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Opinion

Move chalets away from the sea, like in other countries

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE Ministry of Finance took a wise decision in amending the fees for using state property, especially along the coastline.

This issue has long been debated, as Kuwaiti beaches are currently used haphazardly, limiting citizens' freedom to enjoy them properly.

In many countries, laws prohibit the exploitation and monopolization of coastal areas by individuals or companies. Even private property along the shore is regulated because these spaces are considered public and meant for everyone's enjoyment, with no one allowed to monopolize them.

Even buildings near the beaches must follow specific guidelines. The distance between the structure and the shoreline should range from 500 to 1,000 meters. Construction of fences that block the sea view is strictly prohibited.

In Kuwait, an unsightly practice has been prevalent for over 40 years - the chaotic construction of chalets along the seashore, resembling refugee camps. These chalets have disregarded citizens' right to enjoy the beaches.

In France, for example, there are strict regulations related to the many benefits of beaches. Limits are set on the percentage of beach areas that can be built upon to preserve public access for walking and sea views.

The same applies in Spain, where the state prohibits exploitation of coastal areas, designating them exclusively for tourism and recreation.

Similarly, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia enforced these measures in Jeddah by ordering the demolition of palaces and chalets built directly on the beach, including properties owned by princes, businessmen, and influential figures. The state compensated them with land farther inland to ensure public access to the beaches.

Optimal use of public marine property greatly benefits the state. Beyond providing tourist and recreational opportunities, it boosts economic activity. Unfortunately, Kuwait has yet to realize these benefits.

With the new amendments in place, there is hope for a tourism strategy that boosts the gross domestic product (GDP) and enables the development of resorts and hotels overlooking public beaches, without restricting people's freedom to walk and enjoy the coast.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Finance's decision may negatively impact food and industrial security. Maintaining the current fees on farmers and agricultural voucher beneficiaries adds pressure to a sector that is of utmost importance to Kuwait. Ensuring

a supportive environment for farmers and voucher holders should be a part of the country's strategic security framework.

Despite the availability of sufficient land, over 51 percent of Kuwait's area consists of desert that could be reclaimed. Kuwait still imports about 95 percent of its agricultural consumption. Properly utilizing these lands would bring significant benefits to the nation.

Maintaining the high fees on agricultural vouchers without reduction, coupled with scarcity of treated water, frequent power outages, and lack of protection for agricultural production, ultimately drives up the cost of food production.

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

3,000 cyber scams hit Kuwait last year

Cyber crooks get smarter – so should you

KUWAIT CITY, July 1, (KUNA): Many people have heard or known individuals falling for cybercrimes and they might think they are beyond reach; however, it might strike anyone with internet access whether on phone or any other devices.

The Interior Ministry's cyber-crime department is on the vanguard when it comes to protecting citizens and residentST alike from such evil schemes, but it remains vital to be vigilant and updated on the latest cyber scams and methods.

Some 3,000 cybercrime cases were reported last year and last month 164 crimes were reported, which gives you an indication of how impactful cybercrime on society, Lieut-Colonel Ammar Al-Sarraf,

acting head of assistance services department of the Interior Ministry's cybercrime department, told KUNA.

He indicated that fake text messages on parties pretending to represent official entities and banks were on the top of the frauds' list, adding that scammers were using more advanced technologies and different methods to set the traps for the un-informed.

He revealed that the one of the top scams involved advertisements for renting chalets on social media, carried out by using Kuwaiti telephone numbers, which did not give verification whether the social media account was fake or not.

Online shops selling products with ridiculous low prices also attracted

unsuspecting customers, Al-Sarraf added.

He continued, fake payment links, which looked legitimate and represented government or official companies were used by scammers to steal data and money.

On how to have basic protection against such acts, Al-Sarraf said that before entering data and falling victim to such scams, one must verify the websites visited, noting that legitimate websites in Kuwait ended with a (.com.kw.) line.

He applauded the Wamdh (flash) service, which managed to decrease fraudulent transactions, adding that the Aman (Safety) virtual room, a mechanism that gathers Kuwaiti

Continued on Page 5

EXPATS ADJUST TO KUWAIT TRAVEL RULE

Smooth takeoff for exit permit system

Over 36,000 seek green light to fly

By Fares Ghaleb and Mohammad Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) started enforcing the mandatory electronic travel permit system for private sector expatriate workers on Tuesday, July 1, 2025.

According to informed sources, over 36,000 applications were submitted, which reflects strong readiness and widespread use by both employers and workers.

The new system requires every expatriate worker under Article 18 of the Foreigners' Residence Law to obtain an electronic travel permit approved in advance by their employer through the "Sahel Individuals" app. Employers or company sponsors must approve requests via the "As-hal Companies" service.

PAM confirmed that the service operates 24/7, including weekends, and it contributes to Kuwait's comprehensive digital transformation efforts.

It affirmed that the new procedure enhances labor market regulation and protects the rights of all parties involved.

In a related development, Kuwait International Airport witnessed a busy flow of passengers, with thousands of expatriate workers departing on the first day of implementing the decision amid streamlined procedures characterized by flexibility and smoothness.



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq
Passengers line up at Kuwait Airport check-in desks, all set for their summer getaway.

When the newspaper staff visited the airport on Tuesday, they witnessed heavy congestion. Nevertheless, the aforementioned PAM decision neither posed a restriction nor reduced the number of passengers who typically leave the country during summer to spend their vacation with their families and relatives abroad.

The first flight that departed on the day the decision took

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Visibility drops, high waves prompt safety warning

Dust storms to batter Kuwait until Saturday



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq
Motorists drive cautiously through dusty conditions and steady winds on a Kuwait road Tuesday, as visibility decreases in affected areas.

KUWAIT CITY, July 1, (KUNA): The country will remain under the influence of strong, dusty winds through Saturday, with visibility in some areas dropping to less than 1,000 meters, particularly in open regions, according to Dhirar Al-Ali, Director of the Meteorological Department.

Speaking to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Ali explained that recent weather maps and numerical models show the country is affected by the extension of India's seasonal depression. This system is bringing a hot and dry air mass, accompanied by moderate to brisk northwesterly winds, sometimes reaching speeds of 20 to 60 kilometers per hour. These winds are expected to stir up significant dust, further reducing horizontal visibility in some areas.

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Day by Day

DEAR Minister of Housing Affairs and State Minister of Municipal Affairs, we need to develop the Kuwaiti islands such as Failaka Island, Kubbar Island, and others that have potential, into projects with chalets and other attractions similar to those in Saudi Arabia's NEOM project on the Red Sea. This development will bring great happiness to the people, who will pray to Allah Almighty to bless your tenure.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait joins youth forum in Morocco

MARRAKECH, July 1, (KUNA): Kuwait's participation in "Marrakech: Capital of Youth in the Islamic World 2025" event reflects its deep commitment to youth-related issues in the Islamic world, said a Kuwaiti official on Tuesday.

This came in a statement to KUNA by the Acting Director General of Kuwait's Public Authority for Youth Nasser Al-Shaikh, who is representing the Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs at the opening ceremony.

He emphasized the importance of such initiatives in promoting dialogue and cooperation among youth

Continued on Page 5

Fake jobs ... fake documents

Kuwait shuts down Europe-bound visa scam, nabs criminal network

KUWAIT CITY, July 1, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Interior (MoI) announced on Tuesday the arrest of a criminal ring involved in forging data to manipulate visa applicants for European countries.

In a press statement, by the MoI, the operation was carried out by the General Department of Residency Investigations led by Citizenship and Residency Affairs Sector, as part of its ongoing efforts to combat organized crimes.

The investigation, conducted in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, uncovered the criminal activities by the suspects including altering professions, fabricating information, tampering with work permits, bank statements and other documents to meet visa requirements set by several

European embassies.

Initial findings revealed the involvement of an Egyptian, who was operating social media account from abroad to promote illegal immigration services, as the authority arrested several other members of the ring in Kuwait as well as seized their devices and documents.

Authorities in Egypt were informed, as part of the international security cooperation, and procedures are underway to complete the investigations, the statement added.

The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to upholding the country's security and enforcing the law, warning that it will not tolerate such criminal activities, as well as urged the public to adhere to all laws and regulations.



MoI photo
Photo shows arrested suspects linked to the Europe-bound visa forgery network.

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Amiri Diwan on Monday thanked citizens and residents of the country who offered condolences on the demise of Sheikh Fahad Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusef Saud Al-Sabah discussed on Monday with the Charge d'affaires of Lebanon in Kuwait Ahmad Arafat, ways to enhance cooperation in the fields of security and humanitarian affairs.

The meeting also reviewed the bilateral relations, with the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior affirming the deep relations between both countries, pointing out the importance of supporting cooperation to achieving security and stability in the region. (KUNA)

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump signed an executive order on

Monday ending many US economic sanctions on Syria, following through on a promise he made to the country's new interim leader.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said the move was designed to "promote and support the country's path to stability and peace."

The executive order is meant to "end the country's isolation from the international financial system, setting the stage for global commerce and galvanizing investments from its neighbors in the region, as well as from the United States," Treasury's acting undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, Brad Smith, told reporters on a call Monday to preview the administration's action.

Monday's actions do not rescind sanctions imposed on ousted former President Bashar Assad, his top aides, family members and officials who had been determined to have committed human rights abuses or been involved in drug trafficking or part of Syria's chemical weapons program. (AP)

9 ABK appoints
Giel-Jan M. Van
Der Tol as Group
Chief Executive
Officer



stc launches 5G
Advanced network
to deliver an
exceptional
experience to its
customers

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:17	Asr	15:26
Sunrise ..	04:52	Maghrib ..	18:52
Zohr	11:52	Isha	20:23

Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north-westerly wind, with speeds of 15-50 km/h causing rising dust.			
By Night: Hot to rather hot and dust will subside gradually with			
light to moderate freshening at times over coastal areas north-westerly wind, with speeds of 15-40 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	45	35	Abdaly
Kuwait Airport	45	35	Jahra
			Salmiyah
			Ahmadi
			Nuwaisib
			Wafra
			Salmiyah
			Managish

Kuwait to strengthen bonds with Asia

Efforts underway to raise profile of ACD: Hayat



Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Samih Jawhar Hayat meets Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Mukai Kenichiro.



Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Samih Jawhar Hayat at the cake-cutting ceremony.



Photos by Mohammad Morsi Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Samih Jawhar Hayat visits the Pakistani stall at the event.

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Samih Jawhar Hayat affirmed that the State of Kuwait continues to exert tremendous efforts to elevate the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) to a standalone regional organization, comparable to other international organizations.

In a statement to reporters on the occasion of ACD Day on Monday evening, Hayat elaborated that this move stems from a Kuwaiti initiative presented at the recent Doha Summit, which was welcomed by participating countries. He affirmed that serious work is underway to transform this ambition into reality.

He pointed out that this gathering is unique as it includes not only the Asian countries, but also a number of countries outside Asia; thereby, giving it more international influence in the coming period.

He said work is underway at several levels like the meetings of senior officials and foreign ministers to pave the way for the realization of the aforementioned goal as soon as possible, with the support of sisterly and friendly countries.

On the other hand, Secretary General of ACD Ambassador Nasser Al-Mutairi stated that the Secretariat General celebrates ACD Day, which falls on June 18 each year, with the participation of a number of diplomatic missions

and regional organizations.

In his speech in the event held at Crowne Plaza Hotel; Al-Mutairi expressed his deep gratitude to Kuwait, as the host country of the Secretariat General, for its continuous support. He commended the contributions of member states in organizing 21 cultural pavilions; which featured artistic and heritage performances, as well as video clips about Kuwait TV and several Asian countries.

Al-Mutairi also reviewed the forum's progress since its launching on June 18, 2002; with the participation of 18 countries which expanded later to include 35 countries today --representing more than 60 percent of the global population. He indicated the imminent participation of the Republic of Iraq as the 36th member.

He explained that the expansion is not limited to numbers, as it rather includes stronger cooperation and integration among member states in the areas of sustainable development, economic growth, and in addressing global challenges.

He added that the Secretariat General is keen on enhancing transparency and communication by signing memoranda of understanding with international organizations and submitting an application for observer status at the United Nations.

He disclosed that the Secretariat General intends to strengthen its institutional capacities, including the expansion of the administrative structure, which will be announced soon.

He pointed out that 2024 witnessed the successful third summit hosted by the State of Qatar, which tasked foreign ministers with studying the proposal of Kuwait to transform the forum into a regional organization. He said the

proposal was discussed at the meeting of senior officials in the capital of Thailand -- Bangkok -- on June 18, 2025.

He confirmed that the Kuwaiti proposal received feedback from some countries; as comments were submitted and the working paper presented by Kuwait on the organization's form, working mechanism, and cooperation with similar regional organizations and blocs was discussed.

He touched on some of the ideas presented so far to avoid duplication of activities in the establishment of a 'think tank' through coordination among Asian organizations. He revealed that an expanded meeting of the secretaries general of these organizations will be held soon in order to achieve this goal.

In response to the journalists' questions, Al-Mutairi disclosed that a ministerial meeting will be held in Bangkok in August to discuss the next presidency after Thailand's term ends in December 2025.

He spoke about Kuwait's support for the forum, explaining that Kuwait funds the current Secretariat General budget, along with donations from some member states. He added the Secretariat has been asked to present a vision for a future funding mechanism once the forum transforms into an organization.

In a relevant development, Al-Mutairi underscored the importance of private sector participation; particularly in infrastructure, digital connectivity and renewable energy. He said the private sector is involved in some initiatives as sponsors or financiers, indicating this is part of a comprehensive vision to enhance Asian connectivity and integration.

He reiterated his expression of gratitude to Kuwait for being a generous host, Thailand for its effective presidency, and all member states for their continuous support.



Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya receives letter from his Iranian counterpart, delivered by Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Totonji.



KUNA photos Kuwait Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya receives credentials of Ambassador of Senegal to Kuwait.

Amir congratulates Somali leader on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, July 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of Somalia Hassan Sheikh Mohamud on the occasion of the Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the president good health and the people of

Somalia further progress and prosperity.

Prime Minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of Somalia Hassan Sheikh Mohamud on the occasion of the Independence Day.

FM receives message from his Iranian counterpart

KUWAIT CITY, July 1, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya received a message from his Iranian counterpart Dr. Abbas Araghchi regarding the bilateral relations between both countries and the latest international and regional develop-

ments.

This came during Minister Al-Yahya's reception of the Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Totonji at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Meanwhile, the Minister of Foreign Affairs received the credentials of

the Ambassador of Senegal to Kuwait, Hassan Sogo, during the meeting at the ministry's headquarters.

Al-Yahya wished the new ambassador success in his duties and further progress and prosperity to the bilateral relations.

Kuwait slams terrorist attack on Pakistani military convoy

KUWAIT CITY, July 1, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday voiced strong condemnation and denunciation of the terrorist attack on a military convoy in Pakistan, which claimed multiple casualties.

In a press release, the ministry reiterated Kuwait's ironclad stance that rejects all

forms of violence and terrorism irrespective of motives.

It also expressed sincere condolences to the government and people of Pakistan as well as the families of the victims, and wished a swift recovery of those injured in the attack.

Mercury hovering below 50C

Power outages averted as load index stabilizes

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: The electricity load index has remained stable for the second consecutive week, staying well within the green (safe) zone and far from critical levels, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

Sources disclosed that this stability has enabled the country to avoid implementing scheduled power outages, attributing the current balance between electricity production and consumption to several key factors as follows: maximum temperatures have remained below 50 degrees Celsius

that reduced strain on the grid, completion of the annual maintenance program for power generation units and water distillers that boosted overall system efficiency, drop in electricity demand partly due to the end of the school year and the departure of many families for travel, and tighter control over illegal cryptocurrency mining operations that curbed unregulated energy use.

Ministry sources emphasized that the combination of these factors has kept the load index firmly in the safe zone. However, they warned that temperature remains the most influential factor. A sin-

gle degree increase above 47 degrees Celsius can raise electricity consumption by 250 to 400 megawatts, especially during peak hours, the explained.

They also highlighted the role of the Gulf electricity grid, noting that interconnection revenues have helped support national production capacity.

Meanwhile, the 'Wafer' campaign continues public outreach efforts, encouraging citizens and expatriates to conserve electricity. Awareness messages are being shared through digital platforms and the Sahel application to promote sustainable energy use and reduce load pressure.

Other Voices

The 'hidden cleric'...and control of our lifestyle

By Ahmad alsarraf

DAY by day, event by event, catastrophe after catastrophe, with countless signs and blows, it becomes ever clearer that our societies, whether we like it or not, are governed by a "hidden cleric or scholar" whose power and influence permeate every aspect of life.

This "hidden cleric" controls what we eat and wear, our customs and traditions, mosque sermons and religious discourse, the media, what is taught and forbidden in our universities, the books we read, the articles, stories, and research we produce, and sometimes even our names that were decided before we are born.

I have searched extensively and found no



alsarraf

justification for forcing people to live under a harsh and rigid "religious" regime ruled by a hidden cleric who insists that others can only enjoy life on his terms.

Most civilized countries have freed themselves from the control of clerics but we remain trapped, compelled to accept the visible and known aspects of the unseen, whether they align with reason and logic or contradict them, simply because the "Hidden Man" decrees so. His commands, orders, and prohibitions apply even to those who do not follow his faith.

In truth, the "Hidden Man of Clergy" has no physical form. He is merely a symbol that emerges only when needed. He does not knock on your door, invade anyone's privacy, or force his preferred way of life on others. Instead, he waits quietly in places of worship, calmly offering advice and whatever support a person might seek to feel secure, without interference or threat of punishment in this world or the hereafter.

The civil state is neither a fantasy nor fiction.

It exists and is successfully implemented in many systems around the world, proving to be better than alternatives in every aspect. A civil state is safer and more just for all religious communities, whether Muslim or otherwise. It does not prevent anyone from practicing their rituals or prayers. It does not interfere in places where people build mosques or temples, nor with how they educate or raise their children.

The civil state does not impose specific diets, dress codes, or behaviors on anyone. Its laws apply equally to all citizens. It respects people's daily practices and does not demand changes to their values or customs unless those conflict with the law or public order. It guarantees everyone the freedom to preach and share their religion, while also respecting the beliefs and rituals of others.

To be continued...



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'Boon for academic levels'

KU honors researchers and inventors with 'US patents'

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: The Research Sector at Kuwait University organized a ceremony to honor a group of researchers and inventors who obtained patents from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), under the patronage of Vice President for Research Dr. Abdullah Sultan.

Sultan expressed his pride in the efforts of these inventors indicating that their success contributes to raising the academic and scientific levels of the university, as well as strengthening its position in international rankings.

He said the Patent and Intellectual Property Office at the university registered nine patents during the 2024/2025 academic year, which were officially announced by USPTO.

Meanwhile, Assistant Vice President for External Research Collaboration and Consulting Dr. Mabkhout Al-Dosari stated that these achievements are considered a realization of the ambitious vision of the university

in terms of supporting scientific research and innovation.

He underscored the need for researchers to take advantage of the 'Fast Track' service offered by the Research Sector to reduce the examination period for patent applications at USPTO -- ranging from six months to one year, instead of the usual period of one to three years.

Following are the awardees and their inventions:

■ Dr. Mohammad Al-Fares from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the College of Engineering and Petroleum and his research team, which included Eng. Sheikh Al-Khalfan, Eng. Safaa Karam, Eng. Rabab Abdullah and Eng. Zainab Ali, were honored for their invention of an innovative device for quickly and safely repairing potholes.

■ Dr. Fatima Safar from the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the College of Science, Dr. Sheikh Ibrahim from the College of Engineering and Petroleum, and Dr. Nasser Al-Sayegh from Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

Kuwait chairs GCC social meeting

TUNIS, July 1, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah chaired the coordination meeting of the Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of Labor and the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the high-level Arab regional meeting in preparation for the Second World Summit for Social Development, on Monday, June 30, 2025, in the capital Tunis.

The meeting discussed the developmental

and social priorities of the GCC countries for the World Summit, as well as the priority items in the final document of the meetings held in Tunis.

The high-level Arab regional meeting is being held in preparation for the Second World Summit for Social Development, scheduled for next November in the Qatari capital, Doha.

The summit will address key social development priorities, including the eradication of poverty, the achievement of decent work, and the promotion of social inclusion.



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KUNA photo
Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Tuesday the outgoing charge d'affaires of the Lebanese Embassy Ahmad Arafat.

Advancing institutional standards

Public Works Ministry unveils Corporate Governance Guide

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan has affirmed that her ministry continues its efforts to achieve institutional excellence and promote governance principles by preparing and approving its Corporate Governance Guide — a pioneering step that confirms the commitment of the ministry to engage in the best governance practices.

In a press statement on Monday, Al-Mashaan indicated that the ministry is one of the first government entities in the State of Kuwait to prepare a comprehensive Corporate Governance Guide; which was made possible through the efforts



Dr. Al-Mashaan

of the members of its Corporate Governance Team.

She also pointed out the fact that the Civil Service Commission (CSC) approved the guide recently reflects the seriousness with which the ministry is committed to activating governance, achieving its principles, and promoting institutional excellence.

