



Expats can't leave Kuwait sans exit permit from July

New rule designed to curb illegal departures

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah issued a ministerial circular requiring expatriate workers in the private sector to obtain an 'exit permit' from their registered employers before leaving Kuwait, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Public Authority for Manpower confirmed that the implementation of this regulation will require exit permits to include the worker's personal details, travel date, and mode of transportation. The completed permit must be submitted electronically through a designated platform (SAHEL APP or the PUBLIC AUTHORITY OF MANPOWER WEB-

SITE) to streamline processing and maintain accuracy. Authorities emphasized that the new system is designed to ensure that departures are conducted legally, protect all parties involved, and reduce incidents of workers leaving without proper notification.

Both employers and expatriate workers are urged to strictly adhere to this requirement, as enforcement of the regulation is set to begin from 1st July.

Purpose of the decision

- Ensure balance between employer and worker rights
 - Enhance legal compliance and oversight
 - Prevent illegal departures without employer notification
 - Support labor market organization efforts
- Who must comply?**

- All expatriate workers registered under the private sector
- Applies to workers intending to leave Kuwait temporarily or permanently

How to apply for the exit permit

- Submit request using CIVIL ID number
- Use the SAHEL APP or the PUBLIC AUTHORITY OF MANPOWER WEBSITE
- Request must be made before travel

Important notes

- The system automatically verifies employer-employee matching
- If inconsistencies are found, the case is referred to specialized departments

Implementation starts: July 2025



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

The tribe to the king: There is no prince among us if our camel herder is humiliated

The ruler said, "He didn't introduce himself to us, nor did he reveal his identity."

A few days later, the ruler learned that the man was a camel herder.

The tribe said, "He didn't wish to humiliate himself. He wanted to show you his dignity."

The madman said, "Should I divide it the way people do, or the way God wills?"

He gave each person three dates, leaving the rest for the Imam.

The most beautiful thing in life is inequality.

She said to her husband, "Go and fight in just half of his battles."

It is better if you go and liberate Jerusalem, and then come talk about marriage.

You fainted at the sight of a mouse in the kitchen.

By asking his wife, the husband invited trouble upon himself.

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Kuwait acts on 'threats'

Health net tightens as expats screened twice for residency

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs at the Ministry of Health Dr. Munther Al-Hasawi confirmed that Kuwait implements a comprehensive and precise health surveillance system to prevent infectious diseases, amid international reports of rising HIV infection rates in some countries.

Continued on Page 5



PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

Fog rolls in as Kuwait braces for 51°C temp

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): Director of the Meteorological Department, Dhirar Al-Ali, announced on Wednesday that Kuwait is currently experiencing an extension of a surface air depression, bringing hot and humid conditions along with the possibility of fog, particularly in coastal areas.

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Grade 12 exams kick off smoothly for Science and Arts students

Results to be released after exam period

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The second-semester exams for Grade 12 students in the Science and Arts sections started Wednesday.

Students in the Science section took the Math exam, while students in the Arts section took the French language exam on the first day of the examination period.

A number of Ministry of Education officials and directors general of educational districts inspected several exam committees to ensure the smooth conduct of the exams and the provision of a suitable environment for students.

During the tour, the officials praised the efforts of committee heads, teachers and all those involved in organizing the exams. They emphasized the importance of implementing the exam regulations, particularly those related to cheating; as well as taking into account the psychological aspects of students within the committees, which enhances student performance and psychological stability during the exam period.

In this context, educational sources confirmed that the Science and Arts controllers started correcting the exams and recording grades on the first day; contributing to the release of results immediately after the exam period. Sources affirmed that field visits will continue throughout the exam period.

Regarding the results of transfer classes, the ministry has instructed the schools to deliver paper certificates to parents starting Sunday for all transfer classes from the elementary level up to Grade 11.

The ministry stressed the need for school administrations to adhere to the specified timetable, while facilitating the preparation and delivery of certificates to ensure their timely arrival.

The ministry added that field teams have been deployed to monitor the distribution of certificates to ensure the smooth completion of procedures and to remove any obstacles that may arise. This is a manifestation of the commitment of the ministry to improve academic performance and guarantee the satisfaction of the beneficiaries of educational services.



Photo by Mohammad Morsi
Grade 12 students gather outside their school, reviewing notes and preparing mentally before entering the exam halls for their second-semester tests in Science and Arts.

Kuwait moves to tighten postal sector with new licensing rules

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Ministry of Communications has completed a draft resolution regulating postal activity licenses in order to tighten control over this important service sector, develop legislation to better serve all segments of society, and contribute to modernizing the regulatory and legislative structure of the postal sector in line with market developments and modern technology.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the draft resolution, which prohibits engaging in any postal activity without a

license from the ministry. This includes parcels, postal items, and any related postal service.

The draft indicates that the confidentiality of postal items is legally safeguarded. Disclosure or viewing of these items by the licensee or any other individual is prohibited, except in certain legal instances. These exceptions cover abandoned items under domestic law and the Universal Postal Union Agreement, items seized by authorities for felony or misdemeanor investigations, mails addressed to declared bankrupt merchants, and other legally authorized instances

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait's Defense Ministry, Italy's Leonardo eye closer cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshaal Al-Sabah and Co-General Manager-Business of Italy's Leonardo Company Carlo Gualdaroni discussed Wednesday ways of promoting

bilateral cooperation and issues of mutual interest.

This came during a meeting between both sides on the sidelines of the visit of the Italian business manager and his accompanying delegation to Kuwait, the Defense Ministry said in a press release.



Ministry of Defense photo
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense receives Co-General Manager-Business of Italy's Leonardo Company.

Newswhatch

BAGHDAD: Iraqi Prime Minister **Mohammad Al-Sudani** said on Wednesday that his government attaches attention to **Iraq's** relations with **Kuwait** and that Baghdad is seeking to resolve the issues of missing Kuwaitis and properties, including national archives.

Al-Sudani made the remarks while meeting the ambassadors of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) permanent member states and European Union (EU) ambassadors, during which they tackled a set of regional and international issues.

During the meeting, the Iraqi prime minister underlined Baghdad's commitment to resolving the issues of Kuwait's missing citizens and archives in the context of bilateral cooperation, according to an Iraqi government statement.

Al-Sudani's statement came following a briefing by UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Iraq and Head of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) **Mohammad Al-Hassan** before the UNSC.

In his briefing, the representative welcomed increasing field missions and use of sophisticated technology to locate potential burial sites for missing Kuwaitis, and called for stepping up efforts and bolstering cooperation and coordination, including search for the remains of 315 still missing people. (KUNA)



5 Capital Governor assures legal reforms in motion to amend old laws and legislation



9 NBK wins Best Bank for Sustainable Finance in Kuwait by Global Finance

Day by Day

ONE day, a man noticed that his neighbor's rooster had fallen silent. When he saw him, he asked, "Why isn't your rooster crowing anymore?" The neighbor replied, "The neighbors complained about its crowing at dawn, so we slaughtered it."

That's when I realized that throughout history, there have always been those who wish to silence the one who dares to awaken them from their slumber.

People often talk about how tasty chicken is, but no one gives a thought about the rooster. Everyone wants to satisfy their hunger, but no one wants to think about those who stimulate their minds.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:13	Asr	15:21
Sunrise ..	04:48	Maghrib ..	18:47
Zohr	11:47	Isha	20:19

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot and humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-30 km/h.
By Night: Rather hot and humid especially over coastal areas with

Weather			
light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-28 km/h with a chance for fog forming over coastal areas.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	40	30	
Kuwait Airport	40	24	

Abdaly	40	26
Bubyan	36	30
Jahra	45	26
Failaka Island	39	32
Salmiyah	33	29
Ahmadi	32	25
Nuwaisib	40	25
Wafra	46	26

Japan, Kuwait ink multiple MoUs

‘Kuwait Crown Prince’s visit to Japan will open new horizons in relations’

By Mukai Kenichiro
Ambassador of Japan to Kuwait

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, successfully concluded his first official visit to Japan from May 28 to 31, 2025.

The visit had special meanings for both countries. Firstly, this was the first high level visit to Japan by the Kuwaiti leadership in 9 years, since the visit by Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, late Prime Minister in 2016. Secondly, during the visit, both countries agreed on upgrading the bilateral relations to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and five memoranda on bilateral cooperation were signed. Thus, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled has taken Japan-Kuwait relations to another level with this visit. Third, His Highness Sheikh Sabah met with His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito and His Imperial Highness Crown Prince

Akishino, respectively, and deepened the longstanding friendship between the Japanese Imperial Family and the Kuwaiti Ruling Family.

As Ambassador, I attended the summit meeting, followed by working lunch, between Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and His Highness Sheikh Sabah accompanied by high-ranking officials including His Excellency Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The meeting was very fruitful, in a friendly atmosphere, discussing bilateral cooperation in various fields, particularly in the fields of clean energy and decarbonization, in addition to electricity and desalination, as well as cooperation in regional and international affairs.

Signing of Five Memoranda
During the visit, the following five memoranda were signed:

■ Memorandum of Cooperation on Training of Diplomats between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Ministry of Foreign



Sheikh Sabah Khalid

Affairs of the State of Kuwait, aiming to deepen mutual understanding and cooperation through diplomatic training, and it will further strengthen the bond between the two ministries.

■ Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Ministry



Mukai Kenichiro

of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy of the State of Kuwait, promoting comprehensive cooperation in the field of electricity, water, and renewable energy.

■ Memorandum of Cooperation on Direct Investment between the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), facilitating the further ex-

pansion of investment by Japanese companies in Kuwait.

■ Memorandum of Cooperation on International Cooperation between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Kuwait Arab Fund for Economic Development (KFAED), strengthening cooperation in aid activities for developing countries.

■ Memorandum of Understanding between the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) and the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute on Training of Diplomats, reinforcing cooperation in the field of training.

Visit to Expo 2025 Osaka

His Highness the Crown Prince visited Expo 2025 Osaka, touring pavilions including those of host country Japan, Kuwait, and the GCC countries. His Highness was received with an enthusiastic welcome from Japanese and Kuwaiti people, and tourists who happened to be there. I had known that the Kuwait Pavilion was very popular,

but I was impressed to see so many people standing in line, waiting for their turn to enter the pavilion. His Highness's visit seemed to further increase the popularity of the Kuwait Pavilion.

Towards Future-Oriented Cooperation

Japan-Kuwait relations, rooted in oil cooperation since 1958, recognition of Kuwait's independence in 1961, Japan's support during the 1990 Gulf War, and Kuwait's warm assistance following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, have always been supported by trust and friendship. Going forward, both countries will continue to advance multifaceted and sustainable cooperation in various sectors including politics, economics, and culture, founded on shared values and mutual interests. I am firmly convinced that this visit by His Highness the Crown Prince will serve as a new horizon for our two countries, leading to further development of Japan-Kuwait relations.

Kuwait proud of ties with Africa: FM Al-Yahya

Ambassadors, diplomats attend Africa Day celebrations



Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya inaugurating the ceremony.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and African leaders at the cake-cutting event.



Ambassadors of various countries attended the celebration. Photos by Rizk Taufiq

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: “The relationship of Kuwait with countries in the African continent is deep and historic,” says Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya.

Al-Yahya made the statement when he attended the annual Africa Day celebration, which was held at the invitation of ambassadors and heads of African diplomatic missions in the country.

After expressing his sincere greetings on the occasion, Al-Yahya affirmed that Kuwait is keen on strengthening cooperation with the African countries. He said “Kuwait takes pride in its distinguished cooperation

with African countries, particularly through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development's infrastructure and vital development projects across the continent since its establishment in 1961. The private and government sectors, as well as the fund, continue to support our friends in the African continent.”

Asked if there is a plan to expand diplomatic representation in the African continent, he disclosed “we are studying all these matters. We may close some locations and open others.”

Meanwhile, Ambassador of the Union of the Comoros to Kuwait Dr. Al-Arif Sayed Hassan delivered a speech on the occasion; stating “it is a great honor for me to welcome you to this celebration, which is being organized as part of the Africa Day activities in the beautiful city of Kuwait, a source

of hospitality and generosity, and a center of humanity.”

Addressing Al-Yahya, Hassan stated “you have always expressed your interest and care for the accredited diplomatic corps, and your presence among us today is a powerful testimony to your love and appreciation for Africa and its peoples.”

He added “Kuwait is writing its name in letters of gold on the brow of the African continent, which is working hard to consolidate and strengthen the relationship of Kuwait with African countries. This celebration of Africa Day in Kuwait is a good opportunity to strengthen these relations, which are characterized by sincere brotherhood and constructive cooperation between the two sides. This is manifested through the signing of bilateral agreements, exchange of visits and diplomatic missions,

implementation of educational and cultural programs, support for development and humanitarian projects, exchange of expertise and competencies, and other aspects of bilateral cooperation. This is in addition to fruitful cooperation in the regional and international arenas in various fields; especially political, economic and cultural. All of this is thanks to the joint efforts of leaders, governments and peoples.”

He also explained that “in light of this dynamism, our countries need to rely on strong partners with successful experiences in the fields of development. From this perspective, we highly appreciate and value the efforts of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in its cooperation with 51 African countries and its remarkable initiatives to support the African economy through partnership with the African

Development Bank.

In conclusion, he said “I take this opportunity to celebrate Africa Day; with the theme, “African-Kuwaiti Cooperation within the Framework of Promoting Kuwaiti Investment in Africa for a Strategic Partnership”, and to call on businesspersons and investors in Kuwait to support this development dynamic and explore the opportunities and guarantees available in the continent and its companies to serve mutual interests and reinforce profitable partnerships.”

It is worth mentioning that an art exhibition was inaugurated on the sidelines of the Africa Day celebration, showcasing the creativity of African artists, in addition to folkloric musical performances by several African folk bands.

‘Benevolence driving force behind dealing with issues’

‘Kuwait backs UN resolutions on special needs people’

NEW YORK, June 11, (KUNA): Kuwait is keen on boosting cooperation with the UN to implement resolutions and agreements related to people with special needs, and supporting empowerment policies at national and global level, the Gulf nation Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Minister said.

Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah made the statement to KUNA after meeting with UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammad, late Tuesday, on sidelines of the 18th UN Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP18).

She said they have discussed strengthening technical cooperation with competent UN agencies to support Kuwait's effort to implement COSP.

Al-Huwailah said the State of Kuwait's humanitarian and constitutional principles were the driving force behind dealing with the disabilities' issues, as well as having relevant legislations and national programs.

She said Kuwait formed a national committee to follow up implementation of COSP and update the disability index 2025, in addition to expanding relevant educational and economic policies.

Kuwait believes in the multi-party system and appreciates UN role in boosting justice and equality, she said.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Al-Sabah and Kuwait Permanent representative to the UN Tareq Al-Bannai.

Earlier, Dr Amthal Al-Huwailah underlined commitment to keeping fervent efforts at both national and international levels to improve services and programs for disabled persons.

The minister made the remark while addressing the 18th UN Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP18), held at the UN headquarters from June 9 to 12.

She said that Kuwait's efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in the society have produced such tangible results as joining the Amman-Berlin Declaration that was adopted by the Third Global Disability Summit and including persons with disabilities in entrepreneurship programs, which have benefitted 235 employees.

The minister added that inclusive employment policies have been carried out in the labor market in both public and private sectors, and pieces of legislation enacted to ensure their employment in appropriate jobs.

Al-Huwailah pointed out that workplaces have been prepared through applying building code laws in place to all state facilities.



Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammad and Sheikh Jawaher Al-Sabah. KUNA photo

She remarked that several national projects were carried out for persons with disabilities, citing a high-level permanent national committee to monitor the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP18).

The minister also cited a permanent national committee to prepare reports and follow up on recommendations pertinent to human rights, with representatives from all relevant ministries and state agencies as members, in consultation with civil society organizations.

She noted the updating and pub-

lishing of the Kuwait Disability Guide 2025, in collaboration with various stakeholders, with a view to creating a comprehensive national reference that considers international best practices.

The Kuwaiti minister concluded by saying that her country seeks to create an inclusive environment for persons with disabilities by means of establishing the principle of equal opportunity, adopting policies that support social, health, and educational integration standards, and creating decent employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

swering her calls.

The source added the case was registered under the heading of fraud and breach of trust, and it was referred to the Investigation Department, which summoned the two accused individuals. During investigation, the accused confessed to the fraud and breach of trust.

Expatriate woman swindled in Gulf apartment scandal

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Hawally detectives referred an expatriate woman -- born in 1981, and a Bedoun -- born in 1984, to the Public Prosecution for defrauding another expatriate woman of the same nationality, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source revealed that an expatriate

woman, born in 1971, filed a report at a police station; indicating that her compatriot offered an apartment for sale in a Gulf state. The supposed seller showed her photos of the apartment. After being convinced, she paid KD17,000 as deposit for the apartment. Upon receiving the payment, the suspect began stalling, and then stopped an-



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MoSA engages 967 citizens to address countless needs

Al-Huwailah pledges continuity

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah has confirmed the dedication of her ministry to continue its direct communication with citizens of all categories to give them an opportunity to present their needs, comments and suggestions.

Al-Huwailah disclosed that from May 22, 2024 to June 1, 2025; she and the ministry leadership met with 967 citizens in compliance with the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the political leadership to identify the needs of the public within the legal frameworks.

She pointed out that this significant number reflects the ministry's unwavering commitment to foster strong community partnerships and its attentiveness to the citizens' inputs, which are followed up at the highest level.

She stressed "we are committed to hear every voice and resolve every issue presented to us, striving for social justice and the well-being of society. These meetings will con-



Dr. Al-Huwailah

tinue through a structured approach to enhance service quality and fulfill the citizens' aspirations in the areas of care, support and development."

She revealed that the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) led the entities in terms of the number of visitors with 473, followed by cooperative societies with 202, and the Family Care and Assistance Sector with 147.

She said the Social Care, Development and Planning sectors dealt with 55 cases; the Finance and Administration Sector dealt with 28, Popular Cafés with 20 and Graduates with 27. "The remaining cases were distributed among the Minister's Office, Legal Services, Citizen Services, and the Development Office with seven cases; in addition to receiving eight proposals directly from citizens," she concluded.

Reem Al-Khaled presents credentials to Estonia president as Kuwait's non-resident ambassador

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador in Germany Reem Al-Khaled has presented her credentials to the President of Estonia Alar Karis as a non-resident ambassador in Tallinn.

Al-Khaled conveyed regards of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to President Karis, and further progress and development for the people of the Estonia.

During the meeting, she affirmed, "Kuwait's unwavering commitment to developing its bilateral relations with Estonia and to cooperate, particularly in the digital transformation, education, and technology sectors, based on the visions and objectives of the New Kuwait 2035 Plan."

Al-Khaled noted that the meeting also addressed a number of regional and international issues of common interest, adding the convergence of views on the importance of enhancing dialogue and cooperation in confronting common challenges.



KUNA photo
Ambassador Reem Mohammed Al-Khaled with the President of Estonia Alar Karis, who presented her credentials as non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait in the Estonian capital, Tallinn.

'June 12 – Russia Day'

By H.E. Vladimir Zheltov
Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the State of Kuwait



Vladimir Zheltov
Ambassador of Russian Federation to Kuwait

On June 12 Russia celebrates its national holiday. Historically, this day marks the adoption exactly 35 years ago of the Declaration of State Sovereignty of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic. It was the official name under which Russia was known in the Soviet period of its being.

Our country's continuous history, however, spans more than a millennium. Modern Russia is the successor to Ancient Rus (also known as KievanRus), the Tsardom of Moscow, the Russian Empire and finally the Soviet Union. Stretching for thousands of kilometers from the Baltic Sea in Europe to the Pacific Ocean in the Asian Far East, Russia represents a unique and distinctive civilization with its own rich traditions.

The Russian culture is an integral part of the global cultural heritage.

It is impossible to imagine world literature without the works of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, or music without creations of Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich.

Throughout its history Russia has faced uncountable challenges and harsh trials. Numerous foreign invaders – from Genghis Khan's Asian hordes in the early Middle Ages to the European conquerors such as Napoleon and Hitler in 19th and 20th centuries – have tried to subdue it. However, our country not only withstood these onslaughts but also helped other subjugated peoples to break free. The Soviet Union's contribution to the liberation of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America from West European colonialism is also widely recognized.

In light of recent geopolitical transformations, the collective West, which is undergoing a systemic crisis, does not shy away from using all means to pressure those, who refuse to submit to its dictates. Economic sanctions, political pressure and threats of force are being employed. In such conditions, Russia is standing up to Western hegemonism, which is seeking to isolate our country and inflict on it a strategic defeat. Together with our like-minded partners we are advocating for a new, just and multi polar world order, based on true equality without dictate or double standards. The West-promoted concept of the so-called rules-based international order does not serve the interests of the global majority.

As for the Arab world, Russia has always aspired to build friendly relations based upon mutual respect and consideration of common interests. This fully applies to Kuwait. Our first bilateral contacts date back to the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, when Russian warships began visiting Kuwait during the rule of the legendary Amir Mubarak the Great. Diplomatic relations with the USSR were established in 1963 with Kuwait being the first of the Gulf nations on this track.

We pay due respect to the wise and consistent policy of the Kuwaiti leadership. It always stays focused on promoting national interests, while striving to maintain balanced relations with the major global players. Hence, our bilateral relations have withstood the test of time and are not affected by the changing international political climate. It is important to note that during the Iraqi aggression of 1990–1991

our country firmly supported Kuwait politically and diplomatically. In those days, masterpieces of the Islamic art from the Kuwaiti collections were protected in the largest Russian museum, the Hermitage in Saint Petersburg, where they had been displayed just before the aggression within the framework of exhibitions exchange.

Politically, our countries maintain regular dialogue. Just in 2024, Russian and Kuwaiti foreign ministers met twice – in New York in July and in October in Moscow. More contacts are to follow. In September, the Russian city of Sochi will host the eighth regular ministerial round of the Russia-GCC Strategic Dialogue, with Kuwait currently presiding in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

In October, the first-ever Russia-Arab summit is scheduled to convene in Moscow.

