byron, ran out of gas late in the race.

"It really stings," said Byron, the points leader, who was a season-worst 28th. "We just burned more (fuel) and not able to do much about that."

Hamlin, meanwhile, wasn't on empty until his celebratory burnout was cut short.

Pole-sitter Chase Briscoe was out front until Byron passed him on Lap 12. Buescher pulled ahead on Lap 36 and stayed up front to win his first stage this season. Ryan Blaney and Chase Elliott took turns with the lead before a crash involving Alex Bowman brought out the red flag on Lap 67.

Aussies go for world title No. 11

Australia's champion pedigree faces SAfrica's gritty ambition

LONDON, June 9, (AP): When it comes to major cricket finals, Australia is in a league of its own.

Only Australia has won all four men's global trophies. It is hard to beat in finals, having won 10 of 13 across the 50-over World Cup, 20-over World Cup, Champions Trophy, and World Test Championship. And let's not get started on the women's team, which is even more dominant. The men go for world title No. 11 from Wednesday in the WTC final against South Africa at neutral Lord's.



Australia's Marnus Labuschagne bats during a nets session at Lord's, London. (AP)

That ruthless focus Australia brings on the biggest stages is in marked contrast to South Africa, a perennial underachiever. The Proteas have won just one of cricket's major international titles, the Champions Trophy's inaugural predecessor in 1998, when most of the current Proteas were toddlers.

An experienced squad - average age 29 1/2 - compensates with a bond that can't be underestimated, a determination to have each other's backs.

That showed often in the 2023-25 WTC cycle as the Proteas, who used 30 players - more than any other team - found a run-scorer or wicket-taker at just the right time. They won their last seven tests and were first to qualify for the final.

"We haven't been super dominant in our performances," South Africa captain Temba Bavuma said when the team qualified in December. "We definitely haven't been clinical or ruthless when the opportunity or the situation is called upon. But I think what we've done is that we've found ways to make sure that the result is on our side."

Australia already had a veteran team when it won the 2023 final by crushing India by 209 runs at the Oval. Ten of that 11 are back. Only David Warner is missing, retired from the test format.

Medium-pace bowler Josh Hazlewood was injured and didn't play, but he's expected to replace one of the 2023 stars, Scott Boland. Hazlewood overcame a shoulder injury to spearhead Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a first Indian Premier League title last week with 22 wickets in 12 innings.

Warner's permanent replacement at opener still hasn't been settled. Sam Konstas made an audacious debut at age 19 in December against India, but Travis Head was preferred in Sri Lanka in February. They seem to be the main candidates.

Marnus Labuschagne has opened only once since 2016, and his form has dropped to the point of concern. He averaged just 28.33 in the WTC cycle and attempts last month to spark form at Glamorgan in the second tier of the English County Championship fell flat.

In the same division, allrounder Cameron Green scored three hundreds for Gloucestershire in a comeback from lower spine surgery which sidelined him for six months. But he's not ready to bowl.

It may not matter. Australia has four of its top 10 all-time leading wicket-takers in Nathan Lyon (553, third), Mitchell Starc (382, fourth), captain Pat Cummins (294, eighth), and Hazlewood (279, 10th).

Steve Smith is locked in at No. 4 in the batting order. He turned 36 last week and hasn't played in the top flight since March, just like Konstas, opener Usman Khawaja, Lyon, Boland, and wicketkeeper Alex Carey. But they're entrusted with the knowhow to switch on when it counts.

Smith has four hundreds in his last five tests, and passed 10,000 career runs, almost as many as the South Africans. At Lord's he averages 58.

Whoever opens with Khawaja will likely immediately face fearsome South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada. Khawaja will have his hands full. He's fallen to Rabada five times in 10 matches.

Rabada, with 327 wickets, is three away from tying Allan Donald for fourth place on South Africa's all-time list. Rabada will have the company of left-armer Marco Jansen, who took 29 wickets in six matches in the cycle.