She stressed that this achievement is in compliance with the directive of the Council of Ministers to strengthen governance in State institutions, and as an extension of an ambitious vision that seeks to achieve excellence in government performance and improve the quality of services provided to meet the aspirations of society.

She added that this guide is an organizational reference for establishing an institutional culture based on discipline and excellence, enhancing the practices of governance principles at all levels of work, and achieving sustainable development.

Crown Prince and Prime Minister extend best wishes

Amir congratulates Burundi Prez on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, July 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Tuesday a cable of congratulations to Burundian President, Evariste Ndayishimiye, on occasion of the country's independence day. His Highness the Amir wished the President good health and the people of Burundi further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent Tuesday a cable of congratulations to Burundian President, Evariste Ndayishimiye, on occasion of the country's independence day.

Council accelerates development plans amid call for summer action

Accountability demanded on idle sites

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council Khaled Al-Mutairi presided over the second regular session of the council in the fourth legislative term.

During the session, the council approved the following:

- Request of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to allocate overhead lines to connect the "Shagaya Z" and "Wafra Z" main transformer stations;
- Request of the same ministry to add an area to Plot No. 39 in Block 24 in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh;
- Request of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to amend the road network design to connect the Special Education Schools Complex with the surrounding roads in South Oyoum;
- Request of the same ministry to add an area to Plot No. 1 in Block 70 in Farwaniya;
- Request of the same ministry to rezone part of Al-Mubarakiya suburb (formerly Plot 15); such that the size after rezoning will be 84,800 square meters;
- Request of a company to amend the subdivision project in the plot located



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq
The second regular session of the council in the fourth legislative term presided over by Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council Khaled Al-Mutairi.

in Dasman to Plot No. 55;

- Proposal of Kuwait Municipality to amend the 18 tables attached to the building regulations;
- Letter of the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs regarding the minutes of the 19th regular Municipal Council meeting held on May 26. The letter included the approval of several items, most notably the request of the Public Authority for Sports to allocate an alternative site — temporarily and seasonally — for training and developing the skills of Kuwaiti youths in skydiving.

On the other hand, the council rejected the proposal of member Fahad Musaed Al-Abdul Jader to allocate truck and bus depots in Block Four-South Khaitan based on information obtained from the Municipality that six sites had earlier been allocated to the Ministry of Public Works for the same purpose.

This has prompted Al-Abdul Jader to ask the Municipality to prepare an annual report or submit a letter to the Council of Ministers on the allocated State-owned plots that have not been utilized in order to address any scru-

tiny by the public.

Meanwhile, the council returned to the Jahra Governorate Committee the Ministry of Health's request to change the use of the site of the Pest Control Center located in Block 90 in Jahra to a dialysis center, with amended boundaries and an additional area, for further study and research.

It also referred to the executive authority for review and opinion the proposals of member Fahad Musaed Al-Abdul Jader to organize the service corridor located behind plots 77 and 78 in Shuwaikh Industrial Area, and establish public parks in Jaber Al-Ahmad City; in addition to the proposal of member Abdullah Al-Enezi to establish a service road and a parallel entrance to the Sixth Ring Road opposite Jahra Industrial Area.

Moreover, the council members unanimously agreed to continue working and convening committee meetings during summer in order not to disrupt council work; and to postpone their summer vacation to a later date.

This was in response to the request of Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Abdullahif Al-Mishari; because the council must complete its work during summer in order to finalize important development projects, which the Council of Ministers is closely following up in a bid to realize the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

JULY

Room Promotion

Former Minister of Information
Dr. Bader Al-Yaqoub passes away

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: After a long and distinguished career in politics and education, former Minister of Information Dr. Bader Al-Yaqoub has passed away, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He was regarded as one of the most prominent figures who left a notable impact on the legal and educational fields in recent years.

Born in Kuwait in 1946, Dr. Al-Yaqoub served as a professor of law at the Faculty of Law in Kuwait University, and was the Editor-in-Chief of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies newspaper. He earned his PhD in



Dr. Bader Al-Yaqoub

law from Cairo University in 1977.

Dr. Al-Yaqoub was appointed Minister of Information in 1991 and also practiced law throughout his career.

Smooth system rollout ensured

MoE digitizes financial decisions with a new e-processing system

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Affairs at the Ministry of Education Eng. Mohammed Al-Khalidi issued a directive for the financial departments and divisions about the activation of a new mechanism for processing financial decisions electronically through the mail and correspondence system; thereby, eliminating traditional paper procedures with the goal of stopping the use of paper documents unless it is extremely necessary.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the directive, in which Al-Khalidi stated that the new mechanism started immediately after the issuance of the decision in this regard. He disclosed this step was taken upon completion of the training for employees at the Beneficiary Support Department in the head office of the ministry and the educational districts on the new system, in coordination with the Information Systems Department.

He pointed out that the mechanism includes precise steps, starting with recording financial decisions in the relevant educational district departments, followed by the electronic transfer to the Payroll Division Secretariat, then to the relevant accountant who will implement the decision on the salary card in the integrated system. He added there will be a review and audit phase before changing the decision status to "executed".

He said it is prohibited to submit or circulate any decisions manually; emphasizing the need to use a scanner to attach clear copies of the decisions and original attach-

ments, and to store the original copies in the employees' files in the entity issuing the decision. He clarified that the working mechanism for salary suspension decisions remains as it is, with the same applicable documentation cycle. He revealed this includes sending salary suspension decisions directly from the educational district to the head of the salaries division. The division head forwards the decision to the accountant, who then forwards it to the auditor. In the event of external transfers of salary suspension decisions, they are returned via mail and correspondence to the division head, who is then assigned the task of forwarding the decision outside the salaries division.

He stated that there are 18 types of financial decisions covered by the system: decisions on various types of leaves (sick leave, maternity leave, family care leave, unpaid leave), accompanying leave decisions, absence, delay, full-time leave, settlements, and Medical Council decisions along with their different provisions.

He added the minutes of the meeting preceding the decision, which was attended by representatives of financial affairs and information systems, indicate that the authority to amend the status of books (executed/unexecuted) is limited to the division head and the auditor only, with an agreement to provide the systems teams with lists of the names of auditors and secretarial staff and to provide the necessary training.

He confirmed that this transformation is an important step toward digitizing financial procedures and reducing the document cycle, in line with the government's move toward e-governance.

PAAET Director General gives nod to Corporate Governance Team report

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam has approved the final report of the Corporate Governance Team in the authority for the 2024/2025 academic year.

The report consists of the team's results and recommendations for enhancing transparency, accountability and efficiency of

institutional performance.

The approval of the report is part of the commitment of PAAET to develop the standards of excellent governance, and achieve the highest level of administrative and financial discipline.

PAAET continues to engage in the best institutional practices, which have had a positive impact on the quality of educational and training services provided to students and in enhancing the efficiency of institutional performance in various sectors and departments.

Kuwait’s envoy highlights need for equity and cooperation in climate action

Crown Prince, PM extend greetings

GCC calls for balanced, gradual fossil fuel transition

GENEVA, July 1, (KUNA): The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states on Monday underscored the need for a gradual and balanced transition in addressing climate change, particularly in the phase-out of fossil fuels from national economies.

They emphasized that such a transition must preserve development gains and enable countries to implement climate policies tailored to their national circumstances and priorities in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

This came in a statement delivered by



KUNA photo
Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen, Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.

Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen in his capacity as Chair of the GCC Ambassadors Council during the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change.

Ambassador Al-Hayen conveyed the GCC countries concern over certain narratives in the Special Rapporteurs report which are overly critical of fossil fuels without sufficiently considering development needs energy reali-

ties and the sovereign choices of states particularly those in the Global South.

He reiterated the GCC states rejection of prescriptive one-size-fits-all approaches that disregard national contexts and risk undermining the consensus-based multilateral framework for climate action. Ambassador Al-Hayen also renewed the GCC’s call to strengthen climate finance technology transfer and capacity-building to support a just and inclusive transition in developing countries. He underlined the importance of ensuring that climate solutions are ambitious, equitable and rooted in cooperation rather than division.

HH Amir congratulates Prez of Rwanda on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, July 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of Rwanda Paul Kagame on his country’s Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the president good health and the people of Rwanda further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of Rwanda Paul Kagame on the occasion of his country’s Independence Day, wishing him good health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of Rwanda Paul Kagam on his country’s Independence Day.

Proposal to shift trailers away from South Saad Housing area

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: Municipal Council member Abdullah Al-Anzi on Tuesday submitted a proposal to move the tractor trailers adjacent to the South Saad Al-Abdullah City project to another location designated for the Public Authority for Industry (PAI).

The proposal aims to protect the road network and infrastructure from the entry and exit of trucks operating these tractor trailers, which have become a threat to the lives of road users.

Al-Anzi stated in the intro-

duction to his proposal that the South Saad Al-Abdullah City project serves a large segment of citizens. “Given the urban expansion and increasing population, the need to implement the advisory agreement of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) regarding which a Municipal Council resolution was issued on Dec 23, 2024 and given the danger of the presence of tractor trailers near the housing project; I propose relocating them, away from the residential area due to their negative impact on public health, environment, infrastructure and road network,” he elaborated.

Kuwait eyes tougher legislation to clamp down on money laundering

Heavy fines and terror labels to deter violators

KUWAIT CITY, July 1, (KUNA): Kuwait constantly introduces alterations to its legislative system in a bid to combat money laundering and terrorism financing, Finance Minister Nora Al-Fassam said on Monday.

In the wake of a cabinet decision to ratify amendments to relevant

legislations, the minister applauded the measure as a testament to state-wide cooperation aiming to put in place the proper legislation to fight money laundering and



Al-Fassam

terrorism financing, the minister underlined.

The constant alterations to legislations are in addition to Kuwait’s commitment towards the objectives of global financial crime watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), both of which encapsulate national efforts to exterminate money laundering and terrorism financing, added the minister.

These legislative tweaks grant broader authority to a national committee formed ad hoc to combat money

laundering and terrorism financing, the minister said, citing that the body now has the leeway to act independently in support of local measures to clamp down on such ill practices.

On these measures, the minister cited levying hefty fines against violators and slapping a terrorist label on local figures and entities as among the works of the committee, in addition to Kuwait’s international obligations to stifle all forms of financial crime, she said.

Tenders set for Nuwaiseeb, Subiya

Major boost in power output as Kuwait revives energy projects

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy is currently taking steps to produce around 8,350 megawatts through three major energy production projects by 2030.

Sources pointed out this is achieved by removing administrative and financial obstacles to the implementation of projects related to the production of traditional and renewable energy, which have been included in plans of the ministry for more than 10 years. “However, bureaucracy and lack of budget have prevented the implementation of these projects in previous years,” sources clarified.

Sources revealed the electricity production projects include three projects being implemented by the ministry with a total production capacity of 8,350 megawatts as follows:

- A combined cycle turbine unit at the Nuwaiseeb plant with a total production capacity of 7,200 megawatts in two phases -- the first of which will produce 3,600 megawatts;
- A gas turbine supply in the fourth phase of the Subiya plant project, with a capacity of 900 megawatts;
- A renewable energy production project at the Abdaliya plant, with a capacity of 250 megawatts.

Sources confirmed that the ministry is currently issuing a tender to select a consultant for the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of the 3,600-megawatt combined cycle gas turbine unit at the Nuwaiseeb plant (Phase One). Sources said the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) set Aug 12 as the deadline

for submitting bids for the tender, including studies and technical and administrative procedures for the project. Once the studies are completed, the project will be set for implementation, sources stressed.

Regarding the supply of gas turbines to the site of the fourth phase of the Subiya power plant, with a capacity of 900 megawatts; sources stated that the ministry tendered the project through CAPT after overcoming numerous obstacles to the tender process. The agency set July 22 as the deadline for submitting bids.

On Al-Adbaliya photovoltaic power plant with a production capacity ranging from 180 to 200 megawatts, the ministry included it in its plan for the current fiscal year after Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) completed studies on the project, which covers an area of 2.28 square kilometers.

Sources said the aforementioned projects will enable the ministry to address the electricity production gap and meet the growing need for electricity and water due to the urban expansion, particularly the establishment of new residential and industrial cities, in addition to other sectors.

Sources added “there are a number of renewable energy electricity generation projects included in the ministry’s plan to meet the needs of its buildings and external sites. “These projects will be tendered successively through CAPT, in accordance with the established frameworks. Three energy generation projects will be implemented under a partnership system -- through the Kuwait Authority for Public-Private Partnership Projects and the ministry as a public entity, with a total production capacity of 12,600 megawatts.



KUNA photo
Part of the virtual meeting of senior officials from the foreign ministries of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, chaired by the State of Kuwait.

Bloc eyes stronger security and crisis readiness

Kuwait renews call for GCC coordination

KUWAIT CITY, July 1, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Affairs Najeeb Al-Bader reaffirmed on Monday the shared commitment of GCC member states to enhancing political and security coordination.

In a statement to KUNA, he stressed that this aims to address potential threats and ensure the safety, stability, and prosperity of the region.

His remarks followed the conclusion of a virtual meeting of senior officials from GCC foreign ministries, chaired by Ku-

wait, which was held in accordance with the directives of foreign ministers during the extraordinary 48th session of the GCC Ministerial Council.

Al-Bader explained that the meeting focused on the current developments affecting the security and stability of the GCC states, as well as regional and international developments.

The discussions covered humanitarian and environmental dimensions including strengthening food security systems, ensuring the sustainability of supply chains,

and improving emergency health response readiness.

Additionally, the meeting reviewed proposals and expert reports from member states on updating emergency plans, assessing multi-dimensional risks, and promoting greater integration between national and collective crisis management efforts.

Al-Bader emphasized the importance of holding such meetings regularly to maintain ongoing coordination among GCC states, reflecting their shared destiny and common interests.

Omani researcher wins 2024 Anwar Al-Nouri Award for educational innovation

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: The Anwar Al-Nouri Foundation has announced the winner of the 2024 Anwar Al-Nouri Award — a biennial award presented to the best doctoral dissertation in the field of education throughout the Arab world.

Dr. Huda bint Ali bin Saeed Al-Hosni from the Sultanate of Oman — the winner — is recognized in the field of curricula and instruction for her dissertation entitled, “The Effectiveness of a Gamification-Based Mobile Application (Dr. Science) in Developing Motivation for Achievement, Self-Learning and Acquisition of Scientific Concepts among

Grade Four Students in the Sultanate of Oman.”

This dissertation is one of the requirements that Al-Hosni had to fulfill in order to complete her doctoral studies at Sultan Qaboos University, where she is affiliated as an academic researcher.

Al-Hosni is a distinguished figure in educational research, having earned numerous prestigious awards in recognition of her pioneering work and innovative initiatives. Among her accolades are the 2023 Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Award for Educational Research, 2023 Jazan Award for Innovation, 2023 Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Saud Award for Educa-

tional Research, and 2024 ALECSO Hamdan Bin Mohammed Award for Educational Research (as part of a research team). She also obtained the Best Innovation Award at the Oman Innovation Festival in Muscat.

She is widely respected for her contributions to integrating modern technologies and gamified learning approaches to boost student motivation and promote self-directed learning. Her work has received broad acclaim within educational circles in the Arab region.

Established in 2015, the Anwar Al-Nouri Award aims to advance the quality of research in educational sciences and

encourage the study of emerging topics that contribute to the development of the field.

The award is generously funded by the Anwar Al-Nouri Endowment, established in honor of the late Anwar Al-Nouri’s significant contributions to education in Kuwait and the Arab world more than five decades since his graduation in 1962.

The foundation underscored the vital role that the award plays in elevating the standard of educational research in the Arab world and in recognizing and supporting outstanding young researchers and their innovative work.

Continued from Page 1

Move chalets

In contrast, neighboring countries with similar climatic conditions have developed strategies to protect food security. For example, agriculture and fishing contributed AED 13.24 billion to the UAE’s GDP in 2023.

While raising fees on coastal front properties aims to regulate and prevent uncontrolled beach exploitation, the Ministry of Finance’s recent decision poses a major challenge to food security.

A comprehensive study must be conducted before implementing fee and tax increases to ensure sustainable social security, particularly in the entertainment and food security sectors.

Cyber crooks

banks, the public prosecution, and the financial crimes unity, also played a role in monitoring and keeping such cyber-crimes at bay.

Some KD four million (USD 13 million) of citizens and residents finances were protected with around 2,540 cases of cybercrimes reported last December, he revealed, adding that around KD one million (USD 3.2 million) safeguarded between January and May of 2025.

Al-Sarraf noted that there was a permanent digital coordination outfit established in 2023 dedicated to shutting down suspicious website and tracking down fake numbers.

The unit managed to close down 2,300 scam sites and disconnected 2,200 fake WhatsApp numbers.

Those getting caught within Kuwaiti borders are handled according to Kuwaiti law, while those abroad, would handled via Kuwait-INTERPOL cooperation, affirmed Al-Sarraf who brought up operation “Red Tower”, which saw a suspect targeting a communication tower in Kuwait apprehended in a GCC country wand brought to justice.

In regards to effectiveness of Law 63/2015 concerning cybercrime prevention, Al-Sarraf stressed that it was the cornerstone of efforts to bring down such heinous acts.

Around 70 lectures are held annually in schools, educational bodies, and government institutions to spread awareness on such crimes, he said.

Al-Sarraf called on citizens and residents to contact the official WhatsApp number 97283939 to report any crime against them and spread awareness of the dangers of cyber-crimes.

Kuwait joins

across the Islamic world to build a prosperous and sustainable future driven by ambitious, open-minded youth engaged in sustainable development.

Al-Shaikh also congratulated Morocco on gaining the trust of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in naming Marrakech as the 2025 Islamic World Youth Capital, wishing them success in organizing impactful activities in support of youth.

The event brings together delegations from OIC member states and Arab and Islamic organizations, with a comprehensive program aimed at fostering solidarity, dialogue, and skill-building among youth in the Islamic world.

Dust storms

Al-Ali noted that the active winds and dust will cause a relative drop in maximum temperatures by four to six degrees Celsius, while sea waves may rise to more than six feet. “The general weather during this period will be hot and dusty during the day, with hot to very warm conditions persisting at night,” he said, adding that dust is expected to gradually settle in the evenings.

Forecasts indicate maximum daytime temperatures will

range between 43°C and 46°C, while nighttime lows are expected to be between 30°C and 33°C.

Al-Ali urged motorists to exercise caution on highways due to the risk of sudden drops in visibility. He also advised sea-goers to be wary of high waves and recommended that individuals with asthma or allergies wear masks when venturing outdoors.

Citizens and residents are encouraged to stay updated on the latest weather developments by following the Meteorological Department’s official website, mobile application, and social media accounts, as well as the government’s Sahel app.

Smooth takeoff

effect was bound for India via Air India at 12:45 am, followed by another flight to the same destination.

A reliable source confirmed to the newspaper that the agencies operating at the airport — including the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Ministry of Interior, along with the airlines — have started implementing an integrated logistical plan to facilitate the departure of passengers; while ensuring the speedy completion of procedures in line with the new decision.

The source indicated that the airport witnessed smooth and unhindered departure of passengers, as the relevant authorities are committed to implement the new decision and provide the best services to passengers.

In addition, the source revealed that some airlines issued a warning to work visa holders under Article 18 of the Foreign Residency Law; stressing the need to ensure they obtain an exit permit from their employers before traveling.

The source said the airlines have instructed departing passengers who meet the new conditions that failure to obtain an exit permit will result in the cancellation of their flight reservation without any compensation to the passenger. He added the airlines also pointed out that

passengers are responsible for ensuring that their documents, including their passport, visa and exit permit, are complete; indicating some airlines asked travelers to check their documents before arriving at the airport in order to avoid flight cancellations.

وزارة التجارة والصناعة
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
وزارة التجارة والصناعة
Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Recall Information

Acura
Model: MDX
Model Year: MDX (2015–2016–2017–2018– 2019-2020)
Total Vehicles Involved: MDX (863)

Recall Reason:

Moisture in the tailgate lid light may cause electrical failure, affecting multiple lights and increasing crash risk.

Remedy:

Customers will be contacted and repairs will be carried out according to HAMER-TI instructions. The necessary parts will be replaced.

Contact:

Please call to confirm recall eligibility of the vehicle to serve you better: 1822872
Al Mulla International Auto Trading Company
www.acurakw.com

This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48) of no. (27/2015) issuing the executive by laws of law no. (39/2014) on Consumer Protection

Military requesting to pull 200 troops back from California protest duty

White House sues Los Angeles, claiming city refuses to cooperate on immigration

LOS ANGELES, July 1, (AP): US President Donald Trump’s administration filed suit Monday against Los Angeles, claiming the city is obstructing the enforcement of immigration laws and creating a lawless environment with its sanctuary policies that bar local police from sharing information on people without legal status.

The lawsuit in US District Court says Los Angeles’ “sanctuary city” ordinance hinders White House efforts to crack down on what it calls a “crisis of illegal immigration.” It is the latest in a string of lawsuits against so-called sanctuary jurisdictions – including New York, New Jersey and Colorado – that limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

The Los Angeles policy bars city resources from being used for immigration enforcement. The court filing calls the city ordinance “illegal” and asks that it be blocked from being enforced.

Chad Mizelle, chief of staff for US Attorney General Pam Bondi, said in announcing the latest lawsuit that the administration will not tolerate any interference with the federal government’s crackdown.