Economically, our countries, being major oil producers and exporters, closely cooperate within the OPEC+ format to maintain stability in the global oil markets. There are shared interests in other areas. For instance, shipments of high-quality Russian agricultural products to Kuwait are growing year after year.

Tourism has recently become another important area of bilateral cooperation. Nowadays Russia is one of the most popular new destinations for GCC tourists. In 2024, fifteen thousand Kuwaitis visited our country– double the figure of the previous year. They are attracted by Russia's rich cultural and historical heritage, picturesque nature, well-developed infrastructure, safety and security, simplicity of obtaining electronic entry visas. Easy transport access plays an important role as well. In addition to existing direct Jazeera Airways flights from Kuwait City to Moscow, a new route to Sochi – a famous Russian resort on the Black Sea – will be added this month.

Cultural ties complement existing cooperation in tourism and humanitarian fields. Last September Kuwaiti Culture Week in Moscow was held successfully.

This autumn Kuwait City will host a reciprocal Russian event.

Graduates urged to submit E-Form

PAAET announces drop/add subjects period for summer semester '24-'25

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Deanship of Admission and Registration at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) announced that the dropping and adding of subjects for the summer semester (2024/2025) starts on Wednesday and will continue until Saturday; indicating each student will be given one appointment for dropping or adding subjects.

It advised the students to log into their official accounts on its website (www.paaet.edu.kw) to view their schedule and adhere

to the specified date to complete their academic transactions on time.

In a related development, the deanship confirmed the launching of the registration problem resolution system (E-Form) for the summer semester for graduates with 12 or fewer credit hours remaining. It added the system will be open on Sunday and Monday.

It called on students expected to graduate in the summer semester, who encountered problems during the registration process, to fill out the electronic form (E-Form) within the specified period to ensure their problems are solved and their courses are registered properly.



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti delegation participates in the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), hosted by France.

Kuwait partakes 3rd UNOC3 in France

PARIS, June 11, (KUNA): Kuwait participated Wednesday in the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), hosted by France in partnership with Costa Rica.

The Kuwaiti delegation was headed by the Kuwaiti Ambassador to France, Abdullah Al-Shaheen.

The conference, which was held in the French capital Paris, will continue until Friday, June 13.

The high-level conference aims to enhance the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources.

High-level representatives from various countries are participating to discuss ways to protect the marine environment.

Price panel eyes fair hike reviews

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Price Monitoring Committee -- which is under the Central Committee for Price Studies, Inflation Monitoring and Supply Chains -- met recently to discuss a series of recommendations aimed at reorganizing the price monitoring mechanism in view of market developments in recent years, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

According to sources, the committee, tasked to analyze price movements and ensure market stability, follows a strategy designed to balance economic stability with market interests. Source said the primary objectives of the committee include protecting consumer rights and preventing unjustified price hikes.

During the meeting, the committee members agreed to prioritize reviewing price increase requests from companies that have not adjusted their prices since before the COVID-19 pandemic. Sources explained the rationale is that these companies have not benefited from recent price revisions, making their cases more compelling from a

commercial fairness perspective.

Sources revealed committee is currently coordinating and prioritizing these requests in preparation for formal review, indicating each request will be evaluated based on transparent and well-defined criteria to ensure fairness and objectivity.

The meeting, which included representatives from relevant stakeholders, featured a visual presentation and a detailed economic report outlining the committee's proposed methodology. Emphasis was placed on the urgency of submitting the meeting's outcomes to the appropriate central authorities for action.

Sources confirmed that the committee, supervised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is responsible for monitoring price fluctuations, issuing periodic reports, and recommending regulatory action whenever necessary. It also oversees approval of price adjustments and the introduction of new products, ensuring alignment with supply and demand dynamics, sources added.



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Kuwait’s leaders extend sympathies to Zambia over former President Lungu’s demise

Amir offers condolences to Saudi King over Prince Faisal bin Turki passing

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable of condolences to the King of Saudi Arabia Salman bin Abdulaziz on the demise of Prince Faisal bin Turki bin Saud Al-Kabeer Al-Saud.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable of con-

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In a separate gesture, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable of condolences to the President of Zambia Hakainde Hichilema on the demise of former President Chagwa Lungu.

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Kuwait urges Iran to co-op with IAEA

Calls for trust, stability in region

VIENNA, June 11, (KUNA): Kuwait on Wednesday called on Iran to enhance cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and address the recent report on the agency’s loss of continuity of knowledge in several vital areas, such as centrifuges and uranium enrichment levels.

This came in a speech delivered by Third Secretary Dr. Sarah Al-Ajmi, a member of Kuwait’s permanent delegation to the United Nations in Vienna, before the IAEA Board of Governors.



KUNA photo
Dr. Sarah Al-Ajmi, Third Secretary of Kuwait Permanent Delegation to the United Nations in Vienna.

Al-Ajmi reiterated Kuwait’s call for Iran to ratify the Additional Protocol, which would enhance international confidence and enable the IAEA to perform its oversight role efficiently. She also affirmed Kuwait’s support for diplomatic solutions and constructive dialogue, expressing hope that international efforts would lead to the resumption of negotiations and the conclusion of a permanent and binding agreement that guarantees security and stability in the region.

Al-Ajmi emphasized Kuwait’s appreciation for the IAEA’s role in preserving the international non-proliferation regime and expressed Kuwait’s full support for its mandate to carry out its tasks professionally and impartially.

She also reaffirmed Kuwait’s steadfast commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and its dedication to strengthening international cooperation to ensure the safe and responsible application of nuclear technologies in support of sustainable development.

Al-Ajmi further highlighted the importance of maintaining the existing balance in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which guarantees states the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in exchange for their commitment to cooperate with the agency and ensure that nuclear activities are not diverted to improper purposes.

Al-Naibari presents credentials to Philippines prez as Kuwait envoy

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador in Manila Meshari Al-Naibari has presented his credentials to the President of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in a ceremony held at the Malacanang Palace.

Al-Naibari conveyed regards of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to President Marcos, and further progress and development for the people of the Philippines, Kuwait Embassy in Manila said in a statement Wednesday.

His Highness the Amir, said Al-Naibari, was keen on further cement relations and cooperation between the two countries in all domains, as well as coordinate positions in international conferences.



KUNA photo
President of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos Jr. with Kuwait Ambassador in Manila Meshari Al-Naibari.



Capital Governor, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, 2nd from right, with Ahmed Al-Jarallah, the Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers, right, along with Ahmed Al-Aqab and Ahmed Al-Zankawi.

‘New era swiftly advancing in expanding powers of governors’

Capital Governor assures legal reforms in motion to amend old laws and legislation

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah met with Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, during which they discussed important political implications and qualitative steps in the nature of the work of governors.

After engaging in friendly talks, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem confirmed to Al-Jarallah that “the country is proceeding, with a steady mechanism and an accelerated pace, to complete legislative reforms and address a number of urgent issues.”

He revealed that “intensive discussions are underway with a number of ministers and relevant bodies to amend some old laws and legislation.” He pointed out that these laws and legislation “now require effective mechanisms for them to keep pace with successive political and economic changes.”

In this context, he highly valued “the steps taken by the new era and its continued commitment to expand the powers of

governors to be on par with their counterparts in other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.” He stressed that “the role of the Kuwaiti governor is no less important than that of other Gulf governors. The government has taken note of this, as it is working hard to consolidate the role of the governor and deepen his positive impact in all service areas that serve the interests of Kuwaiti citizens, achieve greater justice, and empower qualified individuals capable of providing a higher level of service; keeping pace with the successive economic and social transformations taking place in the country.”

Al-Jarallah praised the practical reform ideas and steps he heard from the governor. He also underscored the importance of “expanding the roles of governors in Kuwait.” He asserted that “the time has come to reconsider their duties and powers, so that they become more like their counterparts in other GCC countries, who are entrusted with more tasks and play broader roles in managing local af-

fairs. The results of these tasks are clearly evident in strengthening communication between the State and society; and in contributing to the development of services at the governorate level in general.”

Furthermore, Al-Jarallah discussed with the governor various topics related to media affairs, role of the press regarding community issues, and strengthening communication channels between State institutions.

He praised the governor’s wisdom, his efforts to develop services in the Capital Governorate, and his commitment to enhance communication with the media, serve public interest and foster a climate of trust and transparency.

On the other hand, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem commended the visit of Al-Jarallah; affirming his commitment to support purposeful national media. He also lauded the professional role played by the Kuwaiti press in conveying the truth and instilling positive values.

Continued from Page 1

Health net

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Hasawi explained that preventive measures begin even before entering Kuwait. Expatriates seeking to work in the country must undergo medical examinations at accredited centers abroad, which are then approved by Kuwaiti consulates or embassies as part of the visa application process.

The examination is repeated upon arrival in Kuwait to obtain the health certificate required for residency issuance.

The tests cover not only HIV but also other diseases such as hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis, and additional illnesses depending on the traveler’s country of origin, including malaria and filariasis.

Certain job categories, especially those involved in food handling, barbershops, health centers, and other sectors with specific health requirements, are subject to periodic medical examinations.

Dr. Al-Hasawi emphasized that the Ministry of Health continuously monitors global infectious disease rates and updates the list of countries whose citizens must undergo medical examinations upon returning to Kuwait.

Fog rolls

Al-Ali told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that fog is expected to reduce horizontal visibility during the evening and may persist into Thursday, with rising humidity and continued chances of light fog in the early morning hours.

Looking ahead to the weekend, he explained that humidity will decrease as the air mass shifts and winds turn northwesterly. Temperatures are forecast to gradually rise, reaching between 49 and 51 degrees Celsius.

Kuwait moves

for viewing or monitoring postal item contents.

The licensee alone bears the responsibility for upholding and protecting the principle of item confidentiality with respect to postal activities.

The draft, which was submitted for public consultation, indicates that the ministry is responsible for receiving license applications, examining them to ensure that all supporting documents are complete, and issuing a decision to approve or reject the application within 60 days from the date of submission.

In the event of rejection, the decision must be justified. Failure to respond within the aforementioned period shall be deemed a rejection of the application. Those whose applications are rejected may appeal to the ministry in accordance with applicable procedures in the country.

The ministry stated that the license term is one calendar year from the date of issuance. Licensees may apply for renewal by submitting a written request to the ministry no less than 30 days prior to the license expiration date, provided that the licensee submits financial statements.

In a related development, the ministry on Wednesday announced the launching of a public consultation campaign regarding the draft resolution.

The campaign will last for two weeks, with the aim of engaging various stakeholders in developing new regulatory frameworks that will enhance the development of the postal sector and improve the efficiency and quality of its services.

In a press statement, the ministry disclosed that this initiative is part of its efforts to update legislation in

line with international best practices by involving the private sector and the community in formulating public policies, achieving transparency, and establishing the principle of participation in decision-making.

It added that the draft resolution has been published on its official website; and citizens, residents, company representatives, investors, and professionals in the postal sector can submit their opinions and comments through the public consultation form available via the direct link on the website.

The participation link can also be accessed through the ministry’s social media accounts, where a special QR code has been allocated to facilitate access to the campaign page.

The statement also quoted acting Undersecretary of the ministry Mishaal Al-Zaid as saying that “the campaign is an opportunity to unify efforts toward developing a modern and effective postal environment that serves all segments of society and enhances competitiveness in the market.”

He called on those interested to participate actively, as every opinion contributes to the issuance of legislation that reflects the needs of the sector and contributes to regulating it in a way that serves public interest.

He added “the ministry is proceeding steadily toward modernizing the regulatory and legislative structure of the postal sector in line with market developments and modern technology.” He emphasized that the involvement of stakeholders in this project reflects the ministry’s commitment to develop postal services, facilitate procedures, and enhance the business environment to support the national economy and align with the efforts of the State toward smart institutional transformation.

KU opens registration portal for new students until June 17

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Deanship of Admissions and Registration at Kuwait University has invited all new students who have not yet registered and wish to enroll at the university for the first time to log into its system and submit their personal information and data from Wednesday until June 17, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



KFF photo
Fire and Marine Rescue teams respond to a drowning incident in the Khiran marine area.

Rescue teams avert drowning in Khairan

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: An individual who was on the verge of drowning in Khairan marine area was rescued on time by fire and marine rescue teams on Wednesday morning.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), the Al-Mahleb Fire and Marine Rescue team dealt with the incident at one of the beaches in Khairan. The victim was successfully rescued and handed over to the relevant authorities.

KRCS first aid courses earn US accreditation

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced on Tuesday, June 10 that it has received official accreditation from the American Institute for Health and Safety for its first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) courses, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Vice Chair of KRCS’ Board of Directors Dr. Nasser Al-Tannak told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that this accreditation reflects the society’s commitment to adhering to international standards in training staff and volunteers.

He explained that it is in line with KRCS’ vision to develop its training programs, expand international partnerships, and strengthen its humanitarian role. The accreditation is part of KRCS’ ongoing efforts to elevate the capabilities of its volunteer teams to the highest international standards. It enables the society to offer internationally recognized training courses, and grant trainees with certificates accredited by one of the world’s leading health and safety organizations.



Required for Academic Year 2025-26 at Private American School

Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Female Physical Education Teacher/LifeguardEnglish Teacher (Native English speakers only)
Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English Teacher (Native English speakers only)Math TeacherMusic Teacher
Middle and High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Math TeacherAP English Teacher (Native English speakers only)English Teacher (Native English speakers only)Science TeacherCulinary Arts TeacherSocial Studies/Humanities TeacherCounselor (Social-Emotional and Academic Focus)College Counselor
Leadership Positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HS School PrincipalMSHS Curriculum CoordinatorElementary Curriculum CoordinatorElementary CounselorMSHS Dean of Students

Interested applicants may apply through our website at the following link:
<https://www.abs.edu.kw/careers/abs>

LA police swiftly enforce downtown curfew

California Governor Newsom says ‘democracy under assault’ by US President Trump

LOS ANGELES, June 11, (AP): Los Angeles police swiftly enforced a downtown curfew Tuesday night, making arrests moments after it took effect, while deploying officers on horseback and using crowd control projectiles to break up a group of hundreds demonstrating against President Donald Trump’s immigration crackdown.

Members of the National Guard stood watch behind plastic shields, but did not appear to participate in the arrests.

Hours later, many of the protesters had dispersed, although sporadic confrontations continued that were much smaller than in previous nights. Officials said the curfew was necessary to stop vandalism and theft by agitators looking to cause trouble.

Democratic Gov Gavin Newsom earlier accused Trump of drawing a “military dragnet” across the nation’s second-largest city with his escalating use of the National Guard. He also deployed Marines, though none were

seen on the streets Tuesday.

Calling Trump a threat to the American way of life, Newsom depicted the federal military intervention in Los Angeles as the onset of a much broader effort by Trump to overturn political and cultural norms at the heart of the nation’s democracy.

“California may be first, but it clearly will not end here. Other states are next,” a somber Newsom warned, seated before the US and California flags. “Democracy is next. Democracy is under assault before our eyes. This moment we have feared has arrived.”

Newsom added that Trump is attacking law firms and the judicial branch - “the foundations of an orderly and civil society.”

Newsom asked a court to put an emergency stop to the military helping federal immigration agents, with some guardsmen now standing in protection around agents as they carried out arrests. He said it would only heighten tensions and promote civil unrest. The



A protester is arrested by California Highway Patrol near the federal building in downtown Los Angeles on June 10. (AP)

judge set a hearing for Thursday, giving the administration several days to continue those activities.

The change moves troops closer to engaging in law enforcement actions like deportations as Trump has prom-

ised as part of his administration’s immigration crackdown. The Guard has the authority to temporarily detain people who attack officers but any arrests ultimately would be made by law enforcement.

Trump has activated more than 4,000 National Guard members and 700 Marines over the objections of city and state leaders. They were originally deployed to protect federal buildings.

Demonstrations have spread to other cities nationwide, including Dallas and Austin, Texas, Chicago and New York, where a thousand people rallied and multiple arrests were made.

In Texas, where police in Austin used chemical irritants to disperse several hundred demonstrators Monday, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott’s office said Texas National Guard troops were “on standby” in areas where demonstrations are planned, Abbott spokesperson Andrew Mahaleris said Tuesday evening.

Guard members were deployed to

San Antonio, according to assistant police chief Jesse Salame. He said he did not know how many were sent or details on the deployment.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass declared a local emergency on the fifth day of protests and said the curfew will run from 8 p.m. Tuesday until 6 a.m. Wednesday. She said it was expected to last for several days.

“We reached a tipping point” after 23 businesses were looted, Bass said during a news conference Tuesday.

The curfew covers a 1 square mile (2.5 square kilometers) section of downtown that includes the area where protests have occurred since Friday. The city of Los Angeles encompasses roughly 500 square miles (1,295 square kilometers).

The curfew doesn’t apply to residents who live in the designated area, people who are homeless, credentialed media or public safety and emergency officials, according to Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell.



US President Donald Trump, (right), speaks during a news conference with Elon Musk in the Oval Office of the White House on May 30, in Washington. (AP)

Elon Musk backs off from explosive feud with Trump

WASHINGTON, June 11, (AP): Elon Musk stepped back from his explosive feud with US President Donald Trump, writing on X that he regrets some of his posts about his onetime ally and that they went “too far.”

Early Wednesday morning, he posted “I regret some of my posts about President @realDonaldTrump last week. They went too far.”

Musk’s break with a president whom he spent hundreds of millions of dollars to elect appeared to put an end to his influence in the White House and prompted concerns about effects on his

companies. As a major government contractor, Musk’s businesses could be particularly vulnerable to retribution, and Trump has already threatened to cut Musk’s contracts.

Musk earlier deleted a post in which he claimed without evidence that the government was concealing information about the president’s association with infamous pedophile Jeffrey Epstein.

Meanwhile, other posts that irritated Trump, including ones in which Musk called the spending bill an “abomination” and claimed credit for Trump’s election victory, remained live.

AI speeding up work of America’s intelligence services: Gabbard

WASHINGTON, June 11, (AP): Artificial intelligence is speeding up the work of America’s intelligence services, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard said Tuesday.

Speaking to a technology conference, Gabbard said AI programs, when used responsibly, can save money and free up intelligence officers to focus on gathering and analyzing information. The sometimes slow pace of intelligence work frustrated her as a member of Congress, Gabbard said, and continues to be a challenge.

AI can run human resource programs, for instance, or scan sensitive documents ahead of potential declassification, Gabbard said. Her office has released tens of thousands of pages of material related to the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and his brother, New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, on the orders of President Donald Trump.

Experts had predicted the process could take many months or even years, but AI accelerated the work by scanning the documents to see if they contained any material that should remain classified, Gabbard said during her remarks at the Amazon Web Services Summit in Washington.

“We have been able to do that through the use of AI tools far more quickly than what was done previously - which was to have humans go through and look at every single one of these pages,” Gabbard said.

The intelligence community already relies on many private-sector technol-



US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard departs following a closed door meeting with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. at Malacanang Palace in Manila, Philippines on June 2. (AP)

ogies, and Gabbard said she wants to expand that relationship instead of using federal resources to create expensive alternatives.

“How do we look at the available tools that exist - largely in the private sector - to make it so that our intelligence professionals, both collectors and analysts, are able to focus their time and energy on the things that only they can do,” she said.

Gabbard, who coordinates the work of 18 intelligence agencies, has vowed to shake up America’s spy services.

Since assuming her role this year,

she has created a new task force to consider changes to agency operations as well as greater declassification. She also has fired two veteran intelligence officers because of perceived opposition to Trump, eliminated diversity, equity and inclusion programs and relocated the staff who prepare the President’s Daily Brief to give her more direct control.

Also:

WASHINGTON: Seven Army bases whose names were changed in 2023 because they honored Confederate leaders

are all reverting back to their original names, the Army said Tuesday.

The announcement came just hours after President **Donald Trump** previewed the decision, telling troops at Fort Bragg, **North Carolina**, that he was changing the names back. Fort Bragg, which was changed to Fort Liberty by the Biden administration, was the first to have its original name restored after the Army found another person with the same last name. Defense Secretary **Pete Hegseth**, who was with Trump at Fort Bragg, signed an order restoring the name in February.

“Can you believe they changed that name in the last administration for a little bit?” Trump said. “We’ll forget all about that.”

In March, Hegseth reversed the decision changing Fort Benning in **Georgia** to Fort Moore.

To restore the original names of the additional seven bases, the Army once again found service members with the same last names to honor. Those bases are Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Pickett and Fort Robert E. Lee in **Virginia**, Fort Gordon in Georgia, Fort Hood in **Texas**, Fort Polk in **Louisiana** and Fort Rucker in **Alabama**.

The decision strips names chosen in 2023 to honor top leaders, such as President **Dwight D. Eisenhower**, as well as Black soldiers and women. No women are included in the new Army list.

There was no immediate cost estimate for changing all the signs at the bases, just two years after they were revamped.

Russian attacks kill three and wound 64 as drones hit Kharkiv, other parts of Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, June 11, (AP): Russian forces launched a new drone assault across Ukraine overnight on Wednesday, killing three people and wounding 64 others, Ukrainian officials said.

One of the hardest-hit areas was the city of Kharkiv in northeastern Ukraine, where 17 attack drones struck two residential districts, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said. Emergency crews, municipal workers and volunteers worked through the night to extinguish fires, rescue residents from burning homes, and restore gas, electricity and water services.

“Those are ordinary sites of peaceful life - those that should never be targeted,” Terekhov wrote on Telegram.

Three people were confirmed killed, according to Kharkiv regional head Oleh Syniehubov. In a statement, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that 64 people had been wounded and reiterated his calls for greater international pressure on Moscow.

“Every new day now brings new vile Russian attacks, and almost every strike is telling,” he said. “We must not be afraid or postpone new decisions that could make things more difficult for Russia. Without this, they will not engage in genuine diplomacy. And this depends primarily on the United States and other world leaders. Everyone who has called for an end to the killings and for diplomacy must act.”

