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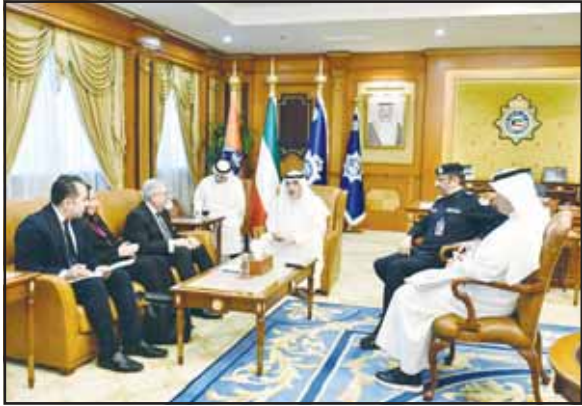
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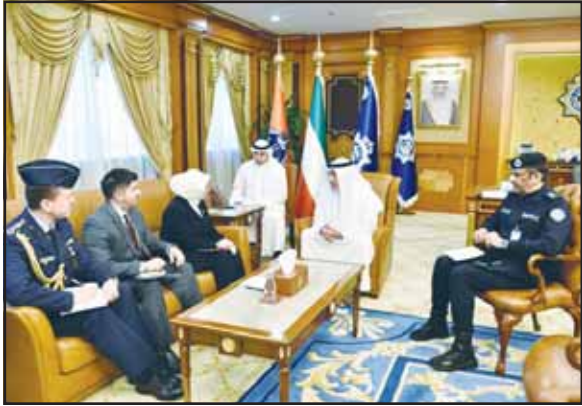
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16 PAGES

150 FILS



Ministry of Interior photos
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah receives Ambassador of Egypt Osama Shaltout.



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah receives Ambassador of Türkiye Tuba Nur Sonmez.

Interior Minister reviews bilateral ties with envoys of Egypt, Türkiye, Japan, Sri Lanka

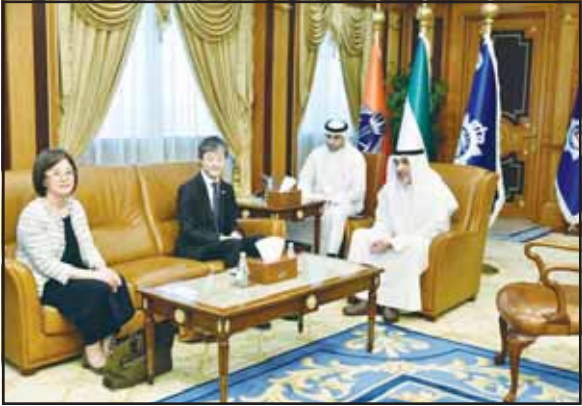
Kuwait, four countries focus on security partnerships

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah held separate meetings on Wednesday with the ambassadors of Egypt, Türkiye, Japan, and Sri Lanka to Kuwait.

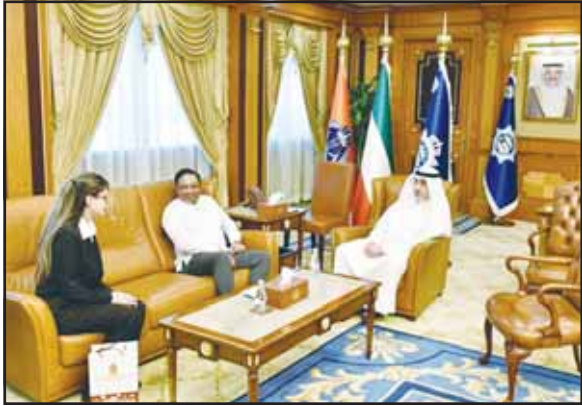
The discussions focused on means to bolster bilateral cooperation and exchange views on issues of

mutual interest, particularly in the field of security.

According to a ministry statement, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef met with Ambassador of Egypt Osama Shaltout, Ambassador of Türkiye Tuba Nur Sonmez, Ambassador of Japan Kenichiro Mukai, and Ambassador of Sri Lanka Lakshitha Ratnayaka.



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah receives Ambassador of Japan Kenichiro Mukai.



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah receives Ambassador of Sri Lanka Lakshitha Ratnayaka.



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

She tamed a lion but didn't know how to please her husband

The woman said to the scholar, "I want a magic spell to make my husband love me deeply."

You are asking for something great. Are you ready to pay the price?

A lion is a predator. How can I get close without it killing me?

If you think carefully, you will find a way to achieve your goal.

Your husband is no more ferocious than a lion.

The king punished anyone who made a mistake by throwing them to his pack of hungry dogs.

The minister pleaded, "My lord, I served you faithfully for ten years. Have you forgotten that?"

The minister asked the dog keeper to let him care for the dogs for ten days.

To everyone's surprise, the dogs didn't attack him, but played with him instead.

The king said to the minister, "You are right. I wronged you, and I apologize."

3

Cabinet approves civil aviation body rebrand

Jail, fines for officials defying court orders

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabinet on Tuesday approved a draft decree-law renaming Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) as "Public Authority for Civil Aviation".

The move was decided during the Cabinet's customary weekly meeting, held at Bayan Palace under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

It reflects the Kuwaiti government's realization of the dire need for a modern and integrated piece of legislation to regulate the country's civil aviation, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Al-Mousherji said in a press statement following the meeting.

This fresh legislation, the minister maintained, would ensure this vital sector's required resilience to cope with global advancements in this domain.

It is also deemed one of the main requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and prime determinant for licensing airports and air navigation facilities, the minister explained.

The Cabinet decided to refer the draft decree-law to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for final approval.

At the onset of its weekly meeting, the Cabinet was apprised of letters addressed to His Highness the Amir from leaders of some sisterly and friendly countries regarding aspects of joint cooperation covering various domains.

The Cabinet, then, approved a draft decree-law replacing Article (58 bis) of Law No. (31)/1970 amending some provisions of Penal Code No. (16)/1960, which stipulates that any civil servant who deliberately declines to implement a court ruling after 90 days of notification shall be punished with im-



HH the PM chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday at Bayan Palace.

PM Diwan photo

prisonment for two years and a fine of KD 3,000-KD20,000 or by either.

Recommendations made by the ministerial committee of legal affairs regarding draft laws, agreements and MoUs between Kuwait and sisterly and friendly countries were also

given the thumbs up during the meeting.

Finally, the Cabinet mourned former minister of information Dr. Bader Al-Yaqoub, who passed away earlier in the day, remembering the efforts and achievements he had made during his ministerial career.

Kuwait closes 12 pharmacies for breaking drug safety laws

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi issued a decision on Wednesday to revoke the licenses of 12 private pharmacies for violating the regulations governing the pharmacy profession and the circulation of medicines.

In a press statement, the ministry disclosed that the closure of the 12 pharmacies was carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry

of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait General Administration of Customs, Kuwait Municipality and Public Authority for Manpower, stressing that drug safety is a red line.

The ministry said the decision was taken after it was proven that these pharmacies were being managed by two commercial companies; instead of the pharmacy license holders, in violation

Continued on Page 5



Ministry of Health photo
Part of the inspection campaign carried out by the Drug Inspection Department in the Drug Control Sector at the Ministry of Health.

Newswatch

GCC nears unified tourist visa launch

RIYADH, July 2, (KUNA): The unified GCC tourism visa (for non-Gulf countries' residents) will be launched soon, said Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi on Wednesday.

In a statement by the GCC Secretariat, Al-Budaiwi — during the 39th meeting of heads of GCC Interior Ministries' passport departments — expressed gratitude to all efforts to realize the unified tourism visa.

He indicated that the measures would help realize the visions of the Gulf leaderships, adding that involved parties were keen on keeping up with the latest technologies, as well as growing and rapid global security demands.

JERUSALEM: Hamas suggested Wednesday that it was open to a ceasefire agreement with Israel, but stopped short of accepting a Washington-backed proposal announced by US President Donald Trump hours earlier, insisting on its longstanding position that any deal bring an end to the war in Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, meanwhile, vowed "there will be no Hamas" in postwar Gaza.

Trump said Tuesday that Israel had agreed on terms for a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza and urged Hamas to accept the deal before conditions worsen. The US leader has been increasing pressure on the Israeli government and Hamas to broker a ceasefire, and hostage agreement. (AP)

Blackout hits Doha, Sulaibikhat

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy on Wednesday obtained conditional approval from the State Audit Bureau (SAB) to sign a contract for importing electricity from the Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCCIA) from June to December at a total cost of KD161.381 million, say sources from the ministry.

Sources indicated that the ministry

referred the contract to SAB on June 23 for study, audit, review and approval in accordance with the regulations.

Sources revealed the contract was made possible through the coordinated efforts of the ministry and GCCIA to address the electricity shortage this summer; thereby, ensuring the stability of the electricity grid and continuity of the service.

Sources pointed out that the contract gives the ministry more time to carry out maintenance and refurbishment

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Military coordination between Kuwait and Pakistan gets push



Ministry of Defense photo
Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army with Pakistan's Defense Attaché to Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Major General (Pilot) Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met with Pakistan's Defense Attaché to Kuwait Brigadier General Mohsin Javed, to discuss shared interests.

According to a Defense Ministry statement Wednesday, both sides stressed the value of joint coordination and the exchange of military and technical expertise — especially in cybersecurity and combined training — to bolster bilateral ties.

Continued on Page 5



8 Gulf Bank launches bug bounty and vulnerability disclosure program



9 Burgan Bank signs partnership with SAP to deploy SuccessFactors HRM system

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

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north-westerly wind, with speeds of 15-55 km/h causing rising dust.
By Night: Hot to rather hot and dust will subside gradually with light to moderate freshening at

Weather					
times over coastal areas north- westerly wind, with speed of 15- 42 km/h.			Jahra	46	29
			Salmiyah	40	32
			Ahmadi	41	28
			Nuwaisib	46	30
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec			
Kuwait City	45	33	Wafra	45	27
Kuwait Airport	45	28	Salmi	45	26
Abdaly	45	26	Managish	46	28

Two officials from UK King’s Foundation visit Lt Col Dickson’s House in Kuwait



The visitors being honored by the House officials.



Having a look at the historic manuscripts.



Visitors briefed by Eng Zahra Ali Baba.

KUNA photos

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): Visiting Deputy Chair of the British King’s Foundation Michael Jary and Executive Director for Education Dr. Simon Sadinsky paid on Tuesday a visit to Dickson’s House in Kuwait during their official visit to the country.

This historic building was the residence of former political agent Lieutenant Colonel Harold Dickson. The visiting officials were received by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Acting Assistant Secretary General for

Antiquities and Museums Mohammad bin Redha who briefed them on this house and efforts made to maintain it as part of Kuwait’s national heritage. Sheikh Sabah Talal Al-Sabah and other Kuwaiti officials were present.

Info gearing up to redo future of Kuwait media

Diverse, experienced workers to join team

By Mohammad Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Ministry of Information is preparing to form a volunteer team comprising of a diverse group of qualified and experienced employees.

The team will participate in formulating and preparing the new 2026-2030 strategy of the ministry, which is considered a pivotal step in shaping the future of media work in the country. Reliable sources informed the newspaper that the ministry has invited its employees, who have the experience and desire to contribute effectively, to register their names on the volunteer team by filling out an electronic form

from July 1-10. Sources said the team will discuss and formulate the visions and media aspirations of the ministry, based on the goals and development plans of the State. Sources confirmed that this initiative reflects the direction of the ministry toward enhancing internal participation and empowering employees to contribute to building a participatory institutional future. They indicated that the team will be selected based on professional criteria that take into account functional and specialized diversity within the ministry, in order to enrich discussions and outcomes with diverse ideas and visions. They expect this step to contribute to a qualitative shift in the performance of the ministry by integrating technical, administrative and creative expertise in strategy formulation, keeping pace with the rapid developments in the local and global media landscape.



Photo by Mohammad Morsi
Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor Sheikh Sabah Al-Badr Al-Sabah honors the outstanding students.

99pc grades in Secondary School exams

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor honors outstanding students

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor Sheikh Sabah Al-Badr Al-Sabah honored 37 outstanding students from schools under the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational District in recognition of their academic excellence. These students achieved grades of 99 percent or above in the secondary school exams in both the Science and Literature sections. The Governor also honored the school administrations whose efforts contributed to the success of the students. During the ceremony, the Governor expressed his sincere congratulations to the outstanding students; emphasizing that this achievement is the fruit of their hard work and diligence, as well as their commitment to realize their ambitions. He lauded the role of the educational and administrative bodies in the schools under the district. He expressed his appreciation for the vital educational contributions of the teachers in the achievement of the students. He also pointed out that such excellence would not have been possible without the psychological and educational support of families who play a significant role in creating a suitable learning environment for the students, especially during the exam

period. He asserted that this contributed to the outstanding exam results. He confirmed that the governorate considers its students important; hence, it is committed to supporting them throughout the academic year. He revealed this is done through continuous coordination with the educational district administration and active participation in educational activities, including the inspection of examination halls and ensuring the availability of a suitable environment that enhances opportunities for success and excellence. Meanwhile, Director General of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational District Nada Al-Mutairi expressed her deep gratitude to the Governor for his patronage of the ceremony and his continuous follow-up of the activities and events organized by the district. She considered his presence and participation a significant form of moral support for the students and teaching staff. Al-Mutairi commended the efforts of the school administrations and teachers who continued to serve throughout the school year and worked with sincerity and dedication to create an educational environment that stimulates excellence. She praised the outstanding results, which will be added to the district’s record of success and academic excellence.

Al-Khairan clinic to stay open 24/7

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: In its effort to further improve health services and facilitate access for citizens, the Health Ministry has extended the working hours in the Dental Clinic at the Al-Khairan Residential Center to include public and religious holidays effective Friday, reports Al-Anba daily. The ministry confirmed that the clinic will be open seven days a week without interruption, including official rest days, to

ensure the continuity of healthcare provision to citizens and expatriates in the area and to relieve pressure on other health centers. It stated that the new working hours will be divided into two shifts: * Morning shift from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm * Evening shift from 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm It explained that this step is included in its development plan to expand the scope of health services and ensure the best healthcare for the public.



KUNA photo
Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs a meeting of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps Council.

Diplomatic, consular corps meeting

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired on Wednesday a meeting of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps

Council at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting, which was attended by assistant foreign ministers, discussed a number of topics on the agenda.



KUNA photo
Officials and Kuwaiti youth at the conclusion of the 'Knowledge Journey' program.

‘Knowledge Journey’ program hones skills of youths

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kuwait concluded Wednesday Knowledge Journey program with the participation of more than 60 students. The program aimed to empower and equip the youth with the necessary skillsets to face burdens of the future and contribute to Kuwait 2035 vision. UNDP Resident Representative in Kuwait, Emma Morley, remarked that the program set out to create a promising group of youth, especially in regards to economic diversity either through

private sector initiatives, or active contribution to state development. The program was in cooperation with Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Knowledge Foundation and General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development. It included workshops, brainstorming sessions, and lectures, explained Morley adding that the youngsters submitted work papers by the end of the week on developing various systems. Secretary General of the Supreme Council, Ahmad Al-Janahi, commended in a speech the ef-

forts of UNDP and Kuwait in transforming into sustainable knowledge based economy. He called this program an important interactive platform handling a number of instrumental topics to support the youth and their innovations. He stated that knowledge is now a national priority and an essential propeller behind boosting productivity and achieving balance between growth and sustainability. Al-Janahi praised the papers submitted by the youth, for their awareness, skills and true desire to contribute actively to development.

Other Voices

The ‘hidden cleric’... and control of our lifestyle

By Ahmad alsarraf

It is not enough to focus solely on providing food, building housing, and establishing schools. More important than all of that is prioritizing mental health and brain development. We must not remain silent in the face of what a group of so-called “professional fatwa issuers”, including some preachers and representatives of various religious movements, are saying. Such rhetoric serves to please the enemy, deepens our backwardness, and distracts us from addressing the pressing regional and international issues that threaten to overwhelm us, all while we remain preoccupied with outdated matters that have become an unfit legacy for confronting the various challenges of the 21st century. No sane person would accept preachers addressing controversial or nonexistent issues, such as how to deal sexually and financially with a “slave woman,” meaning a woman owned by someone. What is the purpose of questions like - Is it permissible to have sexual intercourse with a slave woman without her consent? Is it permissible for her master to sell her while she is pregnant? Does he have the right to stipulate to



alsarraf

the buyer not to have sexual intercourse with her until she menstruates and purifies? And other similarly troubling questions. Another preacher told a large crowd, including doctors and engineers, which is not surprising, that if we defeat our infidel enemy and implement religious laws, everyone in their cities will automatically become “captives” of the victorious army. These captives - men, women, and children - would be distributed among the warriors (mujahideen), who would then sell whatever they need in the “slave market”. The preacher stressed that this is more merciful to them and better than killing them. What is the purpose of raising such controversial and imaginary issues? What useful knowledge can possibly come from such nonsense? Isn't this rhetoric a clear reflection of the backwardness and superficiality of those who promote it? Why do our governments allow these semi-ignorant individuals to mislead the public instead of educating them? They truly make a living by keeping their followers ignorant, speaking of worlds of slaves and masters, and markets for buying and selling men and women. The end of slavery and the prohibition of human ownership was not a sudden process. Rather, it was gradual, historical, and long-term. Despite its horrific colonial history, Britain played a major role in this change. British warships intercepted ships transporting slaves from Africa to the New World, particularly

America. Britain abolished slavery as an institution in 1833, followed by several European countries. Approximately 800,000 people were freed, most of them from the Caribbean. The Ottoman Empire abolished slavery and the slave trade by decree in 1857, although slavery persisted until the founding of the Republic of Turkey in 1924. Slavery also continued in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf region until the early 1960s. Our very existence is at risk of extinction. A day will come when we will deeply regret our silence on these issues. Egyptian writer Adel Noman states, “We do not need countless bodies issuing thousands of fatwas day and night. The answers are readily available on every phone and” website. Relying solely on clerics stifles initiative and critical thinking. At the very least, fatwas based on superstitions, miracles, myths, and jinn, as well as those irrelevant to the modern era, which contradict science and reason, and fatwas exploited by people to violate laws, customs, and values, should be rejected. Here, I also hope that His Highness the Prime Minister and His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister will intervene to put an end to this chaos and the quasi-official mental destruction it causes.


Concluded

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She was overjoyed and set off to the scholar,

 The king said to the minister, "You are right. I wronged you, and I apologize."

carrying the precious hairs as if they were the keys to eternity.

She told him the whole story.

Then he said, "My lady, your husband is no more ferocious than a lion. Treat him as you did the lion. Find the path to his heart, surround him with tenderness and respect. Make a plan and be patient. Just as you won the lion's heart, you will win his."

* * *

It is said that once upon a time, a king had ten ferocious dogs. He trained them to tear apart anyone who was thrown to them. The king would punish any minister who made a mistake by throwing him to the dogs as a warning to others.

One day, a minister made a slight mistake, and the king, angered, ordered him to be thrown to the dogs.

The minister pleaded, “My lord, I have served you faithfully for ten years. Will you punish me for one mistake? Please grant me just ten days before your sentence is carried out.”

The king agreed, and the minister approached the man in charge of feeding the dogs, asking to serve them for those ten days.

The minister began feeding the dogs himself, cleaning their living area, caring for them, and playing with them until the dogs grew to love him and became affectionate toward him.

After ten days, the king ordered the minister to be thrown to the dogs. A crowd gathered to witness what would happen. To everyone's surprise, the dogs did not attack him. Instead, they wagged their tails, licked his hands, and played around him with love and loyalty.

The king, astonished, asked, “What happened?”

I advise you not to race with donkeys. If they beat you, you will be a losing donkey. If you beat them, you are still just the best donkey to cross the finish line.

● ● ● ●

Every time I see the NEOM project chalets overlooking the Red Sea, I can't help but wish the Kuwait Municipality would develop the Kuwaiti islands in a similar way.

● ● ● ●

What prevents us from granting those whose Kuwaiti citizenship was revoked, despite having rendered noble service to Kuwait, the same privileges as citizens, at least temporarily, until they can settle their status or find a country willing to grant them citizenship? May God ease their hardship.

● ● ● ●

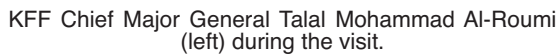
Iran is currently suffering from a kind of political paranoia, suspicious even of its closest allies. The suffering caused by such deep-rooted mistrust is very painful.

Why didn't the dogs attack you?"

The minister calmly replied, “My lord, I served these dogs for only ten days, and they did not forget the kindness I showed them. But I served you faithfully for ten years, and you forgot all of that because of one mistake.”

The king remained silent for a moment, then felt ashamed and regretted his decision. He said to the minister, “You are right. I wronged you, and I apologize.” The king ordered the minister’s release and reinstated him to his position.

Lesson: Don't judge people based on a single mistake. Even dogs remember a favor, so how much more should humans?



KFF published an awareness post on X platform stating: Before renting any shop, facility or complex; ensure that the property owner has a valid fire license, as having such a license facilitates the issuance of a special license for the investor.

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

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Mild penalty for Lt Col: The Court of Cassation refrained from imposing a penalty on a lieutenant colonel assigned at the General Traffic Department (GTD) in the Interior Ministry, after overturning the ruling of the Court of Appeals that had earlier sentenced him to seven years in prison with hard labor for forgery in the transfer of vehicle

ownership.

Details of the ruling stated that the accused is an officer in the Vehicle Ownership Transfer Unit at GTD. The Public Prosecution charged him with entering incorrect data into the electronic system, which enabled him to register the ownership of a number of vehicles in violation of legal procedures.

However, the Court of Cassation deemed that the circumstances surrounding the case did not warrant a severe penalty; so it refrained from imposing a punishment, and then imposed a fine on the defendant.

☐ ☐ ☐

Sports officials acquitted: The Misdemeanor Court of Cassation, presided over by Judge Adnan Al-Jasser, overturned the verdict issued by the Court of First Instance, which sentenced former deputy directors of the Public Authority for Sports - Saqr Al-Mulla and Ali Marwi - to one-year imprisonment with hard labor, and instead acquitted them of all charges.

The Public Prosecution had charged them with improperly disbursing public funds from the authority's budget to support a local internal tournament without following legal procedures and financial regulations. The First Instance Court ruled this was an abuse of power and a violation of regulations.

While the Court of Appeal reduced their sentence, the Court of Cassation fully overturned it, citing a lack of criminal intent. The court confirmed that the fund disbursement fell within the defendants' administrative authority and did not constitute a criminal offense.

☐ ☐ ☐

Hearing rescheduled: The Criminal Court, headed by Counselor Hamoud Al-Shami, decided to refer the second State Security case against former MP Mohammad Al-Mutair to the Chief Justice to designate another circuit to hear the case in which Al-Mutair is accused of offending HH the Amir.

Al-Murtair was absent from the hearing, but the court decided to take the necessary measures to reschedule the hearing in the yet to be specified circuit.

It is worth noting that Al-Mutair was acquitted in the first case. The Public Prosecution filed an appeal against the ruling at the Court of Appeals, which is still awaiting a hearing.