“We will keep enforcing federal immigration law in Los Angeles, whether or not the city’s government or residents agree with it,” Mizelle said in a social media post on the platform X.

A message seeking comment on the lawsuit was sent to the office of Mayor Karen Bass.

A spokesperson for City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto said the city’s ordinance was “carefully drafted” and complies with federal law and constitutional principles separating state and federal powers.

“Our city remains committed to standing up for our constitutional rights and the rights of our residents,” said spokesperson Ivor Pine.

Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez, a co-author of the Los Angeles sanctuary law, said Monday that the city would do everything in its power to protect its residents.

He said in a statement that “Trump is tearing families apart” and trying to force cities and towns across the country to help him carry out his agenda.

“We refuse to stand by and let Donald Trump deport innocent families,” he



Residents gather during a community vigil on June 30, to stand in solidarity with an immigrant family after ICE agents detained Rosalina Luna Vargas on June 28, in front of her children, in Pasadena, Calif. (AP)

added.

The Los Angeles lawsuit claims Trump “won the presidential election on a platform of deporting the millions of illegal immigrants.” Over the past three weeks, immigration agents have swarmed Southern California, arresting hundreds of people and prompting protests.

Tens of thousands of people participated in rallies over immigration raids and

the subsequent deployment of the National Guard and Marines. Los Angeles police have arrested over 100 people on various charges from throwing rocks at federal officers to setting fire to Waymo cars equipped with self-driving technology.

“The practical upshot of Los Angeles’ refusal to cooperate with federal immigration authorities has, since June 6, 2025, been lawlessness, rioting, looting, and vandalism,” the court filing says.

On June 18, the mayor lifted a curfew she had imposed a week earlier to prevent vandalism and break-ins during nighttime protests. The demonstrations had been largely concentrated in a few downtown blocks that are home to several federal and local government buildings.

Meanwhile, the top military commander in charge of troops deployed to Los Angeles to respond to protests against immigration raids has asked Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth if 200 of those forces could be returned to wildfire fighting duty, two US officials told The Associated Press on Monday.

President Donald Trump ordered the deployment of about 4,000 California National Guard troops and 800 active duty Marines against the wishes of Gov Gavin Newsom in early June to respond to a series of protests against Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids in Los Angeles.

The federal troops’ domestic deployment raised multiple legal questions, including whether the administration would seek to employ emergency powers under the Insurrection Act to empower those forces to conduct law enforcement on US soil, which they are not permitted to do except in rare circumstances. The Marines, however, are primarily assigned to protecting federal buildings.

The Insurrection Act has not been used. But in at least one circumstance, Marines have temporarily detained civilians in Los Angeles.

California has just entered peak wildfire season, and Newsom has warned that the Guard is now understaffed due to the Los Angeles protest deployment.

The top military commander of those troops, US Northern Command head Gen. Gregory Guillot, recently submitted a request to Hegseth to return 200 of the National Guard troops back to Joint Task Force Rattlesnake, which is the California National Guard’s wildfire unit, the officials said.



Officials work the scene in the Nicetown area of Philadelphia on June 29 after an explosion damaged several homes. (AP)

One dead and 2 injured in Philadelphia explosion

One person died and two others were injured after an explosion damaged several homes on Philadelphia’s north side early Sunday, according to authorities.

Firefighters responded to a report of an explosion just before 5 a.m., according to the Philadelphia Fire Department.

Daniel McCarty, the department’s executive officer, said there was extensive damage to about five homes, including collapsed structures. One person died and two others who were rescued were hospitalized. McCarty said one was reported stable while the other was in critical condition.

Crews were expected to continue search and rescue operations.

“The biggest thing is the stability of the surrounding houses, making sure that this hazard doesn’t spread,” McCarty said. “This will be an extensive, all-day operation for the Philadelphia Fire Department.”

Authorities had not determined the cause of the explosion. (AP)

British PM faces down revolt over welfare reform after troubled first year in office

LONDON, July 1, (AP): British Prime Minister Keir Starmer marks a year in office this week, fighting a rebellion from his own party in a vote Tuesday on welfare reform and reckoning with a sluggish economy and rock-bottom approval ratings.

It’s a long way from the landslide election victory he won on July 4, 2024, when Starmer’s center-left Labour Party took 412 of the 650 seats in the House of Commons to end 14 years of Conservative government. In the past 12 months, Starmer has navigated the rapids of a turbulent world, winning praise for rallying international support for Ukraine and persuading US President Donald Trump to sign a trade deal easing tariffs on UK goods.

But at home his agenda has run into the rocks as he struggles to convince British voters – and his own party – that his government is delivering the change that it promised. Inflation remains stubbornly high and economic growth low, frustrating efforts to ease the cost of living. Starmer’s personal approval ratings are approaching those of Conservative Prime Minister Liz Truss, who lasted just 49 days in office in 2022 after her tax-cutting budget



Britain’s Prime Minister Keir Starmer is shown a Hawk T2, the RAF’s premier fast jet trainer during a visit to RAF Valley, Anglesey, north Wales on June 27. (AP)

roiled the economy.

John Curtice, a political scientist at the University of Strathclyde, said Starmer has had “the worst start for any newly elected prime minister.”

On Tuesday, Starmer faces a vote in Parliament on welfare spending after watering down planned cuts to disability

benefits that caused consternation from Labour lawmakers. Many balked at plans to raise the threshold for the payments by requiring a more severe physical or mental disability, a move the Institute for Fiscal Studies think tank estimated would cut the income of 3.2 million people by 2030.

Royal train to end 156 years of service as King Charles III seeks to economize

LONDON, July 1, (AP): The Royal Train will soon leave the station for the last time.

King Charles III has accepted it’s time to decommission the train, whose history dates back to Queen Victoria, because it costs too much to operate and would have needed a significant upgrade for more advanced rail systems, Buckingham Palace said Monday.

“In moving forwards we must not be bound by the past,” said James Chalmers, the palace official in charge of the king’s financial affairs. “Just as so many parts of the royal household’s work have modernized and adapted to reflect the world of today, so too the time has come to bid the fondest of farewells, as we seek to be disciplined and forward-looking in our allocation of funding.”

The train, actually a suite of nine railcars that can be hitched to commercial locomotives, will be decommissioned sometime before the current



Britain’s King Charles III, arrives by royal train, pulled by the Flying Scotsman, at Pickering Heritage Railway Station, the southern terminus of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, for a visit to Pickering in Yorkshire, England on June 12, 2023. (AP)

maintenance contract expires in 2027. That will bring to an end a tradition that dates back to 1869, when Queen Victoria commissioned a pair of special coaches to accommodate her travels. The decision was announced during the palace’s annual briefing for reporters on the royal finances.

US Senate strikes AI provision from GOP bill after uproar from states

WASHINGTON, July 1, (AP): A proposal to deter states from regulating artificial intelligence for a decade was soundly defeated in the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, thwarting attempts to insert the measure into President Donald Trump’s big bill of tax breaks and spending cuts.

The Senate voted 99-1 to strike the AI provision for the legislation after weeks of criticism from both Republican and Democratic governors and state officials.

Originally proposed as a 10-year ban on states doing anything to regulate AI, lawmakers later tied it to federal funding so that only states that backed off on AI regulations would be able to get subsidies for broadband internet or AI infrastructure.

A last-ditch Republican effort to save the provision would have reduced the time frame to five years and sought to exempt some favored AI laws, such as those protecting children or country music performers from harmful AI tools.

But that effort was abandoned when Sen. Marsha Blackburn, a Tennessee Republican, teamed up with Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington on Monday night to introduce an amendment to strike the entire proposal. Voting on the amendment happened after 4 a.m. Wednesday as part of an overnight session as Republican leaders sought to secure support for the tax cut bill while fending off other proposed amendments, mostly from Democrats trying to defeat the package.

Also:

DALLAS: Former Texas congressman Colin Allred launched another run for the US Senate on Tuesday after the Democrat’s challenge against Republican Sen. Ted Cruz last year broke records for spending but did not deliver his party the breakthrough it has sought for decades in the state.

This time, Allred is seeking the seat of Republican Sen. John Cornyn, who is facing a primary challenge from Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in what is likely to be one of the GOP’s most contentious contests in 2026.



US Sen Ted Cruz, R-Texas, stands in an elevator as Republicans begin a final push to advance President Donald Trump’s tax breaks and spending cuts package, at the Capitol in Washington on June 30. (AP)

Allred’s announcement comes just seven months after he lost by nearly 9 percentage points to Cruz. That race was one of the most expensive in the country last cycle, with Democrats spending more than \$130 million trying to unseat Cruz.

A former NFL linebacker and attorney, Allred is the first high-profile Democrat to declare himself a candidate in the race that Democrats see as their best shot next year at ending a 30-year drought in statewide elections in Texas. Another former Democratic congressman, Beto O’Rourke, who came within 3 percentage points of defeating Cruz in 2018, also hasn’t ruled out a run.

Europe

Germany stabbing kills 1: A man armed with a knife on Tuesday attacked several co-workers at a company in southern Germany, killing one person, authorities said.

Two people were also seriously wounded in the attack in Mellrichstadt, a small town east of Frankfurt in Bavaria, police and prosecutors said in a statement. A 21-year-old German man was arrested.

Police were alerted to the confrontation at the premises of a local electricity supplier at around 7:30 a.m. Tuesday. A 59-year-old woman was killed, while two men aged 55 and 62 were seriously hurt.

It was not immediately clear what led to the attack. (AP)

Russian plant hit: A Ukrainian drone struck a Russian industrial plant some 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) from Ukraine, a local official said Tuesday, after Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy prioritized the weapon’s development and Russia pounded Ukraine with a monthly record of drones in June.

Both sides in the more than three-year war following Russia’s February 2022 invasion of its neighbor have raced to improve drone technology



Police and emergency services stand on the premises of regional grid operator Überlandwerk Rhön, after a man armed with a “sharp object” attacked people at a company in Germany, killing at least one, police said, in Mellrichstadt, Germany on July 1. (AP)

and enhance their use on the battlefield. They have deployed increasingly sophisticated and deadlier drones, turning the war into a testing ground for the new weaponry.

Ukraine is under severe strain from a Russian push at places on the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, but analysts say its defenses are largely holding firm. With recent direct peace talks delivering no progress on U.S.-led international efforts to halt the fighting, Russia and Ukraine

are bulking up their arsenals.

Russia last month launched 5,438 drones at Ukraine, a new monthly record, according to official data collected by The Associated Press.

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian drone hit an industrial plant in Izhevsk, about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) east of Moscow, killing three people and injuring 35, Alexander Brechalov, head of the Udmurtia region, said. The plant’s workers were evacuated, he said. (AP)

Poland to temporarily reinstate border controls with Germany and Lithuania

WARSAW, Poland, July 1, (AP): Poland will temporarily reinstate border controls with neighboring Germany and Lithuania, in response to border restriction taken by Germany to discourage asylum-seekers, Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Tuesday.

The decision comes after new German Chancellor Friedrich Merz made tougher migration policy a pillar of his election campaign in February. After he took office in May, Germany stationed more police at the border and said some asylum-seekers trying to enter Europe’s biggest economy would be turned away.

Even before that, Merz’s predecessor in February had extended by six months the border checks Germany had imposed on all its frontiers last fall as it attempted to cut the number of migrants arriving in the country.

Tusk said that “the German side refuses to allow migrants to enter its territory. ... The change in practice introduced tensions and a sense of asymmetry,” according to Polish state broadcaster TVP.

He said he had discussed the issue



Poland’s Prime Minister Donald Tusk addresses a media conference at an EU summit in Brussels on June 26. (AP)

with Merz, “informing him that the patient position of Poland is slowly being exhausted.”

The European Union has a visa-free travel area known as Schengen that allows citizens of most member states to travel easily across borders for work

and pleasure. Switzerland also belongs to Schengen although it is not an EU member.

According to the EU, member states are allowed to temporarily reintroduce border controls in cases of a serious threat, like internal security. It says border controls should be applied as a last resort in exceptional situations, and must be limited in time.

In the past, Tusk has repeatedly denounced Germany’s temporary border measures as “unacceptable.”

Several of Germany’s neighbors have also recently expressed dismay at the enforced border controls by Berlin, saying it slows down cross-border traffic of daily commuters and threatens visa-free Schengen travel.

Tusk said Tuesday the temporary measures will come into force on Monday, the Polish news agency PAP reported. Just before Tusk’s announcement, Merz had told reporters at a press conference in Berlin that his government was in very close contact with the Polish government to keep the impact of Germany’s border controls with Poland “as low as possible.”

United States brings charges in North Korean remote worker scheme

WASHINGTON, July 1, (AP): The Justice Department announced criminal charges Monday in a scheme by North Korea to fund its weapons program through the salaries of remote information technology workers employed unwittingly by US companies.

The charges arose from what law enforcement officials described as a nationwide operation that also resulted in the seizure of financial accounts, websites and laptops that were used to carry out the fraud.

Separate cases in Georgia and Massachusetts represent the latest Justice Department effort to confront a persistent threat that officials say generates enormous revenue for the North Korean government and in some cases affords workers access to sensitive and proprietary data from the American corporations that hire them.

The scheme involved thousands of workers who, armed with stolen or fake identities, were dispatched by the North Korean government to find work as remote IT employees at American companies, including Fortune 500 corporations. The companies were duped into believing that the workers they hired were based in the U.S. when many were actually stationed in North Korea or China, and the wages the victimized companies paid were transferred into accounts controlled by



The US Department of Justice logo is seen on a podium before a press conference with Attorney General Pam Bondi on May 6, at the Justice Department in Washington. (AP)

co-conspirators affiliated with North Korea, prosecutors say.

“These schemes target and steal from US companies and are designed to evade sanctions and fund the North Korean regime’s illicit programs, including its weapons programs,” Assistant Attorney General John Eisenberg, the head of the Justice Department’s National Security Division, said in a statement.

In one case exposed on Monday in federal court in Massachusetts, the Justice Department said it had arrested one U.S. national and charged more than a half dozen Chinese and Taiwanese citizens for their alleged roles in an elaborate fraud that prosecutors say produced several millions of dollars in revenue and affected scores of companies.



An aerial drone photo taken on June 25, 2025 shows the flooded Liangkou village in Sanjiang Dong Autonomous County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. (Xinhua)

Heavy floods in central and southern China kill at least 9

Heavy flooding in central and southern China has killed at least nine people with and displaced tens of thousands as more rainfall was forecast on the way, state media reported Tuesday.

At least eight people were listed as missing in the worst-hit provinces of Henan, Hubei and Guizhou, where rivers overtopped dikes and poured into city streets, housing complexes and shopping malls.

Although China experiences flooding each summer, the images were some of the most dramatic in years, many of them spread on social media to avoid official censors.

Rapid urban development appears to have worsened the problem, and the Communist Party au-

thorities who control all media have been especially reticent in their news releases about the toll floods have taken. Information has been especially tight since 2001 flooding in the city of Zhengzhou killed 39 people below ground, including 14 who drowned inside a flooded subway train, although the true number of dead has been disputed. (AP)

Premier thanks supporters, apologizes to people over handling of dispute

Court suspends Thailand’s Prime Minister Paetongtarn to probe leaked phone call

BANGKOK, July 1, (AP): Thailand’s Constitutional Court suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra from office Tuesday pending an ethics investigation over a leaked phone call with a senior Cambodian leader.

The judges voted unanimously Tuesday to take the petition accusing her of a breach of ethics, and voted 7-2 to suspend her from duty as a prime minister. The court gave Paetongtarn 15 days to give evidence to support her case.

Paetongtarn has faced growing dissatisfaction over her handling of the latest border dispute with Cambodia, involving an armed confrontation on May 28 in which one Cambodian soldier was killed. The leaked phone call while she engaged in diplomacy with Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen set off a string of complaints and public protests.

Paetongtarn said after the court order that she would accept the process and would do her best to defend herself, as she had no other intentions but to protect the country and preserve peace.

“I only thought about what to do to avoid troubles, what to do to avoid armed confrontation, for the soldiers not to suffer any loss. I wouldn’t be able to accept it if I said something with the other leader that could lead to negative consequences,” she said.

She also thanked her supporters and apologized to people upset over the leaked call. She left the Government House shortly after.

Deputy Prime Minister Suriya Junggruangkit is expected to become the acting prime minister, although there’s been no official confirmation.

Earlier Tuesday, before the court suspended Paetongtarn, King Maha Vajiralongkorn had endorsed a Cabinet reshuffle after a major party left the government coalition over the leaked phone call. The reshuffle had replaced Anutin Charvirakul, leader of the Bhumjaithai Party, as deputy prime minister.

Paetongtarn took the position of



Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, center, speaks to media at the Government House in Bangkok, Thailand on July 1. (AP)

culture minister in addition to prime minister in the new Cabinet, though it’s still unclear if she can take the oath

to remain in that role.

Outrage over the call mostly revolved around Paetongtarn’s com-

ments toward an outspoken regional army commander and her perceived attempts to appease Hun Sen to ease border tensions.

Thousands of conservative, nationalist-leaning protesters rallied in central Bangkok on Saturday to demand Paetongtarn’s resignation.

Paetongtarn also faces investigations over an alleged breach of ethics by the Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, whose decision could also lead to her removal.

The Constitutional Court last year removed her predecessor over a breach of ethics. Thailand’s courts, especially the Constitutional Court, are viewed as a bulwark of the royalist establishment, which has used them and nominally independent agencies such as the Election Commission to cripple or sink political opponents.

The complaint against Paetongtarn was filed by a group of senators elected last year to replace the 250 military-appointed members who had served in

the upper chamber since 2019. Many of those senators face allegations of rigging the election that saw a majority of seats claimed by figures who are reportedly close to the Bhumjaithai Party.

Some senators also filed complaints against two ministers in Paetongtarn’s administration: Justice Minister Tawe Sodsong and Phumtham Wechayachai, a former defense minister who is set to become the new interior minister.

The court accepted a petition on May 14 accusing the two men of abuse of power related to the investigation into the alleged Senate vote rigging. On the same day, the court partially suspended Tawe from overseeing the Department of Special Investigation, which is in charge of the case.

Paetongtarn, 38, is the youngest daughter of Thaksin Shinawatra, a popular but divisive former prime minister. Her suspension raised the possibility she could suffer a similar downfall to her predecessors in the political dynasty founded by her father.

Subcontinent

Pakistan militants kill 1 and 9 wounded: Dozens of militants armed with guns and rockets stormed a police station and set fire to two banks in restive southwestern Pakistan on Tuesday, killing a boy and wounding nine others before fleeing, officials said.

The boy died when the attackers fired on civilians indiscriminately during the attacks in Mastung, a district in Balochistan province, said Jan Mohammad, a local government administrator.

Mohammad said some of the insurgents were also killed in the shootout with security forces.

A provincial government spokesman, **Shahid Rind**, said a security operation had been launched to pursue the assailants.

No group immediately claimed responsibility, though suspicion is likely to fall on the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army, or BLA, which often targets security forces and civilians in Balochistan and elsewhere. The United States designated the BLA a terrorist organization in 2019. (AP)

6 dead in India factory blast: At least six people, including two women, died and several others were injured when a massive explosion took place in a firecracker manufacturing unit in India’s southern state of Tamil Nadu on Tuesday, local police said over the phone.

The blast, which led to a huge fire, took place inside the factory located in a village in the state’s Virudhun-



Rind

agar district. Six dead bodies had been recovered so far, and those injured had been admitted to a local hospital.

The rescue and relief operation was still going on, and efforts were being made to determine the cause of the explosion. (Xinhua)

Sri Lankan navy arrests Indian fishermen: The Sri Lankan navy arrested seven Indian fishermen for poaching in the seas off Talaimannar in the Northern province on Monday night, local media reported on Tuesday.

This is the second such case in the past two days. On Sunday, the navy seized an Indian fishing boat and arrested eight Indian fishermen while they were poaching in the seas off Mannar, also in the Northern province, the navy said.

The navy said the seized boat and the fishermen were handed over to the fisheries officials for further legal proceedings. (Xinhua)

Afghan security forces discover weapons: Afghan security personnel have discovered a large cache of weapons and ammunition in the eastern regions, the Ministry of National Defense announced in a statement late Monday.

The contraband, which included 60 pieces of heavy and light arms, such as PK machine guns, M16 rifles, Kalashnikovs, assault rifles and pistols, was discovered during a series of coordinated search operations launched in the eastern regions, said the statement.

Additionally, a substantial amount of ammunition and military equipment, including 250 kg of gunpowder, communication devices, rocket launchers, hand grenades, explosives, and a large quantity of cartridges and bullets, have been seized during the operations, it added. (Xinhua)

Hurricane strengthens further off Pacific coast

Mexico cartel violence kills 20 people

MEXICO CITY, July 1, (AP): Four decapitated bodies were found hanging from a bridge in the capital of western Mexico’s Sinaloa state on Monday, part of a surge of cartel violence that killed 20 people in less than a day, authorities said.

A bloody war for control between two factions of the powerful Sinaloa Cartel has turned the city of Culiacan into an epicenter of cartel violence since the conflict exploded last year between the two groups: Los Chapitos and La Mayiza.