The third seamer will be either Lungi Ngidi, who was one of eight South Africans at the IPL, or Dane Paterson, who has been nipping the ball around for Middlesex in county division two.

South Africa has confirmed Aiden Markram and Ryan Rickelton as the openers and captain Bavuma at No. 4. They played in the IPL, too.

Middle-order batter David Bedingham, South Africa's leading scorer in the cycle, proved in a warmup game against Zimbabwe that he's recovered from a broken toe sustained in April.

Best of the Rest

Whitecaps beat short-handed Sounders: Jeevan Badwal scored his first career goal in the 40th minute, Daniel Rios added his first goal of the season and the Vancouver Whitecaps beat the Seattle Sounders 2-0 to extend their unbeaten streak to 10 games.

Nouhou Tolo - known simply as "Nouhou" - and Jon Bell were shown a red cards in the 51st minute and 55th minutes and Seattle (7-6-5) played two-men down the rest of the way.

Vancouver (10-1-5) is the points leader in all of MLS with 35 and averages a league-high 2.19 points per game.

Badwal, a 19-year-old homegrown in his second MLS season, poked in a first-touch finish to give Vancouver a 1-0 lead.

Rios slipped a rising shot from outside the area between two defenders and inside the left post to make it 2-0 in the 70th and 36-year-old Damir Kreilach came on in 74th minute, his first appearance of the season, and converted from the penalty spot to cap the scoring in the 88th. (AP)

LAFc continues good run: Denis Bouanga had a goal and two assists, Eddie Segura scored his first goal since 2020 and Los Angeles FC extended its unbeaten streak to nine games with a 2-1 win over Sporting Kansas City.

Bouanga converted from the penalty spot in the 59th to give LAFc (7-4-5), which had 56% possession and outshot Kansas City 21-5, a 2-1 lead.

Dejan Joveljic scored a goal for the fourth consecutive game when he ran onto a through ball played ahead by Manu Garcia, exploded into the area and scored from near the penalty spot to make it 1-0 in the 39th minute.

The 25-year-old Joveljic, who scored 15 goals and had six assists last season and was acquired in February from the LA Galaxy in exchange for \$4 million, is tied for third in MLS with 10 goals this season - five in the past four games.

Segura slipped a header - off a corner kick played into the center of the area by Bouanga - inside the back post in first-half stoppage time to make it 1-1 at halftime.

Olivier Giroud capped the scoring in the third minute of stoppage time, the 38-year-old's second consecutive game with a goal. (AP)

Toyota increases manufacturers’ championship lead by 55 points

TOYOTA GAZOO Racing ascends the podium once again at Rally de Portugal

LISBON, June 9: TOYOTA GAZOO Racing World Rally Team (TGR-WRT) is celebrating its sixth successive Rally de Portugal victory since 2019 and an unbroken streak of five wins in the 2025 FIA World Rally Championship season. Sébastien Ogier, alongside co-driver Vincent Landais, conquered 24 punishing gravel stages across northern and central Portugal in the No. 17 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1 to take first place. This victory also marks Ogier’s record-breaking seventh win in the country.

Teammates Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen added to the team’s dominance with a strong third-place finish in the No. 69 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1. TGR-WRT now holds the top three positions in the drivers’ championship, while Toyota has extended its lead in the manufacturers’ standings to 55 points.

Akio Toyoda, TGR-WRT Chairman, commented: “Congratulations to Seb and Vincent for winning Rally Portugal for the second year in a row! It was a rally where we were all impressed once again by Seb’s adaptability. This was Seb’s first gravel rally in a long while, and his first event with the Hankook gravel tyres. Moreover, he had only one day of testing in the rain prior to the rally.”