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) has referred an employee of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) to the Public Prosecution on suspicion of committing a conflict of interest offense, reports Al-Sevassah daily.

of Commerce and Industry announced that inspection campaigns conducted by emergency market monitoring teams led to the closure of six shops found possessing, displaying, and selling goods bearing internationally owned trademarks that were counterfeit copies of the original brands, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The violation falls under the provisions of Law No. 1/2023 and Law No. 2/2016 concerning the establishment of Nazaha and the regulations governing financial disclosure.

In an another development , the Ministry



Draft law proposes unit to track undeclared earnings

Ensuring fair alimony through income verification

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Attorney Aseel Al-Saif said she submitted a draft law on the establishment of a new police department called the ‘Community Investigations Department for the Undeclared Economy’ to the office of Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sharida Al-Maousherji.

Al-Saif stated that the department will specialize in uncovering and tracking unverified sources of income in the traditional financial system, particularly in personal status cases related to alimony and custody.

She disclosed that the aim is to develop State tools to keep pace with modern economic transformations and promote financial justice in light of the increasing incidence of financial fraud; as some heads of households conceal their actual income to reduce their obligations to their wives and children after separation.

She pointed out that “courts today are confronted with a new reality of undocumented income, such as profits from social media accounts, online sales through unlicensed platforms, income from properties rented without contracts, profits from digital currencies, and cash transfers. This makes proof of income through a bank statement insufficient to fairly estimate alimony.”

She revealed this legal move is based on Article 123 of the Personal Status Law, which stipulates that “alimony is estimated according to the financial status of the supporter

-- whether wealthy or poor, while taking into account the status of the beneficiary.” She stated this requires knowledge of actual income, not apparent income.

She added “justice is not served if we rely solely on traditional paperwork that conceals undeclared income. Women and children are the first victims of this imbalance. Therefore, it is imperative that we take legislative action in line with the new economic reality.”

Following are the main stipulations of the draft law:

■ Collection and analysis of information on the parallel economy, such as e-commerce and digital currencies;

■ Reports of the department are considered valid technical evidence for submission to courts in alimony cases;

■ The department has the authority to contact banking and financial institutions with judicial warrant;

■ Promote social justice and guarantee the rights of divorced women and their children.

KU, South Korea deepen academic partnership

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Deputy Director for Planning and acting Vice President for Academic Affairs at Kuwait University Dr. Osama Al-Omair met with Ambassador of South Korea to Kuwait Park Chong-Suk at Sabah Al-Salem University City.

This meeting is within the framework of strengthening academic and cultural cooperation between the university and South Korea.

The meeting focused on ways to reinforce research and academic cooperation, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the cooperative program between the university and the

King Sejong Institute in South Korea.

Al-Omair disclosed the meeting is part of ongoing efforts to review the latest academic and scientific developments and explore joint cooperation prospects. He praised the deep historical relations between the two countries, as well as the remarkable developments in student and research exchanges.

Park expressed his great pride and honor in visiting the university, affirming his aspiration for more fruitful cooperation in managing and operating King Sejong Institute and promoting joint initiatives that serve both sides academically and in research.



Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi together with prominent academic, legal and media figures, paid tribute to Dr. Bader Jassim Al-Yaqoub, a man remembered for his integrity, calm demeanor and unwavering commitment to serve Kuwait.

A voice for truth and national dignity remembered

Al-Seyassah pays tribute to Al-Yaqoub

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Dr. Bader Jassim Al-Yaqoub passed away on Tuesday at the age of 79, leaving behind a legacy deeply woven into the national narrative of Kuwait.

Al-Yaqoub held the position of Minister of Information during one of the darkest chapters in the modern history of Kuwait -- the brutal invasion by Saddam Hussein's forces. It was a role he could hold with pride, not only for its significance but for how he used it to uphold the voice of a nation under siege. Among his most notable contributions was co-authoring the historic speech delivered by HH the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah before the United Nations in September 1990. In that speech, HH the Amir pledged that Kuwait would rise again -- a nation of security and peace, a green and noble oasis for all its honorable citizens and residents.

The contributions of Al-Yaqoub in the media, judiciary and academe secured him a lasting place in the memory of the Kuwaiti people.

His funeral, held Tuesday evening, was marked by

a momentous official and public turnout, led by Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi. It brought together prominent academic, legal and media figures; along with colleagues, friends and admirers, who paid tribute to a man remembered for his integrity, calm demeanor and unwavering commitment to serve Kuwait.

Al-Seyassah newspaper, through its Editor-in-Chief and Dean of Kuwaiti Journalismism Ahmed Al-Jarallah, and its entire staff, mourns the loss of Dr. Bader Jassim Al-Yaqoub. We recall with gratitude his honorable and courageous defense of press freedom during his time as the newspaper's attorney.

In an era when free speech often came at a high cost, Al-Yaqoub stood firm -- defending Al-Seyassah in courtrooms with dignity, determination and unmatched professionalism. He was a loyal defender of truth and a relentless opponent of those who sought to silence it.

May Allah have mercy on Dr. Bader Al-Yaqoub, a man whose voice, though now stilled, will echo through Kuwait's history for generations to come.

JULY

Room Promotion

Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 57.173	BHD 128.000/-net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 65.000/-net	BHD 145.000/-net

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Kuwait, Palestine boost ties on social and human rights issues

TUNIS, July 2, (KUNA): Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Duaij Al-Sabah met with Palestinian Minister of Social Development, Samah Hamad, on Tuesday to boost cooperation in human rights issues during a high-level Arab regional meeting.

The meeting was part of the preparations for the Second World Summit for Social Development in Tunisia.

Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher reaffirmed Kuwait's strong support for the Palestinian people and stressed the need for an independent Palestinian state to achieve sustainable development and promote peace in the region.

The summit, scheduled to take place in November next year in Doha, will focus on social development priorities, including poverty eradication and social integration.



KUNA photo
Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs, Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Duaij Al-Sabah, and Palestinian Minister of Social Development, Samah Hamad.

Usufruct regulations spark public debate

Gov't raises waterfront chalet fees to boost non-oil revenues

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The recent amendments to State property usufruct regulations and the considerable increase in waterfront usage fees have sparked widespread public debate in the country, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Around 3,000 Kuwaiti families with usufruct rights are now facing a new financial reality marked by substantially higher costs.

Over the past nine years, waterfront usufruct fees have been revised five times; rising from KD50 to KD250 per linear meter -- a 500 percent increase. This move is part of the government's broader strategy to boost non-oil revenues and ensure a fairer distribution of public land usage.

A detailed review of the new regulations reveals that the majority of changes impact State-owned chalets. The major amendments are as follows:

■ The fee for waiving the right to use a first-line chalet has risen to KD3,000 per

linear meter; while second-line chalets now incur a fee of KD1,500 per linear meter.

■ The cost to subdivide a first-line chalet has increased by 66.6 percent -- from KD3,000 to KD 5,000 for each newly constructed chalet.

■ The fee for heirs withdrawing from a first-line chalet or plot has jumped from KD3,000 to KD10,000 per linear meter. For second-line properties, the fee rose from KD1,500 to KD5,000 per linear meter on the seafloor side. Both fees increased by 233 percent.

■ Fees for the construction of a new first-line chalet have increased from KD3,000 to KD5,000 per unit -- 66.6 percent increase.

These sweeping changes have stirred mixed reactions as many citizens question the affordability and fairness of the new fees, while others support the government's move to optimize public asset management and fiscal sustainability.

Prosthetic services to shift from PADA to MoH to improve care, reduce costs

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: A coordination meeting was held recently between Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah; Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi; and representatives of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA), including Deputy Director for Medical, Psychological and Social Services and Disabled Care Centers Dr. Khalifa Al-Hailaa, reports Al-Anba daily quoting a reliable source.

The source disclosed that the meeting focused on the mechanisms for transferring certain responsibilities from PADA to the Ministry of Health.

The source said the meeting, which took place at the Ministry of Social Af-

fairs, tackled the possibility of transferring responsibility for providing prosthetic devices from PADA to the Ministry of Health.

He explained that this move aims to streamline responsibilities, enhance access to medical services for beneficiaries, and reduce the financial burden currently shouldered by PADA.

He added this transfer will lead to reduction in the budget of PADA, which previously covered the full cost of prosthetic devices and related services.

He also affirmed that coordination is ongoing between the concerned parties to ensure a smooth and effective transition, while prioritizing the needs and well-being of beneficiaries.

Other Voices

Why the Nobel Prize remains globally important

By Tariq Yousef Al-Shamimiri

The Nobel Prize is a group of prestigious international awards awarded annually since 1901 in several fields, in recognition of outstanding academic, cultural, or scientific achievements. The prizes were established by the will of Alfred Nobel, the Swedish scientist and inventor (inventor of dynamite), who left a large portion of his fortune to establish the prizes. The prizes are awarded in several fields or categories chosen by Alfred Nobel:

1. Nobel Prize in Physics – awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
2. Nobel Prize in Chemistry – awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
3. Nobel Prize in Medicine – awarded by the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.
4. Nobel Prize in Literature – awarded by the Swedish Academy.
5. Nobel Prize in Peace – awarded by the Norwegian Nobel Committee (in Oslo, Norway).
6. Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences – added in 1968 and awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The prizes are announced annually in October and awarded on December 10 of the same year (the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death) in Stockholm, Sweden, with the exception of the Peace Prize, which is awarded in Oslo. The prize consists of a gold medal and a cash award (the value of which varies annually, reaching approximately \$1 million in recent years). The prize may be awarded to a maximum of three people in each field. The Peace Prize may be awarded to individuals or organizations (such as the United Nations or the International Committee of the Red Cross).

The Nobel Prize is considered one of the world's most prestigious honors, and prizes (especially those for literature and peace) often spark controversy over the selection of winners.

Alfred Nobel established the Nobel Prize out of regret and a desire to leave a positive legacy after his death, especially after seeing how his invention (dynamite) was used in wars and destruction. Alfred Nobel invented dynamite in 1867, and intended to use it in engineering and construction (such as blasting mountains to build roads). However, dynamite was widely used in wars, leaving Nobel feeling guilty for causing increased violence.

The Incident That Changed His Life:

In 1888, Nobel's brother (Ludvig Nobel) died. However, some newspapers mistakenly published an obituary for Alfred Nobel titled "The Merchant of Death is Dead," describing him as a wealthy arms dealer and destroyer. This caused him to reflect on his reputation after his death, and he decided to leave a positive legacy for humanity.

His Last Will (1895):

A year before his death, Alfred Nobel wrote his will, in which he set aside 94% of his fortune (about 31 million Swedish kronor at the time, equivalent to billions today) to establish prizes for contributions to humanity. He intended the prizes to reward achievements in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and peace (an economics prize was later added).

* The purpose of the Nobel Prize, as stated by Alfred Nobel:

"The prizes should be awarded to those who have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind during the preceding year." He wanted to be remembered as a person who contributed to peace and scientific progress, not as a "merchant of death." This transformation of Alfred Nobel's legacy demonstrates that he invented dynamite for construction, but it became a destructive weapon. He turned his fortune into a prize that rewarded humanitarian achievements. Thus, his reputation transformed from "merchant of death" to a symbol of scientific excellence and world peace.

* Reasons for Alfred Nobel's choice of these disciplines for awarding the prizes:

- Sciences (physics, chemistry, medicine) because he was a scientist and inventor who valued scientific research.
- Literature, because he was passionate about writing and poetry (he wrote plays and poems).
- Peace, because he wanted to make up for the damage caused by his military invention.



Mohamed ElBaradei



Malala Yousafzai



The Nobel Prize

Nomination Procedure for the Nobel Prize:

People are nominated for the Nobel Prize through a confidential and rigorous process overseen by the Nobel Committees in each field. No one may nominate themselves or apply directly for the prize. Nominations are made according to the following procedures:

1. Who is Eligible to Nominate

Nominations depend on the field and are limited to specific categories. For the Nobel Prizes in Physics, Chemistry, and Economics, those eligible to nominate are:

- Members of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
- Previous Nobel laureates in these fields.
- University professors in related disciplines (carefully selected).

For the Nobel Prize in Medicine, those eligible to nominate are:

- Members of the Nobel Committee at the Karolinska Institutet.
- Medical experts and academics from accredited universities.

Some famous Nobel Prize winners:

- Nobel Peace Prize: Martin Luther King, Jr., Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai.
- Nobel Prize in Literature: Orhan Pamuk, Turkish novelist.
- Nobel Prize in Physics: Albert Einstein, Marie Curie (the first woman to win a Nobel Prize).
- Nobel Prize in Chemistry: Marie Curie (the only woman to win two Nobel Prizes in two different fields: physics and chemistry).

1. Confidentiality in Nominations and Selection

Nominations are completely confidential, and nominees and the public are not allowed to know who has been nominated for 50 years (the archives are open only to researchers).

Even the laureates themselves do not know they have been nominated until they win.

Nobel committees operate in closed meetings, and each prize has its own independent committee (such as the Nobel Peace Committee in Oslo and the science committees in Stockholm). Committee members are strictly confidential and are prohibited from disclosing internal discussions.

The identity of those who submit nominations (such as professors or previous winners) is not disclosed. There are rare exceptions to break confidentiality. In limited cases, some nominations may be disclosed, such as when an entity (such as a university or government) announces that it has nominated someone, or if a previous winner publishes their nomination (as Desmond Tutu did when he announced that he had nominated Malala Youssef al-Jubeir, and as recently happened when the Pakistani government announced its intention to nominate US President Donald Trump for this year's Nobel Peace Prize). However, these are rare cases and do not affect the confidentiality of the main committee.

2. Credibility, Impartiality, and Strict Nomination Requirements:

Nominations are accepted only from specific entities (senior academics, previous winners, or parliamentarians in the case of the Nobel Peace Prize). No one may nominate themselves or pressure individuals or entities to win.

There must be rigorous scientific and academic judging. In science prizes (such as physics or chemistry), research is evaluated by specialized experts, while in literature, authors' works are thoroughly studied to ensure their quality and impact.

Political biases are excluded, the most recent example being the Nobel Peace Prize, which sometimes generates controversy (the award was given to former US President Barack Obama in 2009 before he had achieved any

tangible achievements). However, the committees insist that the criteria for awarding the prizes are adhered to in Alfred Nobel's original will: "The prizes should be awarded to those who have conferred the greatest benefit on humanity during the preceding year."

In science, the prize is awarded only for proven discoveries with a clear impact (e.g., the 2020 CRISPR gene-editing prize).

Commercial or media nominations are not permitted, and advertising campaigns or media pressure are not allowed, as the system relies on confidential academic evaluation.

In 2018, the Literature Prize was postponed due to a corruption scandal at the Swedish Academy, demonstrating that the institution is taking steps to ensure integrity.

It is important to note that Nobel Prize committees sometimes do not rush to award prizes, due to the fact that some scientific discoveries take decades to be confirmed (such as the 2013 Higgs boson award, which was discovered in 1964) in physics, which proved the validity of the physical theory of elementary particles.

Categories eligible for nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize:

1. Members of national governments and parliaments:
 - Heads of state/government.
 - Ministers (especially Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Justice).
 - Members of national committees of states appointed by their countries to the roster of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
2. Members of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA):
 - Judges and officials of these courts.
3. Previous Nobel Peace Prize winners:
 - They are eligible to nominate individuals or organizations.
4. Members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement:
 - For their historic role in humanitarian peace.
5. University professors in specific fields:
 - Professors of international law, political science, and history.
 - Heads of peace research institutes.
6. Directors of specialized peace and research institutions:
 - Such as the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
7. The Secretary-General of the United Nations and senior officials of international organizations:
 - Such as the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, or the African Union.

It should be noted in this regard that private individuals or the general public are not permitted to submit nominations, nor are self-nominated candidates. Nominations from entities that are not academically or politically recognized are not accepted.

Examples of entities that have previously submitted nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize:

- Governments: Norway nominated the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and won in 2013.
 - Previous winners: Al Gore, former US Vice President (and 2007 winner), was nominated by environmental activists.
 - International organizations: The United Nations nominated Malala Yousafzai and won in 2014.
- It should also be noted that, 50 years after the Nobel Peace Prize nominations, the official archives of the prize are open, allowing the public to view the nominees who did not win.

Envoys condemn Iran, back Qatar

Kuwait chairs GCC Ambassadors' meeting to boost ties with India

NEW DELHI, July 2, (KUNA): Ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in New Delhi held a meeting chaired by Kuwait to discuss ways to deepen cooperation with India.

A statement by Kuwait's Embassy in New Delhi on Wednesday said that the meeting, chaired by Kuwait as the current head of the council, discussed ways to enhance and develop the GCC-India relations in various fields at all levels.

During the meeting, the ambassadors shared Gulf visions and ideas to support the progress of joint Gulf action.

The ambassadors discussed recent escalation in the region, expressing their condemnation and denunciation in the strongest terms of the Iranian attack

against Qatar, describing it a flagrant violation of international laws and the principles of good neighborliness.

They also affirmed the GCC countries' firm support for Qatar and their full support for its security and stability.

The GCC ambassadors also expressed concern about the reference to the exploitation of the Strait of Hormuz, an important waterway for navigation, global trade, and the flow of energy supplies, in any regional and global disputes and conflicts.

This is the second meeting of the GCC ambassadors during Kuwait's presidency of the council, aiming at exchanging views and coordinating positions that serve the common interests of the GCC countries and India.

KRCS's crisis role praised

IFRC calls for stronger co-op

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): Deputy Regional Director of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Christian Cortez on Wednesday praised Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) role in crisis management, aiding people in the Gaza Strip and countries affected by wars and natural disasters.

This came in a statement for KUNA after his visit to KRCS's headquarters and meeting with the Chairman Ambassador Khaled Al-Maghames.

Cortez stressed the importance of enhancing joint cooperation between

the two sides in the humanitarian and relief fields, discussing developments in humanitarian work in the region, and training volunteers and employees in the association.

For his part, Ambassador Al-Maghames affirmed KRCS's keenness to continue coordinating and cooperating with IFRC to enhance the effectiveness of urgent humanitarian response and meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups around the world.

He added that KRCS works to strengthen purposeful and constructive partnerships with the international community and its organizations to face humanitarian challenges and crises, believing in the importance of joint action.

"Kuwait is working to consolidate its role in humanitarian work and providing aid around the world by to afflicted peoples," he noted.



KUNA photo
Deputy Regional Director of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) with Chairman Ambassador Khaled Al-Maghames.

Failaka breach found

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Engineering Violations Follow-up Team at the Engineering Audit and Follow-up Department in Kuwait Municipality conducted an inspection campaign on Failaka Island to inspect violating properties in response to complaints received from the Capital Municipality branch, reports Al-Jarida daily.

MoSA disbursed more than KD 18.785 mln aid for June

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Ministry of Social Affairs has deposited the June social assistance payments into the accounts of thousands of beneficiaries, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

According to the sources, a total of 34,631 cases benefited from the allocations this month; covering 39,025 individuals, while the total amount disbursed exceeded KD18.785 million.

The ministry confirmed its commitment to ensure timely disbursement of aid to eligible citizens and residents as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen social safety nets.

Continued from Page 1

Blackout hits

works in power production plants to cope with the high summer loads. They added that the ministry imported electricity from GCCIA in April and May 2025.

On the other hand, the ministry announced on Wednesday that the main Doha and Doha N transformer stations went out of service, resulting in a power outage in some parts of the Doha and Sulaibikhat.

The ministry confirmed in a statement that emergency teams were immediately dispatched to the site to restore electricity as quickly as possible.

Kuwait closes

of Law No. 28/1996 regulating the pharmacy profession and circulation of medicines.

The ministry also revealed that an unlicensed warehouse belonging to one of the companies was raided; indicating it is located inside the basement of a residential building where medicines and other medical products were stored to supply the abovementioned pharmacies without a license from the ministry.

It added that this is the result of the three-day inspection campaign carried out by the Drug Inspection Department in the Drug Control Sector at the ministry with the aim of monitoring the activities of the aforementioned pharmacies, two commercial companies, and the warehouse.

During the campaign, several serious violations were recorded and a number of medications not authorized for circulation in Kuwait were confiscated.

The ministry stated that, based on the seizure and inspection reports, the violators were referred to the Public Prosecution to take the necessary action, pending their prosecution for practicing the pharmacy profession without a license.

It affirmed that these measures are part of its strict oversight policy to ensure that all private pharmacies adhere to the laws; asserting that it will not tolerate any party proven to have violated the rules governing the practice of the profession or the drug safety regulations of the country.

According to the statement, Al-Awadhi praised the concerted efforts of government regulatory agencies and other relevant entities, calling for continuous effective coordination and field inspections to curb violations and protect citizens and the pharmaceutical system in the State of Kuwait.

Military coordination

The meeting was attended by Assistant Chief of Staff for Administration and Manpower Major General Firas Al-Shahin, Acting Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans Brigadier General Raed Al-Sukran, and other senior officers.

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

Mitsubishi Motors
MODEL: Mitsubishi L200
Model year: 2024
Total Vehicles Involved: 533

Recall Reason:	Incorrect Fuel Efficiency Label.
Remedy:	To add a new label.
Contact:	Please call to confirm recall eligibility of the vehicle to serve you better: 22055967- 22055888 Maseelah Trading Company www.mitsubishi-motors.com.kw

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

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America

FBI plans to move headquarters: The FBI announced Tuesday that it planned to move its Washington headquarters several blocks away from its current five-decade-old home.

The bureau and the General Services Administration said the Ronald Reagan Building complex had been selected as the new location, the latest development in a yearslong back-and-forth over where the nation's premier federal law enforcement agency should have its headquarters.

It was not immediately clear when such a move might take place or what sort of logistical hurdles might need to be cleared in order to accomplish it.

FBI Director **Kash Patel**, who in his first months on the job has presided over a dramatic restructuring of the bureau that has included moving to relocate significant numbers of employees from Washington to Alabama, called the announcement "a historic moment for the FBI."

The decision represents a turnaround from plans announced during the Biden administration to move the FBI to a site in Greenbelt, Maryland. The suburban Washington location was selected over nearby Virginia following a sharp competition between the two states. The FBI's current Pennsylvania Avenue headquarters, the J. Edgar Hoover Building, was dedicated in 1975. Proponents of moving the headquarters have said the Brutalist-style building, where nets surround the facility to protect pedestrians from falling debris, has fallen into disrepair. Discussions have been underway for years to relocate it. (AP)



Patel

Fireworks warehouse blast sets off fires: An explosion at a fireworks warehouse in northern California caused several fires, sending black smoke into the air and forcing evacuations, authorities said. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

People were urged to avoid the area of Esparto and Madison for several days following the Tuesday night explosion, which set off multiple fireworks and caused a large fire that led to other spot fires and collapsed the building.

"The fire will take time to cool, and once it does, explosive experts must safely enter the site to assess and secure the area," the Yolo County Sheriff's Office said in a news release. The cause of the explosion was under investigation, the office said.

The fire had reached 78 acres (32 hectares) as of Tuesday night, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said. Esparto is in a rural area about 40 miles (64 kilometers) northwest of Sacramento.