Kharkiv has been frequently target-



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, a view after a Russian attack that hit a residential building in Kharkiv, Ukraine on June 11. (AP)

ed in recent months as Russia launched repeated large-scale drone and missile attacks on civilian infrastructure.

Moscow’s forces have launched waves of drones and missiles in recent days, with a record bombardment of almost 500 drones on Monday and a wave of 315 drones and seven missiles overnight on Tuesday.

The attacks come despite discussions of a potential ceasefire in the war. The two sides traded memorandums at direct peace talks in Istanbul on June 2 that set out conditions. However, the

inclusion of clauses that both sides see as nonstarters make any quick deal unlikely.

Wednesday’s strikes also caused widespread destruction in Kharkiv’s Slobidskyi and Osnovianskyi districts, hitting apartment buildings, private homes, playgrounds, industrial sites and public transportation. Images from the scene published by Ukraine’s Emergency Service on Telegram showed burning apartments, shattered windows and firefighters battling the blaze.

Polish prime minister defends centrist government before vote of confidence

WARSAW, Poland, June 11, (AP): Prime Minister Donald Tusk defended his centrist, pro-European government before parliament on Wednesday, seeking to reassert control and rally his fractured coalition after suffering a bitter political defeat.

Tusk requested a vote of confidence in the wake of the June 1 loss of Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski - his close ally - to nationalist historian Karol Nawrocki. Backed by U.S. President Donald Trump, Nawrocki is set to replace outgoing President Andrzej Duda, another conservative who repeatedly blocked Tusk’s reform efforts.

“I am asking for a vote of confidence with full conviction that we have a mandate to govern, to take full responsibility for what is happening in Poland,” Tusk said.

Most of the power in Poland’s parliamentary system rests with an elected parliament and a government chosen by the parliament. However, the president can veto legislation and represents the country abroad.

“Anyone who is ready to move



Poland’s Prime Minister Donald Tusk addresses the Polish parliament on June 11, in Warsaw, Poland. (AP)

forward with me, with the government, and above all with our voters, regardless of these momentary emotions, and build a better Poland, should vote today for a vote of confidence in our government,” Tusk

said.

The vote, scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, is widely expected to go in Tusk’s favor. His four-party coalition holds a narrow but stable majority in the 460-seat Sejm, Poland’s lower house.

A loss would trigger the formation of a caretaker government and may open the door for an early parliamentary election. That could potentially returning power to the conservative Law and Justice party, in coalition with the far-right Confederation party, whose candidate placed third in the presidential race.

Tusk had long counted on a Trzaskowski victory to break the institutional deadlock created by Duda’s vetoes. Instead, he now faces an incoming president aligned with the nationalist opposition and openly hostile to his government’s legislative priorities.

“We cannot close our eyes to reality,” he said. “A president who was reluctant to accept the changes we proposed for Poland and our voters is being replaced by a president who is at least equally reluctant to those changes and proposals.”

Austria falls silent for minute as questions remain about motive of school shooting

GRAZ, Austria, June 11, (AP): Austria fell silent for a minute on Wednesday in memory of the 10 people killed in a school shooting in Graz, which ended with the gunman taking his own life. The man’s motive remained unclear.

Austria has declared three days of national mourning following what appears to be the deadliest attack in its post-World War II history. At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, marking the moment a day earlier when police were alerted to shots at the BORG Dreierschützengasse high school, the country stopped for a minute of silence.

Hundreds of people lined the central square in Graz, Austria’s second-biggest city. Some laid more candles and flowers in front of the city hall, adding to a growing memorial to the victims. The first candles were laid on Tuesday evening as a crowd gathered on the square, some people hugging each other as they tried to come to terms with the tragedy. Hundreds of people joined Austrian officials at a service Tuesday evening in the Graz cathedral.

Among those on the square Wednes-



People light candles on the main square after a former student opened fire the day before at a school fatally wounding several people and injuring many others before taking his own life, Graz, Austria on June 11. (AP)

day was Chiara Komlenic, a 28-year-old art history student who finished her exams at the school there.

“I always felt very protected there. The teachers were also very supportive,” she said. “I made lifelong

friendships there. It just hurts to see that young girls and boys will never come back, that they experienced the worst day of their lives where I had the best time of my life. I still know a few teachers, it just hurts a lot.”

America

Judge disqualifies Democrat Blackman: Votes won’t count for Democrat **Daniel Blackman** in the June 17 primary election for Georgia Public Service Commission after a judge ruled Tuesday that Blackman hadn’t proved that he had lived in Fulton County for the required year before the general election in November.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Ural Glanville issued an earlier temporary order that kept Blackman on the ballot after Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger had disqualified him. But after a hearing on Tuesday, Glanville ruled from the bench that Raffensperger’s ruling had been correct.

Blackman can appeal, but if he loses, any votes cast for him will not be counted in the District 3 Democratic primary for the utility regulator. Three other Democrats - Peter Hubbard, Robert Jones and Keisha Waites - are also seeking their party’s nomination to oppose Republican Fitz Johnson in November.

In Public Service Commission elections, voters statewide choose each of the five commissioners. But the commissioners themselves must live in particular districts. District 3 includes Fulton, DeKalb and Clayton counties. (AP)



Blackman

Bison gores man in Yellowstone: A bison gores a man Tuesday after a large group of visitors got too close to the animal in Yellowstone National Park, officials said.

The 30-year-old from Randolph, New Jersey, was treated for minor injuries after being gored around 9:45 a.m. in the Old Faithful area, according to a park statement.

Park officials didn’t release the man’s name or condition, saying what happened was under investigation and no more information was available for release.

He was the second person gored by a bison already this spring in Yellowstone. A 47-year-old Cape Coral, Florida, man had minor injuries after being gored in the Lake Village area May 7. (AP)

Coast Guard suspends search for plane: The Coast Guard suspended the search Tuesday for the wreckage of a small plane that crashed into the ocean shortly after taking off from San Diego, killing all six people aboard.

The National Transportation Safety Board said it will continue working to determine why the Cessna 414 crashed Sunday, but it doesn’t expect to have any updates on the crash until it publishes its preliminary report about a month from now.

With the wreckage still resting under a couple hundred feet of water, the NTSB’s investigator isn’t even immediately travelling to where the plane crashed about 3 miles (about 5 kilometers) off the coast of Point Loma, a San Diego neighborhood that juts into the Pacific. (AP)

Senators return impeachment case against VP Duterte to Philippine House

MANILA, Philippines, June 11, (Agencies): Philippine senators set themselves as an impeachment court Tuesday for the trial of Vice President Sara Duterte over corruption and other criminal allegations, but voted to send the raft of complaints back to the lower House of Representatives due to legal questions.

Dozens of activists protesting outside the Senate condemned Senate President Chiz Escudero and 17 other senators for voting to send back the impeachment complaint to the House instead of immediately bringing Duterte to trial. Five senators rejected the move.

The Senate action will delay the start of Duterte's impeachment trial but it's unclear what other impact it would have on her case.

"There is no 'remand' or 'return' in the constitution," said Sen. Risa Hontiveros, who has demanded an immediate trial of the vice president. "Our obligation is to try and decide."

Escudero said the move did not mean that the impeachment complaint was being dismissed and underscored that point by issuing summons for Duterte to appear before the impeachment court when the trial proceeds.



In this photo provided by the Senate Social Media Unit, Philippine Senate president Francis Escudero lead Philippine senators as they take oath as jurors in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte at the Philippine Senate in Pasay City, Philippines on June 10. (AP)

Also:
MANILA: A cultural presentation celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Philippines was held on Monday.

The evening event, which also commemorated Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day, was co-organized by the Chinese Embassy in the Philippines, the Department of Foreign

Affairs of the Philippines, and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Associations of the Philippines Foundation, Inc.

Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines **Huang Xilian** said in his speech that at this meaningful moment, the two sides must stay true to the original vision that guided the establishment of diplomatic relations.

UN envoy to Myanmar warns that violence puts country on ‘path to self-destruction’

UNITED NATIONS, June 11, (AP): Myanmar is on "a path to self-destruction" if violence in the conflict-wracked Southeast Asian nation doesn't end, the UN envoy warned on Tuesday.

Julie Bishop told the UN General Assembly that "alarmingly" the violence didn't end after a powerful earthquake in late March devastated parts of the capital, Naypyitaw, and the country's second-largest city, Mandalay, killing more than 3,000 people and injuring thousands more.

Ceasefires announced by some parties have largely not been observed, "embedding a crisis within a crisis," and people in Myanmar must now deal with the raging conflict and the earthquake's devastation, said Bishop, a former foreign minister of Australia.

"A zero-sum approach persists on all sides," she said. "Armed clashes remain a barrier to meeting humanitarian needs. The flow of weapons into the country is fueling the expectations that a military solution is possible."

A widespread armed struggle against military rule in Myanmar began in February 2021 after generals seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. More than 6,600 civilians are estimated to have been killed by security forces, according to figures compiled by nongovern-



A temporary building is seen after clear collapsed building caused by strong earthquake in Naypyitaw, Myanmar on May 23. (AP)

mental organizations.

The military takeover triggered intensified fighting with long-established armed militias organized by Myanmar's ethnic minority groups in its border regions, which have struggled for decades for more autonomy. It also led to the formation of pro-democracy militias that support a national unity government established by elected lawmakers barred from taking their

seats after the army takeover.

More than 22,000 political prisoners are still in detention, Bishop said, including Suu Kyi, who turns 80 on June 19, and the ousted president, Win Myint.

The UN envoy said she detected "some openness to political dialogue with some regional support, but there is not yet broader agreement on how to move forward."

First concrete step toward easing tensions

South Korea military halts loudspeaker broadcasts along border with rival N.Korea

SEOUL, South Korea, June 11, (AP): South Korea's military has shut down loudspeakers broadcasting anti-North Korea propaganda along the inter-Korean border, marking the new liberal government's first concrete step toward easing tensions between the war-divided rivals.

The South resumed the loudspeaker broadcasts in June last year following a yearslong pause in retaliation for North Korea flying trash-laden balloons toward the South in a psychological warfare campaign.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said Wednesday that the move was part of efforts to "to restore trust in inter-Korean relations and promote peace on the Korean Peninsula."

North Korea, which is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of its authoritarian leadership and its third-generation ruler, Kim Jong Un, didn't immediately comment on the step by Seoul.

From May to November last year, North Korea flew about 7,000 balloons toward South Korea in 32 separate events to drop substances such as wastepaper, cloth scraps, cigarette butts and even manure. The North said that its balloon campaign came after South Korean activists sent over balloons filled with anti-North Korean leaflets, as well as USB sticks filled with popular South Korean songs and dramas.

Trash carried by at least one North Korean balloon fell on the South Korean presidential compound in July, raising concerns about the vulnerability of key South Korean facilities. Officials said that the balloon contained no dangerous material and no one was hurt.

South Korea, in response to the North Korean balloons, reactivated its front-line loudspeakers to blast propaganda messages and K-pop songs toward the North. The playlist was clearly designed to strike the nerve of Pyongyang, as Kim's government since the COVID-19 pandemic has been intensifying a campaign to eliminate the influence of South Korean pop culture and language among the population in a bid to strengthen his family's dynastic rule.

The Cold War-style psychological warfare campaigns added to tensions fueled



A South Korean military vehicle with loudspeakers is seen in front of the barbed-wire fence in Paju, near the border with North Korea, on Feb 15, 2018. (AP)

by North Korea's growing nuclear ambitions and South Korean efforts to expand joint military exercises with the United States and strengthen three-way security cooperation with Japan.

South Korea's new liberal president, Lee Jae-myung, who took office last week after winning an early election to replace ousted conservative Yoon Suk Yeol, has

vowed to improve relations with Pyongyang, which reacted furiously to Yoon's hard-line policies and shunned dialogue.

During the election campaign, Lee promised to halt the loudspeaker broadcasts, arguing that they created unnecessary tensions and discomfort for South Korean residents in border towns. In recent months, those residents had complained about North Korea's retaliatory broadcasts, which included howling animals, pounding gongs and other irritating sounds.

In a briefing on Monday, South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, also called for South Korean civilian activists to stop flying anti-North Korean propaganda leaflets across the border. Such activities "could heighten tensions on the Korean Peninsula and threaten the lives and safety of residents in border areas," said Koo Byungsam, the ministry's spokesperson.

In his inaugural address last week, Lee vowed to reopen communication channels with North Korea to ease tensions. But prospects for an early resumption of dialogue between the rival Koreas remain dim, as North Korea has consistently rejected offers from South Korea and the United States since 2019, when nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang collapsed over sanctions-related disagreements.

North Korea's priority in foreign policy is now firmly with Russia, which has received thousands of North Korean troops and large amounts of military equipment in recent months for its war with Ukraine.

Yoon, who was removed from office in April over his short-lived imposition of martial law in December, had focused on strengthening military partnerships with Washington and Tokyo and on securing stronger US assurances of a swift and decisive nuclear response to defend the South against a North Korean attack.

In a fierce reaction to Yoon's policies, Kim in January 2024 declared that he was abandoning the long-standing goals of a peaceful unification with the South and instructed the rewriting of the North's constitution to cement the South as a permanent "principal enemy."



Snow covers the N2 road heading to Nolangeni, South Africa on June 10. (AP)

7 dead, schoolchildren swept away as floods and snow hit S.Africa

At least seven people have died in flooding in South Africa after a weather front bringing heavy rain and snow hit eastern and southern provinces, officials said Tuesday.

A bus carrying high school students was swept away in the floods in the Eastern Cape province and an unknown number of children

were missing, the provincial government said in a statement. Three children were rescued after they clung onto trees, according to the South African National Taxi Council, which said the bus was operated by one of its members.

Disaster response teams have been activated in the province on

the south coast.

Six people died in flooding in the Eastern Cape city of Mthatha, where houses and cars were left submerged. A seventh body was recovered near the town of Tsolo, around 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of Mthatha, the provincial government said. (AP)

15-year-old charged with attempted murder

Colombia bomb attacks kill 7 people

BOGOTA, Colombia, June 11, (AP): Seven people, including two police officers, were killed in Colombia on Tuesday, as rebel groups detonated bombs near police stations in the city of Cali and the neighboring Cauca province, Colombia's National Police said in a statement.

Military and police spokespeople blamed the attacks on the FARC-EMC, a group led by former members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia who broke away from the group after it signed a peace deal with the government in 2016.

Authorities said the rebels placed bombs in cars and motorcycles that were parked near police stations, while also waging some attacks with gunfire and grenades. Colombia's police said there were a total of 24 attacks on Tuesday in the city Cali and the surrounding provinces of Cauca and Valle del Cauca, in which 28 people were also injured, including 19 civilians.

The attacks on the police stations came just days after Miguel Uribe, a conservative presidential candidate, was shot during a rally in Bogota. Authorities say they are investigating who was behind the attack on Uribe, who is in a critical condition in hospital in Bogota.

Colombia's government has struggled to contain violence in urban and rural areas as several rebel groups try to take over territory abandoned by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Co-



A bus that exploded next to a police station sits on a road in Villa Rica, Cauca Valley, Colombia, Tuesday, June 10, 2025. (AP)

lombia following its peace deal with the government.

Peace talks between the FARC-EMC faction and the government broke down last year after a series of attacks on indigenous communities.

The government is currently holding talks with another faction of the group, that is led by commander Luis Alberto Alban, known also as Marcos Calarca.

Also:
BOGOTA: Colombian authorities on Tuesday charged a 15-year-old with

attempted murder for the assassination attempt on **Miguel Uribe**, the conservative presidential candidate who was shot in the head this weekend and is now in critical condition.

The Attorney General's office said the teenager shot at Uribe during a rally in Bogota's **Modelia** neighborhood and was captured fleeing the scene with a gun. The teenager, whose name has not been released, pleaded not guilty to the charges. He is currently recovering in a hospital from leg wounds.

Africa

Togo's president faces calls to resign: Togo's President **Faure Gnassingbé** is facing growing pressure following a government clampdown on protests calling for his resignation over recent changes in the constitution that could effectively keep him in power indefinitely.

Activists on Tuesday condemned the arrest and alleged maltreatment of dozens of people following staged protests late last week in Togo's capital, Lomé, and on social media.

The Togolese leader, who has ruled since 2005 after the death of his father, was in May sworn in as President of the Council of Ministers. The powerful role has not official term limits and he is eligible to be re-elected by parliament indefinitely.

Opposition politicians have denounced the move as a "constitutional coup."

Around half of the 80 protesters who were arrested were released late Monday. However, at least 25 remain in custody, a local rights group said, urging authorities to release the others.

"What we know is that several people were beaten during their arrest," Aimé Adi, director of Amnesty International's office in Togo, told The Associated Press.

In addition to the release of the remaining detainees, "what the Togolese now want is the end of this regime



Gnassingbe

which can no longer offer anything to the people after 20 years of absolute and repressive power of Faure Gnassingbé," said a coalition of political groups known as "Hands Off My Constitution".

Demonstrations are rare in Togo as they have been banned in the country since 2022, following a deadly attack at Lomé's main market. But the latest change in government structure has been widely criticized in a region threatened by rampant coups and other threats to democracy.

Public prosecutor Talaka Mawama has defended the arrests and described the protests as "part of a revolt against the institutions of the Republic." (AP)

‘Haftar forces supporting RSF’: The Sudanese Army leadership on Tuesday accused Libyan forces loyal to Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar of attacking border posts in Sudan, Egypt, and Libya bordered triangle in support of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by Mohammed Hamediti.

A statement by the Sudanese Military said such direct intervention by the Libyan National Army, led by Khalifa Haftar, in the ongoing war in Sudan is "a blatant aggression against Sudan, its land, and its people."

According to Sudanese media, clashes erupted between the Joint Forces, composed of Sudanese armed movements allied with the Sudanese military, and the Salafi Battalion, affiliated with the Libyan National Army, which resulted in casualties on both sides.

A Sudanese military source told media that Libyan forces had penetrated more than three kilometers into Sudanese territory near Mount Al-Uwaynat, which prompted an immediate response from the Sudanese army. (KUNA)



Former Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro shows his cell phone during his Supreme Court trial as he and others face charges for an alleged coup plot to keep him in office after his 2022 election defeat, in Brasilia, Brazil on June 10. (AP)

Brazil's Bolsonaro testifies

Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro appeared before the Supreme Court for the first time Tuesday and denied participation in an alleged plot to remain in power and overturn the 2022 election result as he faces charges that could bring decades behind bars.

Many Brazilians followed the trial, which was streamed online. The country was shaken by the January 2023 riot in which the Supreme Court, Congress and presidential palace were ransacked. Bolsonaro said in his testimony that the rioters were "crazy," not coup mongers. (AP)

Argentine court upholds six yrs jail sentence for ex-prez

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, June 11, (AP): Argentina's highest court upheld a six-year prison sentence for former President **Cristina Fernández de Kirchner** in a ruling Tuesday that permanently banned her from public office over the corruption conviction that found she had directed state contracts to a friend while she was the first lady and president.

The explosive Supreme Court ruling left Fernández, Argentina's charismatic yet deeply divisive ex-leader, subject to arrest and sent her supporters pouring into the streets of Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital, and blocking major highways in protest.

The court asked Argentina's security ministry to set up a detention center to hold 72-year-old Fernández. Her defense lawyer Carlos Beraldi told C5N, a television station in Buenos Aires, that he had requested Fernández be allowed to serve her sentence in house arrest given her age.

The ruling bars Fernández from running in this fall's Buenos Aires legislative elections just days after she launched her campaign.

Fernández, who dominated Argentine politics for two decades and forged the country's main left-wing populist movement known as Kirchnerism, after her and her husband, former President Néstor Kirchner, rejects the charges as politically motivated.



Fernández

Kuwaiti oil price up USD 1.04 to USD 67.39 per barrel

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): Price of Kuwaiti oil rose by USD 1.04 to reach USD 67.39 per barrel, compared to Monday’s USD 66.35 pb, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corpora-

tion (KPC). In global markets, Brent Crude went down by 17 cents to USD 66.87 as West Texas Intermediate went down by 31 cents to USD 64.98.

Business

Campaign an upgraded loyalty journey that puts customer convenience and choice first

Gulf Bank elevates customer experience with the enhanced Gulf Points Program

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: In line with its commitment to delivering an exceptional customer experience, Gulf Bank is proud to unveil the newly enhanced Gulf Points Program; a best-in-class loyalty offering that combines seamless digital access, unparalleled redemption flexibility, and lifestyle-centric rewards, just in time for the summer season.

The program’s customer-first design reflects Gulf Bank’s strategic focus on innovation and personalization. With a dedicated online Gulf Points Store, customers now enjoy a simplified and intuitive platform where they can instantly redeem their points for an extensive collection of items—from Deliveroo and Talabat vouchers, to electronics, travel bookings, hotel stays, and car rentals.

“At Gulf Bank, customer experience is at the heart of every innovation we launch,” said Najla Aleisa, Chief Marketing Office at Gulf Bank. “The enhanced Gulf Points Program is not just about rewards, it’s about creating moments of joy, savings, and convenience for our customers in every transaction.”

How Gulf Bank is Enhancing the Customer Experience:

■ Frictionless Access: All Gulf Bank credit cardholders are automatically enrolled, eliminating the need for sign-ups or manual activation.

■ One-Click Redemption: The new Gulf Points online store enables real-time browsing and redemption of rewards tailored to customer preferences and seasonal needs.

■ Freedom of Choice: From everyday essentials to luxury travel,



Gulf Points summer campaign flyer.

customers can choose how to use their points with no blackout dates.

■ Empowered Spending: Gulf Points can be redeemed for cash,

shared with loved ones offering full control and flexibility.