Dead bodies appear scattered across Culiacan on a daily basis, homes are riddled with bullets, businesses shutter and schools regularly close down during waves of violence. Masked young men on motorcycles watch over the main avenues of the city.

On Monday, Sinaloa state prosecutors said that four bodies were found dangling from the freeway bridge leading out of the city, their heads in a nearby plastic bag.

Also:

MEXICO CITY: Hurricane Flossie has continued to strengthen off Mexico’s southwestern Pacific coast with maximum sustained winds of 140 kph (85



National Guards patrol the streets in Culiacan, Sinaloa state Mexico on Oct 14, 2024. (AP)

mph), according to the US National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The hurricane center said Flossie became a Category 1 hurricane Monday night.

The center said Flossie was about 260 kilometers (160 miles) south of Manzanillo and was moving west-northwest off the Mexican coast at 17 kph (10 mph). It was expected to skirt the coast for a few days while dropping rain on several Mexican states.

Mexico’s government earlier issued a tropical storm warning along the southwestern coast from Punta San Telmo to Playa Perula.

‘Examine current sanctions’

Trump moves to toughen US policy on Cuba

WASHINGTON, July 1, (AP): US President Donald Trump has instructed his top Cabinet officers to review US policy toward Cuba, ordering them to examine current sanctions and come up with ways to toughen them within 30 days.

In a memo Monday, Trump said the reviews should focus on Cuba’s treatment of dissidents, its policies directed at dissidents and restricting financial transactions that “disproportionately benefit the Cuban government, military, intelligence, or security agencies at the expense of the Cuban people.”

In one potential significant change, the order said the US should look for ways to shut down all tourism to the island and to restrict educational tours to groups that are organized and run only by American citizens.

The move is not a surprise given that Trump has previously said he plans to rescind the easing of sanctions and other penalties in Cuba that were instituted during the terms of Democratic Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden. In the days before leaving office, Biden had moved to lift the U.S. designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism.

Trump’s memo “supports the economic embargo of Cuba and opposes calls in the United Nations and other international forums for its termination,” according to a fact sheet.

In Cuba, Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez responded swiftly to the document.

Cuban doctors arrive at the Jose Marti International Airport in Havana, Cuba on June 8, 2020, after traveling to Italy to help with the COVID-19 emergency response. (AP)

“The Presidential Memorandum vs #Cuba released today by the US government strengthens the aggression & economic blockade that punishes the whole Cuban people and is the main obstacle to our development,” he wrote on X. “It’s a criminal behavior that violates the #HumanRights of an entire nation.”

The Trump administration also has made Cuba one of seven countries facing heightened restrictions on visitors and revoked temporary legal protections for about 300,000 Cubans, which



Cuban doctors arrive at the Jose Marti International Airport in Havana, Cuba on June 8, 2020, after traveling to Italy to help with the COVID-19 emergency response. (AP)

had protected them from deportation.

The administration also has announced visa restrictions on Cuban and foreign government officials involved in Cuba’s medical missions, which Secretary of State Marco Rubio has called “forced labor.”

In an interview with The Associated Press this month, Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernandez de Cossio accused the United States of trying to discredit the medical missions and criticized reversal of policy welcoming Cubans to the US.

Ex-Ecuadorian VP gets 13 yrs

QUITO, Ecuador, July 1, (AP): The former vice president of Ecuador who was detained last year during a highly criticized police raid on Mexico’s embassy in the South American country was sentenced Monday to 13 years in prison.

Jorge Glas had been accused of misusing public funds intended for the reconstruction of two provinces affected by an earthquake in 2016. The quake devastated communities and killed hundreds of people.

Glas became vice president in 2013, during the presidency of Rafael Correa, and was removed from that position in January 2018, when he was charged in a corruption case tied to the Brazilian construction company Odebrecht.

Judge Mercedes Caicedo said the funds for reconstruction efforts following the earthquake were allocated to “useless, unusable and unnecessary buildings” disregarding the law, and above all, “with complete disrespect for the victims.”



Glas



A Kenyan policeman, (center), prepares to shoot vendor Boniface Kariuki, (left), during a protest in Nairobi, Kenya on June 17. (AP)

Civilian shot at close range by Kenya police during rallies dies

NAIROBI, Kenya, July 1, (AP): The Kenyan man who was shot at close range by a police officer during recent protests over a blogger’s death in custody has died, his family said Monday.

The family spokesperson, Emily Wanjira, said Boniface Kariuki died on Monday afternoon, a day after doctors at the national referral hospital in Nairobi declared him brain-dead.

An Associated Press photographer captured the moment when the police officer shot Kariuki in the head. Kariuki held a package of face masks and appeared to be a vendor and bystander during the protests over the death of blogger Albert Ojwang.

That death, and the shooting of Kariuki, reignited anger in Kenya over the longstanding issue of police brutality.

Two police officers have been arrested over the shooting of Kariuki on June 17.

Six people, including three police officers, have been charged with the death of Ojwang in custody. An earlier report by police indicated that the blogger banged his head on the wall, but a pathologist’s report refuted the claims that his injuries were self-inflicted.

Kuwait oil price up 22 cents to USD 69.23 pb

KUWAIT CITY, July 1, (KUNA): The price of Kuwait oil went up by 22 cents to USD 69.23 per barrel on Monday as opposed to USD 69.01 last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on

Tuesday.

The prices of the Brent Crude and West Texas Intermediate went down by 16 and 41 cents respectively, settling each at USD 67.61 per barrel and USD 65.11 pb.

Business

Gulf Capital Investment Company ‘InvestGB’ launches Lulwa USD Money Market Fund according to Islamic Sharia principles

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: Gulf Capital Investment Company, “InvestGB”, the investment arm of Gulf Bank, has announced the launch of the Lulwa USD Money Market Fund, a Shariah-compliant investment fund with a variable capital ranging from a minimum of USD 7 million to a maximum of USD 1 billion. This marks the company’s second money market fund, following the remarkable success of the Lulwa KD Money Market Fund, which was launched earlier this year.

The Lulwa USD Money Market Fund aims to provide a low-risk, highly liquid investment solution in US dollars, offering weekly liquidity to meet investor needs. The minimum subscription amount is only USD 3,000. The fund is open to both individual and institutional investors inside and outside Kuwait, including non-Kuwaiti investors, whether residents or non-residents, as well as Kuwaiti, GCC, and foreign companies and institutions operating within or outside the State of Kuwait.

On this occasion, Mr. Talal AIKhamis, Director of Regional Equities and Fixed Income at InvestGB, stated: “The Lulwa USD Money



Talal AIKhamis



Sattam AIMarzouq

Market Fund represents an ideal option for clients seeking Shariahcompliant investments, while offering weekly liquidity. The fund aligns with the company’s vision of diversifying its investment products to serve a wide range of clients.”

AIKhamis added that the fund’s investment strategy will focus on short-term, low-risk financial instruments, including deposits with Shariahcompliant banks, Sukuk issued by gov-

ernments, banks, and investment grade companies (rated BBB or higher), as well as deposits with licensed money market funds approved by the Capital Markets Authority or by a foreign regulatory authority, provided they share the same Shariahcompliant investment objectives.

Mr. Sattam AIMarzouq, Head of Private Banking and Wealth Management at Gulf Bank, said: “We are pleased that Gulf Bank has been appointed as the selling agent for the



InvestGB logo

Lulwa USD Money Market Fund. We continuously strive to provide financial solutions that offer our clients competitive returns along with flexibility in managing their funds, including Shariahcompliant investment solutions, in line with our goal to focus on individual wealth management.”

The launch of the Lulwa USD Money Market Fund follows the strong performance of the Lulwa KD Money Market Fund, which recorded a Net Asset Value (NAV) of KD 1.00925, an annualized return of 3.07% since its inception in mid-March 2025, and a monthly annualized return of 3.56% as of June 30, 2025.

Since its establishment in 2023, InvestGB has achieved a series of successes that have so-

lified its position as one of the leading companies in the investment sector. The company has distinguished itself through notable accomplishments and strategic partnerships that have enabled it to offer innovative investment solutions. These achievements complement Gulf Bank’s accomplishments in investment services and represent a noticeable leap in providing innovative investment solutions for their clients.

Partnerships with leading firms such as Investcorp, Avaloq, and Ares Wealth Management Solutions have given clients access to diversified real estate portfolios, advanced digital wealth management platforms, and top-tier investment products. These achievements reflect InvestGB’s commitment to driving growth, supporting the investment sector in Kuwait, and delivering exceptional value to its clients.

Clients can subscribe to the fund and review the subscription prospectus, the fund’s articles of association, and all other details by visiting any Gulf Bank branch, as it acts as the subscription agent, or through the headquarters of “InvestGB” located in Al Hamra Business Tower.



AI-Khashti and Al-Enezi pictured with the honored students.



Honoring one of the top students.



Celebrating a high-achieving student.

Attended by company and MoE officials, honorees’ parents

Zain celebrates Kuwait’s promising talents at annual top students honoring ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: Zain held its annual ceremony to honor the top high school graduates for the 2024-2025 academic year at its headquarters in Shuwaikh, with the attendance of company executives, Ministry of Education officials, and the honorees’ parents and family members.

The event was attended by Waleed Al-Khashti, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer at Zain Kuwait, and Maryam Al-Enezi, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities at the Ministry of Education. Together, they honored the top Kuwaiti students across various academic tracks, including science, literature, religious education, and special education, as part of Zain’s annual initiative to celebrate academic excellence and spotlight Kuwait’s emerging talents.

In his speech at the event, Al-Khashti stated: “At Zain, we are always proud to renew this annual gathering, which remains one of the initiatives closest to our hearts. Today, we celebrate a distinguished group of young Kuwaitis whose achievements bring pride to themselves and to the nation.”

He added: “We meet today at a time when we are witnessing the results of continuous efforts to advance the educational system in our nation. This year’s exceptional performance



Zain annually highlights academic excellence.

reflects a growing awareness among students, strong family support, dedicated educators, and an academic environment that continues to progress.”

He continued: “At Zain, we believe that our role as a national institution goes beyond technological innova-

tion. It includes contributing to a brighter future for Kuwait by empowering young talent and celebrating excellence wherever it is found.”

Al-Khashti emphasized: “We do not view education as a phase that simply ends with a diploma, but as a lifelong journey of transformation. That’s why we place great importance on supporting students, nurturing top achievers, and enabling a new generation that believes in the value of knowledge and the power of determination.”

He also expressed his appreciation to the honorees’ parents, describing them as the first and most important partner in this achievement, and praised their sacrifices and continued support. Addressing the students, he said: “Do not be afraid to try. Use your passion to create real impact in your communities. Kuwait deserves the best from you, always.”

This ceremony is part of Zain’s corporate sustainability and social responsibility strategy, which places education at the forefront of its priorities. The company remains committed to collaborating with the Ministry of Education and various academic institutions to support national efforts aimed at enabling the next generation to lead Kuwait’s transformation and development journey.

Warba Bank sponsors the Scientific Center’s summer camp

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: As part of its ongoing commitment to social responsibility and support for educational and awareness-driven initiatives, Warba Bank announced its sponsorship of the Scientific Center’s annual summer camp to significantly reduce participation fees during the first week and offers ten children of Warba customers free access to the camp in the following weeks, ensuring more children can enjoy a rich and engaging learning experience over the summer break.

Running from June 15th to August 21st, the summer camp includes ten weekly programs specially designed to educate and entertain children through innovative and interactive learning experiences.

This initiative is aligned with Warba Bank’s corporate social responsibility strategy, which focuses on supporting early education and providing enriching opportunities that spark children’s curiosity and promote discovery in an enjoyable and interactive environment.

Commenting on the renewed partnership with the Scientific Center, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Director of Corporate Communications and Public Relations at Warba Bank, said: “We are proud to sponsor the summer camp at the Scientific Center, driven by our belief in the value of early education and igniting children’s passion for science and knowledge in a fun and stimulating environment. These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to serve the community and plant the seeds of learning and discovery in the next generation.”

He added, “We’re pleased to provide our customers with the opportunity to benefit from free seats in the summer camp as a token of appreciation for their continued trust. Our role extends beyond banking services; it includes supporting parents in creating meaningful learning experiences for their children.”

Al-Mutairi emphasized that this collaboration represents a successful model of synergy between the banking sector and educational institutions. “Through this partnership, we’re able to effectively contribute to spreading scientific awareness in an engaging and impactful way,” he noted.

Mohammad Al-Sanousi, Deputy General Manager of Visitor Experience at The Scientific Center, expressed his appreciation for the partnership, stating:

“We are proud to continue our partnership with Warba Bank, which reflects our shared commitment to empowering the younger generation through engaging and interactive learning experiences. This collaboration plays a vital role in supporting the educational programs offered by The Scientific Center, which aim to spark scientific curiosity and develop children’s skills through innovative and enjoyable methods.”

He added: “At The Scientific Center, we believe in our role as a leading institution in promoting scientific literacy. We consider community partnerships such as this one to be a cornerstone in fulfilling our mission. We sincerely thank Warba Bank for its continued support, which enables us



Top & above: Photos from the event.

to expand the reach of our educational initiatives and positively impact more participants in a meaningful and lasting way.”

This is not the first collaboration between Warba Bank and the Scientific Center; the partnership has previously included several educational initiatives, such as sponsoring scientific workshops and awareness competitions, further reflecting Warba’s commitment to empowering future generations.

Warba Bank continues to cement its position as a leading Islamic financial institution that not only delivers Sharia-compliant banking solutions but also plays a strong societal role through impactful initiatives that help build a better future for the next generation, in line with its slogan “Let’s Own Tomorrow.”

The Bank actively invests in creating positive and sustainable social impact by supporting initiatives across education, environment, and health. Warba’s focus on empowering youth and enhancing their capabilities is evident in its innovative training and awareness programs, as well as in its environmental and sustainability-driven partnerships and community development efforts.

Warba Bank is one of the fastest-growing banks in Kuwait and a leader in digital Islamic banking. It holds one of the largest local shareholder bases, ensuring close connection with all segments of society. This milestone further reinforces Warba’s position as a trusted financial partner that combines innovation with social responsibility in delivering superior financial services and products.

Closing the skills gap: Equipping Kuwaiti youth to drive innovation and thrive in AI-powered era

By Alaeddine Karim

General Manager, Microsoft Kuwait

Kuwait’s visionary leadership has been on a remarkable journey over the past few years to empower the nation’s young talent to help accelerate digital transformation efforts and achieve the objectives of the Kuwait Vision 2035. This journey is being driven by the latest advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) which have the extraordinary potential to help tackle key challenges, enhance productivity, unlock creativity, and optimize operations across all industries.

The leadership’s tireless efforts to raise awareness about the many benefits of AI, and equip young professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively leverage it, are exemplified by various initiatives such as the establishment of the Artificial Intelligence of Things Society. The society not only aims to enhance the understanding of AI and its applications among Kuwaiti professionals, but also supports the responsible development of highly innovative AI solutions that will positive-

ly impact society. Similarly, the Central Agency for Information Technology, which has long been at the forefront of empowering professionals across Kuwait’s public and private sectors, launched the Center of Excellence for Digital Productivity to help build up the skills of government employees in effectively utilizing the latest technologies including AI to enhance their productivity and drive growth through their respective organizations.

Guided by the government’s vision of adopting AI to help achieve a better future for all, various educational institutions across Kuwait have also established departments and programs that familiarize students with AI technologies and how to work alongside them as they start their careers. And, as part of its efforts to empower students to create innovative solutions that tackle global challenges, the Kuwait Ministry of Education partnered with Microsoft and the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity to launch the Microsoft Imagine Cup Junior competition in Kuwait. For the first time ever, the competition introduced a special lesson around Generative AI for students aged 13-18



Alaeddine Karim

years to help them enhance their understanding of the latest AI applications.

Events such as these play a pivotal role in preparing bright young minds to enter a workforce that has placed significant emphasis on professionals having the necessary skills to leverage AI efficiently and effectively. In fact, Microsoft’s 2025 Work Trend Index report showcases a clear prefer-

ence among employers for talent that is proficient in using the latest AI tools: 78% of business leaders are considering hiring for AI-specific roles to prepare for the future; top roles under consideration include AI trainers, data specialists, security specialists, AI agent specialists, ROI analysts, and AI strategists in marketing, finance, customer support, and consulting. In addition, 83% of business leaders believed that AI would enable their employees to take on more complex and strategic work earlier in their careers.

Observations such as these highlight the massive opportunity that is present for young Kuwaiti students who are working to build up their AI expertise before they enter the workforce, and for professionals already in the workforce that are looking to skill up in AI. At Microsoft, we are committed to supporting such individuals across all industries through our comprehensive range of AI skilling initiatives and programs that are designed to help them stay ahead of the emerging skills gap and thrive in Kuwait’s rapidly evolving digital landscape.

As part of our mission to empower every per-

son and organization on the planet to achieve more, we also collaborate regularly with leading institutions to empower students as well as public and private sector professionals through specialized workshops and training programs that help build their AI aptitude. Just recently, we entered into a strategic partnership agreement with Kuwait Government with the intent to establish an AI powered Azure Region to advance local AI capabilities, drive economic growth, and foster AI innovation across industries in Kuwait. This strengthened partnership will see us collaborate on a Cloud Center of Excellence that provides guidance and best practices for cloud adoption, as well as a Copilot Center of Excellence which will empower professionals to harness the numerous benefits of Microsoft 365 Copilot including enhanced efficiency, significant time savings, and increased productivity. By helping foster a culture of continuous learning and innovation, we will continue to support efforts to accelerate Kuwait’s digital transformation and ensure a pool of world class talent that will shape the future of the country’s dynamic AI ecosystem.



Sulaiman Abdulaziz AlDerbas

National Investments Company (NIC) has released its second annual Sustainability Report for 2024, reinforcing its institutional commitment to embedding sustainability principles and enhancing governance and transparency across its operations. This milestone reflects NIC’s continuous efforts to integrate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards into all investment and operational activities, in alignment with both regional and international regulatory developments and in support of

National Investments Company launches second Sustainability Report for 2024

- NIC’s deep commitment to governance and transparency is shaping a brighter and more sustainable future
- NIC has focused on building an integrated work environment that places human capital at the forefront of its priorities

Kuwait’s national economic goals. As one of the first investment companies in Kuwait to adopt regular voluntary disclosure through governance and sustainability reports, NIC continues to lead in institutional responsibility and corporate reporting. The 2024 report underscores NIC’s strategic focus on adopting best practices in governance, achieving a balance between financial growth and impactful social contributions. The company remains committed to playing a key role in advancing sustainable growth within Kuwait’s capital markets through a model built on transparency, innovation and long-term planning. In this context, Mr. Sulaiman Abdulaziz AlDerbas, Managing Director of the Strategy Sector at National Investments Company, affirmed that the second annual Sustainability Report reflects the company’s

deep and renewed commitment to adopting best governance practices, applying leading relevant standards, and achieving an effective balance between financial growth and social development. He pointed out that the company continues to play a pivotal role in enhancing the sustainability and growth trajectory within the Kuwaiti capital market, based on an integrated institutional approach grounded in transparency, innovation, and future foresight. AlDerbas explained that sustainability is no longer a complementary option, but rather a fundamental element in NIC’s business model. ESG concepts are now integrated into operational policies and decision-making processes, enhancing the company’s flexibility, competitiveness, and reinforcing the trust of both local and international investors. He also noted that the company is moving forward in strengthening a sustainable business model that is rooted in institutional values and community participation, while

“Sustainability is a core pillar of the company’s business model, with full integration of ESG standards into operational decisions”

benefiting from the evolving local regulatory environment and adhering to top international standards. This supports the company’s position as one of the leading investment firms capable of achieving long-term returns within a well-managed risk framework. AlDerbas added that institutional success is measured not only by profitability indicators but also by the company’s ability to create tangible social, economic, and environmental impact. “For us,” he stated, “the Sustainability Report is a strategic communication tool and a platform through which we reaffirm our deep commitment to governance and transparency, and outline a brighter, more sustainable future — continuing to contribute to development based on our institutional values of integrity, excellence, and responsible innovation.” He emphasized the company’s determination to transform sustainability principles into an inclusive institutional reality that touches every administrative and operational process.

He went on to say that the company’s efforts during the past year focused on building an integrated work environment that places human capital at the forefront of its priorities, through various educational, humanitarian, and environmental initiatives. This vision was implemented through comprehensive training and development programs for all employees, in addition to attracting national talents via NIC’s participation for the second consecutive year in the “Watheefati” career fair. AlDerbas further stated that NIC has also prioritized the empowerment of women and enhanced their participation in decision-making roles through the “SHIFT” program, which targets recently graduated Kuwaiti females. The program offers training courses designed to build their competencies and potential, making them strong candidates for distinguished roles within the private sector. He concluded: “Today, through the 2024 Annual Sustainability Report, we are not merely recording the past, but shaping the future with a data-driven methodology that expands non-financial performance indicators and links them directly to our investment outcomes — enabling confident, constructive communication and advancing toward a more sustainable and pioneering future.”