"We do believe this location is owned by an active pyrotechnic license holder," Deputy State Fire Marshal Kara Garrett told KXTV. She added: "This type of incident is very rare, as facilities like this are required to not only follow our stringent California pyrotechnic requirements, but also federal explosive storage requirements." (AP)

□ □ □

Son of 'El Chapo' to plead guilty: The son of notorious Mexican drug kingpin "El Chapo" intends to plead guilty to drug trafficking charges in the U.S., according to court documents filed Tuesday.

Prosecutors allege Ovidio Guzman Lopez, along with his brother, Joaquin Guzman Lopez, ran a faction of the cartel known as the "Chapitos," or little Chapos, that exported fentanyl to the United States.

Ovidio Guzman Lopez's father is Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the former leader of the Sinaloa cartel who smuggled mountains of cocaine and other drugs into the United States over 25 years.

Ovidio Guzman Lopez was arrested in Mexico in 2023 and extradited to the United States. He was charged in federal court in Chicago with money laundering, drug and firearm offenses. (AP)

Graham gets GOP primary challenge from S.Carolina's ex-lieutenant gov

CHAPIN, SC, July 2, (AP): Former South Carolina Lt Gov André Bauer is mounting a GOP primary challenge to Sen Lindsey Graham, arguing the incumbent isn't conservative enough to represent the state.

Bauer, a wealthy developer, is a longtime backer of President Donald Trump. His candidacy sets up a mid-term grudge match with Graham, a four-term senator whose relationship with Trump has undulated through the years, but who has Trump's endorsement for reelection. Bauer has described himself as "a real, America First conservative" intent on representing what he sees as South Carolina conservatives' true values.

"I think Graham's been there too long, and he votes like it," Bauer told The Associated Press Tuesday night. "I'm guaranteed, I'm conservative, and I don't think he is." Republicans dominate South Carolina's statewide-elected positions, meaning that the most intense political competition takes place in GOP primaries.

Also:

DALLAS: Former Texas congressman **Colin Allred** launched another run for the U.S. Senate on Tuesday after the



US Sen Lindsey Graham speaks to reporters after a Senate Committee on Appropriations subcommittee on the Department of Defense hearing on budget estimates for the Navy on June 24, on Capitol Hill in Washington. (AP)

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.

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.

US president tours immigration detention center in Everglades

Trump keeps saying GOP mega bill to eliminate taxes on Social Security, it does not

WASHINGTON, July 2, (AP): US President Donald Trump keeps saying that Republicans' mega tax and spending cut legislation will eliminate taxes on federal Social Security benefits.

It does not.

At best, Trump's "no tax on Social Security" claim exaggerates the benefits to seniors if either the House or Senate-passed proposals is signed into law.

Trump repeatedly told voters during his 2024 campaign that he would eliminate taxes on Social Security. As his massive legislative package has moved through Congress, the Republican president has claimed that's what the bill would do.

Trump said on a recent appearance on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures" that the bill includes "no tax on tips, no tax on Social Security, no tax on overtime."

But instead of eliminating the tax, the Senate and House have each passed their own versions of a temporary tax deduction for seniors aged 65 and over, which applies to all income - not just Social Security.



And it turns out not all Social Security beneficiaries will be able to claim the deduction. Those who won't be able to do so include the lowest-income seniors who already don't pay taxes on Social Security, those who choose to claim their benefits before they reach age 65 and those above a defined income threshold.

The Senate proposal includes a temporary \$6,000 deduction for seniors over the age of 65, contrasted with the House proposal, which includes a temporary deduction of \$4,000.

The Senate proposal approved Tuesday would eliminate Social Security tax liability for seniors with adjusted gross incomes of \$75,000 or less or \$150,000 if filing as a married couple.

If passed into law, the tax deduction would last four years, from 2025 to 2029. The deductions phase out as income increases.

Touting a new Council of Economic Advisers analysis, the White House said Tuesday that "88% of all seniors who receive Social Security - will pay NO TAX on their Social Security benefits," going on to say that the Senate proposal's \$6,000 senior deduction "is estimated to benefit 33.9 million seniors, including seniors not claiming Social Security. The deduction yields an average increase in after-tax income of \$670 per senior who benefits from it."

impacts on the economy.

University of Pennsylvania's Penn Wharton Budget Model estimates that eliminating income taxes on Social Security benefits "would reduce revenues by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years and increase federal debt by 7 percent by 2054" and speed up the projected depletion date of the Social Security Trust Fund from 2034 to 2032.

Discussions over taxes on Social Security are just part of the overall bill, which is estimated in its Senate version to increase federal deficits over the next 10 years by nearly \$3.3 trillion from 2025 to 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Administration officials have said the cost of the tax bill would be offset by tariff income.

Recently, the CBO separately estimated that Trump's sweeping tariff plan would cut deficits by \$2.8 trillion over a 10-year period while shrinking the economy, raising the inflation rate and reducing the purchasing power of households overall.

Also:

TALLAHASSEE, Fla: The new immigration detention center at an isolated airstrip in the Florida Everglades that President **Donald Trump** visited on Tuesday was heralded by Republicans as a potential model for other states to aggressively ramp up detention and deportation efforts.

Trump, Department of Homeland Security Secretary **Kristi Noem** and other officials toured the facility, which was built by Florida Gov. **Ron DeSantis'** administration in a matter of days and is expected to receive its first detainees Wednesday.

The site can currently house 3,000 people in dormitories corralled by chain-link fences and topped with barbed wire, and state officials say it can be expanded to ultimately house 5,000. Protesters have decried the facility as an inhumane makeshift prison camp, but supporters have embraced it as an innovative" and "cost-effective" way for the federal government to operationalize enough detention space to carry out Trump's mass deportation agenda.

"We're surrounded by miles of treacherous swampland and the only way out is, really, deportation," Trump said, adding, "This is an amazing thing that they've done here."

Ukraine looks to jointly produce weapons with allies

Macron, Putin hold phone conversation

KYIV, Ukraine, July 2, (AP): Ukraine is forging ahead with embryonic plans for joint weapons production with some of its international allies, top officials said, while the U.S. announced it was halting some arms shipments promised to help Ukraine fight off Russia.

Those plans come at what appears to be a key point in the all-out war launched by Moscow nearly 3½ years ago. A renewed Russian push to capture more Ukrainian land has put Ukraine's short-handed defenses under severe strain, and Russian missiles and drones are battering Ukrainian cities. US-led diplomatic efforts to find a peace settlement, meanwhile, have stalled.

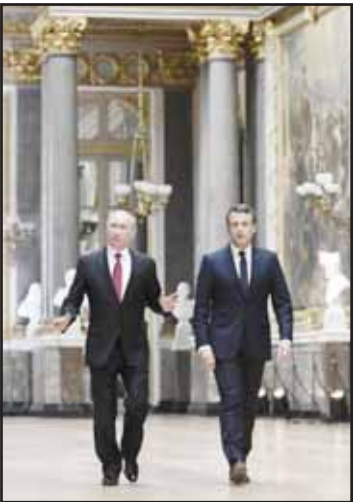
As Washington has distanced itself under US President Donald Trump from Ukraine's war efforts, a bigger onus has fallen on European countries to pressure Russia.

French President Emmanuel Macron and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday held their first direct telephone call in almost three years. Macron's office said that during their two-hour conversation, the French leader underlined France's "unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity" and called for a ceasefire.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that officials are preparing with a sense of urgency for upcoming meetings with European Union countries and other partners to talk about cooperation in weapons manufacturing.

"One of the key topics will be weapons production - our joint investments, joint projects," Zelenskyy said in his daily address on Tuesday evening.

Defense Minister Rustem Umerov announced that draft legislation on



joint weapons production with international allies is expected to be put to a vote in the Ukrainian parliament later this month. The proposed laws were shown to national defense companies on Tuesday, Umerov said.

The program includes plans to create a special legal and tax framework to help Ukrainian defense manufacturers scale up and modernize production, including building new facilities at home and abroad, according to Umerov.

Earlier this week, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said during a visit to Kyiv that Germany aims

to help Ukraine manufacture more weapons more quickly. He was accompanied on the trip by German defense industry representatives.

The US is halting some weapons deliveries to Ukraine out of concern that its own stockpiles have declined too far, officials said Tuesday. Certain munitions were longer-term commitments promised to Ukraine under the Biden administration, though the Defense Department didn't provide details on what specific weapons were being held back.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry summoned the US chargé d'affaires, John Hinkel, on Wednesday to discuss ongoing defense cooperation.

Deputy Foreign Minister Maryana Betsa thanked the US for its continued support, but emphasized the "critical importance" of maintaining previously allocated defense packages, especially for bolstering Ukraine's air defense.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the Pentagon's decision will help bring a settlement closer, because "the fewer weapons supplied to Ukraine, the closer the end of the (war) is." The United States has been Ukraine's biggest military backer since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of its neighbor on Feb. 24, 2022. Under Trump, there have been no new announcements of US military or weapons aid to Ukraine.

Between March and April, the United States allocated no new aid to Ukraine, according to Germany's Kiel Institute, which tracks such support.

For the first time since June 2022, European countries surpassed the US in total military aid, totaling 72 billion euros (\$85 billion) compared with 65 billion euros (\$77 billion) from the US, the institute said last month.

Belarus govt keeps up crackdown on dissent

TALLINN, Estonia, July 2, (AP): Authorities in Belarus continue their unrelenting crackdown on dissent even as they release some prisoners, the country's leading rights group told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Last month, the Belarusian government pardoned and released 14 prisoners, but at least 60 more people were arrested on politically motivated charges, said Pavel Sapelka, a rights advocate with the Viasna human rights center. In May, the center counted more than 100 politically driven arrests, Sapelka said.

"The steamroller of repressions doesn't stop, and the authorities continue to stifle any dissent in Belarus, opening new high-profile cases," Sapelka told the AP on Tuesday. "No one, absolutely no one can feel safe in Belarus."



In this photo released by Belarusian Presidential Press Service, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko speaks at an assembly in Minsk, Belarus on July 1 ahead of Belarus Independence Day. (AP)



In this photo released by Agents Rurals de Catalunya, uncontrolled fire rages across the grasslands in the Segarra region, in the rural province of Lleida, Spain on July 1. (AP)

Wildfire kills two people in Spain as parts of Europe bake in heat wave

BARCELONA, Spain, July 2, (AP): A European heat wave helped fuel a virulent wildfire in Spain that killed two farmers before hundreds of firefighters brought it under control thanks to a timely rainstorm, authorities said Wednesday.

The blaze that broke out late on Tuesday in the rural province of Lleida created an enormous thick plume of ash and smoke that reached 14,000 meters (45,000 feet) of altitude, making it the largest registered by firefighters in Catalonia, a northeastern region of Spain.

Firefighters said that the fire spread at 28 kph (17 mph) at one point, making it one of the fastest fires registered in Europe, they said.

Catalan regional president Salvador Illa announced the deaths, which occurred late Tuesday, in a social media post around midnight. Firefighters said that the two victims were found near the small village of Coscó in the county of La Segarra near a vehicle. Regional official Nuria Parlón said that the two victims were a farmer and one of his workers. She said that it appears that they were caught by the flames as they were trying to flee the farm.

Two firefighters also needed to be treated a local hospital for injuries.

A total of 6,500 hectares (16,000 acres), mostly of fields growing grains and cereals, was burned before firefighters got some help from a rainstorm and established a perimeter. Authorities issued warnings to residents via messages to smartphones and ordered 14,000 people to stay indoors, firefighters said.



Young people walk through the water installation 'Hexagonal Water Pavilion' by Danish artist Jeppe Hein in front of the Neues Museum in Nuremberg, Germany on July 2. (AP)

That order was lifted late Tuesday as more than 500 firefighters participated in the deployment.

Firefighters said that the rainstorms "quickly changed the situation and helped speed up getting the fire stabilized." The fire destroyed mostly farmland, but it also incinerated at least three old farmhouses and some other farm buildings before it was declared under control early Wednesday.

"Wildfires today are not like they were before," Illa, the regional president, said. "These are extremely dangerous. From the very first moment, it was considered to be beyond the capacity of extinction. I mean that not even with two or three times the number of firefighters, they have told me, it would have

been possible to put out."

The heat wave in parts of Europe has set record high temperatures for June in Spain and Portugal.

More hot weather is expected on Wednesday with temperatures in the Lleida region forecast to reach a high of 39 C (102 F).

"It will be a difficult day due to the high temperatures and until we get past the hottest part of the afternoon we will have to be on our guard," Illa said.

Spain has been sweltering under its first heat wave of the year since the weekend. Its weather service said that the national average for June of 23.6 C (74 F) was a new record. It was the first time that June was hotter than the average temperatures for both July and August.

Japan’s minority government faces tough test in upper house election

TOKYO, July 2, (AP): Japan’s Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba faces a tough test in an upper house election later this month as his minority government struggles after its major defeat in last year’s snap election.

Ishiba has survived so far, though he had to make some concessions to the opposition - an unusual step for the Liberal Democratic Party that has dominated Japan’s postwar politics.

Official campaigning begins Thursday for the July 20 vote for the upper house, the less powerful of Japan’s two parliamentary chambers.

Ishiba has modest goals for the election and the opposition is divided, so the outcome is unlikely to force an immediate change of government. But it will be a tough test on Ishiba’s handling of economic woes at home and global challenges such as US President Donald Trump’s tariff war.

Ishiba’s goal is a simple majority. Half of the 248 seats for six-year terms in the upper house are being decided, and the LDP and its junior coalition partner Komeito would need to win 50 combined. That’s on top of their 75 seats that are not being contested in this election.

That would be a retreat from their current number of 141 seats, but Ishiba has told reporters his goal is one that must be achieved.



Leaders of eight Japan's political parties pose before a debate at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo, Japan on July 2. From left to right: Sanseito Secretary General Sohei Kamiya, Japanese Communist Party Chairperson Tomoko Tamura, Komeito Chief Representative Tetsuo Saito, Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan leader Yoshihiko Noda, Japan’s Prime Minister and Liberal Democratic Party leader Shigeru Ishiba, Japan Innovation Party Co-Representative Hirofumi Yoshimura and Democratic Party For the People Representative Yuichiro Tamaki and Reiwa Shinsengumi leader Taro Yamamoto. (AP)

China and Belgium pledge to deepen ties, boost mutual trust

BRUSSELS, July 2, (Xinhua): Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi here on Tuesday, pledging to deepen exchanges and enhance mutual trust with China.

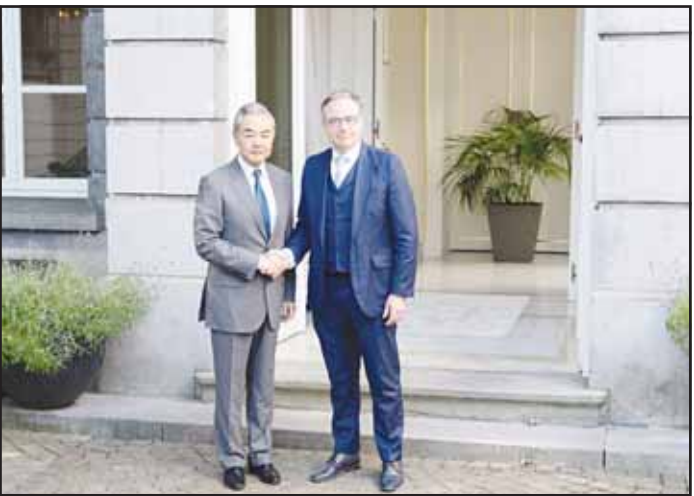
De Wever noted that Belgium and China have enjoyed a long history of exchanges, with vibrant local-level friendly communications, and that Belgium plays a gateway role in Europe-China cooperation.

Recalling his multiple visits to China, De Wever said he was deeply impressed by China’s development achievements. Despite differing perspectives, he stressed the importance of enhancing exchanges and increasing mutual trust in the face of the current complex geopolitical landscape.

Moreover, he reaffirmed Belgium’s commitment to multilateralism and support for a greater autonomous Europe while expressing the hope that the upcoming EU-China leaders’ meeting will yield positive results.

Also:
BEIJING: Chinese Premier Li Qiang will attend the 17th BRICS Summit upon invitation in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from July 5 to 8, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson announced on Wednesday.

At the invitation of Prime Minister of Egypt Mostafa Kamal Madbouly, Li will pay an official visit to Egypt from July 9 to 10, the spokesperson said.



Belgium’s Prime Minister Bart De Wever meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, in Brussels, Belgium on July 1. (Xinhua)

‘Collaborate on supplies of critical minerals and rare earths’

US, Indo-Pacific partners agree to strengthen maritime cooperation

WASHINGTON, July 2, (AP): The United States, Australia, India and Japan have agreed to expand their co-operation on maritime security in the Indo-Pacific and further collaborate on supplies of critical minerals and rare earths that are key components of high-tech production.

The foreign ministers of the four countries, known as the “Quad,” met in Washington on Tuesday as the Trump administration seeks to expand US influence in the Indo-Pacific to compete with a rising China amid tensions with partners over trade and defense issues.

In a joint meeting with his three colleagues, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the Quad must be a “vehicle for action” that goes beyond statements of intent and stressed that commerce and trade will be critical to ensuring the group’s relevance in the future.

To that end, the four announced in a statement the creation of a “Quad Critical Minerals Initiative” that aims “to strengthen economic security and collective resilience by collaborating on securing and diversifying critical mineral supply chains.” The statement did not provide details of the initiative.

“We are deeply concerned about the abrupt constriction and future reliability of key supply chains, specifically for critical minerals,” they said. “This includes the use of non-market policies and practices for critical minerals, certain derivative products, and mineral processing technology.”

The statement did not mention China by name, but Chinese domination of the critical minerals supply chain has long been a concern of the US and others. The ministers expressed specific concern about rising tensions in the East and South China Seas, where Beijing has become increasingly assertive of maritime and territorial claims that are rejected by its smaller neighbors.

“We reiterate our strong opposition to any unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion,” they said. “We express our serious concerns regarding dangerous and provocative actions, including interference with offshore resource development, the repeated obstruction of the freedoms of navigation and overflight, and the dangerous maneuvers by military aircraft and coast guard and maritime militia vessels, especially the unsafe use of water cannons and ramming or blocking actions in the South China Sea.”

The ministers also condemned North Korea for continuing to launch ballistic missiles, expand its nuclear weapons program and engage in malicious cyberactivity. In a veiled reference to North Korean support for Russia in its war against Ukraine, they expressed “deep concern about countries that are deepening military cooperation with North Korea, which directly undermines the global nonproliferation regime.”



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, (right), accompanied (from left), Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Iwaya Takeshi leave after speaking to the media during the Indo-Pacific Quad meeting at the State Department in Washington on July 1. (AP)



In this photo released by The Snake Hunter, snake handler Mark Pelley lifts a harmless 60-centimeter (2-foot) green tree snake in the cargo hold of a plane at Melbourne Airport on July 1. (AP)

Snake on plane delays flight

An Australian domestic flight was delayed for two hours after a stowaway snake was found in the plane’s cargo hold, officials said on Wednesday.

The snake was found on Tuesday as passengers were boarding Virgin Australia Flight VA337 at Melbourne Airport bound for Brisbane, according to snake catcher Mark Pelley.

The snake turned out to be a harmless 60-centimeter (2-foot) green tree snake. But Pelley said he thought it could be venomous when he approached it in the darkened hold.

“It wasn’t until after I caught the snake that I realized that it wasn’t venomous. Until that point, it looked very dangerous to me,” Pelley said.

Most of the world’s most venomous snakes are native to Australia. (AP)

Africa

3 killed in Togo protests: At least three people died during protests in Togo’s capital Lomé on June 26, 27 and 28, Amnesty International said Tuesday, as leader **Faure Gnassingbé** faces increasing pressure from critics over recent changes in the constitution that could effectively keep him in power indefinitely.

Three bodies, including those of two teenagers, were found in a lagoon in Lomé’s Be neighborhood, where violent clashes broke out between protesters and security forces last week, Aimé Adi, director of Amnesty International’s office in Togo, told The Associated Press.

Adi said the rights group spoke to the family of one of the victims, who reported that their 16-year-old son had gone missing after leaving the house to head to Be during a lull in the unrest on Thursday. His body was found in a lagoon the next day.

“They found their son dead, bearing signs of blood and beating,” he said, adding that the circumstances of the three deaths are still unclear. (AP)



Gnassingbé

Helicopter crashes in Somalia, 3 dead: At least three people were killed when a military helicopter serving the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia crashed Wednesday at the airport in the capital, Mogadishu, according to Somali authorities.

The helicopter was arriving from Balli-doogle Airfield in the Lower Shabelle region with eight people on board.

At least three people have been confirmed killed, said Artan Mohamed, who heads the immigration office at Mogadishu’s Aden Abdulle airport.

The helicopter originally belonged to the Ugandan Air Force but was being operated by the African Union peacekeeping mission, he said.

Ahmed Moalim Hassan, director-general of the Somalia Civil Aviation Authority, told state media that investigations are underway to determine the full extent of casualties and damage.

“Once the situation is under control and the fire is extinguished by the firefighters, we will know more,” he said. “The firefighting team is still working to contain the fire - most of it has been put out, but there is still smoke, which we hope will be cleared soon.” (AP)

Group claims attack against Mali army: Armed men attacked a Mali community just over the border from Senegal, Mali’s military said Tuesday - a development that one expert called especially worrying as the deadly violence spreads.

The al-Qaeda-linked JNIM extremist group claimed responsibility for the coordinated attack on several Malian army positions in the country’s west and central regions.

One position was in Diboli, across the border from Senegal, which has been largely spared the extremist attacks.

“The border region to Senegal is a major gateway for trade and imports from Dakar ports to Mali that had been relatively stable for years,” said Ulf Laessing, head of the Sahel program at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. “This will also worry border communities in Senegal.”

Malian army spokesperson Col. Majo Souleymane Dembélé said on national television that the army had “neutralized” 80 attackers. There were no details on any casualties among soldiers. (AP)

10 people killed as cloudbursts, flash floods hit India’s Himachal Pradesh

NEW DELHI, July 2, (Xinhua): At least 10 people were killed and 34 others went missing after multiple cloudbursts and flash floods hit India’s northern state of Himachal Pradesh, officials said Wednesday.

According to the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC), the state witnessed 16 cloudbursts and three flash floods in 24 hours as a result of incessant rains that wreaked havoc and caused widespread devastation.

The worst-affected area was Mandi district, about 133 km north of Shimla, the capital city of Himachal Pradesh.

“During the last 24 hours, a total of 10 people were killed and 34 remained missing in Mandi,” an official said. “Five people were also injured, and 12 remained stranded.”

Officials feared the death toll could increase as the survival chances of the missing people after 24 hours of disaster usually remained grim.

“One hydroelectric power project and a bridge were also damaged,” the officials said. “One national highway got blocked.”

The rains also triggered landslides and waterlogging in several areas, resulting in the closure of roads.