Toyoda added: “I’m also very grateful to all the engineers and mechanics who immediately responded to Seb’s feedback. His feedback gave new insights to everyone, and the whole team became even stronger. There are six more gravel rounds coming including Rally Finland, which is an important home event for us. We hope to make use of what we learned here in Portugal and drive our new silver-coloured GR YARIS Rally1 through the summer gravel rallies that await us from here on!”

Rally de Portugal was the first of three consecutive hot and rugged gravel events in southern Europe that put vehicles, tires, and drivers to the test. The first full day



TOYOTA GAZOO Racing drivers in action during Rally de Portugal.

of the rally was one of the longest of the season so far, featuring 10 stages interrupted only by two brief remote service halts. Ogier and co-driver Landais ended the day in second place, just seven seconds off the lead.

Ogier engaged in a close battle the following day with the leader and took con-

trol after his rival was slowed by an issue during the rough afternoon stages. Ogier then carefully managed his advantage through a relatively long final day to ultimately seal victory by 8.7 seconds.

Rovanperä and Halttunen completed a double podium for the team with a third-place finish. They also claimed second place in the Super Sunday classification and third in the Power Stage, earning valuable additional points toward the championship.

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsports, including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the Nürburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota’s participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established TGR, to consolidate all of its motorsports activities under one in-house brand.

Representing Toyota’s belief that ‘the roads build the people, and the people build the cars,’ TGR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota’s commitment to making ‘ever-better’ cars. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, TGR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.

Round 6 of the 2025 FIA WRC calendar takes the championship to Rally Italia Sardegna (June 5-8). Known for its fast yet narrow gravel stages lined with exposed rocks and roadside trees, the rally presents constant challenges for drivers. High temperatures and the event’s abrasive surfaces place significant stress on both vehicles and tyres.

Oklahoma City rolls past Pacers to even NBA Finals



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2) shoots against Indiana Pacers forward Aaron Nesmith (23) during the second half of Game 2 of the NBA Finals basketball series in Oklahoma City. (AP)

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander gets help in Game 2

OKLAHOMA CITY, June 9, (AP): Shai Gilgeous-Alexander got some much-needed assistance from his teammates in Game 2 of the NBA Finals, and the Oklahoma City Thunder evened the series against the Indiana Pacers with a 123-107 victory.

Gilgeous-Alexander scored 38 points in Game 1, but his supporting cast couldn’t get it going, and Tyrese Haliburton’s jumper in the final second gave the Pacers a 111-110 win.

Gilgeous-Alexander had 34 points and eight assists in Game 2 – typical production from the league’s MVP and scoring champion.

Co-stars Jalen Williams and Chet Holmgren played more like their usual selves on Sunday and ensured the Pacers had no chance to use their last-second magic. Veteran reserve Alex Caruso had another strong performance and Aaron Wiggins provided a surprise boost in

Oklahoma City’s first Finals win since 2012.

“I thought everyone played better individually, and I thought we played better collectively,” Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said.

Wiggins, who barely played in Game 1 and scored three points, had 18 in Game 2 and made five 3-pointers. He said the inconsistent minutes are not ideal, but his goal is to help the team.

“It’s the NBA,” he said. “There’s a lot of highs and lows. There’s a lot of other guys going through similar things and guys who have just kind of earned their rights. Understanding that, I’m still blessed to be in the NBA and do what I love. At this level, you can’t take it for granted. Just continuing to stay steady and take advantage of the opportunities I get.”

His performance was a welcome sight for the Thunder.

“He was massive tonight,” Daigneault said. “Went in there with great confidence. Didn’t go until the second quarter and dove right into the game. Great professionalism, great readiness and a huge performance for us in that situa-

tion.”

Williams, an All-Star who scored 17 points on 6-for-19 shooting in the opener, followed that with 19 points. He didn’t shoot all that well – he made just 5 of 14 field goals, but he made 8 of 9 free throws and put pressure on Indiana’s defense.