Investors face tariff deadline

How Wall Street powered to record high and what’s next

WASHINGTON, July 1, (AP): A trade war. A real war with bombs dropped in the Middle East. A barrage of insults hurled by the president of the United States at the head of the Federal Reserve. The stock market has powered through all of that in the past few months to set a new record Friday and reward investors who stayed their ground through a volatile stretch. The S&P 500 closed at an all-time high of 6,173. While Wall Street can take a bow - and breathe a sigh of relief - there’s no let-up ahead. The pause President Donald Trump put in effect for many tariffs expires in early July. Second-quarter profit reports and upcoming economic indicators could reveal more about the impact of the tariffs that did go into effect. The Fed could face a tricky decision on interest rates. Here’s a look at what’s happened in markets and what could lie ahead. Trump appeared in the Rose Garden on April 2 and announced steeper-than-expected tariffs on almost all U.S. trade partners. He especially targeted China, eventually raising the duties on imports from China to 145%. Beijing retaliated by raising tariffs on U.S. goods to 125%. Within just four days, the S&P 500 fell about 12%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost nearly 4,600 points, or about 11%. Trump shrugged off the stock market drop but he couldn’t ignore the signs of trouble in the bond and foreign exchange markets. Tumbling prices for U.S. government bonds raised worries that the U.S. Treasury market was losing its status as the world’s safest place to keep cash. The value of the U.S. dollar also sank in another signal of diminishing faith in the United States as a safe haven for investors. On April 9, Trump announced on social media a “90-day PAUSE” for most of the tariffs he’d announced, except those against China. The S&P 500 soared 9.5% for one of its best days ever. In May, the administration struck a trade deal with the United Kingdom. Then came the biggest news: The U.S. and China said that they were temporarily rolling back most of the tariffs they’d imposed on one another. The countries have indicated they’ve reached a deal, but details are scarce. Markets briefly got spooked

when Trump threatened tariffs against the European Union, but he decided to hold off - until July 9 - as the countries negotiate. The trade war was pushed out of the headline by a real war this month as Israel and Iran attacked each other. The price of oil spiked, threatening to boost inflation and slow the global economy. A U.S. strike on Iranian nuclear facilities was followed by a cease-fire and oil prices dropped sharply. Relieved, Wall Street resumed its climb toward a new record. Trump wants the Fed to lower interest rates. The Fed says it needs to see the impact of Trump’s tariffs before it can act. The president has taken to regularly bashing Jerome Powell, whose term as Fed chair expires next year. According to the Wall Street Journal, Trump could name his nominee to replace Powell unusually early, in an attempt to undermine him. The drama could influence trading in the bond and foreign exchange markets, and by extension on Wall Street. Strong profit reports for the first quarter helped offset the pressure from tariffs. Soon, companies will report results for the quarter ending June 30. While Wall Street analysts have lowered their expectations for earnings growth for the companies in the S&P 500, they still forecast solid growth of 5%, according to FactSet. The average quarterly profit growth over the past five years is 12.7%. Some companies withdrew profit forecasts amid the uncertainty created by tariffs, making forecasting even trickier. In a sign that stocks are still sensitive to trade developments, the S&P 500 fell briefly Friday afternoon after Trump said he was halting trade negotiations with Canada over its plans to continue with its tax on technology firms. The “90 day PAUSE” with most countries ends July 8. There’s considerable uncertainty about what’s going to happen after that. Trump’s so-called reciprocal tariffs -- aimed at countries with which the United States runs trade deficits and ranging from 11% to 50% -- could snap back into place, something that risks spooking the markets. The president could also say that his negotiators are making progress with some or all of the targeted countries and give them another reprieve. Members of his administration seemed to indicate this week that there is some flexibility in the deadline.

ABK appoints Giel-Jan M. Van Der Tol as Group Chief Executive Officer

Central Bank of Kuwait approves strategic leadership change

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is pleased to announce the appointment of Giel-Jan M. Van Der Tol as the Group Chief Executive Officer, effective 1 July 2025 following the approval of the Central Bank of Kuwait. This strategic leadership appointment marks a significant step in ABK’s ongoing commitment to growth, transformation and excellence in banking across its operating markets. Van Der Tol brings with him over 30 years of distinguished international banking experience, having held senior leadership positions across the Americas, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. He has served in prominent roles at ABN AMRO Group, Saudi Hollandi Bank and Emir-



Giel-Jan M. Van Der Tol, Group Chief Executive Officer

ates NBD Bank, where he led strategic transformation, built high-performing teams and drove sustainable growth. Van Der Tol is widely recognized for his ability to lead organizations through complex environments, while maintaining a strong customer-centric and performance-driven culture. His extensive experience in corporate banking, risk management, governance and innovation align with ABK’s strategic direction. Looking ahead, ABK will continue to pursue its strategy focused on digital transformation, regional growth and operational excellence, with a strong emphasis on enhancing customer experience, expanding product offerings and building a more agile and resilient organization. Under Van Der Tol’s leadership, the Bank is also committed to advancing sustainability initiatives, empowering talent and fostering innovation to future-proof its operations in an evolving global financial landscape.

New MoU boosts climate and digital projects

AIIB, Arab Fund forge strategic partnership

MADRID, July 1, (KUNA): The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) signed a strategic memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Tuesday to deepen cooperation and accelerate sustainable-infrastructure projects in shared priority regions. AIIB President Jin Lique and Arab Fund Director General and Board Chair Bader Al-Saad sealed the deal on the sidelines of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville, Spain. Jin called the partnership an important milestone, saying that blending AIIB’s infrastructure know-how with the Arab Fund’s regional expertise will deliver high-impact projects tackling climate change and cross-border connectivity. The MoU sets a broad framework for joint project preparation and co-financing--sovereign and non-sovereign alike--with strategic focus on climate resilience, digital and cross-border infrastructure, and sustainable urban development, he mentioned. Meanwhile, Al-Saad said the alliance will strengthen the Fund’s mission to finance sustainable development in Arab states in line with



KUNA photo A group photo of the delegation from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank following the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two sides.

the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), amplify critical resources for infrastructure, and spur innovative, demand-driven financing solutions. AIIB, a multilateral development bank launched in 2016, has authorized capital of USD 100 billion and contains 110 member countries. The Arab Fund, established in 1972 and based in Kuwait, supports economic and social development across the Arab regions through loans, grants, and technical assistance in sectors such as infrastructure, education, health, water, and sanitation. The Seville conference, running through Thursday, seeks fresh financing solutions to safeguard progress toward the SDGs.

Regulatory amendments aim to diversify investments and raise liquidity standards

CMA launches startup market, updates listing rulesa

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: As part of the ongoing efforts of the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) to adopt international best practices, develop Kuwait’s capital markets, diversify investment instruments, and enhance competitiveness and transparency, CMA has announced regulatory amendments aimed at boosting quality listings and supporting the startup sector. According to a press release issued by CMA, these efforts are in line with the provisions of Law No. 7/2010 and its executive regulations to provide greater investor protection. On June 29, 2025, CMA issued Resolution No. 108/2025 to launch a regulatory framework for the startup market on the stock exchange, in cooperation with Boursa Kuwait Securities Company. Earlier, on May 28, 2025, CMA approved amendments to certain stock exchange rules. The main amendments include: ■ Launching the regulatory environment for

the startup market - Establishing a new platform for listing and trading shares of startup companies, with flexible regulatory requirements tailored to the unique nature of these companies and designed to support their growth. ■ Developing continuous listing requirements - Introducing amendments to the stock exchange rules to ensure that listed companies maintain compliance with some conditions after listing. This includes measures to enhance liquidity by setting minimum thresholds for free float shares and the market value of those shares. These amendments reflect the importance of supporting startups as a vital component of economic growth and achieving Kuwait’s strategic vision. CMA launched a dedicated regulatory environment for the startup market, enabling the listing and trading of these companies on a specialized platform. This market offers an attractive financ-

ing environment for startups, contributing to strengthening the business sector and providing investors with new opportunities based on high standards of transparency. Based on a comprehensive study, CMA developed the regulations and rules for this emerging companies market to serve as both a supportive platform for startups and an innovative investment option for investors, in line with international best practices. As part of enhancing the regulatory environment for companies listed on both the Premium and Main Official Markets, CMA stresses the importance of continuously updating regulations to ensure companies consistently meet listing requirements and protect investors from those that fail to fulfill ongoing obligations. CMA also highlights the need to maintain sufficient liquidity by setting minimum thresholds for the percentage of free float shares and the market value of those shares.



The 'Fearless Girl' statue stands in front of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, June 18, 2025, in New York. (AP)

Kuwait first to launch network in the region as part of its broader digital transformation strategy

stc launches 5G Advanced network to deliver an exceptional experience to its customers



Muataz Aldharab, CEO of stc

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the launch of the “5G Advanced” network. The step comes in line with stc’s ongoing commitment to support Kuwait Vision 2035, which aims to enable digital transformation and provide an enhanced digital experience for customers.

5G Advanced serves as the next generation of 5G technology and is expected to revolutionize the on-line experience for individuals and businesses. The innovative technology will enable customers to gain access to greater capabilities that can optimize their operations and online usage, opening the door to the integration of advanced smart solutions across various sectors.

Commenting on the launch, engineer Muataz Aldharab, CEO of stc, said, “This launch marks a significant step towards strengthening Kuwait’s digital transformation journey. With greater capabilities, 5G Advanced will enable more precise connectivity, higher speeds, and more intelligent network capabilities that align directly with the objectives defined under Kuwait Vision 2035.”

He added, “We aim to play a contributing role in shaping the future landscape of telecom and ICT sectors in Kuwait. Over the past years, we have

made pivotal efforts to develop and strengthen our network capabilities, in addition to our pioneering position in fostering an environment of innovation. Additionally, we have focused on developing our infrastructure to empower the use cases of both businesses and individuals alike.”

Aldharab concluded, “We consistently explore innovative methods to drive innovation and advance the solutions offered to our customers to enable digital transformation. Today, we are reinforcing this approach by launching our 5G Advanced network, which positions Kuwait on the global map in delivering high-speed 5G connectivity and innovative ICT solutions that serve various sectors.”

stc was a pioneer when it came to launching its 5G services in Kuwait, a milestone that was made possible through the Company’s early investments in building a robust and scalable network infrastructure. This forward-looking approach enabled stc to seamlessly integrate 5G capabilities across its operations and offerings, laying the foundation for more advanced technologies such as 5G Advanced.

To find out more about stc’s events, promotions, and sponsorships, follow stc’s official social media platforms, visit one of stc’s branches, download mystc mobile application, visit www.stc.com.kw or contact the customer service center by dialing 102 for around the clock assistance.



More precise connectivity, higher speeds, and more intelligent network capabilities.

ECB warns of rising inflation uncertainty

Structural shift behind price instability: Lagarde

FRANKFURT, Germany, July 1, (AP): The head of the European Central Bank said inflation has become more unpredictable due to shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine - and that policymakers need to take the possibility of such extreme scenarios into account and communicate them to the public as well.

“The world ahead is more uncertain, and that uncertainty is likely to make inflation more volatile,” ECB President Christine Lagarde said Monday in a speech opening the central bank’s annual conference in Sintra, Portugal. “It’s pretty basic but that’s the reality.”

One reason, she said, was that increasingly regular supply disruptions were leading companies to change their prices more frequently, a habit that goes beyond the recent burst of inflation in the U.S. and Europe and “reflects a structural shift in how firms operate under conditions of permanently higher uncertainty.”

The bank’s assessment of the economy needs to rely on taking extreme possible scenarios into account as well



ECB President Christine Lagarde attends a press conference in Frankfurt, Germany on June 5, 2025. (AP)

as the more likely baseline predictions, and it should let the public in on those possible outcomes as well, she said. Lagarde in particular cited the inflation spike that followed Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, where a baseline scenario based on higher energy prices suggest inflation for 2022 of 5.5% - but a worst-case scenario indicated more than 7% inflation, much closer to the final figure of 8%.

Another example was the pandemic, where spending by homebound consumers

shifted from services like restaurants to goods such as home exercise equipment.

“Scenario analysis could have helped in illustrating that the range of possible inflation outcomes was unusually wide - and would have reduced the risk of projecting false certainty to the public,” Lagarde said.

The bank’s strategy review announced Monday reaffirmed its target of 2% for inflation, a goal it has met for the time being as annual price increases were 1.9% in May. The drop in inflation has let the bank cut its benchmark interest rate from a peak of 4% to 2%.

Threats of higher tariffs from U.S. President Donald Trump have added to uncertainty about the outlook for growth and inflation. The European Commission and US negotiators are trying to reach agreement on a trade deal ahead of a July 9 deadline.

The conference in Sintra is the ECB’s equivalent of the U.S. Federal Reserve gathering in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and gathers top central bankers and economists from around the world. Fed Chair Jerome Powell is to take part in a panel on Tuesday with Lagarde, Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey, Bank of Korea Governor Chang Yong Rhee and Kazuo Ueda, the governor of the Bank of Japan.

CINET launches cybersecurity internship program to empower future-ready workforce

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: Kuwait Credit Information Network Company (CINET), the country’s leading and sole provider of credit information and credit scoring, launched its Internship Program designed to build student and graduate capabilities in cybersecurity and data science. Through field training, CINET aims to empower young Kuwaiti talent with the skills needed to lead Kuwait toward a promising digital future.

As a pioneer in financial technology and a trusted national institution, CINET remains dedicated to its contributive role in propelling Kuwait’s development. The company’s advanced solutions continue to make financial data more accessible, the latest of which is the launch of its new and improved mobile application, designed to provide users with easier access to their credit profiles and view their Credit Score and Credit History in real time, and Download their full Credit Report.

The CINET Internship Program is specifically designed to provide interns with hands-on experience and essential professional skills in three core areas:

- Cybersecurity
- Data Science and Innovation
- Digital Applications and Fintech



Mai B. AlOwaish, Chief Executive Officer at CINET



Sarah N. AlZaabi, Chief Human Resources Officer at CINET

Interns at CINET also benefit from diverse opportunities to engage in interdisciplinary workshops and cross-departmental rotations, sharpening their skills in various areas of technology. The training program’s standout features include its cybersecurity track, which highlights CINET’s growing investment in protecting digital infrastructure and developing specialized national competencies.

CINET’s internship program features two distinct academic cohorts:

The University Cohort welcomes cybersecurity students from local institutions and international scholarship programs to help them apply their academic knowledge through practical exposure at CINET, in an immersive learning environment.

The High School Cohort features a special track for young students interested in exploring data science – introducing them to emerging tech fields at an early

stage. The internship aims to help its young participants in making informed decisions about their future academic and career paths.

Mai B. AlOwaish, Chief Executive Officer at CINET, emphasized the company’s national commitment, stating: “As Kuwait’s authorized credit information provider, our strategic vision of driving meaningful impact in Kuwait’s economic and digital evolution is reflected in our dedicated efforts to empower Kuwaiti students and fresh graduates with hands-on experience and practical skills needed to thrive in an innovation-led, data-powered economy.”

Adding more perspective, Sarah N. AlZaabi, Chief Human Resources Officer at CINET, noted: “At CINET, we fully recognize that attracting and nurturing national talent is central to our social

responsibility. Our ongoing efforts to engage and elevate local competencies stem from our firm belief that human capital is the true cornerstone of progress.”

AlZaabi further commented that “By fostering a culture of continuous learning and innovation, the company is helping shape a new generation of forward-thinking professionals who will drive sustainable growth and advance financial inclusion in Kuwait.”

With this program, CINET not only cements its position as a thought leader in financial technology, but also sends a clear message: “The future of Kuwait’s economy lies in the hands of its youth- and CINET will be there every step of the way to support and guide them on their journey.”

For more information, visit: [\[www.cinet.com.kw\]](http://www.cinet.com.kw)

Markets mixed as Wall Street recovery pauses

MANILA, July 1, (AP): Global shares were mostly lower Tuesday a day after U.S. stocks continued a stunning recovery from a springtime sell-off of roughly 20%.

Britain’s FTSE 100 gained 0.72% to 8,798.91, while Germany’s DAX shed 0.4% to 23,809.62. In Paris, the CAC 40 dropped 0.5% to 7,629.65.

After another big day for U.S. markets, futures for the S&P shed 0.2% and that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average edged 0.1% lower.

In Asian trading, Japan’s Nikkei 225 fell 1.2% to 39,986.33 despite positive results of the central bank’s quarterly Tankan survey which showed a better than expected improvement in business sentiment among large manufacturers.

The Shanghai Composite index added 0.4% to 3,457.75 after China’s official manufacturing purchasing managers index, or PMI, rose to a three-month high of 49.7 in June while the PMI for services and other non-manufacturing businesses also rose to a three-month high of 50.5.

Hong Kong’s stock market was closed on Tuesday.

South Korea’s KOSPI Composite Index rose 0.6% to 3,089.65. The government reported that exports bounced back in June, helped by strong demand for semiconductors, ships and health products.

“Automobile and automotive parts exports also gained. Strong electric vehicle exports to the EU and solid used-car exports partially offset the decline of U.S. exports. However, we expect auto exports to remain soft due to tariffs and increased production in the U.S.,” Min Joo Kang of ING Economics said in a report.

Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 edged down 0.1% to 8,541.10.

Thailand’s SET jumped 1.7% after Thailand’s Constitutional Court has suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra from office pending an investigation over a leaked phone call with a senior Cambodian leader.

The PSEI in Manila, Philippines, added 0.9% to 6,423.85. On Monday, Wall Street resumed its upward climb.

The S&P 500 rose 0.5%. It has staged a stunning recovery from its springtime sell-off of roughly 20%. The Dow added 0.6% and the Nasdaq composite gained 0.5%.

Canada and US resume trade talks after tax rift

TORONTO, July 1, (AP): Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said late Sunday trade talks with U.S. have resumed after Canada rescinded its plan to tax U.S. technology firms.

U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday that he was suspending trade talks with Canada over its plans to continue with its tax on technology firms, which he called “a direct and blatant attack on our country.”

The Canadian government said “in anticipation” of a trade deal “Canada would rescind” the Digital Services Tax. The tax was set to go into effect Monday.

Carney and Trump spoke on the phone Sunday, and Carney’s office said they agreed to resume negotiations.

“Today’s announcement will support a resumption of negotiations toward the July 21, 2025, timeline set out at this month’s G7 Leaders’ Summit in Kananaskis,” Carney said in a statement.

Carney visited Trump in May at the White House, where he was polite but firm. Trump traveled to Canada for the G7 summit in Alberta, where Carney said that Canada and the U.S. had set a 30-day deadline for trade talks.

Trump, in a post on his social media network last Friday, said Canada had informed the U.S. that it was sticking to its plan to impose the digital services tax, which applies to Canadian and foreign businesses that engage with online users in Canada.

The digital services tax was due to hit companies including Amazon, Google, Meta, Uber and Airbnb with a 3% levy on revenue from Canadian users. It would have applied retroactively, leaving U.S. companies with a \$2 billion U.S. bill due at the end of the month.

Daniel Béland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal, called Carney’s retreat a “clear victory” for Trump.

“At some point this move might have become necessary in the context of Canada-US trade negotiations themselves but Prime Minister Carney acted now to appease President Trump and have him agree to simply resume these negotiations, which is a clear victory for both the White House and big tech,” Béland said.

He said it makes Carney look vulnerable to President Trump’s outbursts.

“President Trump forced PM Carney to do exactly what big tech wanted. U.S. tech executive will be very happy with this outcome,” Béland said.

Canadian Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne also spoke with U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Sunday.



Carney



Group photo

Court weighs rap lyrics meaning in defamation suit

Slander or ‘trash-talk’? Drake-Lamar feud hits court

NEW YORK, July 1, (AP): A federal judge is pondering the nature of rap battles and the cutting wordplay in Kendrick Lamar’s “Not Like Us,” the megahit diss track that spurred a defamation lawsuit from his fellow superstar Drake.

Drake sued Universal Music Group - both his and Lamar’s record label - over “Not Like Us,” saying the company published and promoted a song he deems slanderous. Universal says the lyrics are just hyperbole in the tradition of rap beefing, and the label is trying to get the case dismissed.

Judge Jeannette Vargas didn’t immediately decide after a lively hearing Monday, when the raw creativity of hip-hop brushed up against the staid confines of federal court.

“Who is the ordinary listener? Is it someone who’s going to catch all those references?” Vargas wondered aloud, addressing a legal standard that concerns how an average, reasonable person would understand a statement. “There’s so much specialized and nuanced to these lyrics.”

Neither artist attended the hearing.

The case stems from an epic feud between two of hip-hop’s biggest stars over one of 2024 biggest songs - the one that won the record of the year and song of the year Grammys, got the most Apple Music streams worldwide and helped make this winter’s Super Bowl halftime show the most watched ever.

Released as the two artists were trading a flurry of insult tracks, Lamar’s song calls out the Canadian-born Drake by name and impugns his authenticity, branding him “a colonizer” of rap culture who’s “not like us” in Lamar’s home turf of Compton, California, and, more broadly, West Coast rap.

“Not Like Us” also makes insinuations about Drake’s private life, including “I hear you like ‘em young” - implications that he rejects.