Authorities have launched a major search and rescue operation in the affected areas. A total of 370 people



State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel recover a dead body, a day after torrential rains in the region caused a flash flood, near Dharamshala, India on June 26. (AP)

have been rescued from the affected areas, officials said.

According to the SEOC, during the monsoon season from June 20 to July 1, a total of 51 people were killed and 103 others injured across the state in weather-related accidents. The cumulative damage to infrastructure has been estimated at 33 million U.S. dollars.

The SEOC urged residents to stay

cautious, especially in landslide and flood-prone zones.

Officials said in the wake of rainfall, water levels in all major rivers and streams in the state have risen.

The state’s meteorological department has predicted that heavy to very heavy rain is likely to continue across the state till July 7. It has issued an orange alert of heavy rain in the period.

Venezuelan lawmakers declare UN rights chief Turk persona non grata

CARACAS, Venezuela, July 2, (AP): Venezuela’s ruling party-controlled National Assembly on Tuesday declared Volker Türk, the United Nations high commissioner for human rights, persona non grata, criticizing the UN official for failing to protect the rights of Venezuelan migrants deported by the Trump administration to a prison in El Salvador.

The rare diplomatic designation has no immediate practical effect but reflected the broader anger of President Nicolás Maduro at the UN agency that monitors and defends human rights. It comes just days after Türk said his office has documented increasing arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances and torture under Maduro’s government.

“Türk turns a blind eye to atrocious crimes,” said National Assembly President Jorge Rodríguez, who is also Maduro’s chief negotiator with the US. “He does nothing for the human rights of Venezuelans in the United States and El Salvador.”

El Salvador is holding 252 Venezuelans deported from the US in a maximum-security prison. Türk recently urged the U.S. to halt deportations of Venezuelans who may be at risk of arrest in their home country and raised concerns about the lack of due process in mass deportations from the US.



UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk talks to the press in Damascus, Syria on Jan 15. (AP)

The ire of Venezuela’s National Assembly appeared to have been energized by Türk’s speech to the Human Rights Council in Geneva last Friday.

Türk raised alarm over an intensifying crackdown on civil liberties in the wake of Venezuela’s parliamentary elections in June and the unrest that followed Maduro’s disputed re-election last year - echoing past statements of concern from his agency and other watchdogs.

Electoral authorities loyal to the ruling party declared Maduro the winner of the July 2024 presidential election despite credible evidence to the contrary.

“I am very concerned by detention conditions, including people being denied access to medical care, and lacking access to food and water,” he told the council last week. “Some prisoners were subjected to incommunicado detention.”

Costa Rica top court seeks to strip President Chaves’ immunity over corruption case

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, July 2, (AP): Costa Rica’s Supreme Court has asked the country’s legislature to strip President Rodrigo Chaves of his legal immunity so he can stand trial on corruption charges.

Chaves, accused of awarding lucrative consulting contracts to a close associate, has denied wrongdoing. His office did not immediately comment on the ruling, which justices decided in a 15-to-7 vote.

Costa Rica’s top court has never before accepted a request to revoke a president’s immunity. The case now goes to Congress, which is dominated by opposition lawmakers and has the final say.

Prosecutors accuse Chaves of abusing his authority in diverting part of a \$32,000 contract financed by a multilateral bank - the Central American Bank for Economic Integration - to his adviser and campaign strategist, Federico “Choreco” Cruz.

On Tuesday, the top court also asked Chaves’ minister of culture and former chief of staff, Jorge Rodríguez,



Costa Rica President Rodrigo Chaves talks with reporters outside the White House in Washington on Aug. 29, 2023, following his meeting with US President Joe Biden. (AP)

to stand trial in the same case.

The case first emerged in 2023 when local media released leaked audio recordings that purported to show

Chaves discussing Cruz’s involvement in the contracts.

Chaves and his allies have other cases pending against them.

Kuwait oil price down 64 cents to USD 68.59 pb

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): Price of Kuwaiti oil dropped 64 cents to settle on USD 68.59 per barrel on Tuesday compared to USD 69.23 pb on Monday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said in a statement on Wednesday. Globally, price of Brent crude dropped by 37 cents to USD 67.11 pb, while West Texas Intermediate rose by 34 cents to USD 65.45 pb.

Business

As part of its long-term cybersecurity commitment

Gulf Bank launches bug bounty and vulnerability disclosure program

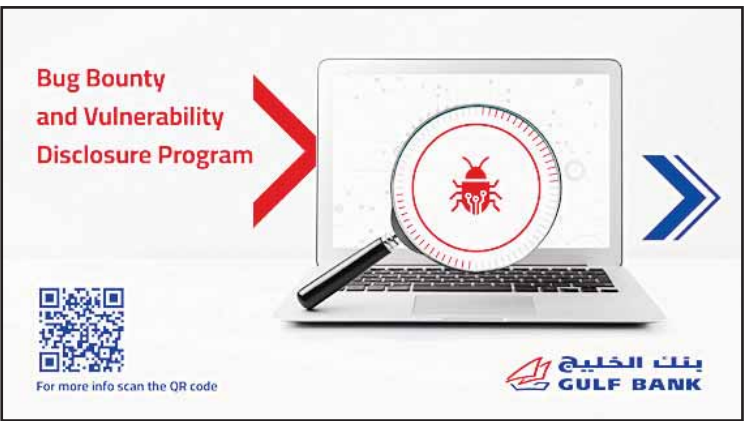
KUWAIT CITY, July 2: As part of Gulf Bank of Kuwait long-term vision to enhance cybersecurity and in line with its strong commitment to protect its customers' data and digital systems from potential threats and hackers, Gulf Bank has officially launched its Vulnerability Disclosure Program (VDP) and Bug Bounty programme. This program seeks to involve the cybersecurity community, comprising experts, specialists, and ethical hackers in assisting the Bank in identifying and resolving vulnerabilities that may affect its systems and services. The objective is to allow the Bank to address the vulnerabilities or issue before they can be exploited by unauthorized individuals. Gulf Bank believes that collaborating with the global cyber researcher community is one of the most powerful tools for creating a secure, reliable digital platform and supports the march towards a more secure ecosystem. As this program is part of the Bank's ongoing strategy to adopt the



Ross McNaughton

latest technological solutions in cybersecurity. The program also reflects the Bank's commitment to transparency and openness to specialized expertise. Speaking about the launch event, Mr. Ross McNaughton, Chief Information Security Officer at Gulf Bank

said: "The launch of the Bug Bounty and Disclosure programme represents the next step towards enhancing the security of the products and services offered by the Bank. It contributes to the early detection and effective resolution of vulnerabilities, issue, error or technical



Cyber Bug Awareness posts.

glitch, thereby improving digital protection and increasing customer trust. The program also provides a rapid response mechanism for security risks and serves as a technical platform to support innovation, trial new services and build an active, collaborative

cybersecurity community. He added: "The success of this program will enhance customer confidence in the Bank's digital services and reflects our ongoing commitment to lead in protecting our customers data, swift and continual innovation

and development in cybersecurity. It also adopts leading global practices with Cybersecurity community engagement, helping the Bank support cybersecurity advancement in Kuwait and across the region." Gulf Bank launch an open invitation to all cybersecurity professionals, researcher and enthusiast "hackers" to participate in its Vulnerability Disclosure Program and Bug Bounty programme. Any Individual with the knowledge and skills to analyze and identify security weaknesses, hack or hacking, is eligible to be part of this professional initiative. Mr. McNaughton concluded by saying: "If you believe you have discovered a security vulnerability or feature that could impact the Bank's systems or services, we encourage you to report it immediately through the official channel and you may be eligible for a financial reward. The rewards' value will be determined by the Bank's specialized team based on the severity of the reported issue."

KFAS, The King's Foundation sign strategic cooperation agreement

Kuwait-UK deal boosts joint development efforts

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: In line with His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's directives aimed at supporting sustainable development and promoting education and innovation, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) signed a strategic cooperation agreement with The King's Foundation (UK) at its headquarters today (1st of July 2025) in Kuwait City.

The agreement aims to strengthen joint efforts in areas such as food security, education, scientific research, and the preservation of cultural and environmental heritage. Under the agreement, the two foundations will launch a series of development initiatives including the creation of model regenerative horticulture farms, specialised training programmes in agricultural skills, sustainable architecture, and traditional crafts. The agreement also includes collaborative programmes to develop innovative environmental and architectural solutions tailored to



KFAS - King's Foundation signing ceremony.

the region's needs.

Additionally, the partnership opens new horizons for scientific research and academic exchange, through visiting researcher programmes, fellowships, support for pilot projects, and a series of virtual knowledge-sharing seminars between scientific institutions in Kuwait and the United Kingdom.

Director General of KFAS Dr. Ameenah Farhan expressed, during the ceremony, that this collaboration represents a significant step toward strengthening Kuwaiti-British

relations and deepening cooperation between development and scientific institutions in both countries. She also added that it reflects the long-standing historical partnership and the shared commitment to expanding collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

The King's Foundation is a charity founded by King Charles III and was first formed in 1990. Inspired by the vision and values of His Majesty, the Foundation builds and supports communities where people, places and the planet can coexist in harmony.

The charity offers education courses for almost 15,000 students annually, health and wellbeing programmes for nearly 2,000 people every year, and spearheads placemaking and regeneration projects in the UK and overseas to revitalise communities and historic buildings.

Simon Sadinsky, Executive Director for Education at The King's Foundation stated:

"At The King's Foundation we have long championed scientific and environmental education, so we are excited to continue this work in the fields of horticulture and farming - particularly as we celebrate our 35th anniversary this year. We also look forward to sharing our expertise in sustainable architecture and traditional crafts through this new partnership"

His Excellency Mr. Stuart Summers, Chargé d'Affaires at the British Embassy Kuwait, commented:

"The British Embassy is delighted to see this strategic partnership agreement between the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and The King's Foundation to develop areas that are of great importance to both our countries. We look forward to seeing the tangible outcomes of this partnership which will strengthen further the ties between our respective scientific and development institutions."



Jazeera Airways J9 clouds



Jazeera resumes flight to Damascus after 13 years.

Jazeera Airways marks historic milestone with first flights to Syria

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost carrier, today marked a historic milestone with the resumption of its direct flights between Kuwait and Damascus - restoring air connectivity between the two nations for the first time in over 13 years.

The first two flights departed from Jazeera Terminal 5 this morning, with a full passenger load, some of who were back to their home country after several years. For many of the over 200,000 Syrians living in Kuwait - the second-largest Arab community in the country - this moment represents more than just a flight; it is a long-overdue reconnection with their roots, loved ones, and memories.

Jazeera Airways had previously operated services to Damascus, Aleppo, and Deir EzZoor. The return to Damascus marks the beginning of renewed engagement with Syria, as the airline responds to strong and growing demand from the community. The route launches with one daily flight, with plans to increase to twice-daily frequencies by the end of the summer

travel season. The airline is also exploring future expansions to other Syrian cities in line with market recovery.

Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer of Jazeera Airways, stated: "This is more than just the reopening of a route - it is the restoration of a vital bridge for people. We are proud to re-establish this important connection for the Syrian community in Kuwait and beyond. Many of the passengers on our inaugural flight were returning to Syria for the first time in years, and the emotions witnessed at the departure gate were a powerful reminder of how meaningful this service is. We extend our sincere thanks to the authorities in both Kuwait and Syria for their invaluable support in making this relaunch possible." With the launch of flights to Damascus, Jazeera Airways continues to play a vital role in enhancing regional connectivity and supporting the aspirations of communities across its growth network.

To book flights, travellers can visit www.jazeeraairways.com or Jazeera's mobile application.



Photos during the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) signing of strategic cooperation agreement with The King's Foundation.



S&P GCC composite index went up by 3.0% in June 2025

Markaz: Kuwait equities extended their rally after de-escalation of geopolitical and trade tensions towards the end of the month

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" released its Monthly Market Review report for June 2025. Kuwait equity market was positive during June 2025, bringing the market's YTD gains to 14.8%. Kuwait's All Share Index gained 4.2% during the month supported by easing of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Consumer staples and real estate sectors were the top gainers, rising 9.1% and 7.7% respectively. The banking sector index increased by 6.2% for the month. Among banking stocks, Kuwait International Bank and Burgan Bank were the top gainers, rising 15.9% and 8.7% respectively during the month. KIB has disclosed that a board member has bought 50,000 shares in the company. Burgan Bank has also disclosed purchase of shares by North Africa Holding, a subsidiary KIPCO Group, as part of its disclosures on insider transaction. Warba Bank and Gulf Bank continued to gain for the month, rising by 8.5% and 7.2% respectively amid ongoing merger discussions. Among Premier Market stocks, Mezzan Holding was the top gainer after KIB, rising 10.0%. Kuwait's consumer price index increased by 2.25% y/y in May 2025 with food and beverage price inflation rising by 4.7% y/y. Following the passage of debt law in March 2025, Kuwait is planning to borrow about KD 6 billion in FY 2025-26, according to Bloomberg. The S&P GCC Composite index gained 3.0% in

June 2025. Saudi equity index gained by 1.6% during the month, amid broad-based gains. Saudi Aramco declined by 2.7% during the month, pressured by decline in oil prices in latter part of the month. Abu Dhabi's equity index increased by 2.8% in June 2025, supported by gains in blue-chips. Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB) and Aldar Properties gained 12.1% and 7.3% respectively for the month. Dubai's equity index gained 4.1% for the month, supported by gains in blue chips. Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) and Salik Company gained by 9.9% and 5.8% respectively for the month. Salik Company's strong 2024 performance supported its share price in June. Qatar's equity markets gained 2.7% for the month, supported by gains in natural gas prices.

Saudi Arabia's GDP for Q1 2025 grew by 3.4% y/y, higher than the 2.7% y/y growth reported earlier in its flash estimates, on account of smaller annual decline from the oil sector and stronger private sector growth. Fitch has affirmed UAE's AA rating with a stable outlook, citing robust financial buffers despite regional risks and hydrocarbon dependence, UAE's central bank has lowered its 2025 GDP growth forecast for the country to 4.4% y/y, down from earlier estimate of 4.7% y/y, citing lower oil prices, slowdown in global economic activity and increased uncertainty.

Global markets were positive during June 2025, sup-

ported by de-escalation of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, progress on trade deal between U.S and China and dovish comments from U.S Fed. The MSCI World and S&P 500 indices rose by 4.2% and 5.0% respectively for the month. According to U.S-China deal, U.S. would charge a 55% tariff on imported Chinese goods while China would charge a 10% tariff on U.S. imports. U.S has also agreed to allow Chinese students to study in its universities, while China would remove export restrictions on rare earths. The MSCI EM index gained 5.7% during the month. Chinese equities rose by 2.9%, supported by reports on U.S-China trade deal. South Korean and Taiwan equities gained 13.9% and 4.3%, respectively, supported by election results (South Korea) and positive trade talks with US (Taiwan) The U.S inflation stood at 2.4% y/y in May 2025, slightly up from the 2.3% y/y reading in April 2025. While inflation numbers are being closely followed, they are yet to show significant impact from the tariffs. The U.S labor market added 139,000 jobs in May, down from 147,000 jobs added in April, indicating emerging weakness amid policy uncertainty.

The yield on the 10-year US treasury notes declined 17 bps during the month to 4.24%. U.S Fed held rates steady at 4.25%-4.5% in June 2025, citing persisting risk of inflation. The central bank maintained its expectation of 50-bps rate cuts for 2025, but lowered rate expecta-

tion for 2026 and 2027 by 25 bps each to a target rate of 3.50%-3.75% and 3.25%-3.50%, respectively. U.S Fed has also lowered its economic growth expectations for 2025 to 1.4% y/y, from 1.7% y/y estimated in March 2025.

Oil (Brent) prices closed the month at USD 67.6 per barrel, rising by 5.8% during the month. The commodity was volatile during June amid geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and U.S-China trade talks, closing at USD 78.85 per barrel on 19th June 2025, its highest close price in five months. However, in the latter part of the month, easing of tensions, expectations of further output hike by OPEC+ in its July meeting and progress in U.S-China trade deal pressured prices. OPEC+ is expected to further increase its output by 411,000 bpd from August 2025. Gold prices closed at USD 3,303, marginally up by 0.4% for the month.

Further developments on geopolitical tensions and trade talks would be closely watched by the markets. With the U.S President's tariff pause ending on July 09, 2025, finer details on tariff implementation and their impact on the economy and inflation would impact markets. Given the minimal expected impact from U.S tariffs on GCC, impact of tariffs on oil demand, continued unwinding of production cuts and performance of non-oil economy would be key market determinants for GCC equities.

Aligning digital transformation with workplace excellence in Kuwait's banking sector

Burgan Bank signs partnership with SAP to deploy SuccessFactors HRM system

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Burgan Bank announced a partnership deal with SAP, a global leader in enterprise applications and business AI, as a strategic step toward deploying the cutting-edge, full-suite human resources management (HRM) system, SuccessFactors. This agreement marks a feat for both human resources and IT departments, reflecting the Bank's vision and strategy to be the most modern and progressive bank in Kuwait, and its commitment to offering an outstanding and motivational workspace that stands out across Kuwait's banking sector.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Fadel Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer – Kuwait at Burgan Bank, and Mrs. Sundus Bushahri, Managing Director SAP Kuwait, in the presence of executive management members from both organizations.

In light of the partnership, Mr. Barrak Jassem Al-Mattar, General Manager – Information Technology at Burgan Bank, said: "Adopting SAP's SuccessFactors system is a strategic and deliberate step in Burgan Bank's digital transformation journey that reflects our commitment to deploying the latest global technologies, developing our operational efficiency, especially in human resources management. Thanks to this integrated AI and data-driven system, we can provide our employees with an advanced technical experience that supports their holistic growth." He added: "We will continue implementing all advanced systems as part of Burgan Bank's strategy to create a digital and secure work environment that keeps pace with the latest developments in the global banking sector." For his part, Mr. Ali Hussain Akbar, Deputy General Manager – Human Resources at Burgan Bank, commented: "We are pleased to announce our partnership with SAP to implement SuccessFactors, one of the world's leading HRM solutions. This comes as part of the Bank's ongoing efforts to elevate its human resources infrastructure and provide a comprehensive and outstanding digital experience for our employees, who sit at the top of our priorities and form the foundation of our sustainable success. Through this system, we will be able to support their career growth more effectively and innovatively, in line with the Bank's strategy and dedication to achieving excellence in the banking sector and the field of digital transformation." Mr. Ali added: "Adopting



Barrak Jassem Al-Mattar, General Manager – Information Technology at Burgan Bank



Sundus Bushahri, Managing Director SAP Kuwait



Ali Hussain Akbar, Deputy General Manager – Human Resources at Burgan Bank

SuccessFactors is an extension of our commitment to attracting ambitious talents and enhancing our employees' skills through training, development, and career planning. We are also aware that successful and smooth onboarding facilitates new hires' integration



Top & Above: Fadel Abdullah and Sundus Bushahri during the signing of agreement in the presence of members of the executive management team from Burgan Bank and SAP Kuwait.

into the work environment, reflecting Burgan Bank's culture of streamlining internal procedures. In addition, we aim to foster a flexible, digital work environment that motivates and empowers our employees to grow and develop, facilitating their daily work experience in line with the highest global standards and strengthening our position in the local market." On

her part, Mrs. Bushahri said: "Burgan Bank's deployment of SAP SuccessFactors marks a strategic step in its digital transformation journey, with a strong focus on people and performance. By modernizing core HR processes and leveraging SAP's Business AI capabilities, the Bank is building the foundations for a more agile, inclusive, and future-ready workforce. This

approach reflects a clear commitment to continuous development and innovation." With this partnership, Burgan Bank affirms its unwavering commitment to adopting the best global digital solutions, developing the work environment, elevating employees' professional experiences, and supporting their professional development.

As a certified Great Place to Work®,

Burgan Bank remains committed to achieving organizational excellence by partnering with the best service providers and deploying the latest technologies across the market. Previous efforts include Burgan's partnership with market-leading Tata Consultancy Services to upgrade its core banking system by implementing the TCS BaNCS™ suite of products.

GCC oil, gas workshop kicks off in Kuwait

Gulf Cooperation Council, UN collaborate to boost resilience against terrorism and cyber threats

KUWAIT CITY, July 2, (KUNA): A high-level Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) workshop on protecting the infrastructure of the oil and gas sector and crisis management kicked off Tuesday, at the Ahmad Al-Jaber Oil and Gas Exhibition in Ahmadi, Kuwait.

The three-day event is jointly organized by the United Nations Office of Counterterrorism, Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), and the GCC Emergency Management Center.

During the workshop, GCC Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi said in a recorded speech that GCC energy supplies represent a fundamental pillar of global supply, concurrently noting that the Gulf states are working to implement ambitious development plans, which in turn would lead to an increase in local energy demand.

The GCC chief said that the developing world is witnessing rapid progress and a growing demand for energy, noting that the Asia-Pacific region is expected to account for 50 percent of the global GDP by 2040, making it one of the fastest-growing regions in the world.

GCC faces three main challenges; adapting to the global energy transi-



Participants pose for a group photo during the Gulf Cooperation Council workshop.

Photo by Mohammad Morsi

tion, meeting increasing domestic demand, and ensuring the security and stability of the global energy market, he pointed out.

The security and safety of energy assets in the Gulf region are fundamental to the global market, as ongoing developments and conflicts in the region indicated that any future events in the Middle East could directly impact three out of the world's seven strategic maritime chokepoints: the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab al-Mandab Strait, and the Suez Canal, Al-Budaiwi stressed.

The current conflicts not only threaten global supply chains, Al-Budaiwi emphasized, but also affect national and cross-border development projects such as connectivity initiatives between the European Union and the Middle East, which rely on safe passage through the Levant and the Mediterranean Sea.

In a similar recorded statement, United Nations Undersecretary General for Counter-Terrorism Vladimir Voronkov emphasized that the meeting takes place amid a period of escalating global security threats.

He highlighted that UN General Assembly Resolution 77/298 unequivocally condemns terrorist attacks targeting energy infrastructure and underscores the need for strengthened cooperation among governments, international organizations, and the private sector.

Voronkov further noted that the Security Council has introduced a technical guide for the protection of critical energy infrastructure from terrorist threats, developed with the support of the Russia and Turkmenistan.

He underscored that the guide is the

product of in-depth research, broad international consultations, and the collective expertise of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, in collaboration with the Working Group on Emerging Threats and Infrastructure Protection.

In her remarks at the workshop, UN Resident Coordinator in Kuwait Ghada Al-Tahir emphasized that this meeting offers a key opportunity to promote best practices, share expertise, and highlight the Gulf countries' progress in building comprehensive security frameworks regionally and nationally.

Al-Tahir highlighted that, for decades, the Gulf states have served as a cornerstone of global energy security and sustainable development, being home to vast reserves of oil and natural gas and playing a vital role in ensuring stable energy supplies worldwide.

She reaffirmed the UN's role, especially the Kuwait office, in supporting shared security goals, expressing confidence that the meeting would yield practical, impactful results.

Dr. Rashid Al-Marri, Head of the GCC Emergency Management Center, emphasized that the meeting offers a vital platform to boost cooperation to protect oil and gas infrastructure; key pillars of Gulf economies and global energy stability. He highlighted the need for greater readiness amid growing threats, including terrorism, cyberattacks, and geopolitical tensions.