Designed for today’s digitally savvy, convenience-driven consumer,

- Customers can redeem their Gulf Points to book flights, hotel accommodations, and car rentals, or transfer them as gifts to family and friends, offering flexibility and convenience tailored to their lifestyle needs.
- Recognized as Kuwait's most rewarding loyalty program, Gulf Points allows customers to earn cash-back and shop through the region's first bank-affiliated online store, featuring a wide array of redemption options.

effortlessly accumulate points with every purchase and unlock access to tailored rewards that suit their individual needs and aspirations.

As customers prepare for increased travel and spending during summer, the enhanced program empowers customers to make the most of their spending, reinforcing Gulf Bank’s positioning as a customer-centric, digital-first bank.

Gulf Bank representatives were available at a dedicated Gulf Points Booth in The Avenues Mall last week, offering hands-on guidance and showcasing how easy it is to get started with the enhanced loyalty platform.

With this strategic upgrade, Gulf Bank continues to lead the market in delivering meaningful customer experiences, where banking meets everyday convenience, and rewards are just a click away.

Boursa Kuwait’s general index climbs 51.51 points

201.6 million shares change hands

KUWAIT CITY, June 11, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Wednesday’s session on a positive note, with the general index climbing 51.51 points, or 0.63 percent, to close at 8,268.50 points. The day saw a total of 408.11 million shares traded through 21,279 cash transactions, with a total value of KD 94.7 million (approximately USD 289.7 million).

The Main Market Index advanced 34.51 points (0.49 percent)

to settle at 7,042.38 points, as 201.6 million shares changed hands via 10,107 transactions, generating KD 21 million (around USD 64.2 million) in turnover.

Meanwhile, the Premier Market Index posted a gain of 58.29 points, or 0.65 percent, to reach 8,982.89 points. Trading volume reached 206.4 million shares through 11,172 transactions, with a total value of KD 73.7 million (about USD 225.5 million).

In parallel, the Major 50 Index also edged higher, adding 16.74 points (0.23 percent) to finish at 7,212.92 points. A total of 163.3 million shares were traded via 6,413 cash transactions, amounting to KD 15.5 million (roughly USD 47.4 million).

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: As part of its social responsibility and ongoing efforts to promote community awareness, Warba Bank launched an interactive awareness campaign at Assima Mall, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and presented by officers in an aim to educate the public about the recent amendments to Kuwait’s traffic law.

This marks the first-of-its-kind initiative by a bank in Kuwait to engage directly with the public on traffic legislation. The campaign was hosted in a dedicated area inside the mall, generously provided by Salhia Real Estate Company in support of this public awareness effort.

The event featured a smart screen and a dedicated booth by Warba Bank, where visitors answered educational questions developed by the Ministry of Interior regarding the new traffic law changes. Participants who answered correctly received one of over 200 gifts provided by Warba Bank.

Commenting on the campaign, Director Marketing and Corporate Com-

munications at Warba Bank, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, emphasized that the initiative reflects the bank’s social commitment to promoting awareness about traffic laws and reducing road accidents by supporting government efforts and spreading knowledge across the community. He also noted the campaign’s objective of highlighting the importance of adhering to the new traffic laws for everyone’s safety.

Officers from the Ministry of Interior supervised the educational sessions and explained all key amendments to the law in a simplified and effective manner, ensuring that visitors of all ages could engage and understand the changes.

Al-Mutairi affirmed that this three-way collaboration between Warba Bank, the Ministry of Interior, and Salhia Real Estate represents a successful model of public-private partnership serving the national interest. He added that Warba Bank will continue to support such impactful initiatives that benefit both citizens and residents.



A group photo marking the conclusion of the campaign, featuring employees from the Ministry of Interior alongside staff from Warba Bank.

He stated: “Our participation in this awareness campaign stems from our firm belief that a better tomorrow is built today through knowledge and social responsibility. That’s why Warba Bank is committed to actively supporting national initiatives that promote a culture of compliance and safety, in line with our vision and our motto: Let’s Own Tomorrow.” Warba Bank has rapidly established

itself as a leading institution in Islamic digital banking services and is among the local banks with the highest number of shareholders, bringing it closer to all segments of society. This milestone further reinforces the bank’s position as a trusted financial partner that merges innovation with social responsibility in delivering premium financial services and products.

Partnership enhances customer experience

KFH welcomes Gulf Air to its Rewards Program

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the onboarding of Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, into its Rewards Program. This move enhances customer experience and reaffirms the bank’s leadership in providing optimal solutions and exclusive benefits.

KFH Rewards Program allows credit and debit cardholders, including Hesabi and Rewards prepaid cards and other eligible members, to earn points on every purchase. These points can then be redeemed for attractive offers and discounts at over 200 participating merchants and partners. Customers can access these benefits via the KFH Rewards mobile app or the program’s official website (www.rewards.kfh).

The partnership with Gulf Air brings added value to KFH customers. Gulf Air has been operating since 1950, making it one of the earliest airlines established in the Middle East. The airline operates scheduled flights from its hub at Bahrain International Airport to various destinations in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and the Far East; offering travelers an exceptional experience across its network.

KFH encourages customers to use credit and other eligible cards to earn KFH rewards points. Customers can collect points for each purchase transaction starting with KD 1. The points can later be redeemed for purchases or



Gulf Air logo



KFH logo

exchanged for exclusive deals and services through the KFH Rewards app or the program’s official website.

Customers earn 15 points for every KD 1 spent using KFH Rewards Program which consistently offers exclusive promotions with leading partners through bonus points that can be used in purchasing or redeeming options.

The program features a curated network of top-tier international brands across numerous sectors, with over 200 companies currently enrolled. New merchants are continuously being onboarded to expand the rewards redeem options for KFH cardholders.

There are three different card categories with KFH Rewards program. Each

category contains exclusive offers customers may avail themselves of. Categories include black, silver, and green tiers. Customers of these tiers may earn points through local and international shops by using all points of sale and online shopping. They may also transfer KFH points to any other member in the program. The points are added automatically within 48 hours after each qualified purchase transaction.

Black and Silver tier cardholders can further enjoy the privilege of transferring their earned points to other renowned loyalty programs. Additionally, they can redeem points for airline tickets, hotel bookings, car rentals, and charitable donations. Members of the KFH Rewards Program can also use their points with participating partners and to refuel at Oula fuel stations.

The program is the outcome of several developments made on KFH cards including design, services, and benefits to encourage customers to further use the cards and benefit from the advantages with enhanced security and convenience. Bank cards continue to be a secure and global payment method, especially for travel. KFH has launched the Oasis Club credit card in collaboration with Kuwait Airways. It includes Oasis Club MasterCard World Elite, which is allocated exclusively to private banking customers, and KFH Oasis Club MasterCard World, which is allocated to Premium and Advance as well as qualified customers.

UIC and Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute sign a strategic MoU to strengthen diplomatic-economic cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: In line with a firm belief in the importance of integrating diplomatic and investment efforts to enhance Kuwait’s image on the regional and international stage, the Union of Investment Companies and the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a long-term strategic partnership. This collaboration focuses on the exchange of expertise, capacity building, and the organization of specialized programs and events that benefit both diplomats and investors.

Advancing Economic Diplomacy and Empowering National Talent

The agreement aims to create a structured framework for institutional cooperation between the investment and diplomatic sectors in Kuwait. It will do so through the design and implementation of joint training programs intended to build high-level professional competencies among the country’s representatives in international forums—whether through the diplomatic corps or investment companies.

The scope of cooperation will primarily include the organization of seminars, courses, and workshops covering key topics such as:

- A. Diplomatic training programs in the form of workshops, executive certifications, and professional development sessions to strengthen the skills and expertise of Ministry of Foreign Affairs diplomats.
- B. Support and guidance for diplomats



The two sides exchange documents covering the MoU.

in participating in advanced international negotiations, with an emphasis on climate action and women’s empowerment through targeted training initiatives.

C. Knowledge-building and awareness-raising in core policy and strategic areas.

In this context, Mr. Abdullah Hamad Al-Terkait, Chairman of the Union of Investment Companies, commented:

“Today marks a new chapter in the integration of diplomacy and investment. Signing this MoU with the Saud Al-Nasser Institute represents a strategic partnership aimed at nurturing a new generation of national talent—professionals capable of speaking the language of investment in a diplomatic and impactful way that reflects Kuwait’s realities and ambitions. At UIC, we believe that equipping foreign mission staff and

state representatives with investment analysis tools and performance indicators will enhance Kuwait’s ability to promote its investment opportunities in a professional and informed manner. We will also organize intensive workshops that offer in-depth analyses of the Kuwaiti market and its operating companies, helping to present a holistic picture of Kuwait’s investment environment.”

For his part, H.E. Ambassador Nasser Sabeeh Al-Sabeeh, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute Affairs, stated:

“This MoU with the Union of Investment Companies reflects the Institute’s vision to prepare diplomats with capabilities that extend beyond the traditional scope, encompassing a strong grasp of economics, investment, and development policies. Today’s diplomat must possess negotiation and presentation skills, analytical acumen, and a solid understanding of indicators and market dynamics. They must be able to speak confidently about the reality of Kuwait’s economy and its competitive advantages. This partnership enables direct engagement between diplomats and investment professionals, offering a platform to exchange insights on issues such as cybersecurity, climate change, the green economy, and women’s empowerment. Through this collaboration, we aspire to prepare diplomats with a comprehensive worldview and deep understanding of the rapidly evolving global landscape.”

Digital transformation on agenda

Ministry of Oil to host regional flagship confabs



2nd Digital Transformation Kuwait Oil & Gas Conference.

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Under the patronage of His Excellency Tariq Suleiman Al-Roumi, the Minister of Oil and His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Nimr Fahad Al Malik Al Sabah, the Undersecretary of Ministry of Oil, Kuwait is set to host two strategic landmark conferences this September, advancing Kuwait’s vision of becoming a global benchmark for energy innovation and industrial excellence.

The 2nd Digital Transformation Kuwait Oil & Gas Conference will be held from 8–9 September 2025, followed by the inaugural Asset Integrity and Process Safety Kuwait Conference, taking place from 10–11 September 2025, both at the Jumeirah Messilah Hotel, Kuwait.

Hosted by the Ministry of Oil – Kuwait and supported by the Kuwait Oil Company and Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company, these official platforms will individually bring together over 500 senior decision-makers, 40+ expert speakers, and 50+ global and regional solution providers. Together, the conferences serve as a cornerstone for advancing Kuwait’s energy future, through digital innovation and world-class integrity and process safety standards.

Official Statement from the Ministry of Oil – Kuwait: “At the Ministry of Oil, we recognize that advancing digital transformation, asset integrity, and process safety is not only vital to the resilience of Kuwait’s energy infrastructure but also to the realization of our long-term national development goals. These priorities underpin our efforts to build a future-ready oil and gas sector—one that is safe, efficient, and globally competitive.

As part of this mission, the Ministry of Oil proudly hosts the 2nd Digital Transformation Kuwait Oil & Gas Conference and the Asset Integrity & Process Safety in Oil & Gas Conference – Kuwait. These conferences serve as national platforms for collaboration, thought leadership, and knowledge-sharing—bringing together global and regional experts, industry leaders, and government entities to chart a collective path toward smarter, safer, and more sustainable energy systems.”

Advancing Kuwait’s Strategic Energy Vision

The 2nd edition of the Digital Transformation Kuwait Oil & Gas Conference builds on the success of its inaugural edition and will address Kuwait’s national agenda for energy digitalisation. Key themes include the deployment of artificial intelligence, automation, digital twin technology, predictive analytics, and cyber resilience across upstream, midstream, and downstream operations.

In parallel, the launch of the Asset Integrity and Process Safety Kuwait Conference marks a significant milestone

in the country’s industrial strategy—providing a dedicated platform for addressing integrity management, process safety practices, and operational reliability across critical energy infrastructure.

Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), a key contributor to Kuwait’s energy transformation, welcomed the initiative: “KOC remains committed in its dedication to driving digital transformation across the energy cycle. The 2nd Kuwait Digital Transformation Oil & Gas Conference is more than an event, it is a demonstration of our leadership in adopting cutting-edge technologies and fostering collaboration that will define the future of Kuwait’s oil and gas industry.” Mohammad Al-Abdeljalil, Deputy CEO (Planning & Innovation), Kuwait Oil Company (KOC).

Huawei shared its perspective on the importance of digital transformation within Kuwait’s energy sector, underscoring its continued collaboration with stakeholders to support Kuwait’s evolving digital agenda:

“As a global ICT leader, Huawei is committed to enabling oil and gas enterprises with secure, intelligent, and future-ready infrastructure. We look forward to contributing our expertise in AI, cloud, and 5G at this strategic conference, helping accelerate Kuwait’s digital energy vision.” Jeff Zhu, CEO, Huawei Kuwait

Hosted by the Ministry of Oil – Kuwait

The Ministry of Oil – Kuwait, leads national energy policy in alignment with Vision 2035. Through strategic platforms such as the Digital Transformation Kuwait Oil & Gas Conference and the Asset Integrity and Process Safety Kuwait Conference, the Ministry facilitates cross-sector dialogue, innovation, and regional collaboration to shape a secure, sustainable, and future-ready energy landscape.

Organised by The Great Minds Events Management

The Great Minds Group is a trusted organiser of strategic government and industry forums across the Middle East. Specialising in high-level B2B platforms, Great Minds Group brings together decision-makers, innovators, and institutional leaders to accelerate progress and enable transformative partnerships.

Be at the Forefront of Kuwait’s Energy Transformation

Join the leaders, innovators, and institutions shaping the future of energy and industrial excellence in the region. From digital transformation to safety leadership, these conferences are where strategic progress begins.

Learn more at: www.kuwaitoilandgasdigitaltransformation.com | www.aipmskuwait.com

Award affirms its ESG leadership in Kuwait's banking sector

NBK wins Best Bank for Sustainable Finance in Kuwait by Global Finance

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: National Bank of Kuwait was named Best Bank for Sustainable Finance in Kuwait for 2025 according to the fifth annual survey on Sustainable Finance conducted by the renowned Global Finance Magazine, marking a new achievement that highlights its leadership in the banking sector.

This annual survey recognizes global and regional leadership in Sustainable Finance for initiatives designed from January to December 2024 to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and help build a more sustainable future for humanity.

This award recognizes NBK's continuous excellence and leadership in enhancing sustainable finance and incorporating sustainability within its operations and institutional culture. Moreover, the award reflects NBK's pivotal role in promoting the transformation into an economy that is more socially and environmentally responsible and sustainable.

Criteria for evaluation included governance policies and goals as well as measurable achievements in environmental and social sustainability and demonstrated leadership in sustainable finance and investments.

This year's awards were based on opinions and analyses of prominent trade and investment experts and executives, and they covered areas such as innovative sustainable finance offerings, impact-driven bond issues, community support and SME funding, climate change mitigation efforts, and transparency & reporting.

It should be noted that this award is an addition to a long record of awards and high international rankings that NBK Group has been continuously receiving in recognition of its distinctive efforts.

NBK is one of the first banks in Kuwait to adopt sustainable finance in its strategy and incorporate ESG standards in its business and operational procedures as well as its institutional culture. Furthermore, NBK launched several services and value propositions geared towards supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy across all its locations. These offerings include green mortgage loans, consumer loans for electric vehicles, financing options related to sustainability and



An NBK official receives the award.

low-emission housing loans, as well as sustainability-linked facilities tied to the achievement of pre-determined ESG KPIs to encourage the adoption of sustainable practices.

Additionally, NBK successfully issued its first KD 500 million green bonds in 2024 as part of its global medium-term note program, which has a 6-year maturity and first call date after 5-years and is considered the first issuance by a Kuwaiti financial institution. In this context, NBK has recently published its first Green Bond Allocation and Impact Report, demonstrating traceability to the use of the bond proceeds towards green projects with clear and measurable environmental benefits. As of 31 March 2025, the Bank's eligible green asset portfolio reached USD 625

- The award reflects NBK's commitment to incorporating sustainability in its operations and institutional culture.
- NBK is one of the first banks in Kuwait to adopt sustainable financing.
- NBK's sustainable assets portfolio reached USD 4.97 billion at the end of 2024; 50% of its 2030 USD 10 billion target.

million, exceeding the bond value.

By end of 2024, NBK's net sustainable assets value reached USD 4.97 billion, which is 50% of the targeted level for the year 2030 at USD 10 billion.

NBK's ESG strategy aims to support economic development and emerge as a role model in the field through its four interrelated, foundational pillars that include Governance for Resilience, Responsible Banking, Capitalizing on our Capabilities, and Investing in our Communities.

By obtaining prestigious awards in the field of sustainable finance over the past years, NBK has proven its commitment to these principles and leadership in the regional banking sector.

More on its efforts on sustainability, NBK diligently works towards developing innovative sustainable finance solutions for its clients and customers to support their transition plans strategically, aligned with international standards and regulations to better respond to the world's rising demand for climate funding.

Global Finance, founded in 1987, is one of the most reputable magazines specialized in finance and economics. It has a circulation of 50,000 readers in 188 countries, including senior corporate and financial officers responsible for making investment and strategic decisions at multinational companies and financial institutions.

The magazine conducts various surveys annually about innovation and profitability for banks and financial institutions all over the world, based on which it selects top performers on the regional and international levels.

Initiative is designed to revolutionize global connectivity

ZOI, PCCW Global, Sparkle, and Telecom Egypt to construct AAE-2 subsea cable linking Asia, Africa and Europe

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: In a landmark move to advance global connectivity, a consortium of four powerful subsea cable operators, namely Zain Omantel International (ZOI), PCCW Global, Sparkle, and Telecom Egypt have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on the construction of the Asia-Africa-Europe-2 (AAE-2) subsea cable system.

The project aims to establish a robust next-generation subsea digital link connecting Hong Kong and Singapore to Italy traversing secure and high-capacity terrestrial corridors across Thailand, the Arabian Peninsula, and Egypt. It is planned to strategically deliver unprecedented capacity and foster seamless, reliable connectivity across the three continents.

AAE-2 will also feature strategic extensions to additional key destinations along its route, further enhancing intercontinental connectivity and supporting the growing demands of cloud services, content delivery, and digital transformation initiatives across the regions.

This ambitious initiative is designed to revolutionize global connectivity by delivering a geographical diverse, resilient, and high-performance route for international traffic. By integrating both subsea and terrestrial infrastructure, AAE-2 will create a future-proof data highway between Asia, Africa and Europe.

Building on the legacy of the AAE-1 cable, AAE-2 will incorporate the most advanced technological innovations offering unprecedented bandwidth capacity to serve the tremendous traffic needs and empowering communities and businesses across Asia, Africa and Europe.

The project is spearheaded by industry leaders ZOI, PCCW Global, Sparkle, and Telecom Egypt, combining expertise and resources to deliver a world-class infrastructure. This groundbreaking project marks a vital step in addressing the increasing demand for robust internet infrastructure, facilitating faster data transfer and improved connectivity across



From the MoU signing ceremony.

multiple regions. The consortium is dedicated to ensuring the successful delivery of this transformative infrastructure project, which will play a crucial role in shaping the future of global connectivity.

Sohail Qadir, Chief Executive Officer of ZOI, commented: "This collaboration marks a defining milestone for ZOI and the region we proudly serve. As the international gateway for the Middle East, we are uniquely positioned at the crossroads of Asia, Africa and Europe, making us a strategic enabler of next-generation connectivity. AAE-2 reflects our long-term vision to connect continents and digital ecosystems through resilient and state-of-the-art infrastructure. Our cooperation brings together advanced infrastructure, diverse terrestrial routes and AI-ready capacity. AAE-2 will strengthen global traffic flows, empower emerging markets and unlock new avenues for economic growth across the region and beyond."

Frederick Chui, Chief Executive Officer of PCCW Global, commented: "PCCW Global is proud to contribute to the AAE-2 initiative, building on our legacy of supporting vital global infrastructure. Following our instrumental role in the success of the AAE-1 system, we are pleased to bring our expertise to AAE-2, an advanced, high-capacity and geographically diverse subsea cable system connecting Asia and Europe. This next-generation network underscores our continued commitment to delivering resilient, secure and scalable connectivity for key markets such as Hong Kong, empowering the digital growth of tomorrow."

Enrico Bagnasco, Chief Executive Officer of Sparkle, commented: "The AAE-2 cable system is an innovative project perfectly in line with Sparkle's long-term strategy to strengthen the Asia-Africa-Europe corridor by enhancing route diversity and ensuring the highest levels of network resilience. In recent years, we have invested in new submarine

- Consortium aims to deliver unprecedented capacity and reliable connectivity by creating a future-proof data highway across the three continents.
- Next-generation subsea digital link will empower emerging markets, drive digital transformation and unlock economic growth.

systems and established advanced landing hubs along this strategic route, reinforcing our commitment to reliable global connectivity. Among the key initiatives, the Blue & Raman submarine cable systems- linking Italy to India through an innovative path - together with the strengthening of the Sicily Hub in Palermo and the hub in Chania as well as the creation of a brand new scalable landing platform in Genoa. With AAE-2, we are taking a further step forward, contributing to the creation of a distinctive infrastructure that combines terrestrial and subsea solutions to deliver secure, high-capacity, and low-latency connectivity in support of the digital transformation of businesses and communities worldwide."

Mohamed Nasr, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Telecom Egypt, commented: "Over the years, we have made major investments and established partnerships to develop our cutting-edge subsea cable infrastructure, that we are witnessing today. The construction of AAE-2 cable system is a continuation of our success stories as a global data connectivity provider and is another testament to our commitment to driving digital connections through major collaborations. AAE-2 will also benefit from accessing and cross-connecting with the other subsea cables using our WeConnect ecosystem. We are thrilled to be embarking with PCCW Global, Sparkle and ZOI on this transformative project that will reshape the future of digital infrastructure."

Bid to discourage pipeline investors

EU seeking to lower a price cap on Russian oil

BRUSSELS, June 11, (AP): The European Union wants to lower a cap on the price of Russian oil to deprive the Kremlin of extra profits to fund its war in Ukraine as part of a new raft of sanctions aimed at forcing Moscow to the negotiating table, senior officials said on Tuesday.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said the bloc is "proposing to lower the oil price cap from \$60 to \$45, which is lower than the market price, and lowering the oil price cap will hit Russia's revenues hard."