Holmgren, who scored just six points in the opener, bounced back with 15 points and six rebounds on 6-for-11 shooting. Caruso, the veteran guard who the Thunder picked up in an offseason trade, scored 20 points and was 4 for 8 on 3-pointers.

The Pacers expect Gilgeous-Alexander to score, but they also know they need to do better against Oklahoma City’s other players in Game 3 in Indianapolis.

“It’s a matter of slowing him (Gilgeous-Alexander) down and limiting the role players,” Pacers center Myles Turner said. “A few of their guys stepped up tonight. I think Wiggins had a great game. Caruso, he did what he had to do. So it’s about limiting their role players and making it tougher on them, at least.”

Vet Croatian coach Radan returns to lead Al-Jahra for the upcoming season

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Croatian coach Rodion Gasanin, known as “Radan,” has officially returned to Kuwait after signing an agreement with Al-Jahra to take charge of the first football team for the upcoming season.

Radan, 61, brings with him over 28 years of coaching experience. His career began in Croatia with clubs Opatija and Orient before he transitioned to the Gulf region. His impressive résumé includes stints with prominent clubs such as Kuwait Club, Al-Qadisiya, Al-Nasr (Kuwait and Saudi Arabia), Hajr, Al-Orouba (Saudi Arabia), Erbil (Iraq), Al-Muharraq SC and Al-Riffa (Bahrain), Al-Mesaimeer (Qatar), Al-Merreich (Sudan), and Al-Ahli Benghazi (Libya).

Radan also had a brief tenure with the Kuwait national team in 2008, which ended after a loss to Syria during the 2010 World Cup qualifiers.

Throughout his career, Radan has achieved notable success, securing multiple titles across various leagues. He led Al-Qadisiya to victories in the Kuwait Premier League, Amir’s Cup, and Super Cup. With Kuwait Club, he captured both the league title and the Crown Prince Cup. His time in Bahrain was also fruitful, winning the league twice, the Crown Prince Cup three times, and the Federation Cup once.

Al-Jahra’s board of directors has al-



Rodion Gasanin

ready coordinated with Radan regarding the selection of three foreign players for the new season. This comes following the contract renewal of Tunisian defender Amr Ben Zekri and the signing of Brazilian midfielder Silva, who played for Al-Sulaibikhat last season.

Al-Jahra recently earned promotion back to the Zain Premier League after finishing first in the Zain First Division League, and the club now looks to Radan to lead them into a competitive return at the top tier.

Best of the Rest

Chelsea signs French defender Sarr: Chelsea signed a top young player from its sister club by bringing in French teenage defender Mamadou Sarr from Strasbourg.

Strasbourg, which plays in France’s top league, is owned by the consortium led by Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital that bought Chelsea in 2022.

The 19-year-old Sarr is a France under-20 international who was a regular last season as Strasbourg finished in seventh place to seal a place in the Conference League playoffs. He was previously at Lens and Lyon.

Chelsea won the Conference League last season and will play in the Champions League after finishing in fourth place in the Premier League.

Strasbourg was bought by Chelsea’s ownership group, BlueCo, in 2023. Chelsea said Sarr had signed a contract until 2033 but didn’t disclose the transfer fee. (AP)

Chivu appointed as Inter coach: Cristian Chivu was appointed coach of Inter Milan on Monday.

The club said he had signed a contract with the Nerazzurri until June 30, 2027.

The 44-year-old replaces Simone Inzaghi, who took over as coach of Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal on Wednesday.

The appointment was announced just hours after Parma agreed to terminate Chivu’s contract. (AP)

Priske returns to Sparta Prague: Brian Priske has agreed to return to Sparta Prague on a multiple-year contract after a stint at Feyenoord, the Czech club said.

Priske started at Sparta three years ago and immediately led the struggling team to its first title in nine years. He successfully defended the title last year and completed a double by winning the Czech Cup.

Under Priske, Sparta reached the round of 16 in the Europa League where it was eliminated by Liverpool in the 2023-24 season.