He noted the center's role in coordinating crisis response among member states, developing a regional emergency plan covering 13 types of risks, and working closely with the UN Office of Counterterrorism on training and capacity-building.

On his part, KOC's Assistant CEO, Musaed Al-Rasheed, stressed the importance of strengthening regional and international partnerships to secure maritime routes and energy supplies, especially as the industry faces complex geopolitical, industrial, and natural threats.

Türkiye raises gas prices ahead of inflation report

ISTANBUL, July 2, (Xinhua): Türkiye raised natural gas prices by 24.6 percent for households and 7.86 percent for industrial users on Wednesday, amid inflation concerns and expectations of upcoming adjustments to pensions and minimum wages.

The state-owned Petroleum Pipeline Corporation (BOTAS) announced the new tariffs on its website, stating that wholesale natural gas prices were adjusted in line with budgetary targets.

This price hike will not impact June's inflation figures, as it took effect in July.

The Turkish Statistical Institute is set to release June inflation data on Thursday. According to a survey conducted by the state-run Anadolu Agency, economists expect a slight drop in the annual inflation rate, from 35.41 percent in May to 35.26 percent in June.

Meanwhile, pensioners and minimum wage earners are expecting raises following the upcoming inflation data for June, although the government has yet to confirm any increase.

Saudi travel account up 11.7% in Q1 2025

RIYADH, July 2, (KUNA): Saudi tourism sector's travel account sector increased by 11.7 percent in the first quarter of 2025 at around SAR 26.8 billion (USD 7.15 billion), compared to 2024's SAR 24 billion (USD 6.40 billion) within the same period, according to a ministry statement on Wednesday.

Travel account generally refers to tracking of expenses related to travel whether for personnel or business purposes.

The statement indicated that spending from tourists coming from abroad had increased by 9.7 percent in the first quarter of this year at around SAR 49.4 billion (USD 13.17 billion) compared to SAR 45 billion (USD 12 billion) in the same period in 2024.

The ministry affirmed that such numbers reflected the growth of tourism in Saudi Arabia.

As part of its participation in 'Diraya' campaign

KFH: Travel guidelines for cardholders safety

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has advised cardholders to take into account some recommendations and guidelines regarding the ownership and usage of bank cards when traveling.

These guidelines are part of KFH's vital participation in the "Diraya" banking awareness campaign, in collaboration with the Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association.

KFH's guidelines entailed two stages: prior to and during travel, with a focus on ensuring the highest levels of security and convenience when using bank cards in different locations and circumstances.

The pre-travel stage guidelines include verifying the validity and credit limits of the cards, ensuring the customer's signature on the cards, activating the SMS services, downloading the

KFH Online application to monitor card usage, refraining from sharing private PINs or passcodes and avoiding clicking on suspicious links.

When traveling, KFH advises cardholders to keep their cards in a secure location, avoid exposing them to direct sunlight to avoid damage, refrain from sharing cards or PIN information with anyone, have them readily accessible when making purchases, thoroughly inspect ATMs for any abnormal devices, and hide your password from view.

By following these tips, you can ensure the security of your card of all types. It is also important to follow these instructions while in Kuwait, as there are increasing risks of fraud groups targeting credit and debit cardholders to steal balances, track card movements, deceive users through fake contacts or links, and obtain card information using various methods.



New KFH logo & Diraya logo.

Strategists see signals of euphoria among some investors despite challenges

Global shares are mostly higher as Trump’s tariffs deadline looms

MANILA, July 2, (AP): Global shares were mostly higher on Wednesday as the July 9 deadline for the U.S. to strike deals with trading partners or impose higher tariffs looms.

In early European trading, Germany’s DAX rose 0.5% to 23,778.11. In Paris, the CAC 40 added 1.2% to 7,754.34, while Britain’s FTSE 100 gained 0.3% to 8,811.42.

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

Shares fell in Japan, hit by jitters over a lack of progress in trade talks with the U.S., but they recovered much of their lost ground, closing 0.6% lower at 39,762.48.

Stephen Innes, managing partner at SPI Asset Management, pointed to President Donald Trump’s declaration that there will be no extension of his tariff pause, which is just a week away from ending.

“The message was blunt: if Tokyo won’t yield, it will pay. Tariffs of 30%, 35% or ‘whatever number we determine’ are now openly back on the table,” he said. “The negotiating table just became a pressure cooker.”

Hong Kong’s Hang Seng advanced 0.6% to 24,221.41, and the Shanghai Composite index edged 0.1% lower to 3,454.79.

South Korea’s KOSPI fell 0.5% to 3,075.06 after the government reported that inflation rose in June.

Australia’s S&P ASX 200 climbed 0.7% to 8,597.70. Taiwan’s Taiex edged up 0.1% while the Sensex in India lost 0.3%.

On Tuesday, the S&P 500 dipped 0.1% and the Dow industrials added 0.9%. The Nasdaq composite fell 0.8%.

Tesla tugged on the market as the relationship between its CEO, Elon Musk, and President Donald Trump soured even further. Once allies, the two have clashed recently, and Trump suggested there’s potentially “BIG MONEY TO BE SAVED” by scrutinizing subsidies, contracts or other government spending going to Musk’s companies.

Tesla fell 5.3%. It has lost just over a quarter of its value so far this year, 25.5%, in large part because of Musk’s and Trump’s feud.

Drops for several darlings of the artificial-intelligence frenzy also weighed on the market. Nvidia’s decline of 3% was the heaviest weight on the S&P 500.

But more stocks within the index rose than fell, led by several casino companies. They rallied following a report showing better-than-expected growth in overall gaming revenue in Macao, China’s casino hub. Las Vegas Sands gained 8.9%, Wynn Resorts climbed 8.8% and MGM Resorts International rose 7.3%.



Specialist Gregg Maloney works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday, July 1, 2025. (AP)

Automakers other than Tesla were also strong, with General Motors up 5.7% and Ford Motor up 4.6%.

The U.S. stock market has made a stunning recovery from its springtime sell-off of roughly 20%. But challenges still lie ahead

for Wall Street, with one of the largest being the continued threat of Trump’s tariffs.

Many of Trump’s stiff proposed taxes on imports are currently on pause, and they’re scheduled to kick into effect in about a week. Depending on how big they are, they could hurt the economy and worsen inflation.

Washington is also making progress on proposed cuts to tax rates and other measures that could send the U.S. government’s debt spiraling higher, which could raise inflation. That in turn could mean higher interest rates, which would hurt prices for bonds, stocks and other investments.

Despite such challenges, strategists at Barclays say they see signals of euphoria among some investors. The strategists say a measure that tries to show how much “excess optimism” is in the market is not far from the peaks seen during the “meme stock” craze that sent GameStop to market-bending heights or to the dot-com bubble at the turn of the millennium. In other dealings early Wednesday, benchmark U.S. crude added 58 cents to \$66.03 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, climbed 61 cents to \$67.72 per barrel.

The U.S. dollar rose to 144.16 Japanese yen from 143.41 yen. The euro slid to \$1.1772 from \$1.1808.



Photo during the launch.

XS.com celebrates launch of its new office in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: XS.com, the global FinTech and financial services provider, has officially launched its brand in Kuwait with the opening of its first office in Kuwait City. This milestone was achieved in strategic partnership with “NVEST”, a subsidiary of “Construction Group” and “Al Wataniya Group”, both key players in the energy, real estate, and infrastructure sectors. The partnership is represented by Chairman Sheikh Rakan Badr Muhammad Al-Sabah, CEO Eng. Jamal Al-Sabah, and CEO Eng. Tamer Al-Natour.

The strategic partnership was announced at a press conference held on Tuesday, July 1, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Kuwait City. The event was attended by high-ranking figures from the honorable Al-Sabah family, leading financial and business experts, and representatives from various print, audio, and visual media outlets.

Speakers at the event emphasized the significance of this collaboration in supporting the national economy and strengthening Kuwait’s position on the global business and technology map. They highlighted the importance of encouraging strategic initiatives that contribute to sustainable development and economic diversification.

The event also included the signing of a strategic partnership agreement between XS.com and NVEST, marking the official entry of the global XS.com brand into the Kuwaiti market.

This strategic move is a major milestone for XS.com, granting the global multi-asset broker a newly licensed entity in Kuwait under the name “XS Online”.

During the launch ceremony of the global brand XS.com in Kuwait, Sheikh Rakan Bader Mohammed Al-Sabah, Chairman of “Construction Group” and “Al Wataniya Group”, praised the partnership with XS.com, noting that it stems from a deep belief in the importance of developing the financial investment sector in Kuwait

and providing world-class services that meet the trust of investors.

In his speech during the launch, Sheikh Rakan Al-Sabah emphasized that achieving financial sustainability through the adoption of modern technologies, such as artificial intelligence, is one of the core pillars of the “New Kuwait 2035” vision. He further stated that the strategic partnership with XS.com supports this national direction.

He concluded by stating that the opening of “XS Kuwait” marks the strongest launch for the global XS Group at the regional level, as the company will expand its operations in the Gulf region starting from Kuwait. He also revealed a future plan to open new branches of XS in other major Gulf capitals.

For his part, Mr. Mohamad Ibrahim, Group CEO of XS.com, stated: “This partnership goes beyond an office opening; it’s a strategic initiative aimed at deepening our engagement with the Arab region. The Kuwaiti market is vibrant, dynamic, and forward-looking. Our presence here enables us to stay closer to our clients, respond more quickly to market needs, and strengthen our brand across the GCC.”

From his side, Eng. Jamal Al-Sabah, CEO of NVEST, expressed his satisfaction with the strategic partnership with the globally leading financial services company XS.com. He confirmed that the Kuwaiti financial market enjoys many attractive advantages that make it an ideal and welcoming environment for international brands.

He added that this partnership will serve as a solid foundation for the launch of XS Kuwait’s operational activities, which will focus on building a robust regulatory framework, protecting investors and companies, and driving the creation of effective and serious partnerships, especially in the fintech sector, which represents the gateway to the future.

Trump tariffs threaten \$82b hit to US employers, analysis finds

Burden falls on US companies, not overseas rivals

WASHINGTON, July 2, (AP): An analysis finds that a critical group of U.S. employers would face a direct cost of \$82.3 billion from President Donald Trump’s current tariff plans, a sum that could be potentially managed through price hikes, layoffs, hiring freezes or lower profit margins.

The analysis by the JPMorganChase Institute is among the first to measure the direct costs created by the import taxes on businesses with \$10 million to \$1 billion in annual revenue, a category that includes roughly a third of private-sector U.S. workers. These companies are more dependent than other businesses on imports from China, India and Thailand - and the retail and wholesale sectors would be especially vulnerable to the import taxes being levied by the Republican president.

The findings show clear trade-offs from Trump’s import taxes, contradicting his claims that foreign manufacturers would absorb the costs of the tariffs instead of U.S. companies that rely on imports. While the tariffs launched under Trump have yet to boost overall inflation, large companies such as Amazon, Costco, Walmart and Williams-Sonoma delayed the potential reckoning by building up their inventories before the taxes could be imposed.

The analysis comes just ahead of the July 9 deadline by Trump to formally set the tariff rates on goods from dozens of countries. Trump imposed that deadline after the financial markets panicked in response to his April tariff announcements, prompting him to instead schedule a 90-day negotiating period when most imports faced a 10% baseline tariff. China, Mexico and Canada face higher rates, and there are separate 50% tariffs on steel and aluminum.

Had the initial April 2 tariffs



A shopping cart filled with groceries sits in an aisle at an Asian grocery store in Rowland Heights, Calif., Thursday, April 3, 2025. (AP)

stayed in place, the companies in the JPMorganChase Institute analysis would have faced additional direct costs of \$187.6 billion. Under the current rates, the \$82.3 billion would be equivalent on average to \$2,080 per employee, or 3.1% of the average annual payroll. Those averages include firms that don’t import goods and those that do.

Asked Tuesday how trade talks are faring, Trump said simply: “Everything’s going well.”

The president has indicated that he will set tariff rates given the logistical challenge of negotiating with so many nations. As the 90-day period comes to a close, only the United Kingdom has signed a trade framework with the Trump administration. India and Vietnam have signaled that they’re close to a trade framework.

There is a growing body of evidence suggesting that more inflation could surface. The investment

bank Goldman Sachs said in a report that it expects companies to pass along 60% of their tariff costs onto consumers. The Atlanta Federal Reserve has used its survey of businesses’ inflation expectations to say that companies could on average pass along roughly half their costs from a 10% tariff or a 25% tariff without reducing consumer demand.

The JPMorganChase Institute findings suggest that the tariffs could cause some domestic manufacturers to strengthen their roles as suppliers of goods. But it noted that companies need to plan for a range of possible outcomes and that wholesalers and retailers already operate on such low profit margins that they might need to spread the tariffs costs to their customers.

The outlook for tariffs remains highly uncertain. Trump had stopped negotiations with Canada, only to restart them after the coun-

try dropped its plan to tax digital services. He similarly on Monday threatened more tariffs on Japan unless it buys more rice from the U.S.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a Tuesday interview that the concessions from the trade talks have impressed career officials at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and other agencies.

“People who have been at Treasury, at Commerce, at USTR for 20 years are saying that these are deals like they’ve never seen before,” Bessent said on Fox News Channel’s “Fox & Friends.”

The treasury secretary said the Trump administration plans to discuss the contours of trade deals next week, prioritizing the tax cuts package passed on Tuesday by the Republican majority in the Senate. Trump has set a Friday deadline for passage of the multitrillion-dollar package, the costs of which the president hopes to offset with tariff revenues.

Fast expansion follows scaled up efforts by Chinese authorities

Tech innovation fuels rise, expansion of Chinese private firms

BEIJING, July 2, (Xinhua): The lifespan of a standard photovoltaic cable is usually 15 years. However, it was only 8 years on western China’s Qinghai-Tibet Plateau due to severe weather conditions such as the extreme temperature swings and intense ultraviolet exposure.

How to extend the lifespan of photovoltaic cables under such circumstances was a pressing question. Ounaite Cable Group Co., Ltd., a private cable maker in northwest China’s Qinghai Province, found its own solutions in the form of soybean oil and rapeseed oil, with both oils considered useful in modifying the properties of cables.

The company opted to apply a plasticizer extracted from soybean oil and rapeseed oil in the production process of its photovoltaic cables, thus enhancing their flexibility. It also used nano coatings to extend the lifespan of cable sheaths.

Thanks to years of such innovative efforts, photovoltaic cables produced by the company remain flexible at temperatures as low as minus 40 degrees Celsius, while they can withstand corrosion and intense ultra-

violet exposure in high-altitude conditions.

Ounaite Cable has so far achieved over 130 patents in this field, including 15 patents with independent property rights. Boasting around 10 percent of domestic market share in the photovoltaic power transmission and engineering sectors, the company has also successfully entered the global market.

“Strengthening independent innovation is the key to our leap from catching up to leading the pack,” said Yang Zhentao, chairman of Ounaite Cable. He noted that the company’s annual production of photovoltaic cables currently reaches 120,000 kilometers -- enough to circle the Earth three times.

The company has maintained stable expansion in 2025 with orders increasing by 45 percent year on year in the first five months, Yang revealed, adding that it aims for an output value of 20 billion yuan (about 2.8 billion U.S. dollars) by next year, as a new investment project worth 100 million yuan had commenced construction in June.

Ounaite Cable’s growth from a micro firm to a national high-tech enterprise and a member of China’s “little giants” is not an

isolated case. “Little giant” firms represent the novel elites of small and medium-sized enterprises that specialize in a niche market, boast cutting-edge technologies and show great potential.

Hainan Huayan Collagen Technology Co., Ltd., another national high-tech enterprise, which is based in south China’s Hainan Province, has successfully developed a new fish collagen peptide product, filling a void in the global market for cyclic dipeptide products made from fish.

This outcome was achieved after a research team had spent over two years conducting nearly 3,000 experiments, said Zhao Zifang, manager of the company’s research and development center.

The company has put two production lines into operation, resulting in an annual output of 4,500 tonnes of fish collagen peptides -- and these products have been exported to more than 50 countries and regions.

Despite ongoing economic hardships, the rise of innovation-driven private companies is injecting new vitality into the Chinese economy.

Official data from the State Administration for Market Regulation showed that the number of private enterprises in China had exceeded 57 million by the end of March 2025 -- accounting for 92.3 percent of all businesses nationwide.

In the first quarter of the year, 1,979 million private firms were established, marking an increase of 7.1 percent from a year earlier and outpacing the average growth recorded over the past three years.

This fast expansion of the private sector follows scaled up efforts by Chinese authorities to support private firms in recent years. This has been done via a series of government policies aimed at easing the financial burdens of private companies, fostering innovation and creating a more favorable business environment.

Among the most notable measures, China’s legislative body has passed the landmark private sector promotion law -- establishing legal backing for the steady and healthy growth of this vast sector.

The introduction of this law has provided private firms with a sense of reassurance,

said Liu Saisai, executive deputy general manager of Huayan Collagen. “With the legal safeguard, we are more confident in expanding our investments and contributing to national economic development,” Liu explained.

In the latest push to boost scientific research and industrial innovation, the National Natural Science Foundation of China on Monday launched the Private Enterprise Innovation and Development Joint Fund, which aims to empower private companies to officially participate in national basic research.

Under the fund’s framework, private enterprises will identify critical research challenges based on their specific innovation needs -- and the joint fund will sponsor top researchers nationwide to tackle these defined problems.

Designed to foster deep integration between technological and industrial innovation, analysts noted that this approach is expected to energize private sector innovation, and inject fresh momentum into China’s innovation-driven development strategy.

Music mogul convicted of a prostitution-related offense

Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs acquitted of most serious charges

NEW YORK, July 2, (AP): Sean “Diddy” Combs was convicted of a prostitution-related offense but acquitted Wednesday of sex trafficking and racketeering charges that could have put one of hip-hop’s most celebrated figures behind bars for life.

The mixed result came on the third day of deliberations. It could still send Combs, 55, to prison for as long as a decade, and is likely to end his career as a hitmaking music executive, fashion entrepreneur, brand ambassador and reality TV star.

The foreperson confirmed the verdict reached was unanimous.

After they read the verdict, Combs held his hands up in a prayer motion, looking at jury and hugged his defense lawyer Teny Geragos.

Combs was convicted of transporting individuals across state lines, including his girlfriends and paid companions, in violation of the federal Mann Act. However, the jury of eight men and four women acquitted Combs of racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking charges, which involved allegations that he used his money, influence, and intimidation to control his girlfriends during prolonged, drug-involved activities.

Combs and his defense team argued that the women were willing participants and that none of his violence justified the severity of the charges.

After the verdict was read, the judge gave the jury guid-



Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs arrives at the BET Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, on June 26, 2022. (AP)

ance on speaking about the case to the media, to the public, and more.

Combs continuing to pump his right fist subtly, seemingly satisfied that he was acquitted on the most serious charges.

Combs seemed buoyant arriving in the courtroom earlier Wednesday morning, a contrast to his mood a day earlier after he learned that the jury at his sex trafficking trial had reached a yet-to-be-disclosed verdict on all but one of the five charges the hip-hop mogul faces.

Combs smiled and clasped his hands together in the air toward his family and supporters before hugging several of his lawyers and sitting down to await the outcome of the jury’s third day of deliberations.

A short while later, Combs, his head bowed, stood several feet from his family for less than a minute as they sat with their heads bowed in prayer. As they did on Monday, Combs and family members then applauded before he was led from the courtroom by US marshals. The family later got in a van and left the courthouse.

On Tuesday, US District Judge Arun Subramanian ordered the jury to continue its closed-door discussions for a third day after the panel of eight men and four women said it was unable to reach consensus on the top count: racketeering conspiracy.

The judge agreed with prosecutors and Combs’ defense team that less than 13 hours of deliberations was too soon to give up on reaching a verdict on all counts.

The jury’s decision on the other charges - two counts of sex trafficking and two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution - remains under wraps for now.

In a note to the court late Tuesday, the jury said “unper-

suadable opinions on both sides” among some jurors had prevented the group from reaching a unanimous verdict on the racketeering conspiracy charge.

Racketeering conspiracy is the most complicated charge in the trial and carries a potential maximum sentence of life in prison.

The sex trafficking charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life. Transportation to engage in prostitution carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

The disclosure of the jury note about the partial verdict seemed to put defense attorneys and their client in a sour mood even before it was read in open court by the judge.

Eight defense lawyers formed a half-circle behind Combs as the smiles and lighthearted mood that accompanied the arrival of other jury notes over two days seemed absent as the attorneys contemplated the possibility that jurors had reached agreement on counts that carry the heaviest sentencing penalties.

Combs appeared morose as his lawyers spoke with him. At one point, the hip-hop mogul solemnly read a piece of paper that attorney Marc Agnifilo handed to him.

After the jury came in for instructions and then exited the room, a subdued Combs sat in his chair for a few minutes. As he stood to leave, he faced his relatives and supporters in the audience, blew a kiss and tapped his heart, as he frequently has done at the start and end of each day.

People

Film

‘60 Minutes’

Paramount to pay Trump \$16 million

NEW YORK, July 2, (AP): In a case seen as a challenge to free speech, Paramount has agreed to pay \$16 million to settle a lawsuit filed by President Donald Trump over the editing of CBS’ “60 Minutes” interview with then-Vice President Kamala Harris in October.

Paramount told media outlets the money will go to Trump’s future presidential library, not to the president himself. It said the settlement did not involve an apology.

Trump’s lawyer said the president had suffered “mental anguish” over the editing of the interview by CBS News, while Paramount and CBS rejected his contention that it was edited to enhance how Harris sounded. They had sought to get Trump’s lawsuit dismissed.

There was no immediate word from the White House about the settlement of the case, which Trump filed in Amarillo, Texas.

The case has been closely watched by advocates for press freedom and by journalists within CBS, whose lawyers called Trump’s lawsuit “completely without merit” and promised to vigorously fight it after it was filed.

In early February, “60 Minutes” released a full, unedited transcript of the interview.

Settlement

Under the settlement reached with help of a mediator, Paramount agreed that “60 Minutes” will release transcripts of future interviews of presidential candidates, “subject to redactions as required for legal and national security concerns,” CBS News cited the statement as saying.

Trump, who did not agree to be interviewed by “60 Minutes” during the campaign, protested editing where Harris is seen giving two different answers to a question by the show’s Bill Whitaker in separate clips aired on “60 Minutes” and “Face the Nation” earlier in the day. CBS said each reply came within Harris’ long-winded answer to Whitaker, but was edited to be more succinct.

The president’s lawyer, Edward Andrew Paltzik, said that caused confusion and “mental anguish,” misleading voters and causing them to pay less attention to Trump and his Truth Social platform.

Paramount and controlling shareholder Shari Redstone were seeking the settlement with Trump, whose administration must approve the company’s proposed merger with Skydance Media. CBS News President and CEO Wendy McMahon and “60 Minutes” executive producer Bill Owens, who both opposed a settlement, have resigned in recent weeks.