Kallas said the EU also wants to impose "sanctions on the Nord Stream pipelines to prevent Russia generating any revenue in the future. In this way, it sends a clear signal we are not going back to business as usual."

All 27 EU member countries must all agree for the sanctions to enter force.

In 2023, Ukraine's Western allies limited sales of Russian oil to \$60 per barrel but the price cap was largely symbolic as most of Moscow's crude - its main moneymaker - cost less than that. Still, the cap was there in case oil prices rose.

Oil income is the linchpin of Russia's economy, allowing President Vladimir Putin to pour money into the armed forces while avoiding worsening inflation for everyday people and a currency collapse.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said she assumed that the price cap would be discussed and agreed among the leaders of the Group of Seven major world economic powers when they meet in Canada on June 15-17.

She said the United States and its G7 partners realize "that the oil price has lowered so much that the effectiveness of the cap is to be questioned, and therefore we all want to lower the oil price from \$60 per barrel down to \$45 per barrel."

US, China agree on a framework to resolve their trade disputes

Announcement comes at the end of two days of talks

LONDON, June 11, (AP): Senior U.S. and Chinese negotiators have agreed on a framework to get their trade negotiations back on track after a series of disputes that threatened to derail them, both sides have said.

The announcement came at the end of two days of talks in the British capital that wrapped up late Tuesday.

The meetings appeared to focus on finding a way to resolve disputes over mineral and technology exports that had shaken a fragile truce on trade reached in Geneva last month. It's not clear whether any progress was made on the more fundamental differences over China's sizeable trade surplus with the United States.

"First we had to get sort of the negativity out and now we can go forward," U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick told reporters after the meetings.

Asian stock markets rose Wednesday after the agreement was announced.

The talks followed a phone call between President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping last week to try to calm the waters.

Li Chenggang, a vice minister of commerce and China's international trade representative, said the two sides had agreed in principle on a framework for implementing the consensus reached on the phone call and at the talks on Geneva, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Further details, including any plans for a potential next round of talks, were not immediately available.

Li and Wang Wentao, China's commerce minister, were part of the delegation led by Vice Premier He Lifeng. They met with Lutnick, Treasury Secretary

Scott Bessent and Trade Representative Jamieson Greer at Lancaster House, a 200-year-old mansion near Buckingham Palace.

Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator, said the disputes had frittered away 30 of the 90 days the two sides have to try to resolve their disputes.

They agreed in Geneva to a 90-day suspension of most of the 100%-plus tariffs they had imposed on each other in an escalating trade war that sparked fears of recession. The World Bank, citing a rise in trade barriers, cut its projections Tuesday for U.S. and global economic growth this year.

"The U.S. and China lost valuable time in restoring their Geneva agreements," said Cutler, now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute. "Now, only sixty days remain to address issues of concern, including unfair trade practices, excess capacity, transshipment and fentanyl."

ICAEW panel highlights GCC's regulatory gains as global investor confidence grows

DUBAI, UAE, June 11: As global markets face rising uncertainty, the UAE is gaining ground as a trusted destination for long-term investment. Its transparent regulatory environment, backed by consistent legal reform and a clear economic vision, is reinforcing the country's credibility with global investors.

These developments were the focus of a recent panel discussion hosted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) Corporate Finance Faculty in Dubai. The event brought together economists, senior policymakers and finance professionals to examine how regulatory transformation across the GCC is helping shape a more resilient and investable regional economy. The panellists included:

- H.E. Dr. Tariq Bin Hendi, CEO and Board Member, Astra Tech and CEO, Botim
- Simon Williams, Chief Economist for Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa, HSBC
- Raed Safadi, Partner and Chief Economist, Whiteshield
- Salmaan Khawaja, Partner and Head of Financial Advisory at Grant Thornton, who moderated the discussion.

Panellists discussed how recent updates to company law, residency frameworks and broader legal policies have created a more accessible and predictable investment climate. These changes, combined with large-scale infrastructure investment, are drawing capital into priority sectors such as technology, clean energy and healthcare.

Speakers also explored the region's strategic investment in digital infrastructure, from high-capacity data centres to AI platforms. These initiatives are supported by regulatory models that encourage innovation while maintaining national oversight, reinforcing the UAE's position as a strategic



CFF panel discussion.

bridge between East and West.

Hanadi Khalife, Head of ICAEW Middle East, said: "At a time of global uncertainty, the UAE and wider GCC are entering a golden moment. A clear and well-structured regulatory environment has significantly raised the region's global credibility. It is continuing to draw inward investment while putting in place the financial foundations required for sustainable, region-wide growth. ICAEW is proud to support finance professionals who are helping to shape this next chapter."

The forum emphasised the growing demand for financial professionals who can support regional growth through effective governance, risk management and capital deployment. It also reaffirmed ICAEW's commitment to strengthening the financial profession and contributing to the development of future-ready financial systems.

TOKYO, June 11, (AP): Global shares mostly rose Wednesday after China and the U.S. said they had agreed on a framework for following up on the trade truce reached last month in Geneva.

France's CAC 40 added 0.3% in early trading to 7,830.85, while Germany's DAX edged up 0.1% to 24,063.19. Britain's FTSE 100 rose nearly 0.2% to 8,867.82. U.S. shares were set to drift lower with Dow futures down 0.2% to 42,826.00. S&P 500 futures declined nearly 0.2% to 6,035.50. Oil prices edged higher.

In Asia, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 surged 0.6% to finish at 38,421.19. Data from the Bank of Japan showed wholesale inflation slowed in May, meaning there might be less pressure for the central bank to raise interest rates in its next policy board meeting.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index gained 0.8% to 24,356.67, while the Shanghai Composite rose 0.5% to 3,402.32.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost earlier gains and were little changed, up less than 0.1% to 8,592.10.

South Korea's Kospi added 1.2% to 2,907.04 as relief set in about Trump's trade policies. Optimism is also growing about the policies of Korean President Lee Jae-myung, who took office last week. He has promised to encourage growth in the local stock market.

Stocks have soared higher since dropping roughly 20% below their record two months ago, when President Donald Trump shocked financial markets with his announcement of stiff tariffs that raised worries about a possible recession. Much of the rally has been due to hopes that Trump would lower his tariffs after reaching trade deals with countries around the world.

Analysts said that after two days of discussion in London, the late-night agreement reached appeared to be a consensus on what was already agreed upon before. Even so, Trump's approval is still needed.

"So what did 48 hours of talks actually produce? Apparently, a reaffirmation to eventually do what they had already said they would do. If markets were expecting substance, they got process instead," said Stephen Innes, managing partner at SPI Asset Management.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick said Tuesday evening in London that talks with China were going "really, really well." Both the United States and China have put many of their tariffs on each other's exports on pause as talks continue.

However, uncertainty over what is to come is still affecting companies and their profit-making abilities.

Benchmark U.S. crude oil gained 24 cents to \$65.22 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, edged up 17 cents to \$67.045 a barrel.

The U.S. dollar rose to 145.11 Japanese yen from 144.84 yen. The euro cost \$1.1420, down from \$1.1425.

Nikkei 225 surges 0.6%

Global shares climb after China, US agree on a framework for seeking trade deal

US Congress targets clean energy, consumers pay more

Solar, wind, EVs lose out in new energy bill



The Warrick Power Plant operates Tuesday, April 8, 2025, in Newburgh, Ind. (AP)

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.



By Daniel Cohan
Rice University

‘Analysts warn that the House bill would cut new wind, solar and battery installations by 20% compared with the growth that had been expected without the bill.’

When it comes to energy policy, the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” - the official name of a massive federal tax-cut and spending bill that House Republicans passed in May 2025 - risks raising Americans’ energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

The 1,100-page bill would slash incentives for green technologies such as solar, wind, batteries, electric cars and heat pumps while subsidizing existing nuclear power plants and biofuels. That would leave the country and its people burning more fossil fuels despite strong popular and scientific support for a rapid shift to renewable energy.

The bill may still be revised by the Senate before it moves to a final vote. But it is a picture of how U.S. President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans want to reshape U.S.

energy policy.

As an environmental engineering professor who studies ways to confront climate change, I think it is important to distinguish which technologies could rapidly cut emissions or are on the verge of becoming viable from those that do little to fight climate change. Unfortunately, the House bill favors the latter while nixing support for the former.

Wind and solar power, often paired with batteries, are providing over 90% of the new electricity currently being added to the grid nationally and around the world. Geothermal power is undergoing technological breakthroughs. With natural gas turbines in short supply and long lead times to build other resources, renewables and batteries offer the fastest way to satisfy growing demand for power.

However, the House bill rescinds billions of dollars that the Inflation Reduction Act, enacted in 2022, devoted to boosting domestic manufacturing and deployments of renewable energy and batteries.

It would terminate tax credits for manufacturing for the wind industry in 2028 and for solar and batteries in

2032. That would disrupt the boom in domestic manufacturing projects that was being stimulated by the Inflation Reduction Act.

Deployments would be hit even harder. Wind, solar, geothermal and battery projects would need to commence construction within 60 days of passage of the bill to receive tax credits.

In addition, the bill would deny tax credits to projects that use Chinese-made components. Financial analysts have called those provisions “unworkable,” since some Chinese materials may be necessary even for projects built with as much domestic content as possible.

Analysts warn that the House bill would cut new wind, solar and battery installations by 20% compared with the growth that had been expected without the bill. That’s why BloombergNEF, an energy research firm, called the bill a “nightmare scenario” for clean energy proponents.

However, one person’s nightmare may be another man’s dream. “We’re constraining the hell out of wind and solar, which is good,” said Rep. Chip Roy, a Texas Republican backed by

the oil and gas industry.

Cuts fall even harder on Americans who are trying to reduce their carbon footprints and energy costs. The bill repeals aid for home efficiency improvements such as heat pumps, efficient windows and energy audits. Homeowners would also lose tax credits for installing solar panels and batteries.

For vehicles, the bill would not only repeal tax credits for electric cars, trucks and chargers, but it also would impose a federal \$250 annual fee on vehicles, on top of fees that some states charge electric-car owners. The federal fee is more than the gas taxes paid by other drivers to fund highways and ignores air-quality and climate effects.

Combined, the lost credits and increased fees could cut projected U.S. sales of electric vehicles by 40% in 2030, according to modeling by Jesse Jenkins of Princeton University.

Meanwhile, the bill partially retains a tax credit for electricity from existing nuclear power plants. Those plants may not need the help: Electricity demand is surging, and companies like Meta are signing long-term deals for nuclear energy to

power data centers. Nuclear plants are also paid to manage their radioactive waste, since the country lacks a permanent place to store it.

For new nuclear plants, the bill would move up the deadline to 2028 to begin construction. That deadline is too soon for some new reactor designs and would rush the vetting of others. Nuclear safety regulators are awaiting a study from the National Academies on the weapons proliferation risks of the type of uranium fuel that some developers hope to use in newer designs.

While cutting funding for electric vehicles, the bill would spend \$45 billion to extend tax credits for biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel.

Food-based biofuels do little good for the climate because growing, harvesting and processing crops requires fertilizers, pesticides and fuel. The bill would allow forests to be cut to make room for crops because it directs agencies to ignore the impacts of biofuels on land use.

The bill would end tax credits for hydrogen production. Without that support, companies will be unlikely to invest in the seven so-called “hydrogen hubs” that were allocated a combined \$8 billion under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in 2021. Those hubs aim to attract \$40 billion in private investments and create tens of thousands of jobs while developing cleaner ways to make hydrogen.

The repealed tax credits would have subsidized hydrogen made emissions-free by using renewable or nuclear electricity to split water molecules. They also would have subsidized hydrogen made from natural gas with carbon capture, whose benefits are impaired by methane emissions from natural gas systems and incomplete carbon capture.

However it’s made, hydrogen is no panacea. As the world’s smallest molecule, hydrogen is prone to leaking, which can pose safety challenges and indirectly warm the climate.

And while hydrogen is essential for making fertilizers and potentially useful for making steel or aviation fuels, vehicles and heating are more efficiently powered by electricity than by hydrogen.

Still, European governments and China are investing heavily in hydrogen production.

The conservative Tax Foundation estimates that the House bill would cut the Inflation Reduction Act’s clean energy tax credits by about half, saving the government \$50 billion a year. But with fewer efficiency improvements, fewer electric vehicles and less clean power on the grid, Princeton’s Jenkins projects American households would pay up to \$415 more per year for energy by 2035 than if the bill’s provisions were not enacted. If the bill’s provisions make it into law, the extra fossil fuel-burning would leave annual U.S. greenhouse gas emissions 1 billion tons higher by then.

No one expected former President Joe Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act to escape unscathed with Republicans in the White House and dominating both houses of Congress. Still, the proposed cuts target the technologies Americans count on to protect the climate and save consumers money. (AP)

Promise meets policy reality

Trump’s ‘no taxes on tips’ advance, but benefits limited

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.



By Jay L. Zagorsky
Boston University

‘Workers are still required to contribute slightly more than 7% in Social Security and Medicare taxes on all tips they report, which won’t benefit them until retirement.’

US President Donald Trump’s promise to eliminate taxes on tips may sound like a windfall for service workers - but the fine print in Congress’ latest tax bill tells a more complex story.

Right now, Republican lawmakers are advancing the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” - a sprawling, 1,100-page proposal that aims to change everything from tax incentives for electric vehicles to health care. It also includes a proposal to end taxes on tips, which could potentially affect around 4 million American workers. The Senate has recently passed its own version - the No Tax on Tips Act.

The idea started getting attention when Trump raised it during a 2024 campaign stop in Las Vegas, a place where tipping is woven into the economy. And the headlines and press

releases sound great - especially if you’re a waiter, bartender or anyone else who depends on tips for a living. That may be why both Democrats and Republicans alike broadly support the concept. However, like most of life, the devil is in the details.

I’m a business-school economist who has written about tipping, and I’ve looked closely at the language of the proposed laws. So, what exactly has Trump promised, and how does it measure up to what’s in the bills? Let’s start with his pledge.

Back in January 2025, Trump said, “If you’re a restaurant worker, a server, a valet, a bellhop, a bartender, one of my caddies ... your tips will be 100% yours.” That sounds like a boost in tipped workers’ income.

But when you look at the current situation, it becomes clear that the reality is far more complicated.

First, the new tax break only applies to tips the government knows about - and a lot of that income currently flies under the radar. Tipped workers who get cash tips are supposed to report it to the IRS via form 4137 if their employer doesn’t report it for them. If a worker gets a cash

tip today and doesn’t report it, they already get 100% of the money. No one really knows what percentage of tips are unreported, but an old IRS estimate pegs it at about 40%.

What’s more, the current tax code defines tips only as payments where the customer determines the tip amount. If a restaurant charges a fixed 18% service charge, or there’s an extra fee for room service, those aren’t tips in the government’s eyes. This means some tipped workers who think service charges are tips will overestimate the new rule’s impact on their finances.

The “Big Beautiful Bill” would create a new tax code section under “itemized deductions” This area of the tax code already includes text that creates health savings accounts and gives students deductions for interest on their college loans.

What’s in the new section?

First, the bill specifies that this tax break applies just to “any cash tip.” The IRS classifies payments by credit card, debit card and even checks as “cash tips.” Unfortunately for workers in Las Vegas, noncash tips, like casino chips, aren’t part of the bill.

While the House bill limits the deduction to people earning less than US\$160,000 the Senate bill caps the deduction to the first \$25,000 of tips earned. Everything over that is taxed.

Second, the current House bill ends this special tax-free deal on Dec. 31, 2028. That means these special benefits would only last three years, unless Congress extends the law. The Senate bill does not include such a deadline.

Third, the exemption is only available to jobs that typically receive tips. The Treasury secretary is required to define the list of tipped occupations. If an occupation isn’t on the list, the law doesn’t apply.

I wonder how many occupations won’t make the list. For example, since counselors only make up a proportion of summer camp staff. Not making the list is a real problem.

And while the new proposal gives workers an income tax break, there’s nothing in either bill about skipping FICA payments on the tipped earn-

ings. Workers are still required to contribute slightly more than 7% in Social Security and Medicare taxes on all tips they report, which won’t benefit them until retirement. This isn’t an oversight - the bill specifically says employees must furnish a valid Social Security number to get the tax benefits.

There are a few other ways the legislation might benefit workers less than it seems at first glance. Instituting no taxes on tips could mean tipped employees feel more pressure to split their tips with other employees, like busboys, chefs and hosts. After all, these untipped workers also contribute to the customer experience, and often at low wages.

And finally, many Americans are tired of tipping. Knowing that servers don’t have to pay taxes might make some to cut back on it even more.

The specifics of any piece of legislation are subject to change until the moment Congress sends it to the president to be signed. However, as now written, I think the bills aren’t as generous to tipped workers as Trump made it sound on the campaign trail. (AP)

editor’s choice



Powerful exhibition

‘Mariam’ explores the inner world of Palestinian women

RAMALLAH, June 11, (KUNA): In her solo exhibition titled “Mariam” Palestinian artist Rania Al-Amoudi offers a powerful and intimate portrayal of the Palestinian woman-specifically those who choose to stand by freedom fighters - through a series of expressive paintings.

In her paintings, Al-Amoudi tells the story of one such woman, from the moment she met her husband to the day he was martyred.

Artist Al-Amoudi chose Mariam who is a schoolteacher and the widow of a martyr whom she knew closely, to represent the women of Palestine and named the exhibition

after her.

The exhibition is inspired by the devastating scenes from the ongoing war of extermination in Gaza, and by the psychological and physical trauma endured by Palestinian women as a result of loss, hunger, and violations of their rights and privacy, as the artist explained.

In “Mariam,” Al-Amoudi departs from traditional portrayals of women, choosing instead to present them in a just and empowering light-highlighting their active, resilient presence, rooted in a deep connection to their land and an unwavering commitment to resisting the occupation.



The painting portrays the story of a Palestinian woman connected to the fedayee, burdened by heavy concerns.



With heavy responsibilities, the Palestinian woman awaits the return of her fedayee husband.

Kennedy Center

Trump plans to attend ‘Les Mis’

WASHINGTON, June 11, (AP): U. S. President **Donald Trump** is set to take a seat at Wednesday’s opening night of the award-winning musical “Les Misérables” at the Kennedy Center, where he replaced the previous leadership with loyalists, had himself installed as chairman and pledged to rid the performing arts venue of programming he has complained is “woke” and too focused on leftist ideology and political correctness.



Trump

along the Potomac River that is a memorial to a slain Democratic president.

Presidents’ involvement in the Kennedy Center’s affairs had been limited to naming members to the board of trustees and attending the taping of its annual honors program in the fall.

But after returning to office in January, Trump stunned the arts world by firing the Kennedy Center’s longtime director and board and replacing them with loyalists, who then named him as chairman, and promising to overhaul its programming, management and even appearance as part of an effort to put his stamp on the national arts scene.

Trump’s appearance in the Opera House on Wednesday, accompanied by first lady Melania Trump, will also mark his first time at a Kennedy Center performance as president. He avoided the venue after entertainment industry pushback to his policies in his first term in office, breaking with presidential tradition by never attending the annual Kennedy Center Honors taping.

His moves have upset some of the center’s patrons and performers.

In March, the audience booed Vice President JD Vance and his wife, Usha, after they slipped into upper-level seats in the Concert Hall to hear the National Symphony Orchestra. Trump appointed Usha Vance to the Kennedy Center board along with White House chief of staff Susie Wiles, Attorney General Pam Bondi and Fox News Channel hosts Maria Bartiromo and Laura Ingraham, among other supporters.

Sales of subscription packages are said to have declined since Trump’s takeover, and several touring productions, including “Hamilton,” have canceled planned runs at the center. Artists such as actor Issa Rae and musician Rhiannon Giddens scrapped scheduled appearances, and Kennedy Center consultants including musician Ben Folds and singer Renée Fleming have resigned.

Understudies may perform Wednesday night due to boycotts by “Les Misérables” cast members.

Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has adopted a more aggressive posture toward the arts. The White House has taken steps to cancel millions of dollars in previously awarded federal humanities grants to arts and culture groups, and Trump’s budget blueprint proposed eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Trump has also targeted Smithsonian museums by signing executive orders to restrict their funding and by attempting to fire the director of the National Portrait Gallery.

Film

Film explores love and value in modern dating

Johnson, Song decode love in ‘Materialists’

LOS ANGELES, June 11, (AP): Before Celine Song was an Oscar-nominated filmmaker, she was a playwright in New York who needed day jobs to pay rent. That’s how she found herself as a professional matchmaker.

What may have begun as a purely transactional gig, a way for her to keep making her art in an expensive city, taught her more about people’s wants and needs and the true contents of their hearts than she could have ever imagined.

“I always wanted to write something about it because there seemed to be a story in it that is massive and very epic in proportion,” Song said. “It affects every human being on Earth.”

And while waiting for her breakout film “Past Lives” to debut, she did. That film is “Materialists,” a modern-day New York love story starring Dakota Johnson, Pedro Pascal and Chris Evans that’s heading to theaters this weekend. Johnson is the matchmaker presented with two different types of men for herself - one a poor struggling actor and ex-boyfriend, the other a wealthy “unicorn” - and the internet has already been drawing battle lines. But, like “Past Lives” wasn’t really about a love triangle, “Materialists” is about something more than the question of which guy is the “correct” choice.

Song and Johnson spoke with The Associated Press about the film, falling in love and the modern marketplace of dating. Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: How did you find each other?

Song: We met up thinking that we were just going to get to know each other and be friends and I walked away from that conversation - this is just from my perspective - but I think I was still sitting there when I texted my producers and the studio being like, “I think I’ve found my Lucy.” That’s how casting works for me, it’s always about falling in love. It’s very connected to what we talk about in the film. Like, there’s no mathematical anything. It just the feeling that you get talking to someone and you’re like, oh I just know.