In this combination of images, rapper Kendrick Lamar appears at the MTV Video Music Awards on Aug. 27, 2017, in Inglewood, Calif., (left), and Canadian rapper Drake appears at the premiere of the series ‘Euphoria,’ in Los Angeles on June 4, 2019. (AP)

Drake’s suit says that the song amounts to “falsely accusing him of being a sex offender, engaging in pedophilic acts” and more. Contending that the

track endangered him by fanning notions of vigilante justice, the suit blames “Not Like Us” not only for harming Drake’s image but for attempted break-ins and the shooting of a security guard at his Toronto home. The mansion was depicted in an aerial photo in the song’s cover art.

“This song achieved a cultural ubiquity unlike any other rap song in history,” Drake lawyer Michael Gottlieb said. He argued that Universal had campaigned and contrived to make it “a de facto national anthem” that didn’t just address hip-hop fans who knew the backstory and were accustomed to over-the-top lyrical battling.

The average listener could be “a 13-year-old who’s dancing to the song at a ... party,” Gottlieb suggested.

“That would be a very interesting ...” the judge opined. (The song has indeed been played at some such celebrations.)

Universal, meanwhile, has emphasized that “Not Like Us” was part of an exchange of barbs between Drake and Lamar.

“Context is key,” label lawyer Rollin Ransom argued Monday, at one point apologizing for having to use profanity while reciting some of the lyrics Drake aimed at Lamar in a track called “Taylor Made Freestyle.”

“What you hear in these rap battles is trash-talking in the extreme, and it is not, and should not be treated as, statements of fact,” the attorney said.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

Drake also went after iHeartMedia, claiming in a Texas legal petition that the radio giant got illegal payments from Universal to boost airplay for “Not Like Us.” iHeartMedia has denied any wrongdoing. That dispute was resolved in March. Drake hasn’t sued Lamar himself.

Variety

ALGIERS, Algeria: A court in Algeria on Tuesday upheld Franco-Algerian author **Boualem Sansal’s** five-year prison sentence in a case that has raised alarm over freedom of expression in Algeria and pushed tensions with France to the brink.

Prosecutors at an appeal hearing last week requested the maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. The “2084: The End of the World” author was charged in March under Algeria’s anti-terrorism laws and convicted of “undermining national unity,” receiving his initial five-year sentence then.

Sansal’s appeal was closely watched in both France and Algeria. It caps a saga that has turned the novelist into a unlikely cause célèbre, uniting francophone writers, members of France’s far right and European lawmakers in a rare chorus demanding his release.

The issue arose last year when, in an interview with a French right-wing media outlet, Sansal questioned Algeria’s current borders, arguing that France had redrawn them during the colonial period to include lands that once belonged to Morocco. The 80-year-old dual citizen was arrested the following month and later lambasted by the president in a speech to Algeria’s parliament.

The case has unfolded at a historic low point in Algeria’s relations with France, which were strained further over the disputed Western Sahara.

The territorial dispute has long helped shape Algeria’s foreign policy, with its backing of the Polisario Front, a pro-independence group that operates out of refugee camps in southwestern Algeria. France last year shifted its longstanding position to back Morocco’s sovereignty plan.

Analysts say that Sansal has become collateral damage in the broader diplomatic fallout and describe the charges as a political lever Algiers is deploying against Paris.

Sansal’s supporters hope military-backed President Abdelmadjid Tebboune will grant a pardon on Saturday, when Algeria marks Independence Day and traditionally frees selected prisoners as part of a national amnesty.

The timing is dire, supporters warn, as Sansal battles prostate cancer and has spent part of his detention in a prison hospital.

French officials have urged Algeria to release him, with President Emmanuel Macron appealing directly to Tebboune to pardon Sansal during a March phone call, citing the writer’s age and failing health as reason for mercy. (AP)

YANGON: The Shwedagon Pagoda, also known as the Golden Pagoda in Myanmar, attracted over 3.5 million visitors in the first six months of this year, U Boe Thin, a member of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, told Xinhua on Tuesday.

Among them, over 38,000 were foreign visitors, with the most coming from China, Thailand and Vietnam, he said. (Xinhua)

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil’s National Museum offered a glimpse of its renovated building and collection on Monday, two days before it reopens for visitors and seven years after a devastating fire destroyed it.

Journalists and special guests previewed the renovated museum in Rio de Janeiro, where they could also see a large part of its 20-million-artifact collection.

Brazil’s Education Minister Camilo Santana told journalists the museum’s complete renovation is slated for completion by the end of 2027.

He added that the reconstruction budget of almost 517 million Brazilian reais (\$95 million) is being split between public and private companies. (AP)

Film



This image released by Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment shows Scarlett Johansson, (left), and Jonathan Bailey in a scene from ‘Jurassic World: Rebirth.’ (AP)

Koepp, Edwards return franchise to its winning roots

‘Jurassic World’ roars back to life in ‘Rebirth’

LOS ANGELES, July 1, (AP): If you’ve lately been feeling that the “Jurassic Park” franchise has jumped an even more ancient creature - the shark - hold off any thoughts of extinction. Judging from the latest entry, there’s still life in this old dino series.

“Jurassic World Rebirth” captures the awe and majesty of the overgrown lizards that’s been lacking for so many of the movies, which became just an endless cat-and-mouse in the dark between scared humans against T-Rexes or raptors. “Jurassic World Rebirth” lets in the daylight.

Credit goes to screenwriter David Koepp, who penned the original “Jurassic Park,” and director Gareth Edwards, who knows a thing or two about giant reptiles as director of 2014’s “Godzilla.” Together with director of photographer John Mathieson, they’ve returned the franchise to its winning roots.

“Jurassic World Rebirth” has nods to the past even as it cuts a new future with new characters. It’s a sort of heist movie with monsters that’s set on the original decaying island research facility for the original, abandoned Jurassic Park.

Scarlett Johansson and Mahershala Ali - both very unshowy and suggesting a sort of sibling chemistry - play security and extraction specialists - OK, mercenaries - hired to get what everyone wants from dinosaurs in these movies: DNA. In return, there’s \$10 million.

The movie is set five years after “Jurassic World Dominion” and some three decades after dinosaurs were reanimated. They’ve lost their public fascination - a subtle nod perhaps to the films in the franchise - and have struggled with the climate, gathering at the equator.

The Big Pharma company ParkerGenix has come up with a blockbuster idea: Take DNA from three colossal Cretaceous-period

creatures - the flying Quetzalcoatlus, the aquatic Mosasaurus and the land-based Titanosaurus - to cure cardiac disease. Wait, how does that work? Don’t ask us, something about hemoglobin.

The trick is this: The dinos have to be alive when the DNA is extracted. Why? Because then there’d be no movie, silly. It would be a 10-minute sequence of a guy in a white coat and a syringe. This way, we celebrate three kinds of dinosaurs in three separate chapters.

It may seem a little far-fetched, but may we remind you about the last movie, which involved a biogenetic granddaughter, a global pharma conspiracy, the cast members from both trilogies, a Gigantotyrannus, giant locusts on fire and had the ludicrous decision to have Chris Pratt make a promise to bring home a baby dino - to its mother.

Interrupted

The three-part quest at the heart of “Jurassic World Rebirth” is interrupted by a family - a dad, his two daughters and a sketchy boyfriend - in a 45-foot sailboat that is capsized and need rescuing. They bring a dose of not-always-working humor and humanity to the extraction team, which also includes a too-easily-telegraphing baddie played by Rupert Friend - “I’m too smart to die” - and a museum-based paleontologist played by Jonathan Bailey.

The filmmakers include clever nods to other blockbusters - “Indiana Jones,” “Star Wars,” “Jaws” and “ET” - and thrillingly create a dinos-hunting-in-a-convenience-store sequence like a tribute to the original film’s dinos-hunting-in-a-kitchen sequence. The shots overall are beautifully composed, from silhouettes on a boat in twilight to almost feeling the burn of the ropes as actors rappel down a 500-foot cliff face.

No verdict after 5 hours of deliberation on first day

Jury returns to deliberate for second day at Combs’ trial

NEW YORK, July 1, (AP): A jury returns to deliberate for a second day Tuesday at the sex trafficking trial of music mogul **Sean “Diddy” Combs**.

On Monday, jurors deliberated over five hours without reaching a verdict after receiving instructions on the law from the trial judge, Arun Subramanian.

They are deciding whether prosecutors have proven racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking charges during a trial that began in early May. Prosecutors say Combs, over two decades, used his fame, fortune, and a network of employees and associates to coerce and force two different girlfriends to engage with male companions for days at a time while he observed and sometimes recorded the drug-fueled events.

Defense lawyers say prosecutors are unjustly basing federal crimes on what Combs did in the bedroom with his girlfriends as they participated in the open relationship lifestyle and on acts of domestic violence involving their client.

Combs, 55, could face 15 years in prison to life behind bars if he is convicted of all charges.

After pleading not guilty, Combs chose not to testify as his law-

yers built their arguments for acquittal mostly through lengthy cross examinations of dozens of witnesses called by prosecutors, including some of Combs’ former employees who took the witness stand reluctantly only after being granted immunity.

When jurors first left the room to begin deliberating on Monday, Combs sat for a while slumped in his chair at the defense table before standing and turning toward three rows of spectators packed with his family and friends.

Those supporters held hands and lowered their heads in prayer, as did Combs, who was several feet from them in the well of the courtroom. After they finished, they together applauded, and so did Combs, still clapping as he turned back toward the front of the room.

Combs also showed off two books he’s reading: “The Power of Positive Thinking” by Norman Vincent Peale and “The Happiness Advantage” by Shawn Achor.

Barely an hour into deliberations, the jury foreperson sent a note

to the judge, complaining that there was one juror “who we are concerned cannot follow your Honor’s instructions. May I please speak with your Honor or may you please interview him?”

The judge decided instead to send jurors a note reminding them of their duties to deliberate and obligation to follow his instructions on the law.

By day’s end, the jury seemed back on track, requesting clarification about what qualifies as drug distribution, an aspect of the racketeering conspiracy charge that will help determine whether Combs can be convicted or exonerated on the count.

The first day of deliberations saw a flurry of notes from the jury and Combs and his supporters bowing their heads in prayer in the courtroom - but no verdict.

The jury of eight men and four women is reviewing seven weeks of sometimes graphic and emotional testimony about the rap, fashion, and reality TV impresario’s history of violent behavior and his involvement in intense, drug-fueled party events often referred to as “hotel nights.” About an hour in, the foreperson reported that a juror might be having trouble following the 61 pages worth of instructions the judge had just read to them.

‘Dismantling of agency a colossal mistake’

Obama, Bush, singer Bono slam Trump’s USAID cuts on final day

WASHINGTON, July 1, (AP): Former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush delivered rare open criticism of the Trump administration - and singer Bono recited a poem - in an emotional video farewell Monday with staffers of the US Agency for International Development.

Obama called the Trump administration’s dismantling of USAID “a colossal mistake.”

Monday was the last day as an independent agency for the six-decade-old humanitarian and development organization, created by President John F. Kennedy as a peaceful way of promoting US national security by boosting goodwill and prosperity abroad.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio has ordered USAID absorbed into the State Department on Tuesday.

The former presidents and Bono spoke with thousands



Bono poses for photographers at the 78th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, May 17, 2025. (AP)

in the USAID community in a videoconference, which was billed as a closed-press event to allow political leaders and others privacy for sometimes angry and often teary remarks. Parts of the video were shared with The Associated Press.

They expressed their appreciation for the thousands of USAID staffers who have lost their jobs and life’s work. Their agency was one of the first and most fiercely targeted for government-cutting by President Donald Trump and his billionaire ally Elon Musk, with staffers abruptly locked out of systems and offices and terminated by mass emailing.

Trump claimed the agency was run by “radical left lunatics” and rife with “tremendous fraud.” Musk called it “a criminal organization.” Obama, speaking in a recorded statement, offered assurances to the aid and development workers, some listening from overseas.

“Your work has mattered and will matter for generations to come,” he told them.

Obama has largely kept a low public profile during Trump’s second term and refrained from criticizing the monumental changes that Trump has made to US programs and priorities at home and abroad.

“Gutting USAID is a travesty, and it’s a tragedy. Because it’s some of the most important work happening anywhere in the world,” Obama said. He credited USAID with not only saving lives, but being a main factor in global economic growth that has turned some aid-receiving countries into US markets and trade partners.

The former Democratic president predicted that “sooner or later, leaders on both sides of the aisle will realize how much you are needed.”

Music

Rodrigo, Stewart, Neil Young light up festival

Politics and pop run deep at Glastonbury

LONDON, July 1, (AP): The Glastonbury Festival is making headlines for controversy rather than music.

The likes of Olivia Rodrigo, Rod Stewart, Neil Young, Charli XCX, Busta Rhymes and Doechii played to tens of thousands onsite, and millions more on TV, during Britain’s biggest and most famous music extravaganza. But it’s little-known rap-punk duo Bob Vylan attracting politicians’ ire - and a police probe - after leading a chant calling for “death” to the Israeli military.

This isn’t the first time politics has collided with pop at the festival. For half a century, Britain’s big political and cultural divides have found their way onstage at Glastonbury.

The Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts, to give it its full name, was founded by Michael Eavis in 1970 on his Worthy Farm, 120 miles (some 200 kilometers) southwest of London. It’s still run by the 90-year-old farmer and his daughter, Emily Eavis.

Originally a hippie happening with a 1 pound ticket price (about 20 pounds or \$27 today), Glastonbury has largely shed its counterculture cachet. These days, tickets for the three-day event cost close to 400 pounds. But it remains famous for its eclectic lineup, unique atmosphere and commitment to environmentalism and other progressive causes.

This year’s event drew about 200,000 people to see almost 4,000 performers on 120 stages, alongside film screenings and live debates on a variety of issues.

Glastonbury was founded in a spirit of hippie idealism that has never entirely faded. In the 1980s, the festival donated some of its profits to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, which protested US nuclear weapons on British soil. It continues to support charities including Oxfam and Greenpeace.

By the late 1980s, attendees included New Age “travelers” involved with the UK’s unofficial and anarchic rave scene. In 1990, some travelers clashed with security at the site, leading to significant damage and more than 200 arrests.

Since then, the festival’s security and organization have grown increasingly professional, sparking regret from some fans who feel it has lost its alternative spirit.

The 2016 festival coincided with the UK’s referendum on European Union membership, and the decision to leave the bloc - which most young people opposed - overshadowed the event. Many performers mentioned Brexit and the dispirited mood, including headliner Adele, who urged people to “look after each other.”

Performers have often vented their opposition to politicians from the stage. In 2019, rapper Stormzy led the crowd in “... Boris” chants aimed at then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson. This year, Irish rappers Kneecap directed the same expletive at Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

In contrast, then-Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn was warmly received at the festival in 2017 after doing better than expected against the Conservatives in a general election.

Israel’s war against Hamas in Gaza has provoked heightened emotions that spilled over onto Glastonbury’s stages.

Before the event, some politicians called for Glastonbury to cancel a performance by Irish-language hip-hop trio Kneecap, whose pro-Palestinian comments, critics say, have crossed a line into support for violence.

Kneecap member Liam Óg Ó hAinídh has been charged under the Terrorism Act with supporting a proscribed organization for allegedly waving a He-



Olivia Rodrigo performs during the Glastonbury Festival in Worthy Farm, Somerset, England, Sunday, June 29, 2025. (AP)



Ellie Rowsell of the rock band Wolf Alice performs during the Glastonbury Festival in Worthy Farm, Somerset, England, Sunday, June 29, 2025. (AP)

zbollah flag at a concert in London in November. He denies the charge, and Kneecap has accused critics of trying to silence the band because of its support for the Palestinian cause.

Kneecap’s energetic set included plenty

of pro-Palestinian comments and criticism of the government. But it was the act that preceded them, Bob Vylan, that caused a furor when a member of the duo led chants of “death to the IDF,” the Israel Defense Forces.



Rod Stewart, (left), is joined on stage by Ronnie Wood during the Glastonbury Festival. (AP)



Neil Young performs on the Pyramid Stage during the Glastonbury Festival. (AP)



Lulu joins Rod Stewart on stage during the Glastonbury Festival. (AP)

The Avon and Somerset Police force said officers would review video evidence “to determine whether any offenses may have been committed that would require a criminal investigation.

Michael and Emily Eavis said Bob Vylan had “very much crossed a line.” They said “there is no place at Glastonbury for antisemitism, hate speech or incitement to violence.”

Britain’s publicly funded national broadcaster is under fire for showing Bob Vylan’s set, one of dozens of Glastonbury performances it streamed live online.

The BBC said Monday that it should have cut off the broadcast after the “antisemitic” and “utterly unacceptable” comments, and has removed the performance from its website. But the government is demanding to know what “due diligence” it did on Bob Vylan before the broadcast.

Some media experts say the broadcaster is in a difficult position. Steven Barnett, professor of communications at the University of Westminster, said Britain’s influential right-wing press, including newspapers such as the Daily Mail and The Sun, frequently attack the BBC, “for both commercial and ideological reasons.”

Right-leaning newspapers featured the Bob Vylan story prominently, and Barnett said that attention “puts any political leader under enormous pressure” to express an opinion.

Variety

ALGIERS, Algeria: A French journalist has been sentenced to seven years in prison in Algeria over an interview with a soccer official accused of ties to a banned separatist movement, in a case rights groups say criminalizes routine reporting.

Christophe Gleizes, a 36-year-old freelance sportswriter, was arrested and placed under judicial supervision more than a year ago for entering Algeria without a proper visa, “glorifying terrorism,” and “possessing propaganda publications harmful to the national interest,” Reporters Without Borders said in a statement on Sunday.

He was tried and convicted, although prosecutors have not publicly announced the charges and Algerian officials have not commented on the case.

However, authorities have in the past faced criticism from rights advocates who say Algeria uses anti-terrorism laws to target political speech.

Thibaut Bruttin, Reporters Without Borders director general, called authorities’ decision to hold Gleizes for 13 months before sentencing an example of “absurd judicial control” and called the seven-year sentence “nonsensical.” The press freedom group said Gleizes planned to appeal the sentences on Monday. (AP)



Gleizes

PRAGUE, Czech Republic: The Czech Philharmonic announced Monday that Jakub Hrůša has been selected to become its new chief conductor and music director and will assume full duties in 2028 for an initial five-year-term.

He will replace Semyon Bychkov, who took over at the start of the 2018-19 season. He said in a statement he was “overjoyed and deeply honored.”

The 43-year-old Hrůša is currently chief conductor of the Bamberg Symphony in Germany and is set to become the music director of the Royal Opera House in London in September this year.

Hrůša has been a regular guest conductor with the Vienna Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic and others. (AP)

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Culture and the China-Arab Research Center for Cultural and Tourism Cooperation on Sunday signed an executive program to strengthen cultural collaboration between the two countries.

Under the program, the two sides will conduct joint research projects and compile cultural materials about each other drawn from their respective national archives, providing academic support for historical research and cultural exchange.

The program also includes plans to organize joint conferences and support mutual visits and exchanges between cultural researchers from Saudi Arabia and China.

The agreement aims to bolster joint efforts in cultural preservation and research, and to enhance intercultural and intellectual ties, the Saudi ministry said in a statement.

The deal was signed by Maha Abdullah Alsenan, deputy minister for Research and Cultural Heritage Affairs, and Cheng Wei, vice president of Beijing International Studies University and deputy director of the joint committee of China-Arab Research Center for Cultural and Tourism Cooperation. (Xinhua)

New studio ushers in next era of sound

Apple Music marks 10 years with new studio for artists, fans

CULVER CITY, Calif., July 1, (AP): As Apple Music turns 10 this year, the popular streaming service is celebrating a major power move: Apple Music Studios.

The new studio, set to open in mid August, is a three-story, 15,000-square-foot creative playground in the Los Angeles area to help artists dream big and connect deeper with fans. There are two cutting-edge radio studios inside primed for spatial audio, live interviews, off-the-cuff convos and surprise performances.

Just steps away sits a massive 4,000-square-foot soundstage that’s ready to host everything from live sets, fan events and film-style shoots. The new studio is located in Culver City, which is home to other major entertainment companies like Sony Music, Amazon MGM and Amazon Music.

The building housing the space was designed by architect Eric Owen Moss, who is known for creating some of the area’s most distinctive and unconventional structures.

For Apple Music, it’s a bold move toward next era of music, sound and storytelling.

“It’s the future of listening and enjoying music,” said Zane Lowe, global creative director and lead anchor for Apple Music 1. He and Ebro Darden will kick off a week-long celebration of Apple Music’s 10th anniversary with a show on Monday focusing on the birth of Apple Music Radio.

“We’re trying to create as many opportunities as possible to surprise and delight people with as much music across all different communities and parts of the world and the sonic landscape,” Lowe continued. “We can create some moments that will excite fans and maybe make them stop looking or listening to other stuff for a minute. This will be a moment for them.”

Apple’s new studio will serve as the flagship for a global network of creative hubs, with additional locations coming soon to New York and London.

They’ll join Apple Music’s expanding lineup of pro-

duction spaces already in cities like Tokyo, Berlin, Paris and Nashville.

The vision is for the new studio to become a creative sanctuary that fosters a deeper connections with artists and creators.

The studio will feature a photo and social media lab, an edit suite and a green room to support real-time content creation. Private isolation booths will offer space for songwriting, podcasting and intimate one-on-one interviews.