Last summer, Sparta agreed to release Priske before the end of his contract to take over at Feyenoord when Arne Slot became the Liverpool manager. (AP)

‘The door is closed but we have to try to qualify even if it is through the window’

Saudi Arabia’s World Cup hopes hinge on a near-impossible task against Australia

MELBOURNE, June 9, (AP): A Saudi squad that has scored six goals through nine qualifying games needs to beat Australia by a five-goal margin to earn a direct spot at the 2026 World Cup.

Head coach Herve Renard knows it’s an extremely unlikely outcome for his Saudi team, but he’s urging his players to go all in Tuesday in the last game of the third round of Asian qualifying for next year’s global tournament.

“The door is closed but we have to try to qualify even if it is through the window,” Renard said after his team’s 2-0 win over Bahrain last week kept Saudi Arabia in contention. “Everything must go very well for us if we are to qualify; we have to score goals.”

Anything less than a five-goal deficit means Australia – in second spot in Group C – qualifies for a seventh World Cup. The last time the Socceroos lost by such a margin was in successive 6-0 defeats



In this file photo, players challenge for the ball during a soccer match between Saudi Arabia and Australia. (AP)

against Brazil and France in 2013. The Australians have scored 14 goals and conceded six through nine qualifiers.

After successive World Cup qualifications through the playoffs, Australia is close to securing

a direct route but coach Tony Popovic is taking nothing for granted.

“We need to do a job in Saudi,” Popovic said. “We’re in a great position, but we need to finish it off.”

Popovic has only been in the job since September, stepping in

after Graham Arnold resigned after collecting just one point in the group’s first two qualification games.

“It’s been a really intense period since I’ve come in but everyone’s embraced what we’re aiming to do,” he said. “And we’re very close now to achieving our goal.”

Asia has been allocated eight places at the 48-team World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The top two teams in each of the three groups in this round advance directly. The third- and fourth-place teams in each group go into another round vying for two more places.

Japan was the first to qualify and will top Group C regardless of the outcome between Australia and third-place Saudi Arabia. Iran and Uzbekistan have qualified from Group A, and South Korea and Jordan have qualified from Group B.

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Winner Spain's Carlos Alcaraz, right, and second-placed Italy's Jannik Sinner pose with trophies after the final match of the French Tennis Open at the Roland-Garros Stadium in Paris. (AP)
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Sports

Blues without Mohammed Daham and Khaled Al-Rashidi

Kuwait eyes World Cup qualifying consolation win over South Korea

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Kuwait is aiming for its first victory in the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers when it faces South Korea today at 2:00 PM (Kuwait time) at the World Cup Stadium in Seoul, in the final and tenth round of Group B.

The Blues currently sit in sixth and last place in the group with five points, earned from five draws and four losses. In contrast, South Korea has already secured top spot with 19 points, followed by Jordan, who qualified for the World Cup for the first time in history after finishing second with 15 points. Iraq (12 points), Oman (10), and Palestine (9) round out the group standings.

Kuwait was officially eliminated from

qualification in the previous round after suffering a 2-0 home loss to Palestine. Now, it aims to conclude their campaign with a positive result, despite its dream of returning to the World Cup after 43 years coming to an end – its only appearance was in Spain 1982.

Head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi is seeking his first win in the qualifiers and his second overall victory since taking charge last July. His only win so far came against the UAE in the 26th Gulf Cup, hosted in Kuwait last December.

Kuwait will be without Mohammed Daham and Khaled Al-Rashidi due to yellow card accumulation. The availability of striker Yousef Nasser remains uncertain after an injury sustained against Palestine. In addition, Eid Al-Rashidi has withdrawn from the squad for

personal reasons.

To compensate, Pizzi has called up goalkeeper Ahmed Adi (Al-Fahaheel) and striker Talal Al-Qaisi (Kazma). Despite these absences, hopes remain for a strong showing, especially as South Korea is expected to field a young lineup, according to their coaching staff.