The Freedom of the Press Foundation, a media advocacy group that says it is a Paramount shareholder, has said that it would file a lawsuit in protest if a settlement was reached.

In December, ABC News settled a defamation lawsuit by Trump over statements made by anchor George Stephanopoulos, agreeing to pay \$15 million toward Trump’s presidential library rather than engage in a public fight.



This image released by Prime shows Priyanka Chopra Jonas in a scene from ‘Hells in the Heart.’ (AP)

Film offers timely setting but lacks political depth

A buddy comedy in ‘Hells in the Heart’

LOS ANGELES, July 2, (AP): Say what you will about the Idris Elba-John Cena vehicle “Hells in the Heart,” but it’s surely the first buddy comedy about the fraying bonds of NATO.

The potential collapse of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization plays a surprisingly pivotal role in this fitfully diverting, for-background-noise-only, straight-to-streaming movie. Elba plays the embattled British Prime Minister Sam Clarke, while Cena co-stars as the recently elected US President Will Derringer, a former action star.

“Hells in the Heart,” directed by Ilya Naishuller (“Nobody”), is mostly about their relationship, a tense and adversarial one challenged further when an assassination plot leaves them stranded together in Belarus. But that “Hells in the Heart,” which debuts Wednesday on Prime Video, is such a mild romp makes it all the more surprising to hear a line uttered like: “If NATO falls, there’s no backstop against despots and dictators.”

It’s a funny time to release a comedy set around international political disconnection and imperiled

Western democracy. But if you were beginning to worry that “Hells in the Heart” is too timely, don’t. Any nods to current events here serve more as reminders of how much “Hells in the Heart” - like most of Hollywood’s output - is unengaged with anything resembling our political reality.

You could argue that that’s not necessarily a bad thing. You could also argue that the greater sin of “Hells in the Heart” is underusing Stephen Root. (He plays an expert working for the bad guys.) But the vaguest hints of real-world intrigue only cast a pale light on the movie’s mostly lackluster comic chops and uninspired action sequences.

The best thing going for “Hells in the Heart” is that the chemistry between Elba and Cena is solid. The “Suicide Squad” co-stars trade barbs with a genial ease. Most of the time, those revolve around their characters’ divergent histories - Clarke was a commando before becoming a politician - in debates like which one of them is “gym strong” as opposed to “strong strong.”

That’s one of the few decent gags in the script

by Josh Applebaum, Andre Nemec and Harrison Query. But one problem in “Hells in the Heart” goes beyond the high-concept set-up. The best buddy comedies - “Midnight Run,” “48 Hrs.,” “The Nice Guys” - are predicated on opposites thrown together. Elba and Cena have their obvious differences. (Cena’s Derringer is exaggeratedly optimistic here, too.) But ultimately they’re both beefy dudes in suits.

As the MI6 agent Noel Bisset, Priyanka Chopra Jonas gives the movie a kick. But her scenes are left to the beginning and end of the movie. In between, we’re left to wonder where she went, how two political leaders would have such non-existent security and whether a few half-decent jokes are enough to forgive the movie’s geopolitical delusions.

“Hells in the Heart,” an Amazon MGM Studios release is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for sequences of strong violence/action, language and some smoking. Running time: 113 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

BTS to return in spring 2026 with album, world tour

NEW YORK, July 2, (AP): Their reunion? It’s smooth like butter. The K-pop septet BTS will return in spring 2026 with a new album and world tour.

Members Jin, RM, V, Jimin, J-Hope, Jung Kook and Suga made the announcement Tuesday during a livestream on Weverse, an online fan platform owned by BTS management company Hybe. It was the first time all seven members have broadcast live together since September 2022.

“We’ll be releasing a new BTS album in the spring of next year. Starting in July, all seven of us will begin working closely together on new music,” the band said in a statement. “Since it will be a group album, it will reflect each member’s thoughts and ideas. We’re approaching the album with the same mindset we had when we first started.”

According to a press release, the



Korean pop band BTS appears at the 2019 Variety’s Hitmakers Brunch in West Hollywood, Calif., on Dec. 7, 2019. (AP)

band will be in the United States this month to begin working on new music.

The 2026 album will mark their first since 2022’s anthology,

“Proof,” their 2021 Japanese compilation album “BTS, the Best,” and their last studio album, “Be,” released in 2020.

They also announced a world tour, their first in nearly four years. The news arrives a few weeks after BTS superstars RM, V, Jimin and Jung Kook were discharged from South Korea’s military after fulfilling their mandatory service.

In South Korea, all able-bodied men aged 18 to 28 are required by law to perform 18-21 months of military service under a conscription system meant to deter aggression from rival North Korea. Six of the group’s seven members served in the army, while Suga, the last to return, fulfilled his duty as a social service agent, an alternative to military service.

Jin, the oldest BTS member, was discharged in June 2024. J-Hope was discharged in October.

Variety

MELBOURNE, Australia: Ye, the US rapper formerly known as Kanye West, was recently stripped of an Australian visa after he released his single “Heil Hitler,” a government minister said on Wednesday.

Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke revealed Ye has been traveling for years to Australia, where his wife of three years, Bianca Censori, was born. Her family live in Melbourne.

Burke said “Heil Hitler,” released in May, promoted Nazism. The song has been criticized as an antisemitic tribute to German dictator Adolf Hitler.

“He’s been coming to Australia for a long time. He’s got family here. And he’s made a lot of offensive comments that my officials looked at again once he released the ‘Heil Hitler’ song and he no longer has a valid visa in Australia,” Burke told Australian Broadcasting Corp. (AP)



Ye

MINNEAPOLIS: The popular half-time show performer who goes by Red Panda fell off her unicycle and crashed to the court during intermission of the WNBA Commissioner’s Cup final between the Indiana Fever and the Minnesota Lynx on Tuesday night, unable to finish her show.

There was no immediate word on the extent of her injuries. She appeared to be grabbing at her left wrist after the fall - she fell forward off the unicycle onto the court - and was helped off the floor by wheelchair.

Red Panda, whose name is Rong Niu, is a Chinese American woman who comes from a family of performing acrobats. Her act is composed of her riding on her custom-built unicycle, which stretches about 8 feet above the court, and balancing custom-made bowls on her lower leg before flipping them atop her head.

She has performed at countless basketball games, including Game 5 of the NBA Finals last month in Oklahoma City. (AP)

NEW YORK: Developers EA Sports and 2K Games have hinted at the revival of college basketball video games.

EA Sports sent a cryptic tweet on Monday that suggested it wants to create a college hoops game for the first time since 2009. 2K Games followed later in the day with a statement that it’s “exploring exciting new ways to bring athletes and schools to life.”

Both developers ended their college hoops franchises more than a decade ago for multiple reasons, not limited to the player likeness concerns that froze EA’s college football franchise.

If both relaunch college basketball, they’ll be competing in a market that doesn’t often make space for two mainstream games featuring the same sports league.

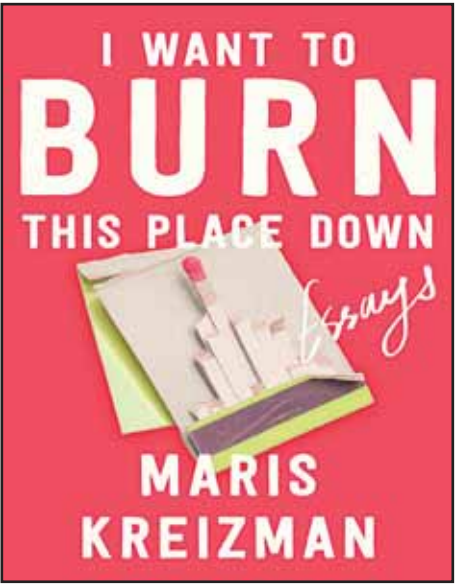
“Bring the Madness. Let’s run it back. #CBB #ItsInTheGame,” EA Sports tweeted.

“There’s nothing like College Sports,” another one of its accounts tweeted. (AP)

MACAO: China’s Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) will launch a series of activities to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the “Historic Centre of Macao” being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, according to the cultural affairs bureau of the Macao SAR government on Tuesday.

From July to December, a total of 20 intriguing activities featuring more than 50 sessions will be held, with an official launch ceremony scheduled for July 15 at Macao’s Dom Pedro V Theatre.

Various world heritage sites in Macao will be transformed into urban parks, photo check-in spots, night tour spaces, and literary trails. During the summer vacation, the department noted that it will host activities for children, including the “world heritage doctor” internship, a world heritage exploration tour, and family reading activities. (Xinhua)



This book cover image released by Ecco shows 'I Want To Burn This Place Down' by Maris Kreizman. (AP)

Book critic’s essays mix family, politics, and pop culture

Kreizman charts her political awakening in witty new book

NEW YORK, July 2, (AP): Maris Kreizman always loved books and TV. As a self-described ambition monster, she once thought that if she worked hard and played by the rules, she would land her dream job in publishing and live happily ever after with a house, husband, good health insurance and fat 401(k).

Well, she got the husband and with him, the insurance.

But alas, the rest was not be. In her debut essay collection, “I Want to Burn This Place Down,” the 40-something book critic, columnist for Lit Hub and erstwhile podcaster recalls a series of mini-awakenings in college and the New York publishing world in the 2000s that shook her faith in the American dream of her boomer parents.

“Common wisdom has it that people grow more conservative as they age,” she writes. “I’m the opposite, having moved further and further left with every year, growing

more progressive as I, a straight cisgender white woman from a middle-class background, learn all the ways the world is rigged in my favor, even as I myself have been severely let down by the status quo.”

In the essay “She’s Lost Control Again” she writes with barely suppressed fury about how her lifetime struggle with Type 1 diabetes opened her eyes to the reality of the broken health care system, which “creates chaos for those without copious economic resources,” forcing people to turn to GoFundMe to pay for their insulin.

In a sweeter, more nostalgic register, she reminisces about her great-great-uncle Barney’s iconic clothing store in Manhattan and what it taught her about the predatory world of capitalism on steroids.

She also considers her relationship with her older twin brothers, with whom she shared a love of cop shows.

But while her faith in policing was deeply shaken by the murder of George Floyd and other police abus-

es, they ended up becoming cops with conservative views.

The title of the book hails from the final season of “Mad Men.” After Peggy and Joan have spent years “clawing their way to the middle” of their ad agency, it is bought out by a bigger firm whose new owners treat them with sexist contempt.

After their first meeting, Peggy asks Joan if she wants to get lunch. To which Joan replies, “I want to burn this place down.”

Kreizman brings that incendiary tone to parts of the book, but others are infused with deep affection for her family, Jersey roots, geriatric pug Bizzy and life partner Josh.

If you like her sassy voice, check out an earlier work, “Slaughterhouse 90210,” which paired passages from serious literature with pop culture images. In these troubled times, it’s sure to make you laugh.

Music

Music’s hidden masterpieces

The story behind scrapped albums

NEW YORK, July 2, (AP): The idea that Bruce Springsteen wrote, recorded and ultimately shelved entire albums of music may seem odd to the casual listener. Why put yourself through all that work for nothing?

Yet “lost albums” are embedded in music industry lore. Some were literally lost. Some remained unfinished or unreleased because of tragedy, short-sighted executives or creators who were perfectionist - or had short attention spans.

Often, the music is eventually made public, like Springsteen is doing now, although out of context from the times in which it was originally made.

So in honor of Springsteen’s 83-song “Tracks II: The Lost Albums” box released Friday, The Associated Press has collected 10 examples of albums that were meant to be but weren’t.

Back in the news with the death of Brian Wilson, this album “invented the category of the lost masterpiece in popular music,” says Anthony DeCurtis, contributing editor at Rolling Stone. Some of the material that surfaced suggested Wilson, the Beach Boys’ chief writer, was well on his way: the majestic single “Good Vibrations,” the centerpiece “Heroes and Villains” and the reflective “Surf’s Up.” Wilson succumbed to internal competitive pressure worsened by mental illness and drug abuse while making it in 1966 and 1967, eventually aborting the project. He later finished it as a solo album backed by the Wondermints in 2004. The better-known songs were joined with some psychedelic-era curios that displayed Wilson’s melodic sense and matchless ability as a vocal arranger, along with lyrics that some fellow Beach Boys worried were too “out there.”

Release

The mercurial Prince pulled back this disc, set for release in December 1987, at the last minute. Some promo copies had already slipped out, and it was so widely bootlegged that when Warner Bros. officially put it out in limited release in 1994, the company billed it as “The Legendary Black Album.” Encased in an all-black sleeve, the project was said to be Prince’s nod to Black fans who may have felt they had lost him to a pop audience. It’s almost nonstop funk, including a lascivious Cindy Crawford tribute and the workout “Superfunkycalifrisexy.” The maestro’s instincts were well-placed, though. Coming after “Sign O’ the Times” - arguably his peak - this would have felt like a minor project.

Written and recorded in 2003, Green Day’s “Cigarettes and Valentines” was actually lost; someone apparently stole the master tapes. Feeling on a creative roll, the rock trio decided against recreating what they’d done and pressed on with new material. Smart move. The result was “American Idiot,” the band’s best work. Perhaps the robbery was “just a sign that we made a crappy record and we should make a better one,” songwriter Billie Joe Armstrong told MTV. The title cut later surfaced on a 2010 live album. The rest was lost to time.

To say anticipation was high for Dr. Dre’s third album when he started recording in 2002 puts it mildly. The theme disc about a hitman, which Dre described as a “hip-hop musical,” had an all-star squad of contributors including Eminem, 50 Cent, Mary J. Blige, Busta Rhymes and Kendrick



The Beach Boys, (from left), Al Jardine, Carl Wilson, Brian Wilson and Mike Love, hold their trophies after being inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in New York, Jan 21, 1988. (AP)

Lamar. “I’d describe it as the most advanced rap album musically and lyrically we’ll probably ever have a chance to listen to,” co-producer Scott Storch told MTV. But we never have. When he announced a different third album in 2015, Dre explained on his radio show what happened to “Detox”: “I didn’t like it. It wasn’t good. ... I worked my ass off on it, and I don’t think I did a good enough job.”

A series of unfinished demos, “Black Gold” was a taste of where guitar god Jimi Hendrix might have gone creatively if he hadn’t died at 27 in 1970. He was composing a song suite about an animated Black superhero, says Tom Maxwell, whose podcast “Shelved” unearths stories behind lost music. Hendrix sent a tape of his work to longtime drummer Mitch Mitchell for advice on fleshing it out. That music was set aside at Mitchell’s home and forgotten for two decades after Hendrix died. To date, Hendrix’s estate has made only one of these recordings public, a song called “Suddenly November Morning.” Hendrix, after

clearing his throat, slips in and out of falsetto while accompanying himself on an acoustic guitar.

Written while Yoko Ono was separated from John Lennon during his infamous “lost weekend” in 1973-74, “A Story” had the potential of changing the musical narrative around her. It was a strong album - without the avant-garde stylings that made Ono a challenge for mainstream listeners - recorded with musicians who worked on Lennon’s “Walls & Bridges.” Maxwell calls it “an emancipation manifesto” that was set aside when Ono reconciled with Lennon. She’s never publicly explained why, Maxwell says, although one song seems clearly about an affair she had while Lennon was away. Some of the material from “A Story” was included as part of the “Onobox” project that came out in 1992, and the album was released separately in 1997. Ono also re-recorded some of its songs in 1980, and Lennon was holding a tape of her composition “It Happened” when he was shot and killed. In it, she sings about an unspecified, seemingly traumatic event: “It happened at a time

of my life when I least expected.” That wasn’t even the most chilling premonition. Her song “O’Oh” ended with firecrackers that sound like gunshots. It was left off the 1997 release.

Guns N’ Roses was at the top of the hard rock world when they began recording a new album in 1994. It didn’t go well. Inconclusive sessions slogged on for years, and all but singer Axl Rose left the group. Recording costs exceeded a staggering \$13 million, by some accounts the most expensive rock album ever. One witness told The New York Times in 2005: “What Axl wanted to do was to make the best record that had ever been made. It’s an impossible task. You could go on indefinitely, which is what they’ve done.” When “Chinese Democracy” was finally released in 2008, the world yawned.

Triumph

Not even a decade after the triumph of “What’s Going On,” Marvin Gaye was floundering. His “Here, My Dear” divorce album flopped, he struggled with drugs and searched for relevance in the disco era. The single “Ego Tripping Out,” meant to herald a new album, laid bare the problems: Over a melody cribbed from Donna Summer’s “Hot Stuff,” the famously cool “Love Man” boasted like an insecure rapper. He scrapped the album, repurposing some its material for the 1981 disc “In Our Lifetime,” a process so fraught he bitterly left his longtime label Motown. Gaye went to CBS, made a huge comeback with “Sexual Healing,” then was shot dead by his father in 1984.

Neil Young rivals Prince in the volume of material left in his vault, and he’s been systematically releasing much of it. The mostly acoustic “Homegrown” was recorded as 1974 bled into 1975, during Young’s breakup with actor Carrie Snodgrass. Instead of releasing it in 1975, he put out another heartbreak album, the well-regarded “Tonight’s the Night,” about losing friends to drug abuse. When Young finally dropped “Homegrown” in 2020, he wrote in his blog, “Sometimes life hurts. This is the one that got away.”



Bruce Springsteen speaks to the audience during a concert with the E Street Band at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, Germany, on June 11, 2025. (AP)

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Jennette McCurdy’s widely acclaimed memoir “I’m Glad My Mom Died” will be adapted into a series on Apple TV+, with **Jennifer Aniston** to star in a role modeled after McCurdy’s mother.

The 10-episode dramedy was written by McCurdy and film producer Ari Katcher. The pair will serve as co-show-runners and will executive produce the series alongside Aniston, Apple announced Tuesday.

McCurdy started acting at age 8 and rose to fame as a co-star on Nickelodeon show “iCarly” with Miranda Cosgrove, later reprising her role as Sam in the spinoff “Sam & Cat” opposite Ariana Grande. Her memoir recounts being “emotionally, mentally and physically abused” by her mother throughout her childhood.

The show will center around the “codependent re-



Aniston

lationship” between a young female actor in a popular kid’s show and her “narcissistic mother,” according to the statement. No casting has been announced for the child star, who is described by Apple as being 18.

McCurdy’s bestselling book released in August 2022, following years of therapy the actor said was vital in allowing her to fully deal with her mother’s death due to cancer complications in 2013. (AP)

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LONDON: Rap-punk duo Bob Vylan on Tuesday rejected claims of antisemitism over onstage comments at the Glastonbury Festival that triggered a police investigation and sparked criticism from politicians, the BBC and festival organizers.

The band said in a statement that it was being “targeted for speaking up” about the war in Gaza.

Police are investigating whether a crime was committed when frontman Bob Vylan led the audience in chants of “Death to the IDF” - the Israel Defense Forces - during the band’s set at the festival in southwest England on Saturday.

The British government called the chants “appalling hate speech” and the BBC said it regretted livestreaming the “antisemitic sentiments.” U.S. authorities revoked the musicians’ visas.

Israel’s war against Hamas in Gaza has inflamed

tensions around the world, triggering pro-Palestinian protests in many capitals and on college campuses. Israel and some supporters have described the protests as antisemitic, while critics say Israel uses such descriptions to silence opponents.

In a statement on Instagram, Bob Vylan said: “We are not for the death of jews, arabs or any other race or group of people. We are for the dismantling of a violent military machine. ... A machine that has destroyed much of Gaza.”

Alleging that “we are a distraction from the story,” the duo added: “We are being targeted for speaking up.” (AP)

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STAMFORD, Conn.: Ahmed Fareed will host NBC’s Big Ten football studio show as well as Peacock’s NBA coverage on Monday nights. NBC Sports made the announcement on Tuesday.

Fareed was an occasional studio host during the first two years of NBC’s Big Ten package, but will move into the lead role with Maria Taylor becoming the host of the network’s NBA coverage on Tuesday night and Sunday night when the NFL season concludes.

Fareed hosted NBC Sports Bay Area’s coverage of the Golden State Warriors and Sacramento Kings from 2013-18. (AP)



Martin Cooper, who led the team that built the first mobile cellphone, sits behind a prototype of that phone at his home, April 4, 2025, in San Diego. (AP)

The cellphone pioneer

The man who made us reachable everywhere

DEL MAR, Calif., July 2, (AP): Dick Tracy got an atom-powered two-way wrist radio in 1946. Marty Cooper never forgot it.

The Chicago boy became a star engineer who ran Motorola’s research and development arm when the hometown telecommunications titan was locked in a 1970s corporate battle to invent the portable phone. Cooper rejected AT&T’s wager on the car phone, betting that America wanted to feel like Dick Tracy, armed with “a device that was an extension of you, that made you reachable everywhere.”

Fifty-two years ago, Cooper declared victory in a call from a Manhattan sidewalk to the head of AT&T’s rival program. His four-pound DynaTAC 8000X has evolved into a global population of billions of smartphones weighing mere ounces apiece. Some 4.6 billion people - nearly 60% of the world - have mobile internet, according to a global association of mobile network operators.

The tiny computers that we carry by the billions are becoming massive, interlinked networks of processors that perform trillions of calculations per second - the computing power that artificial intelligence needs. The simple headlines once used to call friends or family have evolved into omnipresent glossy screens that never leave our sight and flood our brain with hours of data daily, deluging us with endless messages, emails, videos and a soundtrack that many play constantly to block the outside world.

From his home in Del Mar, California, the inventor of the mobile phone, now 96, watches all of this. Of one thing Cooper is certain: The revolution has really just begun.

Now, the winner of the 2024 National Medal of Technology and Innovation - the United States’ highest honor for technological achievement - is focused on the cellphone’s imminent transition to a thinking mobile computer fueled by human calories to avoid dependence on batteries. Our new parts will run constant tests on our bodies and feed our doctors real-time results, Cooper predicts.

Smartphones

Human behavior is already adapting to smartphones, some observers say, using them as tools that allow overwhelmed minds to focus on quality communication.

The phone conversation has become the way to communicate the most intimate of social ties, says Claude Fischer, a sociology professor at the University of California, Berkeley and author of “America Calling: A Social History of the Telephone to 1940.”

For almost everyone, the straight up phone call has become an intrusion. Now everything needs to be pre-advised with a message.

“There seems to be a sense that the phone call is for heart-to-heart,” Fischer says.

And this from a 20-year-old corroborates that: “The only person I call on a day-to-day basis is my cousin,” says Ayesha Iqbal, a psychology student at Suffolk County Community College. “I primarily text everyone else.”

When she was a girl, Karen Wilson’s family shared a party line with other phone customers outside Buffalo, New York, and had to wait to use the phone if someone else was on. Wilson, 79, shocked her granddaughter by telling her about the party line when the girl got a cellphone as a teenager.

“What did you do if you didn’t wait?” the girl asked. Responded her grandmother: “‘You went out to their house and you yelled, ‘Hey, Mary, can you come out?’”

Many worry about the changes exerted by our newly interconnected, highly stimulated world.

We increasingly buy online and get products delivered without the possibility of serendipity. There are fewer opportunities to greet a neighbor or store employee and find out something unexpected, to make a friend, to fall in love. People are working more efficiently as they drown.

