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Kuwait Amir receives Crown Prince, PM, First Deputy PM

KUWAIT CITY, July 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday at Al-Seif Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received separately at Al-Seif Palace, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

Also on Sunday, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Al-Seif Palace.

His Highness also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

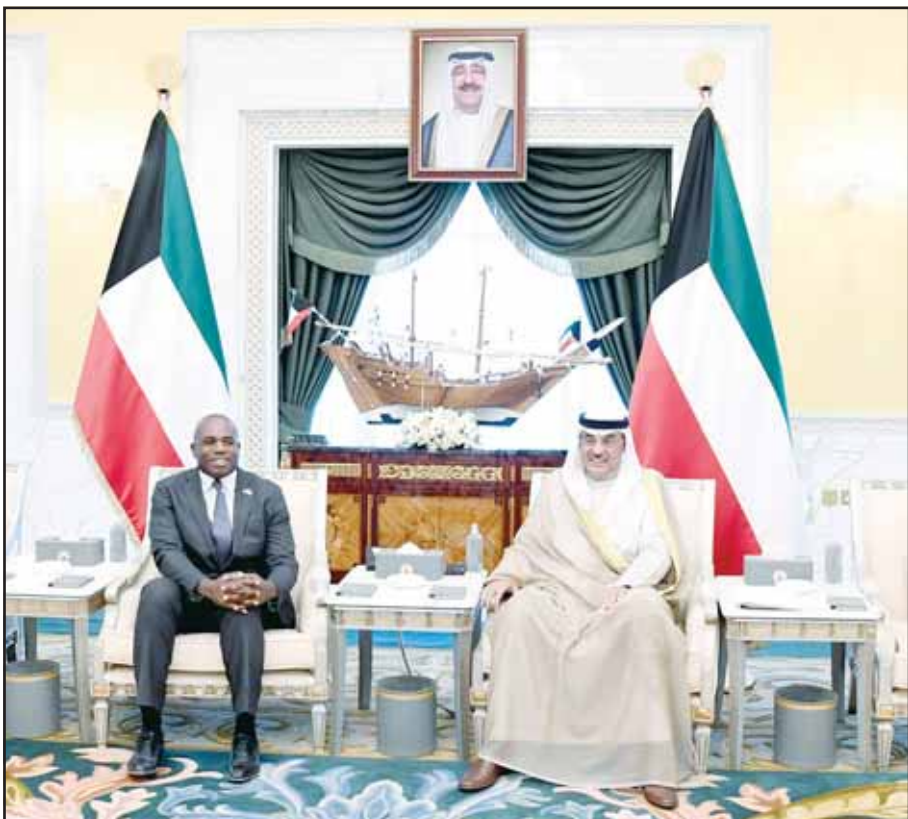
Kuwait stands with US amid Texas flood crisis

KUWAIT CITY, July 6, (KUNA): Kuwait's Foreign Ministry expressed on Sunday its sympathies and solidarity with the United States on the devastating floods affecting Texas State, killing dozens and injuring others.

The Ministry, in a statement, presented its sincere condolences and solace to the United States and to the families of victims, and wished those injured a speedy recovery.

— See Also Page 6

Kuwait Crown Prince receives UK Foreign Secretary Lammy



His Highness the Crown Prince receives UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs David Lammy.

Kuwait, UK talks yield 3 agreements to bolster ties

KUWAIT CITY, July 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace Sunday morning, UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs David Lammy during his official visit to Kuwait.

The meeting was also attended by Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for European Affairs Ambassador Sadeq Marafi, Kuwait's Ambassador to the UK Bader Al-Munaikh, and UK Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis.

Meanwhile, the latest round of strategic talks between Kuwait and Britain has produced a trio of agreements aiming to propel bilateral relations to greater levels, the foreign ministry said on Sunday, praising the longevity and proximity of these ties.