Johnson: I knew you had this movie that you were about to start making. I was basically told it was too late. I was like, but I really want to meet her because she’s so smart, and I’ve seen interviews and obviously had seen “Past Lives.” I just wanted talk and get to know her as an artist and a person and so I went into this being like there’s no chance that I’ll be in this movie, but maybe she’ll make another one. We just had such a good time talking, I didn’t even know that I was someone she was thinking about. A few weeks later we spoke. It was very romantic.

AP: Where do we meet Lucy in life?

Johnson: She’s sort of at the top of her game in her work and is very disconnected from her heart and focused on being a perfectionist and getting people to get married. On the surface, you see her as a very transactional person and not really invested in people’s souls, but she actually is and really does want the best for them. She’s also on her own journey of trying to figure out what it is she wants for herself in this life, and, essentially, do you fight for the thing that you think you want, or do you fight for that thing that you know you need? Is that right, Celine?

Song: That’s so good.

AP: What are you trying to say through the two men in her life?



This image released by A24 shows promotional art for ‘Materialists.’ (AP)

Song: It was never going to be a conversation about which flavor of a person. It’s actually so much more about this marketplace of dating that all of us live in if you’re single, and also the marketplace that Dakota’s character is navigating. She knows the math better than anyone else in the film. She’s an excellent matchmaker.

Pedro plays somebody who is probably, in straight dating, someone of the highest possible value. Chris’ character, in the spectrum in the marketplace of values of dating, is someone who is of the lowest value possible. I find them to be such adorable characters, very worthy of an adoration.

Lucy knows exactly where they fall in the in the stock market of men. It’s actually about the way that the math around that is going to blow up.

Johnson: Celine speaks so eloquently about the marketplace of dating and I glitch at those words because I’m like, you can’t explain love that way. But that’s actually how people are. Marriage used to be a business deal. It was like, my father wants your cows and my mother needs your wheat and whatever. It was a trade-off. But now there’s all these books about how we expect our partner to fulfill every single aspect of our needs. And the world being dominated by social media, people don’t meet in real life anymore. They don’t behave normally in public.

People are in a very strange place in evolution, and I think the difference between these two characters and these two men, sure they are different ends of the spectrum in terms of like technical value, materialistic value.

But also each of them have the opposite in terms of psycho-spiritual value and emotional value and what they can offer the other person in terms of soul evolution and growth.

Perhaps because she works in this world of trying to understand people and what they want, she’s forced to go more inward and really interrogate herself and say, what do I really want and what is actually important in this life? Is it how much money I have or is it how truly loved I am?

Song: To me, it’s about this contradiction, right? It’s this thing of how we talk about what we want in our partner, when we’re asked to use language to describe it, and how we literally, spiritually fall in love. The gap between those two things is terrifyingly big. To me, that’s where the mystery of the film is.

Variety

NASHVILLE, Tenn.: Country musician **Conner Smith** fatally hit a pedestrian while driving his truck in Nashville over the weekend, and he currently faces no charges as an investigation continues, police said.

Metro Nashville Police said Smith, 24, hit Dorothy Dobbins, 77, Sunday evening while she was crossing the road inside a marked crosswalk. Dobbins, a retired attorney, later died at a hospital. The Tennessee Bar Association posted on its website

that Dobbins had been out walking her dog when she was hit.

Police say Smith showed no signs of impairment. They believe the “preliminary contributing factor” appears to be that Smith did not yield the right of way to the pedestrian.

Smith’s attorney, Worrick Robinson, said his client is cooperating with the investigation.

“His heart goes out to Ms. Dobbins’ family during this incredibly difficult time,” Robinson said in a statement.

Dobbins was a leader in the city’s legal aid and family law communities, where she practiced for over 40 years, according to posts by the Bar Association and the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands. She played a “foundational role in opening Nashville’s first domestic violence shelter,” according to a Facebook post from the Legal Aid Society, and she wrote the state’s first order of protection legislation. (AP)

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YEONCHEON, South Korea: Hundreds of fans gathered in the early morning hours to catch a glimpse of K-pop superstars Jimin and Jung Kook, the latest and final members of BTS to be discharged from South Korea’s mandatory military service.

The pair wore their military uniforms Wednesday, saluted and addressed fans who had assembled to see the pair after their discharge.

Jung Kook thanked the journalists and fans who traveled to see him and Jimin after their discharge and acknowledged how different it was to be back in the spotlight. “Actually, it’s been so long since I’ve been in front of cameras, and I didn’t even put on makeup, so I’m a bit embarrassed,” he said. “I don’t know what to say.”

The pair enlisted in December 2023, one day after RM and V did the same. The latter were discharged on Tuesday.

Supporters traveled from around the world to the public sports ground where the meet-and-greet took place. It was moved from the military base’s gate for safety reasons. Color-wrapped buses bearing BTS members’ faces lined the streets while red and yellow balloons floated above and a decorated food truck provided free coffee and water, adding to the festive atmosphere. (AP)

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NEW YORK: Jurors in Harvey Weinstein’s sex crimes retrial are drilling down on one of the three charges against him: a rape accusation from a woman who also said she had a consensual relationship with him.

The seven female and five male jurors are poised to start their fifth day of deliberations Wednesday by re-hearing Jessica Mann’s testimony that he raped her in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013.

Mann’s accusation was an apparent focus of Tuesday’s deliberations, and the jury ended the day by asking to be re-read her testimony about what happened between her and Weinstein at the hotel. The group also indicated it wants to continue privately reviewing her emails with Weinstein and some 2017 medical records concerning her reaction to news accounts of other women’s allegations against him.

The former Hollywood powerbroker, 73, has pleaded not guilty to assaulting Mann and to forcing intimate acts on two other women, Mimi Haley and Kaja Sokola. The Oscar-winning producer denies ever assaulting or harming anyone, and his lawyers described his accusers as opportunists who accepted his advances to advance their careers in the entertainment industry. (AP)

‘So Far Gone’ tells a redemption tale in modern US

NEW YORK, June 11, (AP): When the history of the United States in 2025 is written, perhaps one of the best things that will be said is: “Well, it made for some great art.”

Consider “So Far Gone,” the new novel by Jess Walter. Set in present day America, it opens with two kids wearing backpacks knocking on a cabin door.

“What are you fine young capitalists selling?” asks Rhys Kinnick, before realizing the kids are his grandchildren.

They carry with them a note from Kinnick’s daughter, describing dad as a “recluse who cut off contact with our family and now lives in squalor in a cabin north of Spokane.”

It’s a great hook that draws you in and doesn’t really let up for the next 256 pages.

We learn why Kinnick pulled a Thoreau and went to the woods seven years ago (Hint: It has a lot to do with the intolerance exhib-

ited by no small percentage of Americans and embodied by a certain occupant of the White House), as well as the whereabouts of Kinnick’s daughter, Bethany, and why her messy marriage to a guy named Shane led to Kinnick’s grandchildren being dropped off at his cabin.

In a neat narrative gimmick, the chapters are entitled “What Happened to – ” and fill in the main strokes of each character’s backstory, as well as what happens to them in the present timeline.

Told with an omniscient third-person sense of humor, the book’s themes are nonetheless serious.

On the demise of journalism in the chapter “What Happened to Lucy,” one of Kinnick’s old flames and colleagues at the Spokesman-Review: She “hated that reporters were expected to constantly post on social media... before knowing what their stories even meant.”

Or Kinnick’s thoughts as he holds a .22 Glock given to him just in case by a retired police officer who is helping him get his grandkids back from the local militia: “The shiver that went through his arm! The power!... The weight of this gun was the exact weight of his anger and his fear and his sense of displacement... That’s where its incredible balance lay.”

As Kinnick links up with various characters and drives across the Northwest in search of his daughter and grandchildren, the plot unfolds quickly. Most readers won’t need more than a day or two to reach the final page, which satisfies the Thoreau quote Walter uses in the story’s preface: “Not till we are lost... ‘till we have lost the world, do we begin to find ourselves.”



This book cover image released by Harper shows ‘So Far Gone’ by Jess Walter. (AP)



Dutch artist Theo Jansen is interviewed in front of his ‘strandbeesten’ or Beach Beasts, wind-powered creatures made from yellow plastic tubes, displayed during an exhibit in Delft, Netherlands, Thursday, June 5. (AP)

Jansen’s Strandbeesten showcases evolution of beach animals

Dutch beach beasts find final resting place in new expo

DELFT, Netherlands, June 11, (AP)– The famous wind-powered beach beasts have scuttled along the Dutch North Sea coast, into a swanky Miami art show and even onto “The Simpsons.”

Now, they have a final resting place in a Dutch city most famous for “Girl with a Pearl Earring” painter Johannes Vermeer and blue-painted pottery.

The “bones” of Theo Jansen’s “strandbeesten” - beach animals in Dutch - have taken over a former cable factory in Delft, the small city in the western Netherlands that Jansen has called home for decades.

“During the years, there has been a sort of evolutionary history, you could say. And you could see these animals as sort of natural historical objects,” the 77-year old artist told The Associated Press before the installation’s opening.

The Strandbeesten Mortuary, as the exhibition is called, follows the various versions of the mobile sculptures since 1990 when Jansen created the first one from plastic pipes and tape. As the animals evolved, Jansen incorporated plastic bottles, wooden planks, cloth and cardboard.

The life and death cycle of these famous animals - formed mostly out of PVC pipes - has left behind an impressive fossil record, which is on display at the exhibition.

Marloes Koster, who organized the exhibition for Delft’s Prinsenhof Museum, said that Jansen’s ultimate goal is to create a beast that will live forever.

“He’s not there yet, so these are the ones that didn’t make it,” she added.

The museum is undergoing major renovations, so Koster and her colleagues have been putting together arts and culture events at alternative venues around the city while the building is shut.

Born near the North Sea, Jansen grew up captivated by the wind that often hits the Dutch coastline. He harnessed it to allow his animals to “walk” along the

beach. Every year, he creates a new strandbeest and, at the end of the summer, declares the animal dead.

“All summer I do experiments, and in the fall I’m a little bit wiser (about) how these animals should survive in the future,” Jansen said.

Many of the visitors to the opening of the exhibition had followed Jansen’s work for years and were keen to understand how the strandbeesten had changed over time.

“You see a kind of development in the way he does things. So they start out very simple, and then it gets increasingly complicated. So they evolve,” said Cor Nonhof, a Delft local who had come to see the exhibition with his wife.

Even at the opening, Jansen was already keen to return to the beach to work on the latest evolution of his strandbeesten.

“I cannot do anything else,” Jansen said. “And I am very happy with that.”

Variety

LAS VEGAS: Khaby **Lame**, the world’s most popular TikTok personality with millions of followers, has left the US after being detained by immigration agents in Las Vegas for allegedly overstaying his visa.

The Senegalese-Italian influencer, whose legal name is Seringe Khabane Lame, was detained Friday at Harry Reid International Airport but was allowed to leave the country without a deportation order, a spokesperson for US Immigration and Customs Enforcement confirmed in a statement.

Lame arrived in the US on April 30 and “overstayed the terms of his visa,” the ICE spokesperson said. The Associated Press sent a message seeking comment Tuesday to the email address listed on Lame’s Instagram account. He has not publicly commented on his detainment.

His detainment and voluntary departure from the US comes amid President Donald Trump’s escalating crackdown on immigration, including raids in Los Angeles that sparked days of protests against ICE, as the president tests the bounds of his executive authority. (AP)



Lame

NEW YORK: Corinne Bailey Rae is working on a children’s picture book that draws upon her early memories of music.

The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter has a deal with Rocky Pond Books, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers, for “Put Your Records On.” Named for her signature hit and illustrated by Gillian Eilidh O’Mara, the book is scheduled to come out March 3, 2026, and tells the story of a young girl’s initiation into her great aunt’s record collection.

“When I was a child, music helped me find myself. Through songs I discovered that others felt what I felt,” Rae said in a statement released Wednesday. “Playing music grew my confidence and writing and performing my own music allowed me to fully express myself. I want every child to know that they have music in their heart and a voice that should be heard.” (AP)

BERLIN: German artist Günther Uecker, one of the country’s most important post-war artists who was world-famous for his large-format nail reliefs, has died. He was 95.

German news agency dpa reported that his family confirmed he died at the university hospital in his hometown of Düsseldorf in western Germany Tuesday night. They did not give a cause of death.

For decades, Uecker, who was often dubbed “the nail artist,” created art by hammering carpenter’s nails into chairs, pianos, sewing machines and canvases. His works can be found in museums and collections across the globe.

In his art work, seemingly endless numbers of nails, which would by themselves perhaps be perceived as potentially aggressive and hurtful, turned into harmonic, almost organic creations. His reliefs with the tightly hewn nails are reminiscent of waving grasses or fields of algae in a marine landscape.

Uecker himself described his nail art as diary-like landscapes of the soul, which he called an “expression of the poetic power of man,” dpa reported. (AP)

MILAN: The opening ceremony of the Milan stage of the “Shanghai in My Mind” and the urban promotion event “Amazing Shanghai” was held at the Rotonda della Besana. The exhibition, which celebrates the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Italy and China, and the 50th anniversary of those between China and the European Union, represents a significant moment in the path of cultural exchange between European and Chinese cities, through the universal language of art.

40 original works on Shanghai have been exhibited, created by artists from China, France, Italy, Japan, the USA and other countries. Paintings, pictures, collages and digital installations tell the story of the multifaceted city through the global eyes.

The exhibition is promoted by the Information Office of the Municipality of Shanghai, with the guidance of the Chinese Consulate General in Milan and the organization of the Shanghai Promotion Center for City of Design. (AP)

Film



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Mason Thames, as Hiccup, riding Night Fury dragon, Toothless in a scene from ‘How to Train Your Dragon.’ (AP)

Film redeems the live-action adaptation

‘Dragon’ saga brings fantasy to life with heart

LOS ANGELES, June 11, (AP)– Ever wanted to soar through the skies on the back of a friendly dragon? The new “How to Train Your Dragon” may be the ticket, from a decidedly safer, though possibly still vertigo-inducing, distance.

This live-action adaption of the underdog adventure story sends the audience cascading through the clouds with the teenage Viking boy Hiccup and his dragon friend Toothless. It’s the kind of immersive sensation and giddy wish fulfillment that might just have you forgetting momentarily to breathe and, maybe more importantly, that you’re still in a movie theater. Credit to veteran cinematographer Bill Pope, no stranger to fantasy worlds, whether it’s “The Matrix” or “Scott Pilgrim vs. The World.”

“How to Train Your Dragon” doesn’t stray far from the original,

from shots to story beats. Gerard Butler once again plays Berk’s Chief Stoick the Vast. The new Hiccup, actor Mason Thames, even sounds a bit like Jay Baruchel. But unlike so many live-action remakes of animated films, it also doesn’t feel superfluous, or, worse, like a poor imitation of its predecessor that trades the magic of animation for photorealism.

Perhaps that’s because filmmaker Dean DeBlois, who made the three animated films, stayed in the director’s chair. Who better to kill their darlings than the one who brought them to the screen in the first place? And, crucially, to know where live-action might actually enhance the fabric of the world created by author Cressida Cowell.

It helps that dragon technology has come a long way since, say, “Dragon-

Heart.” These fire-breathing CG creatures feel disarmingly real. And though it might look like “Lord of the Rings” or “Game of Thrones,” the tone stays light enough for younger filmgoers. There are a few intense sequences, but none that takes it any further than the animated film did 15 years ago.

“How to Train Your Dragon” does start a little slow, however, which is odd because it also begins with a fiery battle between the Vikings and the dragons on the Isle of Berk. There’s a lot of exposition and introduction that needs to happen before you can just give yourself over to the story. In this more multicultural version, the warriors on Berk have been recruited from tribes around the globe to try to defeat the dragons.

Hiccup is a Viking nepo baby. As the chief’s son, he sits in a place of

privilege, but he’s also a general outcast in this world of ruthless warriors - skinny and weak, he just longs to be part of the action, not sharpening the weapons. Killing dragons is currency in this society, and his crush Astrid (Nico Parker) happens to be one of the most promising up-and-comers. His sole champion is Gobber (a delightful Nick Frost), the blacksmith and dragon slayer teacher, who convinces the chief to give the clever Hiccup a shot.

The film finds its internal engine when Hiccup finds Toothless, the wide-eyed “Night Fury” dragon whom he can’t bring himself to kill. Instead, he decides to study this discovery, who he finds is not as nearly fearsome as everyone assumes. “How to Train Your Dragon” teaches empathy and ingenuity without a sermon.

Thames, a teenager himself, is the perfect embodiment of adolescent awkwardness and boldness. You can have all the cute dragons you want, but the audience would be lost if the human conduit to the relationship isn’t up to the task. Butler seems to be having a good time, resplendent in fur and chest-thumping ideas about ancient duties. And Parker gives Astrid a relatable depth - the best in the bunch who is outshone in an unequal fight.

Kids deserve movies that are made on the biggest possible canvas. “How to Train Your Dragon” is one that’s worth the trip to the theater. It might just spark some young imaginations, whether it’s to go back and read the books or dream up their own worlds. And, chances are, no one is going to be yelling “chicken jockey.”

Casa Pedro hunts proof to top Botín’s 300-year reign

2 Madrid eateries battle for oldest restaurant title

MADRID, June 11, (AP)– In the heart of Spain’s capital, Sobrino de Botín holds a coveted Guinness World Record as the world’s oldest restaurant. Exactly three hundred years after it opened its doors, Botín welcomes droves of daily visitors hungry for Castilian fare with a side of history.

But on the outskirts of Madrid, far from the souvenir shops and tourist sites, a rustic tavern named Casa Pedro makes a bold claim. Its owners assert the establishment endured not just the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s and the Napoleonic invasion in the early 1800s, but even the War of Spanish Succession at the start of the 18th century - a lineage that would make Casa Pedro older than Botín and a strong contender for the title.

“It’s really frustrating when you say, ‘Yes, we’ve been around since 1702,’ but ... you can’t prove it,” said manager and eighth-generation proprietor Irene Guíñales. “If you look at the restaurant’s logo, it says ‘Casa Pedro, since 1702,’ so we said, ‘Damn it, let’s try to prove it.’”

Guíñales, 51, remembers her grandfather swearing by Casa Pedro’s age, but she was aware that decades-old hearsay from a proud old-timer wouldn’t be enough to prove it. Her family hired a historian and has so far turned up documents dating the restaurant’s operations to at least 1750.

That puts them within striking distance of Botín’s record.

Both taverns are family-owned. Both offer Castilian classics like stewed tripe and roast suckling pig. They are decorated with charming Spanish tiles, feature ceilings with exposed wooden beams and underground wine cellars. And both enjoy a rich, star-studded history.

Botín’s celebrated past includes a roster of literary patrons like Truman Capote, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Graham Greene. In his book “The Sun Also Rises,” Ernest Hemingway described it as “one of the best restaurants in the world.” While Casa Pedro may not have boasted the same artistic pedigree, it boasts its own VIPs. Its walls are adorned with decades-old photographs of former Spanish King Juan Carlos I dining in one of its many rooms. The current Spanish monarch, King Felipe VI dines there, too, albeit more inconspicuously than his father.

But the similarities between the two hotspots end there.

Casa Pedro was once a stop on the only road heading north from the Spanish capital toward France. Its clientele is largely local regulars, like David González and Mayte Villena, who for years have spent every Friday lunching at the tavern.

“It wouldn’t change a thing for us,”



Irene Guíñales, (right), and Pedro Guíñales del Valle, owners and managers of Casa Pedro restaurant, review documents regarding the restaurant’s opening date in Madrid, Spain, on May 16, 2025. (AP)

Villena said about the restaurant someday securing the Guinness title.

Botín, on the other hand, is a stone’s throw from Madrid’s famed Plaza Mayor, where any day of the week tour guides are herding groups around town - and often straight through the restaurant’s front door.

Antonio González, a third-generation proprietor of Botín, concedes that the Guinness accolade awarded in

1987 has helped business, but said the restaurant had enough history to draw visitors even before.

“It has a certain magic,” he said.

The question then becomes: How can either restaurant definitively claim the title? Guinness provides its specific guidelines for the superlative only to applicants, according to spokesperson Kylie Galloway, noting that it entails “substantial evidence and documenta-

tion of the restaurant’s operation over the years.”

González said that Guinness required Botín show that it has continuously operated in the same location with the same name.

The only time the restaurant closed was during the COVID-19 pandemic, as did Casa Pedro.

That criteria would mean that restaurants that are even older - Paris’ Le Procope, which says it was founded in 1686, or Beijing’s Bianyifang, founded in 1416, or the 1673-established White Horse Tavern in Newport, Rhode Island - aren’t eligible for the designation.

La Campana, in Rome’s historic center, claims over 500 years of operation, citing documents on its menu and in a self-published history. Its owners say they have compiled the requisite paperwork and plan to submit it to Guinness.

Guíñales and her husband couldn’t consult archives from the former town of Fuencarral, now a Madrid neighborhood. Those papers went up in flames during the Spanish Civil War. Instead, they delved into Spanish national archives, where they found land registries of the area from the First Marquess of Ensenada (1743-1754) that showed the existence of a tavern, wine cellar and inn in the small town as of 1750.

KPMG study calls for stronger policies to fight illicit tobacco

Illicit cigarette trade threatens public health across Europe

STAMFORD, Conn., June 11, (AP): Philip Morris International Inc. has issued an urgent call for effective policymaking to counter the growing threat of illicit trade in the EU. In 2024, 38.9 billion illicit cigarettes were consumed in the region – the highest level since 2015 – accounting for 9.2% of total cigarette consumption, with governments losing as much as 14.9 billion euros in tax revenues at a time when many countries face intense economic pressures.

PMI believes that exacerbating the issue are steep and abrupt tax increases, benefitting criminals who supply unregulated, untaxed and inferior products, including counterfeits, at a lower price. To combat this growing threat, PMI urges the adoption of evidence-based regulation with balanced and predictable taxation through tax calendars, continued public-private collaboration and enhanced support of regional and national law enforcement agencies, as criminal organizations dealing in illicit cigarettes have cemented their presence in higher-priced Western European countries.