“There’s no barrier to the number of people who can be reaching out to you at the same time and it’s just overwhelming,” says Kristen Burks, an associate circuit judge in Macon, Missouri.

Movement

Most importantly, sociologists, psychologists and teachers say, near-constant phone-driven screen time is cutting into kids’ ability to learn and socialize. A growing movement is pushing back against cellphones’ intrusion into children’s daily lives.

Seven states have signed - and twenty states have introduced - state-wide bell-to-bell phone bans in schools. Additional states have moved to prohibit them during teaching time.

The mobile advantage is coming to rich countries faster than poor ones. Adjusting to life in Russia when Nnaemeka Agbo moved there from Nigeria in 2023 was tough, he says, but one thing kept him going; WhatsApp calls with family.

In a country that has one of the world’s highest poverty and hunger levels despite being Africa’s top oil producer, Agbo’s experience mirrored that of many young people in forced to choose between remaining at home with family and taking a chance at a better life elsewhere.

For many, phone calls blur distance with comfort.

“No matter how busy my schedule is, I must call my people every weekend, even if that’s the only call I have to make,” Agbo says.

In Africa, where only 37% of the population had internet access in 2023, according to the International Telecommunication Union, regular mobile calls are the only option many have.

Tabane Cissé, who moved from Senegal to Spain in 2023, makes phone calls about investing Spanish earnings at home. Otherwise, it’s all texts, or voice notes, with one exception.

His mother doesn’t read or write, but when he calls “it’s as if I was standing next to her,” Cissé says. “It brings back memories - such pleasure.”

He couldn’t do it without the cell phone. And half a world away, that suits Marty Cooper just fine.

“There are more cell phones in the world today than there are people,” Cooper says. “Your life can be made infinitely more efficient just by virtue of being connected with everybody else in the world. But I have to tell you that this is only the beginning.”

China confronts senior cancer surge with early detection, TCM

Study links hormone therapy to breast cancer risk

LOS ANGELES, July 2, (Xinhua): A new study led by scientists at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) has found that two common forms of hormone therapy may alter breast cancer risk in women under the age of 55.

According to the study, women who received unopposed estrogen hormone therapy (E-HT) had a lower risk of developing breast cancer compared to those who did not use hormone therapy. In contrast, women treated with combined estrogen plus progestin hormone therapy (EP-HT) were found to have a higher risk of developing the disease.

The findings, published Monday in The Lancet Oncology, are based on an extensive analysis of data from over 459,000 women under the age of 55 across North America, Europe, Asia and Australia.

“Our study provides greater understanding of the risks associated with different types of hormone therapy, which we hope will help patients and their doctors develop more informed treatment plans,” said lead author Katie O’Brien, a researcher at NIH’s National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).

The study found that E-HT use was associated with a 14 percent reduction in breast cancer incidence compared to non-users. The protective effect was more pronounced among women who began E-HT at a younger age or used it for a longer duration.

Conversely, women using EP-HT experienced a 10 percent higher risk of breast cancer, which increased to 18 percent among those who used the therapy for more than two years.

The cumulative risk of breast cancer before age 55 was estimated at 3.6 percent for E-HT users, 4.5 percent for EP-HT users, and 4.1 percent for women who never used hormone therapy, according to the study.

The researchers also noted that the elevated risk associated with EP-HT was particularly significant among women who had not undergone hysterectomy or oophorectomy, emphasizing the importance of considering surgical history when evaluating hormone therapy options.

“These findings underscore the need for personalized medical advice when considering hormone therapy,” said NIEHS scientist and senior author Dale Sandler.

Also:

BEIJING: With a rapidly aging population, China is facing a pressing new public health challenge: cancer among the elderly.

According to the latest data, people over the age of 60 now account for 60.7 percent of all new cancer diagnoses in the country, making senior cancer care one of the most urgent priorities in China’s efforts to deliver health for all.

To promote cancer awareness among the elderly, China has launched a week-long national campaign. Medical experts are urging earlier detection, evidence-based treatment, and greater public education to counter myths that often cause seniors to delay or avoid care.

China’s demographic shift is accelerating: those aged 60 and above now make up more than 20 percent of the population. By 2035, that figure is expected to reach 30 percent, with the elderly population surpassing 400 million.

A report by the Chinese Anti-Cancer Association shows that lung and gastrointestinal cancers are the most prevalent among older adults, accounting for roughly 65 percent of malignant tumors in this age group. Other commonly diagnosed cancers include liver, lymphoma, prostate, and various blood cancers.

“Cancer among seniors is not uncommon, and it’s closely tied to the accumulation of genetic mutations over time,” said **Xue Dong**, a specialist in senior oncology at Peking University Cancer Hospital. Xue explained that aging cells, a declining immune system, and long-term exposure to carcinogens significantly increase vulnerability.

Early detection remains the most powerful tool in fighting cancer, experts say.

In response, China’s National Health Commission has called for enhanced public health services, including nationwide health checkups for adults aged 65 and older, with more frequent screenings for high-risk groups.

Local initiatives are also underway. In **Yancheng**, east China’s **Jiangsu Province**, residents aged 60 to 69 now receive free testing for 12 common tumor markers. In **Daqing**, the northeastern province of **Heilongjiang**, authorities offer free screening for five major cancers -- lung, breast, liver, upper gastrointestinal, and colorectal -- to citizens aged between 45 and 74.

Beyond cancer screenings, physicians also promote healthier daily routines. **Zhang Tong**, a cancer specialist at Xiyuan Hospital of the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, encourages seniors to maintain a balanced diet and practice traditional Chinese fitness exercises, such as Tai Chi and Baduanjin, which are known to enhance energy and immune function.

Antarctic ice loss threatens climate stability

Climate law amendment to reduce emissions by 90 percent by 2040: EU

BRUSSELS, July 2, (Agencies): The European Commission proposed on Wednesday an amendment to the EU Climate Law to cut net greenhouse gas emissions by 90 percent by 2040 compared to 1990 levels in line with its 2024-2029 political guidelines.

In a press release, the Commission said the new proposal aims to provide greater certainty for investors, boost innovation, strengthen European industrial leadership, and enhance energy security across the continent.

It noted that the proposal comes at a time when the latest Eurobarometer survey shows strong public support for continuing the EU’s clean transition agenda.

According to the Commission, the proposal is based on a comprehensive impact assessment and wide-ranging consultations involving EU Member States, the European Parliament, stakeholders, and civil society. It also draws on recommendations from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change.

The proposed amendment, the statement explained, introduces a more flexible and realistic approach to achieving climate targets.

This includes mechanisms such as the use of high-quality international carbon credits starting in 2036, the permanent removal of carbon within the EU Emissions Trading System and cross-sectoral flexibilities among Member States allowing, for example, a country to offset underperformance in land use with overachievement in sectors like waste or transport. The Commission emphasized the importance of accelerating the creation of enabling conditions to reach the 90% target.

These include ensuring a just transition that leaves no one behind, boosting industrial competitiveness, and maintaining fair competition with international partners. In this context, the Commission also announced the first steps of implementing the “Clean Industrial Deal” a key component of the roadmap toward the 2040 target.

This includes the adoption of a State Aid Framework to support investment in clean energy transition and simplification of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism to protect European industries from carbon leakage.

Antarctic summer sea ice is retreating at record speeds, unleashing a chain reaction of environmental and social consequences that Australian experts say could profoundly alter the global climate and ecosystems, new research has revealed.

Record lows in sea-ice extent are exposing coastlines, warming oceans, and disrupting delicate ecosystems, while also fueling public anxiety about climate change, according to the study led by the Australian Antarctic Program Partnership (AAPP) at the University of Tasmania.

The research, synthesizing impacts across ocean systems, ecosystems, and human societies, reveals that extreme sea-ice lows, like those observed in recent years, trigger three interconnected crises, said an AAPP release on Tuesday. As sea ice vanishes, Antarctica’s coastline loses its protective barrier, leading to increased wave damage, faster ice-shelf weakening, and more iceberg calving, with six extra icebergs per 100,000 km² lost, heightening sea-level rise risks, according to the study’s lead author **Edward Doddridge** from the AAPP.



Protesters march to raise awareness of climate change and ecology on the second day of the Glastonbury Festival at Worthy Farm, Somerset, England, June 27, 2019. (AP)

ECMWF warns of persistent heat

June 2025 may be one of Europe’s hottest

BRUSSELS, July 2, (Xinhua): Much of Europe experienced widespread extreme heat in June 2025, with the month possibly ranking among the top five hottest ever recorded on the continent, the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) said Tuesday.

According to a report released by ECMWF, temperatures remained warmer than average across many parts of Europe throughout June, with Western Europe hit by two distinct heatwaves. The center warned that extreme temperatures are expected to continue in the coming days.

“The temperatures observed recently are more typical of the months of July and August and tend to only happen a few times each summer,” said Samantha Burgess, strategic lead for climate at ECMWF. “Climate change is making heatwaves more frequent, more intense, and impacting larger geographical areas,” she added.

Meteorological data from several countries highlighted the severity of the heat. In Huelva, Spain, temperatures reached 46 degrees Celsius, marking the record-breaking June temperature in the country.

Polio case

Rare bat virus hits Australia

SYDNEY, July 2, (Xinhua): Residents of the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) have been told to avoid contact with bats after a man who was bitten contracted a deadly virus.

The NSW Department of Health said on Wednesday that the man in his 50s is in critical condition in hospital with the state’s first confirmed human case of Australian bat lyssavirus.

Australian bat lyssavirus is a virus closely related to rabies that affects the central nervous system and is transmitted to humans when saliva from an infected bat enters the body through a bite or scratch.

There have been three previous confirmed human cases of Australian bat lyssavirus in the northeastern state of Queensland between 1996 and 2012, all of which were fatal.

NSW Health Director in Health Protection Keira Glasgow said that the man from the state’s north was bitten by a bat several months ago and received treatment following the injury.

Polio: As Pakistan continued to battle a crippling disease, the country recorded another polio case, increasing the overall tally to 14 so far in 2025, the Health Ministry said.

The new case was reported from the northwest North Waziristan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province as health officials confirmed the detection of type 1 wild poliovirus in a 19-month-old girl.

So far, eight cases have been reported from the province, four from the southern Sindh province and one from the eastern Punjab province and the northern Gilgit-Baltistan region each.

Meth deaths: Australians aged 43 to 63 now face the nation’s highest risk of death from methamphetamine-related causes, according to new research released Wednesday.

The research reveals that methamphetamine-related deaths in Australia have more than quadrupled over the past 20 years, with Generation X -- those born between 1962 and 1982 -- experiencing the greatest impact, according to a statement released by the Melbourne-based Burnet Institute, which led the research.



This undated file photo shows a researcher demonstrating the lunar 3D printing process at the Deep Space Exploration Laboratory in Hefei, east China’s Anhui Province. (Xinhua)

Lunar soil used

China’s lunar 3D printing tech paves way for moon ‘houses’

HEFEI, July 2, (Xinhua): A groundbreaking 3D printing system developed by Chinese scientists has explored using only on-site-sourced lunar soil to build habitats, paving the way for the large-scale, on-site construction of lunar research stations.

The Deep Space Exploration Laboratory in Hefei, Anhui Province, has successfully prototyped a lunar regolith 3D printer that eliminates the need for Earth-sourced construction materials, according to Yang Honglun, a senior engineer at the lab. He revealed that the system uses a high-precision reflective concentrator and flexible fiber-optic energy transmission to achieve temperatures hot enough to fuse lunar regolith.

“This printing breakthrough has validated the feasibility of using lunar soil as the sole raw building material, enabling true in-situ resource utilization and eliminating the need to transport any additional materials from Earth,” he said. Also among the printing system’s key innovations is flexible manufacturing, which enables brick production and the customized molding of complex structures.

A preliminary test of the prototype’s lunar regolith forming process has been completed on the ground surface. Tests of its ability to melt and form lines, surfaces, bodies and complex structures have also been completed, and tests of the technical feasibility of the prototype’s solar concentrating technology, optical fiber bundle energy transmission and lunar regolith melting system have been systematically completed.

In the early stages of the research team’s work, the core challenge was achieving reliable solar energy concentration and regolith shaping under the extreme conditions of the lunar environment.

China to form global group for deep-space exploration

HEFEI, July 2, (Xinhua): China will officially launch the International Deep Space Exploration Association (IDSEA) next Monday, with a particular aim of empowering other developing countries in developing deep-space technologies.

Located in Hefei, Anhui Province, the association will be the nation’s first international academic organization in the aerospace domain, capitalizing on the growing global interest in China’s lunar and Mars missions.

The IDSEA will focus on deep-space study, which includes probes into the moon, other planets and asteroids, and promote international cooperation, according to the Hefei-based Deep Space Exploration Laboratory, one of the association’s five initiators. Wang Zhongmin, director of the lab’s international cooperation center, said the IDSEA aims to become an inclusive academic platform that will benefit developing countries in particular.

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Missing Clark, Fever soars past Lynx to win Commissioner’s Cup



Indiana Fever players celebrate after winning the WNBA Commissioner’s Cup championship basketball game against the Minnesota Lynx in Minneapolis. (AP)

Minnesota has its worst offensive performance of season

MINNEAPOLIS, July 2, (AP): **Natasha Howard had 16 points, 12 rebounds and four assists on Tuesday night as the Indiana Fever defeated the Minnesota Lynx 74-59 in the WNBA Commissioner’s Cup final.**

The Fever was missing All-Star guard Caitlin Clark, who has been sidelined since June 24 with a strained groin. That didn’t slow down the Fever, who overcame an early 13-point deficit with balanced scoring and a stout defensive performance against the team with the best record in the league.

Minnesota had its worst offensive performance of the season, shooting 34.9% from the floor and making 4-of-16 3-pointers after averaging 9.4 3-pointers this season.

Sophie Cunningham scored 13 points while Aliyah Boston, Aari



Indiana Fever guard Kelsey Mitchell (0) works toward the basket as Minnesota Lynx guard Kayla McBride (21) and forward Napheesa Collier (24) defend during the second half of the WNBA Commissioner’s Cup championship in Minneapolis. (AP)

McDonald and Kelsey Mitchell each scored 12 points.

Alanna Smith led Minnesota with 15 points. Napheesa Collier had 12

points and nine rebounds, and Courtney Williams added 11 points but had six of the team’s 16 turnovers.

Smith hit a 3-pointer and made an acrobatic layup to cap a 12-0 run that gave Minnesota an 18-9 lead.

The Lynx stretched its lead to 27-14 early in the second quarter. But it was held scoreless for the final 8:17 of the half, going 0 for 10 from the floor as the Fever stormed back. Cunningham hit a pair of 3s as Indiana closed the quarter on an 18-0 run to take a 32-27 lead at the half.

The Fever built its lead to double figures as Howard scored 10 points in the third quarter and the Lynx never got closer than seven the rest of the way. When Minnesota rallied to cut its deficit to 60-51 midway through the fourth quarter, Cunningham buried her third 3-pointer of the night to silence the crowd and send the Fever on its way.

The Lynx beat the New York Liberty on the road in last year’s Commissioner’s Cup final. Minnesota earned home-court advantage this year by virtue of its league-best 14-2 record.

‘The disappointment is huge’

Cuba volleyball team denied US visa to compete in Puerto Rico

HAVANA, Cuba, July 2, (AP): The Cuban women’s national volleyball team was denied a chance to play in a tournament in Puerto Rico following the new visa restrictions imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump.

The Cuban Volleyball Federation said last week that the team, comprising 12 athletes, a referee and several coaches, had their visa request denied and will be unable to attend the tournament later this month.

“The disappointment is huge because I train every day, every hour of training is leading up to this and dedicate myself to it,” national team player Laura Suarez told The Associated Press. “It’s really disappointing not to be able to participate in the competition, which is what I’ve been preparing myself for.”

Cuba was scheduled to play in the NORCECA Women’s Final Four tournament in Manatí, Puerto Rico. The tournament includes Puerto Rico, Mexico and Costa Rica and it awards ranking points toward qualification for the Volleyball Nations League. “We were focused on the competition because it’s right there,” said Dayana Martínez, another player. “Arriving at the embassy and being denied the visa affects us a lot because that competition gives us points to improve our ranking.”

The Cuban team’s coach, Wilfredo Robinson, said the decision means his team is likely to miss out

on the Nations League.

“The competition grants points for each match and at the end it all adds up,” Robinson said. “In September, we have another tournament and if we get there needing to achieve 80 or 100 points we are not going to be able to do it.”

The United States added Cuba to a list of 12 countries with restrictions for entering the U.S. or its territories, effective from early June. It includes nationals from Afghanistan, the Republic of Congo, Iran, Venezuela and other nations.

“Denial of visas is part of a racist and xenophobic list of visa restrictions,” Cuban foreign minister Bruno Rodríguez wrote on his X account.

In a message sent to The Associated Press, the U.S. Embassy in Cuba stated that, according to its privacy policies, it could not comment on specific cases but that directives were being implemented to secure the borders and protect U.S. communities and citizens.

The Cuban women’s national team won back-to-back world championships in 1994 and 1998. It also won three Olympic golds in a row in Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000.

The U.S. measures are likely to impact many more Cuban athletes who depend on international competitions, including some on American soil to qualify for major championships and the next Olympics scheduled to be played in Los Angeles in 2028.

Best of the Rest

French side Metz to honor fans: Fans are an integral part of soccer clubs and French Ligue 1 side Metz has reinforced the bond by featuring them on the away jersey this season. As a mark of recognition to its supporters, the white away jersey has watermark images of fans raising their arms or scarves aloft and features the names of two Metz ultras groups printed on flags.

“By our side everywhere, designed to pay vibrant homage to supporters,” the club wrote alongside the jersey. Metz won a relegation-promotion playoff against Reims at the end of last season to return to the top flight, having been relegated the previous season in the same playoff.

Metz opens its Ligue 1 campaign at home to Strasbourg in mid-August. (AP)

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Arce leaves LDU Quito: Paraguay international forward Alex Arce has parted ways with LDU Quito ahead of his expected return to Argentina’s Independiente Rivadavia.

LDU Quito published a video on social media on Tuesday confirming the 30-year-old’s departure after 18 months with the Ecuadorian club.

“Thank you, Alex Arce. We want to wish you great success in this new journey,” it said in an accompanying statement.

Arce, who has been capped nine times for Paraguay’s national team, scored 42 goals in 65 matches across all competitions for LDU Quito.

On Monday, Independiente Rivadavia president Daniel Vila told local media that Arce had agreed to a four-year deal with the Mendoza-based club, with whom he made 37 appearances and scored 28 goals from 2023 to 2024. (Xinhua)

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Jackson Jr. needs surgery: Grizzlies All-Star big man Jaren Jackson Jr. will need surgery after suffering a turf toe injury to his right foot while participating in offseason basketball activities, the team announced Tuesday.

Memphis said Jackson is expected to recover fully, adding that a timeline for his recovery will be provided after the surgery. (AP)

Robinson joins Pistons on a three-year deal

Bucks land Turner, cut injured Lillard in stunning free agency move

WASHINGTON, July 2, (AP): Myles Turner is about to become teammates with Giannis Antetokounmpo. Damian Lillard now has the chance to pick his next spot.

And just like that, the first full day of NBA free agency brought big surprises Tuesday.

Turner - the longtime stalwart for the Indiana Pacers - agreed to a four-year deal to join the Milwaukee Bucks, who waived the nine-time All-Star in Lillard to make the acquisition happen, a person with knowledge of the moves told The Associated Press.

Turner is agreeing to a deal that ends with a player option, after spending the entirety of his first 10 seasons with the Pacers, who went to the NBA Finals this past season. And the remaining \$112.6 million owed to Lillard will be paid out over the next five seasons via the NBA’s stretch provision, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because neither move was announced by the clubs involved.

ESPN, which first reported the plan by the Pacers and Bucks, said Turner agreed to a contract worth \$107 million.

In both cases, Achilles tendon in-

juries played a role in how things unfolded.

Indiana expects to be without star guard Tyrese Haliburton for the entirety of the coming season because he ruptured his Achilles tendon in Game 7 of the NBA Finals against the Oklahoma City Thunder while playing through what was diagnosed as a calf strain. Earlier, Lillard ruptured his Achilles tendon while playing for Milwaukee in Round 1 against Indiana.

Lillard is likely to miss most, if not all, of the coming season. He will be free to sign with anyone he chooses, and teams could simply sign him now, give him a chance to continue his recovery and do so with hope that the seven-time All-NBA selection is fully ready to go by the start of the 2026-27 season.

“This is an opportunity for Damian to stay home to continue his rehabilitation, take time to decide where he wants to play next, while still being paid his entire contract,” said Lillard’s agent, Aaron Goodwin.

Turner has averaged 14.1 points and 6.8 rebounds in his 10 seasons with the Pacers, who had to make a decision this summer about whether to surpass the luxury tax threshold knowing



In this file photo, Indiana Pacers center Myles Turner dunks against the Oklahoma City Thunder during the second half of Game 6 of the NBA Finals basketball in Indianapolis. (AP)

that Haliburton likely cannot play this coming season.

Lillard, who turns 35 this month, has averaged 25.1 points and 6.7 assists in 900 regular-season games over 13 seasons - the first 11 with Portland, the last two with Milwaukee.

The Bucks lost Brook Lopez to the

Los Angeles Clippers when free agency opened Monday.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and the Oklahoma City Thunder have agreed on a record-setting 4-year, \$285 million extension that would give him the highest single-season average salary in NBA history, a person with knowledge of the agreement said Tuesday.

He is coming off a year when he became the fourth player in NBA history to win MVP, Finals MVP and a scoring title and play for a champion in the same season. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar did it once, Michael Jordan then did it four times and Shaquille O’Neal was the last entrant into that fraternity - until this past season, when Gilgeous-Alexander joined the club.

Duncan Robinson, the leading 3-point shooter in Miami Heat history, is headed back to Michigan for the next step of his career.

A person with knowledge of the agreement said the Detroit Pistons will land Robinson on a three-year, \$48 million contract and the Heat will receive wing Simone Fontecchio in what will be a sign-and-trade.

Robinson started his college career at Division III’s Williams in Massachusetts, before finishing at Michigan.

He was an undrafted success story with the Heat, part of the 2020 and 2023 teams that went to the NBA Finals.

Veteran point guard and German Olympic teamer Dennis Schröder has agreed to join the Sacramento Kings on a three-year deal, the third of which is not fully guaranteed, a person with knowledge of that agreement said Tuesday. ESPN reported the total value of the deal is \$45 million.

Schröder, who is entering his 13th NBA season, is joining his 10th club - and ninth in the last seven years. He spent the first five seasons of his career with Atlanta, then was with Oklahoma City, the Los Angeles Lakers (twice), Boston, Houston, Toronto, Brooklyn, Golden State and Detroit at various times over the past seven seasons.

He has averaged 13.9 points and 4.9 assists in 849 regular-season games.

Sharpshooting wing Tim Hardaway Jr. will be signing a one-year contract with the Denver Nuggets, a person familiar with the player’s plans said Tuesday.