Throughout the corridors, curated images and artwork will celebrate iconic moments from Apple Music’s past and present.

“We wanna make sure we create a platform for artists and creators of all kinds, whether you’re a photographer, a filmmaker, songwriter, singer or guitarist,” said Oliver Schusser, the vice president of Apple Music and Beats. “We want to create a space where we can record some extra content that gives people context.”



US rapper Curtis James Jackson III ('50 Cent') performs at the Heinz-von-Heiden-Arena during a concert in Hanover, Germany, on Saturday, June 28, 2025, as part of his 'Legacy Tour' through Europe. (AP)

844 attacks on health sector in West Bank since Oct 2023: WHO

Kidney dialysis halted at Al-Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza

RAMALLAH, July 1, (KUNA): Gaza's health authorities said Tuesday that Al-Shifa Medical Complex has stopped kidney-dialysis services after running out of fuel and can now offer only a few hours of intensive care.

In a press statement, they warned that continued fuel shortages would mean certain death for patients and the wounded.

The medical sector, they added, is already in a severe, ongoing crisis because the Israeli occupation supplies fuel only in dribs and drabs.

The authorities again urged international organizations and all concerned parties to intervene and protect the healthcare system from collapse by providing essential medical supplies.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday warned of repeated attacks by Israeli occupying forces on healthcare facilities in the

West Bank documenting 844 attacks between October 2023 and mid-June 2025, which resulted in 31 deaths and 168 injuries.

Speaking online from (Jerusalem) during a press conference in Geneva, Head of WHO's Office for Occupied Palestinian Territory Rick Peeperkorn warned about the worsening health crisis in the West Bank driven by intensifying military Israeli occupation operations, rising settler violence, repeated attacks on healthcare and severe access restrictions that continue to obstruct the delivery of vital services.

Peeperkorn detailed that 65 health facilities had been targeted 24 mobile clinics and 567 ambulances across the West Bank. He noted that 67 percent of these attacks occurred in areas such as (Jenin) and (Tulkarem) and involved raids on ambulances, detentions of patients and health personnel blocked access to facilities and the use



A patient sits in the dialysis unit at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City on Tuesday, July 1, after the facility suspended its services due to fuel shortages needed to power its generators. (AP)

of force against medical teams.

He added that of the 559 health facilities assessed by WHO in June 71 facilities including 43 run by the Palestinian Ministry of Health face partial accessibility due to insecurity physical barriers and repeated closures.

He added that almost 7,000 people in 10 communities have minimal access to primary healthcare due to movement restrictions delays and checkpoint closures.

Peeperkorn also stressed the impact of the Palestinian Authority's financial crisis exacerbated by Israeli occupation's withholding of tax revenues since October 2023.

"Only 345 out of 476 government-run health facilities are fully functional," he said, citing shortages in staff due to unpaid salaries.

Turning to Gaza, WHO's Health Emergency Coordinator Luca Pigozzi stated that "more than 1,000 in-

ternational doctors and nurses have been deployed to Gaza since the beginning of the year to support the health response but these efforts are far from sufficient given the immense needs."

"We are facing a high rate of denial for entry of international medical staff including EMTs. Bureaucratic obstacles and insecurity severely hinder their ability to operate," he added.

Earlier this week, WHO declared Gaza the most dangerous place in the world for health workers and those seeking care documenting more than 1,500 verified attacks on healthcare between the West Bank and Gaza since October 2023 an average of three attacks per day.

"More than 720 attacks occurred in Gaza with the remainder in the West Bank. All have directly impacted both patients and healthcare workers" WHO said.

Floods and droughts force families to leave

Ancient Himalayan village relocates as climate shifts reshape daily life

SAMJUNG, Nepal, July 1, (AP): The Himalayan village of Samjung did not die in a day.

Perched in a wind-carved valley in Nepal's Upper Mustang, more than 13,000 feet (3,962 meters) above sea level, the Buddhist village lived by slow, deliberate rhythms - herding yaks and sheep and harvesting barley under sheer ochre cliffs honeycombed with "sky caves" - 2,000-year-old chambers used for ancestral burials, meditation and shelter.

Then the water dried up. Snow-capped mountains turned brown and barren as, year after year, snowfall declined. Springs and canals vanished and when it did rain, the water came all at once, flooding fields and melting away the mud homes. Families left one by one, leaving the skeletal remains of a community transformed by climate change: crumbling mud homes, cracked terraces and unkempt shrines.

The Hindu Kush and Himalayan mountain regions - stretching from Afghanistan to Myanmar - hold more ice than anywhere else outside the Arctic and Antarctic. Their glaciers feed major rivers that support 240 million people in the mountains - and 1.65 billion more downstream.

Such high-altitude areas are warming faster than lowlands. Glaciers are retreating and permafrost areas are thawing as snowfall becomes scarcer and more erratic, according to the Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development or ICMOD.

Kunga Gurung is among many in the



Villagers walk towards a field to plant apple trees in the newly relocated settlement of the abandoned Samjung village in the Mustang region, 462 kilometers (288 miles) west of Kathmandu, Nepal, Friday, April 18, 2025. (AP)

high Himalayas already living through the irreversible effects of climate change.

"We moved because there was no water. We need water to drink and to farm. But there is none there. Three streams, and all three dried up," said Gurung, 54.

Climate change is quietly reshaping where people can live and work by disrupting farming, water access, and weather patterns, said Neil Adger, a professor of human geography at the University of Exeter. In places like Mustang, that's making life harder, even if people don't always say climate change is why they moved. "On the

everyday basis, the changing weather patterns ... it's actually affecting the ability of people to live in particular places," Adger said.

Around the globe, extreme weather due to climate change is forcing communities to move, whether it's powerful tropical storms in The Philippines and Honduras, drought in Somalia or forest fires in California.

In the world's highest mountains, Samjung isn't the only community to have to start over, said Amina Maharjan, a migration specialist at ICMOD. Some villages move only short distances, but inevitably the key driver is lack of water.

AI screening could save lives with early cancer finds

China's AI breakthrough set to be game-changer for cancer detection

HANGZHOU, July 1, (Xinhua): In a landmark development for medical technology, Chinese researchers have unveiled an artificial intelligence (AI) system capable of detecting early-stage stomach cancer through standard CT scans, a breakthrough that could transform cancer detection worldwide.

The breakthrough comes as Chinese scientists and tech firms push to take a global lead in AI-powered healthcare, with far-reaching implications for millions at risk of the deadly disease.

The GRAPE model, developed through a collaboration of Zhejiang Cancer Hospital and Alibaba's DAMO Academy, represents a significant leap forward in early cancer detection.

Published last week in the journal Nature Medicine, the study demonstrates how AI can identify stomach tumors from non-contrast CT imaging, a method previously considered relatively ineffective for gastric cancer screening.



A worker checks a CT machine at Neusoft Medical in Shenyang, northeast China's Liaoning Province, May 22, 2024. (Xinhua)

Gastric cancer remains one of the most lethal malignancies, particularly in Asia. According to the National Cancer Center of China, the country records 360,000 new cases and 260,000 deaths annually, with late-stage diagnoses contributing to a dismal five-year survival rate below 30 percent.

In contrast, patients diagnosed at stage one have survival odds exceeding 90 percent. However, traditional screening methods depend on invasive endoscopies, which are expensive, uncomfortable and often deter participation.

The GRAPE addresses these challenges by turning routine CT scans, already widely used in hospitals and clinics, into powerful screening tools.

"Identifying gastric cancer through AI algorithms is highly challenging due to the significant variations in the stomach's distension and shape," said Xia Yingda, an algorithm expert from DAMO Academy Medical AI Team.

Trained on nearly 100,000 scans from 20 medical centers across China, the AI achieved 85.1 percent sensitivity in spotting early tumors, outperforming human radiologists by a substantial margin.

"We registered contrast-enhanced

CT scans to non-contrast CT, which enabled the AI to gain intense precision information, accurately identifying gastric cancer locations," explained Xia, the paper's co-first author.

In real-world trials at two hospitals, the system boosted detection rates to as high as 24.5 percent. Notably, approximately 40 percent of the detected cases were stomach cancer patients without symptoms, according to the study.

"The AI model makes image-based gastric cancer screening possible for the first time," said Cheng Xiangdong, a lead researcher from Zhejiang Cancer Hospital.

Bangladesh reports 42 dengue deaths in 2025

Cambodia records 11th human case of bird flu

PHNOM PENH, July 1, (Xinhua): A 36-year-old woman from northwest Cambodia's Siem Reap province has been confirmed for H5N1 human avian influenza, raising the number of the cases to 11 so far this year, the Ministry of Health said in a statement on Tuesday.

"A laboratory result from the Pasteur Institute in Cambodia showed on June 30 that the woman was positive for H5N1 virus," the statement said. "The patient has the symptoms of fever, cough, and dyspnea, and she is currently being rescued by a team of doctors."

Health authorities are looking into the source of the infection and are examining any suspected cases or people who have been in contact with the victim in order to prevent an outbreak in the community.

Tamiflu (oseltamivir), an antiviral drug to prevent the bird flu from spreading, was also given out to people who had direct contact with the patient, the statement said.

□ □ □

Dengue: Bangladesh has witnessed a significant spike in dengue cases in June, with over 10,000 cases and 42

deaths registered so far this year.

In June, 5,951 more dengue cases were recorded after 1,773 people were infected with the viral disease in May.

The figures, reported by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) under the Ministry of Health on Monday, showed that the number of dengue cases has surged to 10,296 so far this year.

A total of 429 fresh dengue cases including 87 in capital Dhaka were reported in the 24 hours till 8:00 a.m. local time on Monday, the DGHS data showed.

Lab-grown tiny hearts to transform heart care

SYDNEY, July 1, (Xinhua): Researchers have created lab-grown heart tissues that closely mimic adult heart muscle, marking a significant advance in treating genetic heart diseases in children.

Scientists have successfully developed lab-grown miniature heart tissues, known as cardiac organoids, that closely replicate adult human heart muscle, announced Friday by QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in collaboration with the Melbourne-based Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the Royal Children's Hospital.

Created from human pluripotent stem cells, these organoids overcome a key limitation. Traditionally, stem-

cell-derived heart cells remain immature. Researchers activated specific biological pathways to simulate exercise effects, maturing the cells to behave like genuine adult heart tissue, according to the release from QIMR Berghofer.

The study, published in Nature Cardiovascular Research, demonstrates how these advanced cardiac organoids can be used to test new drugs for heart conditions.

"There's a huge benefit to studying heart diseases in this way. Using human cardiac organoids allows us to screen many more compounds, speeding up the process of drug development," said James Hudson from QIMR Berghofer's Cardiac Bioengi-

neering Lab.

Using these organoids, researchers modeled genetic heart diseases, including hard-to-study Desmoplakin cardiomyopathy. The diseased tissues developed scarring and weakened pumping, matching patients' symptoms. Crucially, an experimental drug class (BET inhibitors) restored function in the affected tissue, the researchers said.

Gene and protein analysis, along with tissue samples from the Melbourne Children's Heart Tissue Bank, allowed researchers to more accurately model childhood heart conditions and work towards better treatments for vulnerable patients, according to the study.

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Women’s soccer at Euro 2025 aims for global impact



Fans react to the arrival of Spain’s women’s national football team at their hotel, the Royal Savoy in Lausanne, Switzerland, on the sidelines of the UEFA Women’s Euro 2025. (AP)



Switzerland’s Leila Wandeler, right, attempts to score against Czech Republic’s goalkeeper Barbora Votikova, left, during a women’s international friendly soccer match between Switzerland and Czech Republic at the Schuetzenwiese stadium in Winterthur, Switzerland. (AP)

World champion Spain eyeing first title

GENEVA, July 1, (AP): The European Championship in women’s soccer has global ambitions.

The 16-team tournament that opens Wednesday in Switzerland features 31 games in total and will be broadcast in the United States by Fox and across Latin America by Disney+.

It will draw a tournament record attendance of more than 600,000 fans in the eight stadiums with ticket buyers from more than 120 countries, according to European soccer body UEFA.

“We knew we needed to activate a bigger global fan base that travels (and) follows their team,” said Nadine Kessler, the managing director of women’s soccer at UEFA.

She said 35% of the tickets sold so far went to traveling fans including 5,000 to residents of the United States. The biggest international buyer is Switzerland’s neighbor Germany with 61,000 tickets.

“That is unheard of in women’s football,” Kessler told reporters at a pre-tournament briefing.

World champion Spain is the expected favorite - even with a question mark on the status of star Aitana Bonmati - and starts Thursday against Portugal in Bern.

The third Women’s Euros in the 16-team format has drawn record income from broadcasters and sponsors, which include global brands Adidas, Amazon, PlayStation and Visa.

Overall tournament revenue close to 130 million euros (\$152 million) will be more than double the Euro 2022 edition in England.

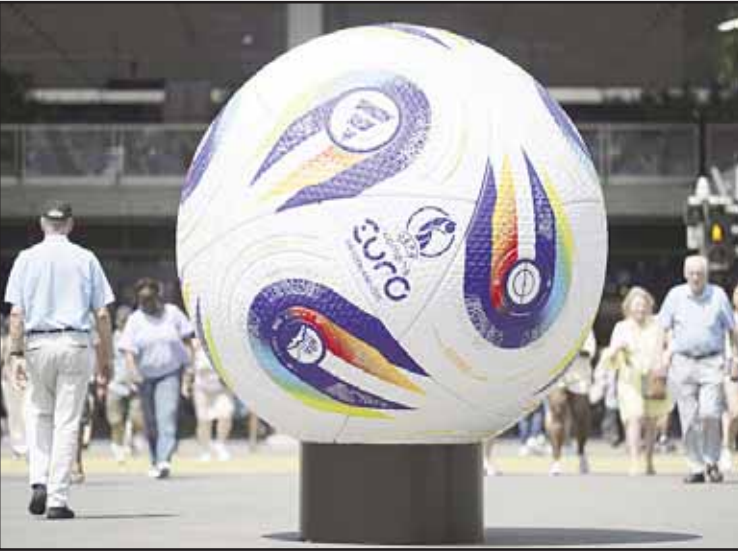
Prize money also has more than doubled - to 41 million euros (\$48 million) from 16 million euros (\$18.75 million). The champion can get more than 5 million euros (\$5.9 million) if its run includes winning all three group-stage games.

The revenue share to clubs releasing players selected for the tournament also doubled, to 9 million euros (\$10.5 million), lifted by a bonus subsidy of 3 million euros (\$3.5 million) from a similar program for men’s national-team competitions in Europe.

UEFA will make a loss on the tournament of up to 25 million euros (\$29.3 million) though is happy to do so.

“We invest more despite not making money with the Euro because it’s just the right thing to do,” said Kessler, a former FIFA World Player of the Year who won the Euro 2013 title with Germany.

Germany’s title with Kessler 12 years ago was its sixth straight but a seventh has been elusive. The Germans are an expected contender after



A giant soccer ball displayed in front of the Bern railway station plaza ahead of the Women’s Euro 2025 soccer tournament in Bern, Switzerland. (AP)

several high-scoring victories in 2025 and taking a bronze medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics, where they lost twice to the United States.

Spain is the current World Cup and Nations League title holder though has never reached a Euros final and lost that bronze medal game in Paris to Germany.

Spain’s plans have been disrupted by star player Aitana Bonmati being hospitalized over the weekend with viral meningitis.

The host nation won in each of the past two Euros editions, and now defending champion England and 2017 champion the Netherlands are in the same group; they’ll meet on July 9 in Zurich. It’s a tough group that includes France.

Both title wins were coached by Sarina Wiegman, who will lead England against her native country with an extra layer of intrigue. After the tournament, Wiegman’s assistant Arjan Veurink will go home to coach the Dutch toward qualifying for the 2027 World Cup in Brazil.

A host nation hat trick looks unlikely, even with coaching great Pia Sundhage hired for the Switzerland job and a kind group draw with Nor-

way, Iceland and Finland.

The Swedish veteran, and two-time Olympic champion with the United States, has called finding a winning blend in her squad of veterans and teenagers - like Barcelona prospect Sydney Schertenleib - the biggest challenge of her career.

Losing a training game 7-1 to the Under-15 boys’ team of top-tier men’s club Lucerne fueled negative headlines though Sundhage insisted: “The result doesn’t matter.”

“This is a good way to prepare,” Sundhage insisted, and seemed to be proven right days later when a final warmup friendly against the Czech Republic was won convincingly 4-1.

Switzerland opens its tournament Wednesday evening against Norway at a sold-out St. Jakob Park in Basel.

Switzerland, which co-hosted the men’s Euro 2008 with Austria, wants the women’s version to drive progress on gender equality in soccer and society.

A wider goal around the tournament is doubling the number of female players, referees, coaches and club directors, said national soccer federation president Dominique Blanc, one of 52 male leaders of the 55 national members of UEFA.

“We have come a long way in a really short time,” said former national-team great Lara Dickenmann, who was 29 when Switzerland first played at a major tournament in the 2015 World Cup.

The Ohio State University graduate said showcasing so many teenagers in this squad at home “is massive. A lot of younger kids are going to identify with these players.”

All eight tournament venues are home stadiums of top-division men’s teams, including all four Euro 2008 venues: in Basel, Bern, Geneva and Zurich.

Fans with tickets will have free public transport on match days using a national train service which should be more reliable than Germany’s proved to be at the men’s Euro 2024.

Euro 2025 games are on the main national free-to-air networks in Europe, unlike the live-streamed FIFA Club World Cup, which runs until July 13 in the United States.

Broadcast overlaps mostly involve France, whose game against England on Saturday clashes with the first half of a Club World Cup quarter-final in New Jersey likely featuring Real Madrid. France-Wales on July 9 goes against a semifinal at the FIFA event.

The Club World Cup final goes directly up against the simultaneous kickoffs of France-Netherlands and England-Wales that complete Group D.

NBA sets salary cap for 2025-26 at \$154.647m

Spurs, Rockets & Hawks make early ‘splash’ as NBA free agency tips off

WASHINGTON, July 1, (AP): Victor Wembanyama has another big man to help him out in San Antonio. The Houston Rockets continued their offseason overhaul. And Orlando and Atlanta made moves with eyes on contending this coming season as the NBA’s free agency period got underway Monday. The NBA announced Monday that it has set the salary cap for the coming season at \$154.647 million, the maximum allowed 10% increase over the level for this past season.

The tax level for the 2025-26 season is \$187.895 million, the league said.

The Spurs lured center Luke Kornet away from Boston with a four-year, \$41 million deal, a person with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team cannot announce the deal until the league’s signing moratorium for most contracts is lifted on Sunday.

Kornet was part of Boston’s 2024 NBA title team and has shot 68% from the field in 205 games, mostly off the bench, over the last three regular seasons. He figures to add frontcourt depth to the Spurs, who are hoping to have Wembanyama - the 2023-24 NBA Rookie of the Year and an All-Star this past season - back and ready to go after he was diagnosed with deep vein thrombosis in a shoulder back in February.

The Rockets, meanwhile, added veteran forward Dorian Finney-Smith on a four-year, \$53 million deal shortly after free agency opened. ESPN first reported the deal, and a person with knowledge of the agreement confirmed the terms to AP.

Houston becomes Finney-Smith’s fourth team after stints with Dallas, Brooklyn and the Los Angeles Lakers. He’ll be added to a Rockets club that earlier this summer landed Kevin Durant in a blockbuster trade with Phoenix, though that deal cannot receive formal approval from the NBA until next week.

Finney-Smith averaged 8.7 points and was a 41% shooter from 3-point



In this file photo, Denver Nuggets forward Michael Porter Jr. (1) in the first half of Game 6 in the Western Conference semifinals of the NBA basketball playoffs in Denver. (AP)

range this past season.

ESPN also reported that the Rockets’ run on free agents continued with the addition of center Clint Capela, who spent the first six years of his career in Houston before playing for the last five seasons in Atlanta. Capela agreed to a three-year deal with the Rockets, ESPN said.

Dallas, which needed some point guard help especially because the newly re-signed Kyrie Irving - rehabbing from an ACL tear - may not be ready to play until about midseason, agreed with D’Angelo Russell on a two-year contract worth nearly \$13 million.

Russell would be part of the backcourt depth on a club with an imposing front line that, if healthy, would include No. 1 overall pick Cooper Flagg, 10-time All-Star Anthony Davis and promising young center Dereck Lively II.

Atlanta added Nickeil Alexander-Walker from Minnesota on what will be a four-year, \$62 million deal following a completion of a sign-and-trade with the Timberwolves. Minnesota will get a draft pick, cash considerations and will create a trade exception once the deal is finalized, a person with knowledge of the move told AP.

The Magic, meanwhile, added Tyus Jones on a one-year deal. He joins an Orlando roster that already landed Desmond Bane from Memphis in a trade, and the Magic - who played long stretches last season without Paolo Banchero, Franz Wagner and Jalen Suggs because of injuries - should be a legit East contender this season if healthy.

It was a big night for the Jones family: Tyus Jones’ brother, Tre Jones, agreed Monday on a three-year deal to return to the Chicago Bulls.

The free agency period officially opened at 6 p.m. Eastern time on Monday, but in actuality, was rolling long before that.