According to the 2024 KPMG study, commissioned by Philip Morris Products SA, a large number of counterfeit cigarettes were consumed in the EU in 2024: 15.3 billion, a 20.2% increase vs. 2023. Additionally, so-called “illicit whites” – legally manufactured cigarettes smuggled across borders to countries where they have limited or no distribution-reached 8.2 billion.

“The illicit tobacco trade threatens the European economy, public health, security and social stability; today, high-

er-taxed and higher-priced markets such as France and the Netherlands are especially impacted by illegally imported and counterfeit goods,” said Christos Harpantidis, PMI’s Senior Vice President, External Affairs. “Its massive socio-economic impact negatively affects tax collection, job creation, and legitimate businesses, the engine of our European economies. The availability of cheap, unregulated cigarettes in the underground economy also impairs efforts to reduce smoking rates and achieve a smoke-free future.”

The 2024 KPMG report indicates the increase in illicit cigarette consumption was primarily driven by France and the Netherlands. The study points to an especially alarming situation in France, where 18.7 billion illicit cigarettes were consumed in 2024, almost 7.8 billion of which were counterfeits. In the Netherlands, illicit cigarette volumes increased drastically, by 1.1 billion-more than doubled in a year-reaching 17.9% of total consumption. Had these cigarettes been legally purchased, an additional 9.4 billion euros would have been raised in taxes in France and almost 900 million euros in the Netherlands.

In contrast, countries such as Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Portugal-and Ukraine, outside the EU-have made significant progress in curbing the illicit tobacco market. Greece, for instance, had a 6.2 ppt drop in illicit cigarette consumption in 2024, to 17.5%-the largest decrease the country has seen in a decade.

“Predictable tax regimes and robust support for local law

enforcement actions have proven an effective policy recipe: We now know how to effectively counter the criminal entities that engage in the illicit manufacturing, distribution, and sale of consumer products. Other countries in the region should emulate that approach to get control over this dangerous trend,” said Massimo Andolina, PMI’s President, Europe Region. “This is the way forward if we are serious about defeating the illicit tobacco trade in our continent, which harms Europe’s economies, undermines European competitiveness and growth, and opens the door to other criminal activities. Citizens cannot afford to be deprived of much-needed state revenues in this critical moment for Europe, which are being lost rather than applied to key issues such as defense, internal security, and social programs.”

Across the 38 European countries included in KPMG’s study (the 27 EU member states, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom), 52.2 billion illicit cigarettes were consumed in 2024, accounting for 10.0% of total consumption. Tax revenue losses amounted to an estimated 19.4 billion euros.

Illicit cigarette volumes in the U.K. decreased by almost 0.8 billion in 2024, though illicit cigarettes as a share of total consumption remained stable. The U.K. is still the third-largest illicit market in Europe, with 5.9 billion illicit cigarettes consumed last year. Ukraine, in contrast, saw the

largest decline in illicit consumption, with contraband and counterfeit volumes decreasing by 2.4 billion or 29% (vs. a 1.1 billion or 14% increase in 2023).

This is the 19th consecutive year that KPMG has measured and reported on illicit cigarette consumption across Europe.

For the first time, the KPMG study included in its scope the illicit consumption of heated tobacco products in selected European countries: the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

The study reveals that contraband consumption stood at 0.4 billion sticks (the consumables used in heated tobacco devices) in 2024, representing 0.9% of total consumption. The highest contraband volumes were found in Germany (0.15 billion sticks) and Poland (0.08 billion), with the U.K. having the highest share (7.8%). To date, no counterfeit flows have been identified.

“Policymakers must recognize that repeating the policy mistakes that drive the illicit cigarette market when regulating smoke-free products-excessive and market-distorting taxation, extreme control measures such as bans, and inadequate law enforcement against illicit activities across the value chain-may and will lead to the same disaster we see today in the cigarette sector in countries adopting such policies, and that we are starting to see in countries banning the legal sale of smoke-free products,” said Andolina.

Users urged to delete ‘data’

What 23andMe customers should do to safeguard their genetic data

NEW YORK, June 11, (AP): Remember 23andMe? The company that gave customers saliva-based DNA testing kits to learn about their ancestry?

Founded in 2006, the company also conducted health research and drug development. But it struggled to find a profitable business model and eventually filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection back in March, raising concerns about the safety of customer data.

Well, 27 states and the District of Columbia on Monday filed a lawsuit in bankruptcy court seeking to block the sale of the company’s archive of genetic data without customer consent. The lawsuit comes as a biotechnology company seeks court’s approval to buy the struggling firm.

If you were a customer of 23andMe, you’re probably wondering what is going on with your data. It turns out you do have options if you want to protect your genetic self.

23andMe filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection back in March. Anne Wojcicki, who co-founded the company nearly two decades ago and served as its CEO stepped down. The San Francisco-based company said that it would look to sell “substantially all of its assets” through a court-approved reorganization plan.

Wojcicki intends to bid on 23andMe as the company pursues a sale through the bankruptcy process. In a statement on social media, Wojcicki said that she resigned as CEO to be “in the best position” as an independent bidder.

23andMe said that filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection helps facilitate a sale of the company, meaning that it’s seeking new ownership. The company said it wants to pull back on its real estate



A 23andMe saliva collection kit is shown on March 25, 2025, in Oakland, Calif. (AP)

footprint and has asked the court to reject lease contracts in San Francisco and Sunnyvale, California, and elsewhere to help cut costs. But the company plans to keep operating during the process.

In a post about the Chapter 11 process, 23andMe said its users’ privacy and data are important considerations in any transaction and that any buyer will be required to comply with applicable laws when it comes to how it treats customer data.

But experts note that laws have limits. For one, the U.S. has no federal privacy law and only about 20 states do.

There are also security concerns. For instance, the turmoil of bankruptcy and related job cuts could leave fewer employees to protect customers’ data against hackers. It wouldn’t be the first time - a 2023 data breach exposed the

genetic data of nearly 7 million customers at 23andMe, which later agreed to pay \$30 million in cash to settle a class-action lawsuit accusing the company of failing to protect customers whose personal information was exposed.

Experts note that DNA data is particularly sensitive - and thus valuable.

“At a fundamental biological level, this is you and only you,” said David Choffnes, a computer science professor at Northeastern University and executive director of its Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute. “If you have an email address that gets compromised, you can find another email provider and start using a new email address. And you’re pretty much able to move on with your life without problem. And you just can’t do that with your genetic code.”

‘Melting ice sheet threatens global weather patterns’

Human-caused climate change drives record May heat in Greenland, Iceland

NEW YORK, June 11, (AP): Human-caused climate change boosted Iceland and Greenland’s temperatures by several degrees during a record-setting May heat wave, raising concerns about the far-reaching implications melting Arctic ice has for weather around the world, scientists said in an analysis released Wednesday.

The Greenland ice sheet melted many times faster than normal during the heat wave, according to the analysis by World Weather Attribution, with at least two communities seeing record temperatures for May. Parts of Iceland saw temperatures more than 10°C (18 °F) above average, and the country set a record for its warmest temperature in May when Egilsstaðir Airport hit 26.6°C (79.9 F) on May 15.

The findings come as global leaders put more focus on Greenland, a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark, following US President Donald Trump’s comments that he would like to annex the mineral-rich island.

Burning fossil fuels for electricity and transportation releases pollutants such as carbon dioxide that cause the planet to warm unnaturally fast. The Arctic is one of the fastest-warming places on Earth.

Even in today’s climate, the occurrence of such a strong heat wave in the region is relatively rare, with a 1% chance of occurring in a year, the analysis said. But without human-caused climate change, such an event would be “basically impossible,” said Friederike Otto, associate professor of climate science at Imperial College London, one of the report’s authors.

The extreme heat was 40 times more

likely compared to the pre-industrial climate.

Otto said this extreme weather event affects the world.

As the Greenland ice sheet melts, it releases massive amounts of fresh water into the salty oceans. Scientists say this could slow down the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, an ocean current that circulates water from the Gulf of Mexico across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe and then the Arctic.

Such a slowdown could disturb global climate and weather patterns.

“The nature of weather in the Northern Hemisphere is directly tied to what’s happening in the Arctic, because that ice floor basically at the bottom of the atmosphere helps determine the weather patterns that we get,” said Waleed Abdalati, who heads an environmental sciences institute at the University of Colorado Boulder. He was not involved in the WWA analysis.

The Greenland ice sheet and other ice covering the Arctic can influence where and when wind blows, how much water content the wind has and whether precipitation falls as rain or snow.

Most of the melting of the Greenland ice sheet happens in June, July and August. The May heat wave means there will be a longer melting season this year.

Melting ice sheets and glaciers also contribute to sea level rise that is threatening to flood coastlines globally and inundate low-lying island nations in the Pacific Ocean.

Indigenous communities in Greenland are increasingly encountering dangerous travel conditions as sea ice that was once constantly frozen begins to thaw.



US Vice President JD Vance tours Pituffik Space Base, in Greenland, March 28, 2025. (AP)

Climate change shrinks sea ice

Emperor penguins show dramatic decline

WASHINGTON, June 11, (AP): The population of emperor penguins in one part of Antarctica appears to be declining faster than previously thought, according to a new analysis of satellite imagery released Tuesday.

The estimated population of 16 penguin colonies - visible in satellite photos taken between 2009 and 2024 - had declined 22% during that period mainly because of climate change that’s shrinking the amount of available sea ice. It’s unclear whether this drop is seen across the continent, scientists said.

“Sea ice is very important for the penguins because they breed on sea ice and forage on sea ice,” said Peter Fretwell with British Antarctic Survey, who helped analyze the data.

Scientists previously estimated that the total emperor penguin population declined about 10% across all of Antarctica over the past decade and a half. The latest survey included a region covering the Antarctic Peninsula, Weddell Sea and Bellingshausen Sea.

“It’s absolutely alarming that the numbers are so much worse than predicted,” said Daniel Zitterbart, a penguin researcher at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, who was not involved in the study.

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Gray powers Dream past Fever as injured Clark misses 5th straight game

Liberty becomes 9th team in WNBA history to start season 9-0

NEW YORK, June 11, (AP): Sabrina Ionescu had 23 points and seven assists, Breanna Stewart added 18 points, seven rebounds and five assists, and the New York Liberty beat the Chicago Sky 85-66 on Tuesday night to become the ninth team in WNBA history to start a season 9-0.

New York, off to its best start in franchise history, scored the first 12 points of the game and cruised from there.

Kennedy Burke made a wide-open 3-pointer from the corner off a nice no-look pass by Ionescu with 1.4 seconds left in the first half to take a 52-32 lead. Ionescu had 14 points in the first half and Stewart added 13.

The Liberty ended the third quarter on an 11-0 run and scored the opening six points of the fourth for a 76-42 advantage.

Chicago had 22 turnovers and 28 field goals.

Burke finished with 15 points and three 3-pointers. Nyara Sabally made her first career start in place of Jonquel Jones, who did not play due to an ankle injury, and finished with nine points in 15 minutes.

Angel Reese led Chicago (2-6) with a season-high 17 points and 11 rebounds. Reese's 30th career double-double came in her 42nd game - the fewest needed to reach the mark in WNBA history.

Chicago rookie guard Hailey Van Lith made her first WNBA 3-pointer with 1:09 left in the fourth.

The Sky announced Sunday that Courtney Vandersloot had an MRI that revealed a torn ACL. She spent the previous two seasons in New York and helped the Liberty win the WNBA title last year before returning to Chicago this

season.

Dream 77, Fever 58

In Atlanta, Allisha Gray scored 23 points, Brionna Jones added a season-high 21 and the Atlanta Dream beat Indiana as the Fever again played without Caitlin Clark.

Gray contributed a steal and a blocked shot in an 11-0 run in the third quarter that gave the Dream a 47-37 lead. Gray's 3-pointer stretched the lead to 54-42 late in the quarter. Atlanta outscored Indiana 23-9 in the decisive period.

Natasha Howard had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Fever.

Indiana coach Stephanie White announced on Monday that Clark would miss her fifth consecutive game with a left quadriceps strain.

White said before Tuesday night's game that Clark par-

ticipated in "a little practice" on Monday and added it was in a

Indiana guard Sophie Cunningham, who has been limited to four games by a right ankle injury, also was held out.

It was the third meeting between the Eastern Conference teams this season, including two in Atlanta. The Fever took an 81-76 win before a sellout crowd at State Farm Arena, home of the NBA's Atlanta Hawks, on May 22. Atlanta won 91-90 at Indiana on May 20.

The return visit to Atlanta was scheduled for 3,500-seat Gateway Arena, the usual home of the Dream, even before it was known Clark would not play.

The Fever will return home to face the New York Liberty on Saturday, and the Dream will host Chicago on Friday night.

England sweeps West Indies



England's Harry Brook and teammates celebrate with the trophy after winning the third men's cricket international Twenty20 match against the West Indies at the Utilita Bowl, in Southampton, England. (AP)

Duckett's 84 sets up 37-run win

SOUTHAMPTON, England, June 11, (AP): England completed a 3-0 sweep of the Twenty20 international series against the West Indies after smashing 248-3 en route to a 37-run win in Southampton.

Put into bat for what proved a high-scoring third and final match of the series, England racked up its second-highest total in

the format as Ben Duckett made a 46-ball 84 and put on 120 for the opening wicket with Jamie Smith, whose 26-ball 60 included five sixes.

England delivered its highest-ever score after 10 overs of a T20 - 135-1 - and never let up, with captain Harry Brook (35) and Jacob Bethell (36) sharing an unbroken stand of 70 in 5.1 over to help set an imposing target of 249.

The Windies never really got close on a good

batting track though still made a commendable 211-8 after slipping to 70-4 after 7.1 overs.

Rovman Powell was the top scorer for the tourists with an unbeaten 79 off 45 balls, and captain Shai Hope had a 27-ball 45.

England also won the ODI series between the teams by a 3-0 margin, marking an ideal start to the white-ball captaincy for Brook.

England's focus switches to test cricket now, with a highly anticipated five-match series against India starting June 20.

Scheffler is primed for another tough major

Heading into US Open, McIlroy still looking for 'motivation' after historic Masters victory

OAKMONT, Pa., June 11, (AP): Ever since Rory McIlroy checked the biggest box off his impressive golf to-do list, all he wanted was to enjoy it.

Very quickly, he has discovered how harsh this game can be with his foot off the gas.

Heading into the U.S. Open this week, McIlroy has been disabused of any notion that life once he completed the career Grand Slam with that win at the Masters in April would be smooth sailing.

"I think it's trying to have a little bit of amnesia and forget about what happened," McIlroy said Tuesday when asked about the difficulties he has faced - on the golf course, at least - since donning the green jacket. "Then, just trying to find the motivation to go back out there and work as hard as I've been working."

That edge has been tough to rediscover, buried somewhere beneath the satisfaction of finally conquering Augusta National to become only the sixth player to win all four majors in his career. He has celebrated by taking more trips, playing more tennis, hanging out at home and "basically saying 'no' to every request that comes in."

His forays back to his day job - rough.

McIlroy arrived at the PGA Championship a month after the Masters only to learn that the driver he'd been using for more than a year had been deemed nonconforming in a routine test.

He hit only 46.4% of the fairways that week, tying him for 68th out of 74 players in that statistic who played four rounds. Those struggles with the new driver made him a non-factor and he finished tied for 47th.

"It wasn't a big deal for Scottie, so it shouldn't have been a big deal



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, is seen during a practice round ahead of the U.S. Open golf tournament at Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont, Pa. (AP)

for me," McIlroy said, noting Scottie Scheffler received the same news about his own driver that week but went on to win the tournament.

Scottie Scheffler doesn't care what the oddsmakers think or what people say about his status as the overwhelming favorite in this U.S. Open, and pretty much everywhere he plays.

But he can hear them - and sometimes, he hears from them.

"That's why I had to get rid of my Venmo, because I was either getting paid by people or people requesting me a bunch of money when I didn't win. It wasn't a good feeling," Scheffler said with a laugh Tuesday at Oakmont.

It wasn't entirely clear if he was kidding.

He did say later the most anyone

tried to pay him for a win - he has won 19 times worldwide in just over three years - was a couple of dollars.

"That didn't happen nearly as much as the requests did," he said.

Perhaps the most telling number for Scheffler, No. 1 in the world ranking for the longest streak since Tiger Woods in the late 2000s, is that he has won 25% of his tournaments since capturing his first PGA Tour title at the Phoenix Open in 2022.

He has won three of his past four tournaments - including his third major at the PGA Championship last month at Quail Hollow - by a combined 17 shots. There's a lot of numbers that define his dominance in golf.

None of it matters to him.

"I don't pay attention to the favorite stuff or anything like that,"

he said. "Starting Thursday morning, we're at even par and it's up to me to go out there and play against the golf course and see what I can do."

That doesn't figure to be easy. Oakmont is considered the toughest golf course in America, and the last few days of practice rounds have not changed anyone's opinions. Most of the attention is on the rough that covers the tops of shoes. Sunshine on Tuesday made the greens feel even faster after a few days of rain. Scheffler thinks the bunkers are underrated.

The overall consensus?

"Man, it's just tough," Collin Morikawa said.

Scheffler would seem to have a game built for this given his extraordinary ability to control his golf ball from tee-to-green. He has yet to win his national open, though he had chances at Los Angeles (2023), Brookline (2022) and Torrey Pines (2021).

The exception was last year at Pinehurst No. 2, where Scheffler was never in the mix. One reason might be the schedule - the Memorial was the week before the U.S. Open last year, another tough test that Scheffler won and never felt he had a chance to catch his breath.

He won the Memorial again this year.

"Having the week off was really important for me to get home, get some rest, recover, and I showed up here on Sunday and was able to play maybe 11 holes and really get used to the conditions," Scheffler said. "It feels much more like my normal major prep, versus last year where you're coming in from basically a major championship test. Coming into another one is pretty challenging."

First-time NBA head coach says he's ready

Ott inherits tough rebuild as Suns enter new phase

PHOENIX, June 11, (AP): Jordan Ott's first NBA head coaching job comes with an expensive, underachieving roster, an increasingly hands-on owner who has promised to be more involved, and a grumpy fan base that has never experienced a championship since the franchise was established in the desert in 1968.

Taking over the Phoenix Suns won't be easy.

Ott wouldn't have it any other way.

"We're all aware of what we sign up for when we're an NBA basketball coach," Ott said. "I'm not here to look back, what's happened, I'm focused to move this thing forward. That's my sole energy."

The Suns introduced Ott on Tuesday at the team's practice facility, roughly a week after hiring the Cleveland Cavaliers assistant to take over for Mike Budenholzer, who was fired after one season and a disappointing 36-46 record.

Ott will be the franchise's fourth coach in four seasons.

First-year general manager Brian Gregory said he went through a deliberate interview process that took more than a month. Several candidates met with the Suns and the two finalists were Ott and fellow Cavaliers assistant Johnnie Bryant.

"At the end of it, no question, clear choice, Jordan Ott stood out in every single stage of the process," Gregory said. "What we're bringing in today is a hungry assistant coach, who is now a head coach and spent 12 years in the NBA preparing for this day."

"His work ethic is beyond reproach."

It remains to be seen which Suns players Ott will actually be working with by the time training camp hits. Four-time All-Star Devin Booker - a franchise icon who has played in Phoenix all of his 10 seasons - seems to be the only untouchable player on the roster.

It's expected that the Suns will try to trade veteran superstar Kevin Durant and three-time All-Star Bradley Beal this summer.

The 36-year-old Durant should have plenty of suitors, but moving the oft-injured Beal, who is due more than \$50 million in each of the next two seasons and would have to waive a no-trade clause, will be much tougher.

Regardless, it might be several weeks before Ott knows his core group of players.

"Any good coach will build their system according to their personnel on both sides," Ott said. "There's a preferred style of play and you can still get it based on different personnel. But until the personnel is set, that's when you can really build it out."

Ott's resume is typical for that of an



New Phoenix Suns head coach Jordan Ott, left, and general manager Brian Gregory pose for pictures after Ott was introduced as the team's coach at the team's practice facility in Phoenix. (AP)

up-and-coming NBA coach and he's considered a great innovator, particularly on the offensive end. He's held a variety of roles over more than a decade in the league, including with the Atlanta Hawks, Brooklyn Nets, Los Angeles Lakers and most recently the Cavaliers, who had a 64-18 record last season for the best record in the Eastern Conference.

His teams have made the playoffs in 10 of his 12 seasons in the league.

But a tidbit in Ott's background that was likely important - and an irritant to some in the fan base - is that the 40-year-old was video coordinator for Michigan State from 2008-13 after he earned a master's degree from the school.

Suns owner Mat Ishbia played as a walk-on for the Spartans from 1999 to 2003 and has shown a strong tendency to favor hiring personnel with a background at the school.

Gregory - who has extensive experience as a college basketball coach but not much time in the NBA - was an assistant coach at Michigan State when Ishbia was a player.

The worry for fans is that Ishbia is prioritizing prior relationships instead of hiring the best available option.

Gregory didn't shy away from his connection to Michigan State and Ishbia when he was introduced in May.

Ott talked warmly about his time with the Spartans on Tuesday, but said the first time he formally met Ishbia was in the final stages of the interview process.

"I've earned the right to be here," Ott said. "I've spent 20 years of working as hard as I possibly can to be here in this spot. I've been around great people, great coaches, great players, to allow me to grow, put me in tough spots to see if I can be better."

"I know I've earned this opportunity. I'm going to work as hard as I can from here on out to prove I'm here for the right reasons."

Huijsen recalls Mourinho influence, Ramos inspiration at Real unveiling

MADRID, June 11, (AP): Dean Huijsen thanked former coach Jose Mourinho and talked about his "idol" Sergio Ramos as the center back was introduced by Real Madrid in what he called "the best day" of his life on Tuesday.