Hardaway spent last season with Detroit - he averaged 11 points in 77 games as a starter for the Pistons - and Denver becomes his fifth club. He also has been with Dallas, New York and

Atlanta.

Center Jakob Poeltl gets a raise and some job security in a contract extension that keeps him with the Toronto Raptors, a person familiar with that agreement confirmed Tuesday. Poeltl will be finalizing a four-year deal worth about \$26 million per year, or about \$7 million more on average than what he was in line to make this coming season.

Poeltl - a career 63% shooter - is coming off a season in which he averaged career bests of 14.5 points and 9.6 rebounds.

Philadelphia announced Tuesday night that guard Eric Gordon has resigned with the team. Because it’s a veteran minimum contract, there was no need for the 76ers to wait until the offseason moratorium is lifted Sunday to announce the deal.

“Eric is a prolific shot maker whose ability to space the floor will serve our rotation well. He’s been a great fit on and off the court with this organization and we’re fortunate to have him back,” 76ers basketball operations president Daryl Morey said. Gordon averaged 6.8 points in 39 games for Philadelphia this past season. He is entering his 18th NBA season.

German-Chinese U16 tourney set for August in Mannheim

MANNHEIM, Germany, July 2, (Xinhua):A German-Chinese under-16 football tournament will take place in Mannheim this August, with about 10 teams expected to participate, organizers announced.

The 8th German-Chinese U16 Football Tournament is scheduled for August 19-23 at the Sepp-Herberger Stadium, located within the grounds of local club SV Waldhof Mannheim, according to a press release from the Society for German-Chinese Friendship in the Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region.

Organizers expect four to five Chinese teams and five German teams, including sides

from Heidelberg and Stuttgart, to compete in the tournament. Felix Kurz, chairman of GDCF MRN and one of the project’s initiators, said the event aims to promote “personal encounters between people from both countries at all levels.” The tournament was jointly initiated by Kurz, former China men’s national team coach Klaus Schlappner, and former Mannheim First Mayor Norbert Egger. The first edition was held in Mannheim in 2012.

The event alternates between Germany and China. The seventh edition was hosted in 2019 by the Chinese cities of Haikou and Sanya in Hainan Province.

Leverkusen signs England U-21 defender Quansah from Liverpool

LEVERKUSEN, Germany, July 2, (AP): Bayer Leverkusen has replaced former captain Jonathan Tah with Jarell Quansah from Liverpool in a club-record signing for a defender.

The 22-year-old Quansah signed a contract through June 2030 and will wear Tah’s former No. 4 shirt, the Bundesliga club said Wednesday.

The reported fee of more than 30 million euros (\$35.3 million) rising to 40 million (\$47 million) with bonuses corresponds roughly with what Liverpool agreed to pay Leverkusen for Netherlands right back Jeremie Frimpong in May.

Liverpool reportedly secured a buy-back option for Quansah for more than 60 million euros (\$70.6 million) after he has spent two seasons at Leverkusen.

Leverkusen also sold star player Florian Wirtz to Liverpool last month for a Bundesliga-record fee.



England’s Jarell Quansah, right, fights for the ball with Germany’s Nnamdi Collins during the European U-21 Championship final soccer match between England and Germany at the National Football Stadium in Bratislava, Slovakia. (AP)

Tah switched to league rival Bayern Munich once the season concluded after declining to extend his contract. He had spent a decade at Leverkusen and was a key part of the team which won the Bundesliga and German Cup unbeaten in 2023-24.

Quansah won the Under-21 European Championship with England last week. But he was unable to establish himself as a regular starter at Liverpool ahead of Virgil van Dijk and Ibrahima Konaté.

“One of the most promising English central defenders. He’s fast, agile, a good footballer,” Leverkusen sporting director Simon Rolfes said of Quansah.

“He has already made an impressive impact in a Liverpool defense dominated by world-class players. With Jarell, our defense gains significant dynamism, pace and toughness in tackling, and he’s another very important building block.”

Leverkusen last week also signed Abdoulaye Faye for a reported fee of 3 million euros (\$3.5 million) from Swedish team BK Häcken, with the 20-year-old Senegalese defender expected to go on loan for the upcoming season.

Kuwait Camel Racing Club launches special cup honoring late Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser Al-Sabah

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Board of Directors of the Kuwait Camel Racing Club has announced the launch of a special cup bearing the name of the late Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser Al-Sabah for the upcoming 2025-2026 season. The announcement was made by Club President Hussein Manea Al-Dawas and Secretary-General Rabih Faraj Al-Ajmi, who stated that this tribute reflects the Club's deep appreciation for Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser's invaluable contributions and unwavering support – alongside his esteemed family – for the heritage sport of camel racing.

In a gesture of respect and mourning, the Chairman and members of the Board of Directors extended their heartfelt condolences to the ruling family, the sports community, and particularly to Sheikh Sabah Fahad Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Secretary-General of the Hunting and Equestrian Club and member of the Camel Racing Club's General Assembly, on the passing of his late father, Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser Al-Sabah.



Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser Al-Sabah

New beach volleyball committee established by KVA

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Kuwait Volleyball Association formed the Beach Committee for the 2025/2026 season during the recently concluded Board of Directors meeting.

Chairman of the Board of Directors Dr. Jaber Al-Marri presided over the meeting, which was held at the headquarters of the association in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

The Beach Committee consists of the following:

Chairman: International referee Abbas Ashkanani

Vice-Chairman: Issa Al-Saleem

Rapporteur: International referee Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Houli

Member: Nour Al-Din bin Abdullah Burqa'a

The association previously formed a Training Committee headed by Dr. Jaber Al-Sharif, with Talal Al-Jasim as Vice-Chairman, Dawoud Al-Haqqa as Rapporteur, and Mohammad Kabli and Abdul-Moneim Safar as members.



A file photo of players in action.

Referees Committee
Chairman: Ali Al-Astath
Vice Chairman: Adel Bunashi
Rapporteur: Ahmed Onaizan
Members: Faisal Al-Shammari, Ahmed Al-Saleh, Hussein Al-Tamimi and Nouf Al-Arini

Competitions Committee
Chairman: Arif Al-Subaihi,
Vice Chairman: Abdullah Al-Najdi
Rapporteur: Nayef Al-Humaidan
Members: Mazyed Al-Adwani and Abdulhadi Al-Marri

British and Irish Lions surge in second half to rout Reds



Bundee Aki of the British & Irish Lions is tackled by defenders during their game against the Queensland Reds in Brisbane, Australia. (AP)

Russell again orchestrates the Lions attack

BRISBANE, Australia, July 2, (AP): Maro Itoje bounced over to score beside the posts to trigger another second-half surge from the British and Irish Lions in a 52-12 win over the Queensland Reds on Wednesday.

The Lions are now two from two in five days in Australia after a 54-7 tour-opening win over Western Force in Perth on the weekend.

The British and Irish lineup had it tough in the first half against the Force before opening up.

On a cool, windy night in Brisbane, the Lions again took a while to get started, twice falling behind to early tries before turning a 12-7 deficit into a 21-12 halftime lead.

Skipper Itoje, who was rested for the first game, ran powerfully onto an inside pass from scrumhalf Jamison Gibson-Park five minutes after the break to crack the game open, with the Lions scoring three tries in 15 minutes.

Flyhalf Finn Russell again orchestrated the Lions attack before he was rested after 55 minutes.

The Lions were determined to play with pace and high-tempo, spreading the ball to the edges regularly and maintaining a positive attacking shape to generate space and scoring opportunities.

Winger Tommy Freeman was a beneficiary, scoring two tries,



Huw Jones of the British & Irish Lions runs to score a try during their game against the Queensland Reds in Brisbane, Australia. (AP)

while Bundy Ake created opportunities in midfield and openside flanker Jac Morgan put in a player-of-the-match performance in a dominant forward pack, including a try for his efforts.

Huw Jones plucked an attempted chip kick out of the air and sprinted 60 meters for a counter-attacking try to make it 47-12 and Garry Ringrose capped it off with a try five minutes into stoppage time.

The Lions have now won back-to-back matches after slipping to a 28-24 loss to Argentina in a warmup in Dublin before traveling to Australia for a nine-game tour, which includes three tests against the Wallabies on July 19, 26 and

Aug. 2.

The Lions will play the New South Wales Waratahs on Saturday in Sydney.

Irish fullback Hugo Keenan was ruled out just ahead of the match and replaced by Elliot Daly, who scored two tries in the win over Western Force. Daly hurt his left forearm in a tackle late in the second half and didn't finish the match. Welsh scrumhalf Tomos Williams was ruled out of the tour this week after injuring his left hamstring while scoring a try against the Force.

The Reds stunned the Lions with an early try and twice led in the first half.

Prop Jeff Toomaga-Allen powered through the defense and reached over to score the opener in the ninth minute after a strong break by center Hunter Paisami.

Ake was held up over the line at the back of a driving maul from a lineout in the 12th minute, and the Lions again went close to scoring in the 16th until Daly's last pass went astray with the try-line open.

The pressure paid off in the 20th when the Lions created an overlap and spread the ball wide for Freeman to score untouched.

The Reds, playing in maroon and navy colors, were missing a host of starting players on duty for Australia's test against Fiji on Sunday, but still threatened regularly.

Center Josh Flook swooped onto a short, stabbed grubber kick from scrumhalf Kalani Thomas as the Lions defense rushed up, collected the half-volley and dived over to give the Reds a 12-7 lead after 25 minutes.

The Lions went within inches of scoring two minutes later but couldn't ground the ball. There was no doubt over prop Andrew Porter's barging try from close range in the 29th, though, and the Lions regained the lead 14-12.

The Lions took a quick tap in the 35th after the Reds were penalized for a hand in the scrum and spread it wide quickly for Duhan van der Merwe to dive inside the corner post. It was all the Lions after that.

LONDON, July 2, (Agencies): Newly promoted Sunderland has spent a club record 30 million pounds (41 million U.S. dollars) to sign Senegal midfielder Habib Diarra from French club Strasbourg as it prepares for life in the Premier League.

Diarra moves to the northeast of England to help replace Jobe Bellingham, who joined Borussia Dortmund at the end of last season.

The 21-year-old has agreed a five-year contract with Sunderland after making 31 appearances for Strasbourg last season, as the club, which is coached by Liam Rosenior finished seventh in Ligue 1 and qualified to play in Europe for just the second time in 20 years.

"I'm happy and excited to become a Black Cat (Sunderland's nickname) and I can't wait to discover the Stadium of Light and its fans," said Diarra on the club website.

"Everyone saw last season's success and I guarantee that I'll give everything for this team and fight for these colors in the Premier League. I'm ready for this challenge and I can't wait to get started," he added.

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Joao Pedro joined Chelsea from Brighton on Wednesday to continue the Premier League club's lavish spending under American owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital.

The Brazil forward cost a reported 60 million pounds (\$82 million) and has signed a contract through to 2033.

"Everyone knows this is a big club with a great history," Joao Pedro said. "They had brilliant players in the past and have brilliant players now. So I am excited to join and you know when you are a Chelsea player you must think one thing - win." He has joined up with Chelsea's squad at the Club World Cup in the United States and is eligible to play in Friday's quarterfinal against Palmeiras.

Joao Pedro is Chelsea's fifth major signing this offseason after previous deals for Liam Delap, Dario Essugo, Kendry Paez and Mamadou Sarr.

Under Boehly and Clearlake the six-time English champion has spent well in excess of \$1 billion on transfers, including British record fees for Enzo Fernandez and Moises Caicedo.

Joao Pedro's arrival comes as Chelsea prepares for a return to the Champions League after a two-year absence.

Under coach Enzo Maresca, the London club finished fourth in the Premier League last season, its highest place since Boehly and Clearlake bought out former owner Roman Abramovich, and also won the UEFA Conference League.

Chelsea can add to that at the Club



In this file photo, Brighton's Joao Pedro celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Brighton, at Emirates Stadium in London. (AP)

World Cup, but the expectation next season will be to challenge for a first Premier League title under its American owners.

The 23-year-old Joao Pedro hit 10 goals in 32 appearances for Brighton last season and scored 30 across two years with the club.

He is the latest player to leave Brighton for Chelsea in a big-money move in recent years after deals for Marc Cucurella, Robert Sanchez and Caicedo.

The move also represents a sizeable profit for Brighton after signing Joao Pedro from Watford for 30 million pounds (\$41 million) in 2023.

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Former Rangers manager Giovanni van Bronckhorst has joined Liverpool as assistant coach to Arne Slot.

Van Bronckhorst, who played for Arsenal and Barcelona during a distinguished career, won titles as a coach in the Netherlands with Feyenoord and Scotland with Rangers.

His most recent role was as coach of Turkish team Besiktas.

Slot has made changes to his backroom staff after winning the Premier League title in his first season in charge at Anfield.

As well as Van Bronckhorst, Liverpool also confirmed the arrival of Xavi Valero for his second spell at the club. He will take over the role of head of first team goalkeeper coaching.

Goalkeeper coaches Fabian Otte and Claudio Taffarel will leave the club, Liverpool said.

Toronto cuts high-priced wingers Insigne, Bernardeschi

TORONTO, July 2, (AP): Major League Soccer's Toronto FC cut its two-highest paid players, announcing mutual agreements Tuesday to terminate the contracts of wingers Lorenzo Insigne and Federico Bernardeschi.

Insigne, MLS's highest-paid player until Miami signed Lionel Messi in 2023, had guaranteed compensation of \$15.4 million. second to Messi. Bernardeschi was sixth in the league at \$6,295,381 and their combined salaries were 64% of Toronto's \$34.1 million payroll, second to Miami's \$46.8 million.

"After several meaningful discussions, we are happy to have found a solution that is agreeable to all parties involved," Toronto general manager Jason Hernandez said in a statement.

Both players joined Toronto in July 2022, Insigne from Napoli and Bernardeschi from Juventus.

Insigne, 34, had a contract through June 2026 with an option for the remainder of that year. Bernardeschi, 31, had a deal through 2026 with two option years.

Insigne had 19 goals and 18 assists in 76

games in all competitions, including one goal and three assists in 12 appearances this season. Bernardeschi had 26 goals and 22 assists in 99 appearances, including four goals and four assists in 15 matches this season. He has not played since May 24.

Toronto has four wins, 10 losses and five ties, 13th in the 15-team Eastern Conference and 26th among the 30 teams overall. It has not made the playoffs since 2020.

Both were designated players, whose salaries counted only as \$743,750 each toward the team's salary budget.

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NEWS



Laura Siegemund of Germany returns the ball to Leylah Fernandez of Canada in their second round women's singles match during the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait Football Association maintains five foreign players limit

Zain Premier League to begin Sept 12 as KFA opens registration window

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Kuwait Football Association has officially announced the player registration periods for the 2025-2026 sports season, including both re-registration for current players and registration for new signings.

The first registration window opens on July 3, and will run through September 20. The winter transfer window is scheduled to begin on January 2, 2026, and will close on January 31, 2026.

In addition, the Association has confirmed the start dates for the upcoming domestic leagues. The Zain Premier League will kick off on September 12, while the Zain First Division League will commence on September 14.

Notably, the Association has decided to maintain the current foreign player quota. Each club will still be allowed to register up to five professional (foreign) players for the new season.

As teams continue to reinforce their squads ahead of the new campaign, Al-Shabab, who return to the Zain Premier League this season, has secured the signing of Ahmed Ghazi. Ghazi previously played for Al-Fahaheel last season and had earlier stints with Al-Sahel.

Kuwait Club has renewed the contract of Hamoud Al-Sanousi for another season. The Whites are actively strengthening their squad with domestic talent as part of their preparations for the 2025-2026 seasons.

Tadamon, which finished sixth in the Premier League last season and successfully avoided relegation, has announced an external training camp in Alexandria, Egypt. The squad will depart on August 25 for a 10-day camp, during which they are scheduled to play three friendly matches as part of their pre-season preparations.



Ahmed Ghazi poses with Al-Shabab officials after signing the contract.

Real edges Juventus to move into Club World Cup last eight



Juventus' Pierre Kalulu, left, and Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham go for the ball during the Club World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Real Madrid and Juventus in Miami Gardens, Fla. (AP)

Dortmund secures 2-1 win over Monterrey

NEW YORK, July 2, (Xinhua): Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid will clash in the FIFA Club World Cup quarterfinals after eliminating Monterrey and Juventus in the round of 16.

In Atlanta, Guinea international striker Serhou Guirassy struck two first-half goals as Dortmund secured a 2-1 win over Monterrey.

Guirassy opened the scoring in the 14th minute when he played a slick one-two with Karim Adeyemi before side-footing a low effort that beat Argentine goalkeeper Esteban Andrada at his near post.

The Mexican side was undone once more by the Adeyemi-Guirassy combination in the 24th minute as the center-forward caressed a first-time shot past Andrada after Adeyemi's layoff.

Former Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos had a guilt-edged chance to equalize in the 91st minute but headed inches wide following Erick Aguirre's cross.

The result means Dortmund will face Real Madrid in New Jersey on Saturday for a place in the last four while Monterrey bows out.



Monterrey's Jesus Corona, right, and Borussia Dortmund's Daniel Svensson compete for the ball during the Club World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and CF Monterrey in Atlanta. (AP)

"I think I could have scored at least three goals but I'm happy to have helped the team win," Guirassy told broadcaster DAZN.

"It was difficult, they are a good team with experienced players. I think we had a very good first half; the second half was a little bit harder, but our mindset was tough."

The 29-year-old said the Bundesliga club would be ready for the challenge of confronting the 15-time European champions.

"I expect a very tough game. Real Madrid want to go through so it will be a tough game but we will be prepared," Guirassy added.

Ramos, who joined Monterrey on a free transfer in February, praised his teammates and said his side deserved to advance.

"Everyone who saw tonight's game realizes that this team gave its all," the 39-year-old former Spain international said.

"Things sometimes don't go the way you want them to. We had tons of chances, we didn't know how to take advantage of them like in other games. It's sad to leave a Club World Cup, but today everyone feels proud of how we represented Rayados." In Miami, Gonzalo Garcia continued his prolific scoring form as Real Madrid edged to a 1-0 victory over Juventus.

Garcia broke the deadlock in the 54th minute when he soared to meet Trent Alexander-Arnold's cross with a powerful header past Michele Di Gregorio.

The 21-year-old, who had never started for Real Madrid before this

competition, has now scored three times and provided one assist in the United States.

"I'm very happy with my goal but especially with the way we fought as a team to reach the quarterfinals," said the Real Madrid youth academy graduate.

"I always try to be in the area and in a position to score, whether that be with my head, my knee or whatever." Real Madrid dominated for long periods and could have put the result beyond doubt long before the final whistle if not for the heroics of Di Gregorio, who made 11 saves.

The Spanish club also had Kylian Mbappe back from illness, with the forward coming on in the 68th minute for his first appearance of the tournament.

Juventus manager Igor Tudor said his team had suffered in the sweltering South Florida heat.

"It's disappointing but we have to keep in mind the quality of the opponent, the conditions and the tiredness of the players," the former Croatia international defender said.

"At the end of the match I had 10 players who wanted to come off. But that was impossible. Everyone was exhausted."

Keys reaches third round

Sabalenka survives scare

LONDON, July 2, (AP): Aryna Sabalenka was just two points from dropping the opening set of her second-round Wimbledon match three times on Wednesday before asserting herself for a 7-6 (4), 6-4 victory over Marie Bouzkova to avoid the sort of surprise that has sent a group of seeded players home.

Australian Open champion Madison Keys, who is seeded sixth, joined Sabalenka in the third round, beating Olga Danilovic 6-4, 6-2. Cameron Norrie of Britain rallied past Frances Tiafoe of the U.S. 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-5.

Four of the top 10 women's seeds failed to make it out of the first round: No. 2 Coco Gauff, No. 3 Jessica Pegula, No. 5 Zheng Qinwen and No. 9 Paula Badosa. In all, a record-tying 23 seeded players - 10 women, 13 men - were gone by the end of Day 2, equaling the most at any Grand Slam event in the past 25 years.

"Of course you're going to know the overall picture. ... I hope it's no upsets anymore in this tournament," the No. 1-ranked Sabalenka said afterward with a chuckle. "If you know what I mean."

She is a three-time Grand Slam champion, with all of those titles coming on hard courts at the Australian Open or U.S. Open. She also was the runner-up to Gauff at the clay-court French Open last month - drawing criticism from some over her post-match comments, a flap she and Gauff set aside via social media videos last week - but hasn't been past the semifinals on the grass of the All England Club.

A year ago, Sabalenka was forced to miss Wimbledon because of an injured shoulder.

On Wednesday, the record-breaking heat of the first two days gave way to rain that delayed the start of play on smaller courts for about two hours, along with temperatures that dropped from above 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 Celsius) to below 68 F (20 C).

At Centre Court, the 48th-ranked Bouzkova went ahead 6-5 in the first set with the match's initial service break thanks to a double-fault by Sabalenka. Bouzkova served for that set, and was two points away from it



Cameron Norrie of Britain returns to Frances Tiafoe of the U.S. during their second round men's singles match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London. (AP)

at 30-15 in that game, again at 30-all, then once more at deuce.

But on the last such occasion, Sabalenka came through with a forehand volley winner she punctuated with a yell, followed by a down-the-line backhand winner that was accompanied by another shout.

"That was a tough moment," said Sabalenka, who will face 2021 U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu or 2023 Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova next. "Until that point, (my) return wasn't great enough to break her serve. I'm really glad ... everything clicked together and I was able to break her back. I kind of like felt a little bit better."

That sent them to a tiebreaker, and from 4-all there, Sabalenka took the next three points, ending the set with a powerful forehand return winner off a 67 mph second serve. In the second set, the only break arrived for a 3-2 lead for Sabalenka, and that was basically that.

Sabalenka compiled a 41-17 edge in winners while making only 18 unforced errors in a match that lasted a little more than 1 1/2 hours.

Novak Djokovic, who has won seven of his 24 major championships at Wimbledon will lead off the Centre Court schedule on Day 4 against Britain's Dan Evans at 1:30 p.m. local time (8:30 a.m. ET), followed by Iga Swiatek vs. Caty McNally, and No. 1 Jannik Sinner vs. Aleksandar Vukic.

Zamalek on verge of deal for Palestinian international Kayed

CAIRO, July 2: Media reports have confirmed that Egyptian giant Zamalek is on the verge of completing a key signing during the current summer transfer window.

According to a report by Fotbollstransfers on Twitter, Adam Kayed is expected to join the Cairo-based club ahead of the new season. The Swedish-born Palestinian winger is set to arrive in Cairo next week to undergo a medical examination in preparation for officially signing with Zamalek.

Kayed, who joined Breda in 2023 from Helsingborgs IF in Sweden, has scored one goal in 24 appearances for the Dutch side. He has also featured regularly for their Under-21 squad.

Internationally, the 22-year-old has represented Palestine's



Palestinian international, Adam Kayed

national team in four matches, contributing three assists. Prior to his senior international debut with Palestine, Kayed played for Sweden's youth national teams. Primarily a left winger, he is known for his pace and creativity on the flank.