LeBron James has already opted in to a \$52.6 million deal with the Los Angeles Lakers for this coming season, the Rockets traded for Durant - not a free agency move, obviously - and the Los Angeles Clippers saw James Harden decline his option in return for a new deal and a raise. There was even a surprise addition to free agency, with Portland announcing it has bought out the contract of former No. 1 pick Andre Ayton, allowing him to sign with any team he chooses.

And on Monday, even before the shopping window officially started, more deals: Nicolas Batum will come back to the Clippers, his agency said, on a two-year deal, while Joe Ingles agreed to return to the Minnesota Timberwolves. Deals like those could get done before the official start time because teams are allowed to negotiate with their own free agents once the NBA Finals are finished.

In other deals confirmed by AP on Monday night:

- The Los Angeles Clippers added Brook Lopez - most recently of Milwaukee - on a two-year deal worth about \$18 million.

- Veteran guard Bruce Brown returned to the Denver Nuggets, a team he helped win the 2023 NBA title.

- Center Kevon Looney agreed to a two-year deal with New Orleans, after he spent his first 10 seasons with Golden State.

Officials praise FIFA for player cooling measures

After Club World Cup heatwave in US, FIFPRO warns of higher risk at the next World Cups

GENEVA, July 1, (AP): Extreme heat faced by soccer players at the Club World Cup in the United States will likely be an even bigger problem at the next two men’s World Cups, their global union FIFPRO warned on Monday.

The monthlong club event is being played in a heatwave in 11 American cities and union officials praised FIFA for helping to better protect players with cooling measures at games.

Still, FIFA did not take FIFPRO’s pre-tournament advice to look at postponing kickoff times by several hours on the hottest days - a move that would be even more complicated at a World Cup with more commercial pressures in play and more games scheduled each day.

Six of the 16 World Cup host cities next year in the U.S., Canada and Mexico are judged by FIFPRO as “extremely high risk” for heat stress injury to players among the 48 teams. The highest risk cities are Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Kansas, Miami and Monterrey though some have indoor, air-conditioned stadiums.

“We are anticipating that this problem is going to be even more crucial for the coming years,” FIFPRO medical director Vincent Goutteborge told reporters in a briefing call.

The 2030 World Cup will be co-hosted in June and July by Spain, Portugal and Morocco where fewer stadiums are enclosed and cooled, and temperatures in some cities on Monday were at or above 100 degrees F (38 C).

By 2030 the hot weather prospects for the tournament there “is even perhaps worse than what we have been facing so far,” Goutteborge cautioned.

FIFPRO said extra heat miti-



Fans cheer before the Club World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Manchester City and Al Hilal in Orlando, Fla. (AP)

gation measures could include 20-minute halftime breaks instead of 15 to help lower players’ core temperatures, and cooling breaks in play every 15 minutes. Currently, breaks are taken in the 30th minute of each half.

FIFA was approached for comment.

FIFA has reacted during the Club World Cup to lower the threshold for insisting on cooling or water breaks, plus placing more water and towels around the edge of the field.

“We are partially happy because FIFA have been quite responsive once the tournament was underway,” FIFPRO CEO-like general secretary Alex Phillips said.

Better shading benches for the substitutes and more hydration breaks are also preferred by the union, which has national affiliates representing players in about 70 countries.

“All these practical things is something that we must do better,” said Alexander Bielefeld, FIFPRO strategy director, though adding “at some point that probably won’t be enough.”

The union gave its research to FIFA ahead of the Club World Cup opening on June 14, based on weather trends in the host cities since 2014. Seven of the 11 were judged high risk with Philadelphia and Washington, DC, at the top end.

“The past few weeks was also a confirmation of our worry,” Goutteborge said, “that the heat condition would play a negative role for the performance and health of the players.”

Six Club World Cup games also were stopped because of forecast electric storms nearby. The delay was nearly two hours in Charlotte during Chelsea’s win in the round of 16 against Benfica.

Al-Salmiya awaits Al-Shatti’s decision amid contract talks

Mohsen Falah rejoins Kuwait Club for the upcoming season

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July, 1: Kuwait Club has successfully re-acquired players Mohsen Falah and Mohammed Al-Rashed as part of its preparations for the upcoming 2025-2026 season. Both players are considered homegrown talents, and their return aligns with the club’s strategy to reinforce the squad with promising and distinguished young players.

Falah, a left-back, previously represented the Olympic and the national teams before an injury sidelined him. He later joined Al-Yarmouk Club on loan, and now Kuwait Club has brought him back ahead of the new season.

Kuwait Club has been proactive in its preseason preparations, starting early by renewing the contract of Montenegrin coach Nebojsa Jovovic for a second term. Under Jovovic’s leadership, the team clinched the Zain Premier League, Crown Prince Cup, and Super Cup titles, and reached the Amir Cup final — originally scheduled for June 16 but postponed due to regional circumstances.

In addition to Falah and Al-Rashed, Kuwait Club renewed contracts with several local players, including Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Mohammed Fareeh, Reda Hani, and Saud Al-Hoshan. The club also secured the signing of veteran goalkeeper Khaled Al-Rashidi, who has experience with Al-Qadsiya, Al-Arabi, and Al-Salmiya, and recently featured for the national team.

Al-Salmiya Club is currently awaiting a response from coach Nasser Al-Shatti following an offer to lead the team for the next season. While most terms of the agreement have been agreed upon, the contract remains unsigned due to Al-Shatti’s ongoing negotiations with Al-Arabi and Al-Salmiya’s interest in securing his leadership for a third season.

Negotiations between the parties have stalled without reaching a compromise. Meanwhile, Croatian coach Ante Miša remains under contract with Al-Salmiya through the end of next season.

As part of its preparations for the new season, Al-Shabab has bolstered its roster by signing player Mohammed Khalil. Khalil, formerly part of Qadsiya’s squad, faced a series of injuries that kept him out for extended periods.

Returning to the Zain Premier League, Al-Shabab has also signed local talents including Yaqoub Al-Tararwah, Shaheen Al-Khamis, and Dhahi Al-Shammari. The technical staff is currently reviewing several foreign players’ profiles with the aim of adding more signings before the season begins.



In this file photo, Mohsen Falah controls the ball as an opponent defends.

Sinner off to winning start at Wimbledon with rout of Luca



Jannik Sinner of Italy plays a return to Luca Nardi of Italy during their first round men’s singles match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London. (AP)

Krejcikova comes back to beat Eala of Philippines

LONDON, July 1, (AP): Top-ranked Jannik Sinner got his Wimbledon campaign off to an ideal start by beating Luca Nardi 6-4, 6-3, 6-0 in an all-Italian matchup on Tuesday.

The three-time Grand Slam champion, who lost a five-set French Open final to Carlos Alcaraz, is in search of his first Wimbledon title. He was a semi-finalist at the All England Club in 2023.

“First matches are never easy so I’m very happy about my performance,” he said in his on-court interview. “It’s a new tournament, new chances, new challenges. You have one opponent at a time.”

Sinner will play Aleksandar Vukic of Australia in the second round.

Barbora Krejcikova needed a comeback to avoid becoming the second consecutive Wimbledon women’s champion to lose in the first round a year later at the All England Club, eventually eliminating 56th-ranked Alexandra Eala of the Philippines 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.

From the start of the Open era in 1968 through 2023, only one reigning women’s champ was defeated in the first round at Wimbledon: Steffi Graf in 1994.

But it happened last year to



Taylor Fritz of the U.S. returns the ball to Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard of France during their first round men’s singles match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London. (AP)

Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic - whose title in 2023 made her the first unseeded woman to leave the All England Club with the singles trophy - and there were moments early Tuesday that it appeared it might happen again this year to the 17th-seeded Krejcikova, another Czech player and the French Open champion in 2021.

Eala is a 20-year-old left-hander who was competing at a Grand Slam tournament for only the second time. She lost in the first round at Roland-Garros in May.

Eala is the only woman representing the Philippines to compete in the main draw of Wimbledon in

the Open era.

She signed with an agent when she was just 13 and honed her tennis skills at the Rafael Nadal Academy, getting advice from the 22-time major title winner who retired at the end of last season.

Eala was seeking what would have been her fourth top-20 victory of 2025. She grabbed attention at the Miami Open by getting past 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko, Australian Open champion Madison Keys and former No. 1 and five-time major champ Iga Swiatek en route to the semifinals.

Last week, Eala again defeated Ostapenko at the grass-court East-

bourne Open along the way to reaching the final there.

Krejcikova, who is 29, made it to the quarterfinals at Eastbourne before withdrawing from that tournament because of an issue with her right thigh.

She started slowly Tuesday, making 19 unforced errors in the first set. But Krejcikova cleaned up her play and had a total of 18 the rest of the way, often leaning forward with a clenched fist and a yell to celebrate points that moved her closer to the win.

Zheng Qinwen became the second top-five seed to lose in the first round at Wimbledon on Tuesday when the Olympic gold medalist fell to Katerina Siniakova 7-5, 4-6, 6-1.

The 22-year-old Chinese player was the No. 5 seed at the All England Club and her loss came hours after third-seeded Jessica Pegula was upset by Elisabetta Cocciaretto.

It was Zheng’s third straight first-round exit at Wimbledon.

Siniakova is a three-time doubles champion at the All England Club, including winning last year alongside Taylor Townsend.

Siniakova has won 10 major doubles titles - seven with Barbora Krejcikova, two with Townsend, and one with Coco Gauff at last year’s French Open.

Siniakova will face four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka in the second round.

Kuwait wins bid to host ASPA Congress

HONG KONG, July 1: Kuwait has secured the right to host the Asian Sports Press Association (ASPA) Congress in 2026, after winning the majority of votes during the Association’s General Assembly held in Hong Kong.

The Kuwaiti delegation at the meeting was led by Sattam Al-Sahli, Chairman of the Sports Media Committee, along with committee member Khalil Nadoum.

Al-Sahli expressed his gratitude to the General Assembly members for their confidence in Kuwait, emphasizing that the country will present an exemplary model of hosting. He affirmed Kuwait’s readiness and proven capability to organize major meetings and tournaments with excellence and professionalism.

In his closing remarks, Al-Sahli wished continued progress for sports journalism throughout Asia, underscoring its vital role in supporting athletic development across the continent.



Al-Sahli and Nadoum during the Asia Congress.

Best of the Rest

Arsenal signs Arrizabalaga: Arsenal completed the signing of Kepa Arrizabalaga as a free agent on Tuesday after the goalkeeper’s contract at Chelsea expired.

Kepa was a \$92.6 million world record signing for a goalkeeper when joining Chelsea from Athletic Bilbao in 2018 and went on to win the Champions League, Europa League and Club World Cup during his seven years at the club.

But he spent long periods of his time at Stamford Bridge as a back up and leaves after loans spells at Bournemouth and Real Madrid over the past two seasons.

“He brings a wealth of experience, which his teammates will benefit from, and he has a real hunger to win,” Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said. “Kepa works hard and will elevate our levels.” Kepa posted a goodbye message to Chelsea fans on social media before his move to Arsenal was announced.

“After seven unforgettable years the time has come to close a very special chapter in my life,” he posted. “Chelsea was my home, my family and the place where I grew both as a footballer and as a person.

“Now a new chapter begins, and I face it with the same passion and commitment as always.” Arsenal did not say the length of the 30-year-old Kepa’s contract. He will compete with David Raya for the No.1 spot at London club, which has finished runner up in the Premier League in the last three years. (AP)

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Al Hilal's goalkeeper Yassine Bounou punches the ball clear of the goal during the Club World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Manchester City and Al Hilal in Orlando, Fla. (AP)

Sports

Club cites scheduling clash

Kuwait Club withdraws bid to host Arab Clubs Handball Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: Kuwait Sports Club has officially withdrawn its bid to host the 40th edition of the Arab Clubs Championship (League and Cup Champions League), which closed for applications the day before yesterday. The only two bids submitted were from Kuwait Club and the Tunisian Handball Federation. With Kuwait's withdrawal, the Executive Office of the Arab Handball Federation is expected to announce Tunisia as the host either tomorrow or early next week. The tournament is scheduled to take place on September 12.

The withdrawal comes due to a scheduling conflict with the AFC Futsal Cham-

pionship qualifiers, set for September 20-24, which will occupy the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex, making it unavailable for hosting the handball tournament.

Kuwait Club had previously organized and won the 39th edition of the Arab Clubs Championship in September 2024, defeating Al-Salmiya in the final. This marked its second consecutive title, having also claimed the 38th edition by overcoming Egypt's Zamalek in the final hosted in Qatif, Saudi Arabia.

The most successful club in the Arab Clubs Championship is Espérance Sportive de Tunis with seven titles, followed by Al Ahly (Egypt) with five, and both Étoile du Sahel (Tunisia) and Mouloudia Club (Algeria) with three each. Several

clubs—including Al Ahly (Bahrain), Al Noor and Al Khaleej (Saudi Arabia), Club Africain (Tunisia), Naft d'Oran (Algeria), and Kuwait Club—have each won the title twice. Other former champions include Al Ain (UAE), Al Tasweeq (Algeria), Sporting and Zamalek (Egypt), Al Rayyan and Al Gharafa (Qatar), and Sakiet Ez Zit (Tunisia).

Head of Kuwait Club's handball department, congratulated the club's board and fans on securing the local double title this season.

"After a long and demanding season—from August 10, 2024, to June 28, 2025—we achieved significant milestones," he said. "We won the Arab Championship in Kuwait, followed by the local cup, then went on to compete in the Asian and

Gulf Cups, and claimed the Super Cup as well."

Al-Rashidi emphasized the club's high standards: "Kuwait Club always plays to win, both locally and internationally. Anything short of first place is a failure in our eyes."

Looking ahead, Al-Rashidi stated that the team is currently in a rest period, with preseason training camps scheduled from August 10 to 16 in Bosnia, as part of preparations for the upcoming season. The club will participate in the Arab League, the local league, as well as the Gulf and Asian Championships. He stressed that under the leadership of club president Khaled Al-Ghanim, the goal remains to prepare the team at the highest level for highest level for continued success.



Haitham Al-Rashidi

Al Hilal stuns Man City in 7-goal thriller

Fluminense eliminates Inter to reach Club World Cup quarters

ORLANDO, Fla., July 1, (AP): Marcos Leonardo scored his second goal on a rebound in the 112th minute, and Al Hilal stunned Manchester City 4-3, eliminating the Premier League power from the Club World Cup in the round of 16.

In a back-and-forth thriller at Camping World Stadium, the Saudi Arabian club took the lead three times, including twice in extra time. Kalidou Koulibaly put Al Hilal ahead 3-2 in the 94th minute, but Phil Foden - who entered as a substitute four minutes earlier - equalized in the 104th.

Leonardo finally put Man City away. Goalkeeper Ederson saved a header by Sergej Milinkovic-Savic from inside the penalty box and the ball deflected to Leonardo, who redirected it with his right foot as he fell to the pitch near the left post.

Al Hilal moves on to face Fluminense of Italy, which took down Inter Milan earlier Monday.

Leonardo also scored in the 46th minute to even the match at 1-1.

Bernardo Silva opened the scoring in the ninth minute for Man City. Malcom put Al Hilal ahead in the 52nd, and Erling Haaland found the net in the 55th to make it 2-2.

The match drew 42,311 to Camping World Stadium, which has a capacity of 60,219.

Manchester City nearly won it regulation in the final seconds of added time on a counterattack that was thwarted by a hard challenge.



Al Hilal players celebrate following the Club World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Manchester City and Al Hilal in Orlando, Fla. (AP)

Referees did not call a penalty, and Man City coach Pep Guardiola ran onto the field to argue the decision after the whistle.

Al Hilal will face Fluminense on July 4 at Camping World Stadium for a spot in the semifinals.

Germán Cano scored on a header three minutes into the match, and Fluminense held on to upset Champions League finalist Inter Milan 2-0 to advance to the Club World Cup quarterfinals in front of a sparse crowd of 20,030 at Bank

of America Stadium.

Almost before both teams were able to break a sweat in the 90-degrees Fahrenheit heat, Jhon Arias sent a slightly deflected crossing pass from the right corner that Cano headed between goalkeeper

Yann Sommer's legs into the net for a 1-0 lead.

It was all they would need.

The Brazilians appeared to add to their lead late in the first half, but Ignacio's header into the net was waived off due to being offside.

On the other end of the pitch, Milan kept pressing, eager for the tie.

The Italians controlled the time of possession throughout the match, owning the ball 68% of the time, and certainly had its chances after outshooting the Brazilian team 16-11.

But Milan simply couldn't will the ball into the net.

It was one bad bounce after another. And often times when one of their shots was saved there was no one there to score off a rebound.

Fluminense's Hercules eventually added a goal on a wide open shot for Fluminense in stoppage time for the final 2-0 margin.

As the match was winding down Fluminense players jumped up and down on the sideline. That celebration carried over to the field after the match, where they hopped up and down in unison in a huddle, their arms wrapped around each other.

After the game, frustrated Inter Milan captain Lautaro Martínez told reporters that "whoever doesn't want to be here should leave."

The match got heated at one point after a Fluminense player on the bench appeared to grab one of the balls on the sideline to prevent an Inter Milan advantage after a ball was kicked out of bounds. The Brazilian team received a yellow card, but not until after players exchanged shoves.

Martínez had a point-blank shot in the second half to tie the game, but the ball hit off the upright. He couldn't believe his bad luck and shook his head in disbelief.

Fluminense had changed its defensive strategy before the match to use three defensive backs to defend against Milan.

Kuwait Special Olympics team gears up for first MENA equestrian competition

KUWAIT CITY, July 1: The Kuwait Special Olympics delegation is set to participate in the first regional equestrian competition organized by Special Olympics Middle East and North Africa. The event, hosted in Al Ain from August 24 to 28, is organized by Special Olympics UAE in collaboration with the regional body, under the patronage of the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, and hosted by the Abu Dhabi Police General Command - Special Patrols Department of the Criminal Security Sector.

Athletes from ten Arab countries will take part in this significant regional event, representing their respective Special Olympics programs.

Hana Al-Zawawi, President of Special Olympics Kuwait and head of the Kuwaiti delegation, confirmed that three riders will represent Kuwait: Basma Al-Busaili, Maryam Diab, and Abdullah Al-Ali.

Al-Zawawi highlighted Kuwait's progress in building a strong foundation in equestrian sports, noting the international and



The Kuwaiti equestrian delegation.

regional successes of its athletes. Rider Basma Al-Busaili earned three silver medals at the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, while Abdullah Al-Ali secured two gold medals at the 2023 Special Olympics National Games in Egypt.

She expressed full confidence in the Kuwaiti riders, who are training under the guidance of coaches

Sarah Bou Hamdi and Mohammed Al-Kandari, to continue achieving excellence on the regional stage.

Al-Zawawi also extended her heartfelt appreciation to the athletes and their families for their dedication and support, emphasizing their crucial role in ensuring the success of Kuwait's participation in this important Arab sporting event.

Wolves make Strand Larsen's move permanent

Monaco signs former teen prodigy Fati on loan

PARIS, July 1, (AP): Monaco signed Ansu Fati on a season-long loan from Barcelona on Tuesday, offering the former teen prodigy another chance to resurrect his career.

Monaco said the loan deal for the 22-year-old forward includes an option to buy at the end of the season.

Fati burst onto the scene with Barcelona in 2019-20 season. At the age of 16 years and 304 days in August 2019, he became the club's youngest scorer in the Spanish league. Nearly four months later, at the age of 17 years and 40 days, he became the youngest goalscorer in Champions League history.

Fati would set other records - he previously held the record as Spain's youngest ever scorer - with his reputation growing as a quick and tricky right winger with an eye for goal. He was predicted to become a world superstar in much the same way as 17-year-old Lamine Yamal is now with Barcelona and Spain.

Like Yamal, he also had great versatility, offering him the possibility to operate as a second striker or by dropping deep in the "false nine" role.

But the Guinea-Bissau born forward then experienced a series of injuries which impacted his confidence and form.

He played only a handful of games for Barcelona in the past two seasons and spent part of the 2023-

24 season on loan to Premier League club Brighton, scoring four goals in 27 games.

Fati netted 29 goals in 123 games overall for Barcelona and scored twice for Spain in 10 matches. He appeared fleetingly at the 2022 World Cup and has not played for the national team since 2023.

Fati's arrival follows the signing of former France midfielder Paul Pogba on a two-year deal and strengthens coach Adi Hütter's attack.

Pogba and Fati should add more versatility and extra firepower to an attack containing the prolific Mika Biereth and skilful US forward Folarin Balogun.

Wolverhampton announced Norway forward Jorgen Strand Larsen has become its permanent player after an impressive season on loan with the Premier League club.

The Wolves said on Tuesday Strand Larsen who came on loan from from Spanish La Liga side Celta Vigo last year has a deal until 2029 after "the striker achieved certain clauses in his contract which automatically turned his loan permanent."

The 25-year-old scored 14 goals in 35 games for the Wolves in the Premier League last season, becoming the record scorer in his debut season for the club in the top flight, beating Raul Jimenez's 13 goals in the 2018-19 season.

"It's been a good first season in the Premier League," Strand Larsen said. "I'm proud of what I've done."

In June, the Wolves signed another player from Celta Vigo, attacking midfielder Fer Lopez, on a five-year contract.