Pizzi still has a solid core of players to rely on, including:

Fahad Al-Hajri, Mishari Ghannam, Reda Hani, Ahmed Al-Zanki, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Rashed Al-Dosari, Jassim Al-Matar, Mubarak Al-Fanini, Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi, Hassan Hamdan, Mohammed Khaled, Hussein Ashkanani, Yousef Majed, Hamad Harbi, Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi, Mahdi Dashti, Moaz Al-Asima, and Fawaz Ayed.



The players led by Pizzi train for the final World Cup qualifying match against South Korea.

Portugal wins Nations League



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates with teammates after winning the Nations League final soccer match between Portugal and Spain at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany. (AP)

Mbappé hits 50th goal as France secures third place

MUNICH, June 9, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo hoisted up the Nations League trophy, and “We Are The Champions” rang around the stadium after Portugal defeated Spain 5-3 in a penalty shootout in Munich.

Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa saved Alvaro Morata's fourth penalty for Spain, then Ruben Neves converted his team's fifth to seal the win after their match finished 2-2 after extra time.

Morata was the only player to miss after seeing every player score their spot kicks before him. He was inconsolable.

Ronaldo had kept Portugal in the game when he equalized in the 61st minute of regular time with his record-extending 138th international goal after Mikel Oyarzabal had given Spain a halftime lead.

Oyarzabal squeezed the ball past Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa in the 45th minute after Pedri played him in.

“It's a shame and it's tough, but with time it will be more appreciated,” Oyarzabal said. “We struggled more in the second half;



Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa punches out the ball during the Nations League final soccer match between Portugal and Spain at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany. (AP)

we were tired. The substitutions helped them. But we are proud of our team, and we will fight to be close to winning a title again.”

Spain, still the European champion, failed to display the cohesion and fluency in attack that put five goals past France in the semifinal on Thursday.

There was an element of fortune about the opening goal scored

by Martin Zubimendi in the 21st minute when Portugal's defense failed to deal with Lamine Yamal's cross.

Nuno Mendes leveled five minutes later when he drilled a low shot inside the far post. The 22-year-old left-back was the player of the match, providing the cross that was deflected kindly for Ronaldo to score his equalizer, keeping

Yamal in check, then confidently scoring his penalty in the shootout.

Ronaldo was already off by then. He had gone off, exhausted, to standing ovations and a hug from coach Roberto Martinez in the 88th. In his previous game, Ronaldo led Portugal to its first win over Germany for 25 years.

For Mendes and Paris Saint-Germain teammates Gonçalo Ramos, João Neves, and Vitinha, it was their second trophy in a little more than a week after winning the Champions League in the same stadium.

Kylian Mbappé led France to third place earlier with a 2-0 win over host nation Germany in Stuttgart.

The Real Madrid star scored his 50th goal for France before setting up the other as Les Bleus rallied after a lethargic start.

France coach Didier Deschamps had made his lack of enthusiasm for the game clear the day before, noting his team had little to gain.

“The game is there, we'll play it,” Deschamps had said.

France was without injured PSG stars Ousmane Dembélé and Bradley Barcola.

Al-Nasser captures gold for Kuwait at Dubai Kyokushin Championship

ABU DHABI, June 9: Promising Kuwaiti karateka Nasser Al-Nasser delivered a stellar performance to win first place and the gold medal at the Dubai International Professional Championship for juniors and youth, currently underway in the United Arab Emirates with participation from 35 countries.

Representing Kuwait's national Kyokushin Karate team, Al-Nasser showcased remarkable skill and determination, defeating top contenders from Kazakhstan in the semifinals and Armenia in the final, securing the title with a knockout victory.

Al-Nasser dedicated his win to Kuwait's political leadership and the Kuwaiti people, expressing pride in raising the nation's flag on the international stage. He affirmed his continued commitment to winning more championships in upcoming international events.