The 20-year-old Spain international was signed by Madrid from Bournemouth in May to give the Spanish powerhouse its first reinforcement for next season. He signed a five-year deal after Madrid activated the player's 50-million pound (then \$66.4 million) buyout clause.

"It's the best day of my life," he said. "It's a dream to be here, and I'm going to give everything for the team. For me, Real Madrid is the best club in the world, and there is no other team like it."

Huijsen thanked Mourinho for bringing him to Roma on a loan from Juventus in January 2024.

"I was at Christmas dinner with my family when Mourinho called," he said. "When he calls, you have to listen. He's one of the greatest in the history of soccer, and I'm very grateful to him."

Mourinho had called Huijsen one of the "best prospects in European soccer."



Huijsen

The young defender, who earned a first call-up by Spain for the Nations League playoffs in March, said he received a message from former Madrid star Ramos when his signing was made official.

"He's my biggest idol, the best center back in history," Huijsen said. "I admire everything about him, he's the most complete center back. My first fond memory is the final of the (Champions league in 2014), when he scored in the last minute of added time. I was 9 years old."

Huijsen said he already talked with new team coach Xabi Alonso about his roles with the club that needs to rebuild a defense after multiple injuries to its backline during a mostly disappointing 2024-25 season.

"We talked a little about what he expects from me. I think it's going to be a great few years," Huijsen said. "I think I fit in very well with the style of football Xabi wants to play. I'm going to try to contribute as much as I can, and I'll be delighted to help."

The highly rated defender was being sought after by other clubs in the Premier League after his stand-out season with Bournemouth. The skilled Dutch-born center back joined the Premier League team from Juventus for a reported 12.5 million pounds (then \$16.6 million) in the offseason last year. He was a regular for Bournemouth since breaking into the team in November.

Lewandowski-less Poland falls to Finland

Depay equals Dutch record as Netherlands crush Malta

NOTTINGHAM, England, June 11, (AP): Boos rang out as England left the field after a 3-1 loss to Senegal in a friendly which marked the first defeat of Thomas Tuchel's tenure as coach.

Senegal recovered from conceding Harry Kane's early goal to become the first team from Africa to record a victory over England.

"We're not going to panic. But for sure we know we need to do better," England captain Kane told broadcaster ITV and suggested England had lost "that aggressive nature that we've had."

In World Cup qualifying, the Netherlands beat Malta 8-0 and Finland won 2-1 against Poland in a game that was had a lengthy delay because of a medical emergency.

Kane was the only player retained in Tuchel's starting lineup from last week's 1-0 win over Andorra, which had caused Tuchel to criticize his team's attitude. The changes brought little improvement.

Kane's record-extending 73rd England goal gave his team the lead in the seventh minute, when he bundled in after a goalkeeping error by Edouard Mendy.

Senegal was a step above Tuchel's previous England opponents Albania, Latvia and Andorra, and England conceded for the first time in his tenure in the 40th minute.

Nicolas Jackson chased down a long pass and hooked it back for the onrushing Ismaila Sarr to score after having outpaced Kyle Walker.

Senegal's second goal followed a long ball to Habib Diarra, who seemed to be attempting a pass of his own when the ball deflected in off goalkeeper Dean Henderson's leg.

Jude Bellingham thought he'd leveled the game for England with a goal at a corner in the 84th but it was ruled out for an earlier handball by Levi Colwill. Senegal made it 3-1 when Cheikh Sabaly finished off a counter in stoppage time.



Senegal's Ismaila Sarr, left and England goalkeeper Dean Henderson vie for the ball, during an international friendly match at The City Ground, in Nottingham, England. (AP)

"We're not happy with the result. We had chances to equalize, big chances," Tuchel said in his post-game news conference.

"It's a learning (experience) - tough learning at the moment because we hate to lose, but that's what it is," the German added. "We go into a long break with

a bad feeling and with a loss, which is simply not nice and which is not what we wanted."

Kane told Sky Sports that the team needs to show more urgency.

"Coming up to September," he said, "we want to start to get it right because once the new season starts the World Cup is soon around the corner. It's down to us and then the coach to work on areas to improve."

Memphis Depay tied the scoring record for the Netherlands men's national team with two goals in the eight-goal win over Malta.

Depay scored in the ninth and 16th minutes for his 49th and 50th goals, equaling a record set by team great Robin van Persie. Depay hit 50 goals in his 102nd game for the Netherlands, while van Persie's 50th came in his 101st game in 2015.

Finland's game against Poland was suspended because of a medical emergency in the stadium with Finland leading 2-1. The game later resumed and the Finns hung on for the win.

It was Poland's first game since star Robert Lewandowski vowed he will not play for Poland again under coach Michal Probiez, who stripped the Barcelona striker of the captaincy.

It followed Lewandowski's decision not to make himself available for the game against Finland and last week's friendly against Moldova.

Finland leads Group G by a point from the Netherlands, but has played two more games. Poland dropped from first to third. The top team in each group qualifies automatically for next year's World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The second-place team goes into playoffs.

In other World Cup qualifiers in Europe on Tuesday, Austria beat San Marino 4-0, Romania won 2-0 against Cyprus, Serbia beat Andorra 3-0 and Latvia drew 1-1 with Albania.

Australia qualifies for World Cup



Saudi Arabia's Feras Albrikan, center, is challenged by Australia's Milos Degenek, right, during the World Cup 2026 Group C qualifying soccer match between Saudi Arabia and Australia at King Abdullah Stadium in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. (AP)

Saudi Arabia beaten at home

JEDDAH, June 11, (AP): Connor Metcalfe scored his first goal for Australia and Mitchell Duke iced the 2-1 victory in Saudi Arabia that ensured the Socceroos qualified for a sixth straight World Cup.

Needing just to avoid a five-goal defeat to secure direct entry to the 2026 tournament, the Socceroos rallied

with Metcalfe equalizing just before halftime with a left-foot strike and Duke putting them ahead with a 48th-minute header. Abdulrahman Al Oboud had opened for the Saudis after 19 minutes.

Goalkeeper Mat Ryan made five saves, including a late penalty, in his 100th international for Australia. The Socceroos had to qualify through playoffs in 2018 and 2022 and so earning the direct entry took some pressure off.

"We've done the first part - qualifying automatically," Socceroos

coach Tony Popovic said. "Now the next part is to be bigger and better for the World Cup."

Popovic was part of the Socceroos squad that qualified for 2006, ending a long World Cup drought for Australia, and then reached the second round. Now he has guided another generation of players to the marquee global tournament.

"We've built a good foundation now (but) we want to get better, kick on and try and do something special in the World Cup," he said.

The Palestinian team was eliminated from contention after conceding a goal seven minutes into stop-

page time in a 1-1 draw with Oman, giving the Oman team the last spot in the next round of continental qualifying.

Australia joins already-qualified Japan, Iran, South Korea, Uzbekistan and Jordan in reaching the expanded 48-team tournament in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Asia's two other automatic places will be settled between the six third- and fourth-place teams. That round takes place in October. The teams will be Oman, Qatar, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia.

First 4-game losing streak since 2007

US looks unprepared with World Cup a year away

NASHVILLE, Tenn., June 11, (AP): The only bright side for the U.S. soccer team is the World Cup starts in a year, not this week.

The Americans conceded four goals in the first half, failed to get a shot on target and were embarrassed in a 4-0 blowout loss to Switzerland in a friendly on Tuesday night.

"It's really easy to look at one game, one half, and be like, oh, this is all going to pieces, they can't come back from this," defender Walker Zimmerman said. "But you look even the build-up to the 2022 (World Cup), we take down Morocco 3-0 and they make it into the semifinal. Things change - that was six months apart. It's not the end of the world."

Heading into their CONCACAF Gold Cup opener against Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday, the Americans are on a four-game losing streak for the first time since 2007 and have dropped four consecutive home games for just the third time overall and first time since 1988.

U.S. coach Mauricio Pochettino blamed himself for picking a starting lineup that included four players with two or fewer international appearances. He wanted them to gain international experience but the Americans gave up four goals by the 40th minute for the first time since Nov. 9, 1980, at Mexico and the first time ever at home, according to Opta.



Switzerland midfielder Isaac Schmidt (24) heads the ball past United States midfielder Brenden Aaronson (11) during the first half of an international friendly soccer match in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

"It was my decision and the decision didn't work," he said. "It's painful because you don't want to improve losing games."

A dismayed fan base, angered by first-round elimination at last year's Copa America and two losses in the CONCACAF Nations League final four in March, is questioning the commitment of the team's player pool.

The U.S. was missing star Christian Pulisic (wanted time off); Yunus Musah (personal reason not disclosed); Weston McKennie, Tim Weah, Gio Reyna (headed to the

Club World Cup); Antonee Robinson, Tyler Adams and Folarin Balogun (injured); and Sergiño Dest (regaining fitness).

Dan Ndoye scored in the 13th minute, Michel Aebischer in the 23rd, Breel Embolo in the 33rd and Johan Manzambi in the 36th. Goalkeeper Matt Turner, playing his first match for club or country since March 23, spilled a shot that led to Embolo's goal. Defenders left the Swiss lots of space.

"You have to take your licks and understand where things went wrong and try to put them right in

the next five days," said defender Tim Ream, among five players who entered at the start of the second half. "There's some individual errors that we make and we get punished for them at this level."

Instead of a steady improvement, the U.S. has regressed since reaching the second round of the 2022 World Cup. The Americans are 5-5 under Pochettino, who took over after the Copa America flop led the U.S. Soccer Federation to fire coach Gregg Berhalter.

The U.S. also plays Saudi Arabia and Haiti in the Gold Cup's first round - the Americans have won their group in 16 of 17 Gold Cups, along with a second-place finish to Panama in 2011. They're group stage record is 40 wins, one loss and five draws. Only winning the tournament likely will calm supporters.

"I know in this sport you're not judged on one game, one half, but you've got to be able to bounce back mentally, physically, emotionally," Zimmerman said. "We've played hundreds of games in our career. Some are going to be amazing. Some aren't going to be so good."

Pochettino isn't concerned fans will give up on the U.S. team and stay away from matches.

"The fans are going to be there for sure in the Gold Cup and the World Cup," he said. "I have no worries about that. The fans are going to be with the team."

KVA announces player registration and age categories for the season

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Kuwait Volleyball Association has issued Circular No. 24/2025 to local clubs, inviting them to confirm their participation and register players for the upcoming 2025-2026 sports season.

The Association outlined the approved age categories for competitions in the new season as follows:

- Under-10: Born between 2015 and 2021
- Under-12: Born in 2013-2014
- Under-14: Born in 2011-2012
- Under-16: Born in 2009-2010
- Under-19: Born in 2007-2008

For the General (First Division) category, clubs may register up to 17 local players and 2 professional (foreign) players.

The Association confirmed that the player registration window via the electronic system will open on June 15 and continue through July 31. The official first registration period will run from August 3 to October 30.

In a recent meeting between the Federation and club representatives, all parties agreed to schedule the start of the 2025-2026 season for the end of September. The meeting also covered proposals and preparations aimed at enhancing the development of the sport across all age levels.



A file photo of players in action.

City signs Reijnders from Milan to complete \$150m spending spree

LONDON, June 11, (AP): Manchester City concluded a \$150 million spending spree ahead of the Club World Cup by announcing the signing of Netherlands midfielder Tijjani Reijnders from AC Milan. The 26-year-old Reijnders moved for an initial fee of 55 million euros (\$63 million) and is the second midfielder - after France playmaker Rayan Cherki - to join City in the special June 1-10 transfer window created to allow sides in the 32-team Club World Cup to reshape their squads.

City paid Lyon \$41 million for Cherki and also signed Algeria left back Rayan Ait-Nouri from Wolverhampton for \$42 million.

After deciding not to push to sign Florian Wirtz - the Germany playmaker is close to joining Liverpool, according to reports in the British media - City has spent around the same amount on three players. Add this latest splurge to an outlay of more than \$200 million in the winter transfer window and City has already spent at least \$350 million on players in 2025 to provide manager Pep Guardiola with a squad capable of reclaiming the Premier League title from Liverpool.

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Canadian men's soccer team lifts the Canadian Shield Trophy after winning the tournament on goal difference and losing to Ivory coast on penalties, in Toronto. (AP)

Sports

Kuwaiti shooters continue impressive run



Kuwaiti shooters display their medals after the awarding ceremony.

Team wins 7 medals at Asian Shooting Championship in China

LINFEN, China, June 11, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti shooting team added to its impressive medal haul at the ongoing Asian Shooting Championship in Linfen, China, clinching four medals on Wednesday – one gold, one silver, and two bronze – bringing their total to seven medals so far.

President of the Kuwait Shooting Sports Club and head of the delegation, Duaij Al-Otaibi, told KUNA that Abdulrahman Al-Faihan, Talal Al-Rashidi, and Nasser Al-Muqallid secured gold in the men's team competition.

In the women's team event, shooters Shahd Al-Hawwal, Sara Al-Hawwal, and Reem Al-Zamanan captured silver, while Abdulrahman Al-Faihan claimed bronze in the individual competition.

A bronze medal was also earned in the mixed doubles, with Nasser Al-Muqallid and Sara Al-Hawwal teaming up for the podium finish.

This success follows their earlier achievement last Thursday, where Kuwait earned three medals – two gold and one bronze.

On that day, shooters Mansour Al-Rashidi, Abdulaziz Al-Saad, and Abdulaziz Al-Faihan triumphed in the men's team event, while Al-Rashidi and Al-Saad took gold and bronze, respectively, in the individual competition.

New coach on the horizon

Maqsid: Kuwait must 'rebuild' with young talent after World Cup qualification failure

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: Nothing has changed – only renewed disappointment and another early exit for the Blues from the Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup. Despite having their first real opportunity in 18 years, Kuwait's national team failed once again to advance, falling short in the group stage without a single victory and earning just 5 points out of a possible 30.

The team finished last in their group, trailing behind sides like Palestine – whose football has been disrupted by war since October 2023 – and Oman, a team Kuwait hasn't beaten in more than 25 years.

Former national team coach Jawad Maqsid attributes Kuwait's decline to the lack of local talent and weak domestic performances. "The league lacks quality, and most local clubs no longer produce talented players. They rely instead on ready-made options," Maqsid stated.

He added, "There's a clear absence of promising Kuwaiti players. Is it possible that a country like Kuwait has no footballing talent? The last standout was Bader Al-Mutawa. Since then, no player has emerged to captivate the fans."

Maqsid stressed the urgent need for the Kuwait Football Association to invest in youth development, with



Former national team coach Jawad Maqsid

structured plans and programs that prioritize age-group competitions.

Maqsid suggested a complete overhaul of the national team: "All current players should be released, and a foreign coach with knowledge of Gulf football should be appointed – along with two Kuwaiti assistants." He emphasized that this new technical staff must have full authority to select players without interference.

He also pointed out that local players have not significantly benefited from the presence of foreign professionals, citing their average skill levels. "Relying on aging players has become part of the problem – youth must now be the focus."

In the wake of the team's failure, the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) issued an apology to fans, expressing deep regret over the national team's early elimination from the qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

The association acknowledged the previous board's decision to appoint the current coaching staff and explained that the current administration chose not to disrupt the team during the qualifiers, particularly due to the high cost of terminating head coach Juan Pizzi's contract – estimated at over one million dollars.

Nevertheless, the KFA stressed that reforms will not be delayed. Plans are in motion to prepare the team in a more effective and professional manner for upcoming competitions.

The KFA has already begun reviewing the résumés of several foreign coaches as it looks to replace Argentine Juan Pizzi. The objective is to rebuild the squad ahead of the crucial playoff match against Mauritania in late November – a qualifier for the Arab Cup, scheduled to be held in Doha in December.

Kuwait U-16 basketball team gears up for Champ'ship with intensive training camp

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Kuwaiti Under-16 basketball team launched its internal training camp as part of its preparations for the upcoming Gulf Championship, set to take place in the Kingdom of Bahrain from July 7 to 12. The tournament will feature six teams: Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain (the host), and Kuwait.

Mishal Mohammed, Member of the Board of Directors at the Kuwait Basketball Association and Director of National Teams, emphasized the significance of the tournament, noting that it serves as a qualifier for the Asian Championship, scheduled to begin in late August in Mongolia. "This tournament is crucial as it brings together strong competition and paves the way to Asia," he stated.

The training camp includes 14 players and features two daily sessions – morning and evening. From this group, 12 players will be selected to represent Kuwait in the tournament. Kuwait will compete in Group A alongside Qatar and the UAE, while Group B comprises Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Oman.

Mohammed explained that this camp marks the second phase of the team's preparation. The first stage took place in Istanbul, Turkey, last January, where the squad played six friendly matches against Turkish clubs. He praised the players for their strong commitment during that phase.

The third and final stage of preparation



KUNA photo

The Kuwaiti U-16 basketball team has kicked off its domestic training camp in preparation for the Gulf Championship, set to take place in Bahrain this July.

will begin on June 21 with an external training camp in Cairo, Egypt. There, the team will play six friendly matches against top-level Egyptian teams before traveling to Bahrain for the start of the tournament.

Expressing his confidence in the

squad, Mohammed described the players as ambitious and hardworking. He voiced hope that the Kuwaiti team will deliver a strong performance in the Gulf Championship and secure a top-two finish, earning qualification for the Asian Championship.

Uruguay closes in on qualification

Brazil clinches World Cup berth as Chile's hopes end

SAO PAULO, June 11, (AP): A goal by Vinicius Júnior secured Brazil a place in the 2026 World Cup, quite a momentous home debut for Carlo Ancelotti as head coach.

The once prolific duo at Real Madrid helped Brazil to a 1-0 win over Paraguay at Sao Paulo. Ecuador secured its place at next year's global tournament later Tuesday with a 0-0 draw at Peru.

Defending champion Argentina, held to a 1-1 draw by Colombia, had already qualified and is assured of finishing atop South American qualifying.

Ecuador and Brazil each have 25 points in the standings, but the Ecuadorians are in second spot based on victories. The two nations are 10 points behind Argentina but, crucially, more than six points clear of the seventh-place team with two games remaining in the qualifying campaign.

The top six teams in South America earn direct entries to the 48-team World Cup.

Chile will miss a third consecutive World Cup after losing 2-0 at Bolivia to remain last in a 10-nation round-robin competition, a result that cost head coach Ricardo Gareca his job.

Uruguay beat Venezuela at home 2-0, with goals from Rodrigo Aquirre and Giorgian de Arrascaeta, and edged closer to one of the direct spots with 24 points.

Venezuela, with 18, is one ahead of Bolivia in the contest for seventh place that grants an intercontinental playoff berth.

Lionel Messi had a quiet night in Argentina's draw with Colombia in Buenos Aires. Luis Díaz opened the scoring for the visitors in the 24th minute. Enzo Fernandez was sent off in the 70th minute to the disappointment of more than 80,000 fans at the Monumental de Nunez Stadium.

But Thiago Almada scored the equalizer in the 81st minute with a low cross-shot.

Ancelotti received some frustration from fans after Thursday's 0-0 draw with Ecuador, as his team focused on defending the entire match. The Italian coach, who turned 66 on Tuesday, promised changes to make his team



Brazil's Martinelli, right, is challenged by Paraguay's Juan Jose Caceres during a World Cup 2026 qualifying soccer match at Neo Quimica Arena in Sao Paulo. (AP)

more aggressive at the NeoQuimica Arena.

He was welcomed by 46,000 fans, including NBA star Gianni Antetokounmpo, who displayed a tifo in yellow and green that read "Parabens, Carleto" (Happy birthday, Carleto in Portuguese).

Gabriel Martinelli replaced midfielder Gerson and was one of the best players of the encounter. Raphinha returned after suspension and created many problems for Paraguay's defense. And Vinicius Júnior was often seen as a targetman, sharing the duties with Matheus Cunha.

A mistake by Paraguay's defense, a low cross by Cunha, and a gentle touch by Brazil's new No. 10 produced the only goal of the match. "It is for you," the striker told the coach as he celebrated.

Despite the low score, the hosts were much more aggressive than in

most of their games in this World Cup qualifying campaign.

"We needed to win here for our people. Now we have more time to work, see what we can improve," Vinicius said after the match. He won't play Brazil's next game in qualifying against Chile due to suspension. "We

need to celebrate this. After September, it is all about the World Cup."

After the final whistle, a clip of Ancelotti's first days on the job was shown on big screens around the stadium. A raucous celebration erupted again, as if the Italian coach had brought new life to a team that only three months ago appeared lost and doomed.

He said the team was balanced despite having four strikers. He also said that Cunha's role, as a playmaker, is the one he figures will be Neymar's if the veteran fully recovers his fitness.

"It's no problem to play with three or four up front. We need 10 players to run, to sacrifice," Ancelotti said. "Rodrygo did this many times. I know him well. And Neymar will also do it."

Chile's golden generation won two Copa America titles - in 2015 and '16 - but is out of contention for next year's expanded 48-team tournament.

"Sad, I am feeling bad. Never lived something like this. We have to ask people to forgive us," veteran Chile striker Alexis Sánchez said. "We have to keep working. There's change already, the golden generation is buried, I am the only one left."

Bolivia scored first via Miguel Terceiros in the fifth minute and added a second in the 90th with Enzo Monteiro at the 4,150-meter high El Alto Stadium, outside La Paz.

Gareca, the 67-year-old Argentinian coach who took Peru to the 2018 World Cup, told a post-game news conference he was leaving the team after a 17-match stretch that included four wins, four draws, and nine losses.

The South American qualifying tournament is scheduled to conclude in September. Uruguay and Paraguay each need one point to secure their direct spots. The Uruguayans will face Peru and Chile. The Paraguayans will take on Ecuador and Peru.

Colombia, in sixth place with 22 points, will play for its World Cup future against Bolivia and Venezuela. Bolivia will seek its first chance to play at the World Cup since 1994 against the Colombians and then Brazil. Venezuela's rivals will be Argentina and Colombia.