He extended heartfelt thanks to national coach Al-Shihan Abdullah Al-Mutawaq and fitness coach Yousef Al-Baqsam, crediting their guidance and preparation strategies for his success. Al-Nasser emphasized their essential role in developing his



Al-Nasser celebrates on the podium.

skills and helping him reach peak performance ahead of the tournament.

This gold medal adds to Kuwait's growing reputation in martial arts and reflects the strength of its youth talent on the global stage.

Kuwait U-16 team begins indoor camp ahead of Gulf Champ'ship

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Kuwait's under-16 basketball team is set to begin an indoor training camp tomorrow as part of its preparations for the upcoming Gulf Championship, which serves as a qualifier for the Asian Cup Finals scheduled to take place in Bahrain from July 7 to 12.

The camp will feature 14 promising players, with the coaching staff – led by national team coach Talal Al-Qallaf – expected to select 12 of them to participate in the external camp in Cairo from June 21 to July 5.

Ghazi Al-Otaibi, Treasurer of the Kuwait Basketball Association and Head of the National Team Delegation, explained that the team's preparation program has been in place for some time, beginning with a training camp in Istanbul last January. He emphasized the need for specialized physical conditioning due to the players' recent absence from training while they focused on



Ghazi Al-Otaibi

school exams.

Al-Otaibi added that during the Cairo camp, the Blues will play six friendly matches, including one against the Egyptian youth team. He stressed that the national team is determined to compete for top positions in the Gulf Championship, especially given Kuwait's consistent podium finishes in recent years at regional tournaments.

‘No more games’ under coach Probiez: Lewandowski

WARSAW, Poland, June 9, (AP): Robert Lewandowski will no longer play for Poland while Michal Probiez remains head coach, the Barcelona striker said.

The 36-year-old Lewandowski, who has played a record 158 games for his country and is the leading scorer with 85 goals, cited tiredness from a La Liga title-winning season with Barcelona for pulling out of last Friday's 2-0 friendly win over Moldova and Tuesday's World Cup qualifier against Finland.

Probiez subsequently named Inter Milan midfielder Piotr Zielinski as the new captain.

The Polish soccer association said: “Piotr Zielinski has been named the new captain of the national team by head coach Michal Probiez. The coach personally informed Robert Lewandowski, the entire team and the coaching staff of his decision.”

Lewandowski replied with a post on X: “Taking into account the circumstances and the loss of trust in the head coach of the Polish national team, I have decided to step down from playing for the national team for as long as he remains in charge. I hope I will still have the chance to play again for the best fans in the

world.”

Lewandowski suffered an injury to his left thigh on April 19 in a La Liga match against Celta Vigo and was sidelined for two weeks. He missed four games, including a thrilling 3-3 Champions League semifinal first leg against Inter in Barcelona.

He recovered in time for the second leg and was used as substitute in a 4-3 defeat that sent Inter to the final.

Poland leads World Cup Group G qualifying with two wins from two games.

Best of the Rest

EPL first Black referee, dies at 65: Uriah Rennie, the first Black referee in the Premier League, has died. He was 65.

“We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our former chair and trailblazing referee, Uriah Rennie,” the Sheffield and Hallamshire County Football Association posted Sunday on X.

“Uriah made history as the Premier League's first Black referee, officiating over 300 top-flight matches between 1997 and 2008,” the statement said. “He broke down barriers, shaped our football community and inspired generations to come.”

The Jamaica-born official grew up in Sheffield, northern England, and oversaw hundreds of matches starting with his breakthrough appointment when Derby hosted Wimbledon in August 1997. That game was abandoned, however, because the stadium lighting failed.

Rennie told BBC News in April how, while on holiday in Turkey last year, he felt severe pain in his back and doctors discovered he had an inoperable neurological condition that confined him to a wheelchair. (AP)