The talks, presided over by Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and his British counterpart David Lammy, come some 126 years after diplomatic relations began in earnest, while trade ties date back more than 250 years, according to a

foreign ministry statement.

The history of relations between Kuwait and London is dotted with instances of camaraderie and cultural exchange, in addition to productive cooperation across fields ranging from healthcare to education, the statement cited the Kuwaiti top diplomat as saying, highlighting Britain's commitment to protect Kuwait's security.

On bilateral relations, the British foreign secretary said that London was proud of the "strategic partnership" linking the two nations, which continues to make significant headway across multiple fields, added the statement.

The talks also covered a wide array of pressing matters of mutual concern, while the Kuwaiti and British foreign ministers exchanged their views on ongoing developments around the region and beyond, agreeing that the deals signed amid the gathering serve the collective interests of both nations, it said.

The next round of talks is slated to take place in London next year, the statement said.

— See Also Pages 2 and 5



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Dear government, before making decisions, consider their consequences

CHANGE is inevitable, but it doesn't have to lead to negative outcomes. Ideally, it should bring positive improvements in most, if not all, aspects.

In many countries, decisions are made only after conducting a thorough study, weighing the potential repercussions, especially the negative ones, and ensuring the outcome benefits the public as a whole rather than a specific group.

Every country strives for the well-being of its people, which is why some consistently rank high on happiness indexes. We have a strong ambition for Kuwait to join their ranks.

Based on this, we have witnessed many measures, orders, and decisions issued by the current Cabinet. Some have garnered popular support, while others have faced rejection. One widely supported measure is the effort to purify national identity. However, it is important to clarify that public support primarily targets revoking Kuwaiti citizenship from those who obtained it through fraud and deception, not the revocation of citizenship from Kuwaiti mothers, which remains a separate and complex issue deserving further discussion.

Some measures were taken hastily, and their legal and popular flaws were exposed due to a lack of proper study and scrutiny.

This raises an important question: Aren't there experienced employees tasked with reviewing decisions before they are issued? Or are decisions made as if in a casual gathering, and approved simply because those present agree?

It is well known that the purpose of enacting laws is to positively change people's behavioral patterns. Regulatory decisions can remain in effect indefinitely, provided nothing arises that contradicts them.

The current Cabinet holds full legislative authority and is supported by a dedicated team within the National Assembly, along with a huge number of government advisors, ministry officials, directors, and other experts. The government can utilize this extensive expertise to establish a comprehensive review system that carefully examines decisions

and laws before their decrees are issued and published in the official gazette.

One of the characteristics of civilized countries is the practice of gauging public opinion by presenting draft laws or proposed decisions to the public through the press and various media outlets. This process helps highlight both the advantages and drawbacks, and enables the government to make informed choices about whether to proceed with or reconsider a decision.

We return to the decision to raise fees on state-owned properties, which clearly lacked proper study, as evidenced by the government's subsequent withdrawal of the decision for further review. The government should have conducted a thorough analysis beforehand to avoid the public backlash that followed its announcement.

While many statements focused on opposing the fee increases on chalets, little attention was given to the underlying issue. Kuwaiti citizens are increasingly unable to find affordable access to their own country's beaches. Despite these facilities being state-owned and leased at low rates to certain beneficiaries, prices have soared to exorbitant levels.

It must be acknowledged that not all citizens can afford these costs. When Kuwaiti families attempt to enjoy the beaches, chalet owners often confront them and, in some cases, even call the police to forcefully remove them from the premises.

Despite this, the decision attracted a great deal of attention and sparked widespread uproar, thus prompting the urgent need for thorough study before issuing any decision.

Initially, the government's approach was appropriate. However, the recent trend of issuing several

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PAM nabs 33 in sun work sweep

30 firms flagged for outdoor work breaches

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Official statistics released by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) revealed that inspection teams conducted tours at 60 different locations in the month of June, and detected a number of violations of the decision that bans workers from working outdoors in open areas during midday hours.

According to the statistics, 33 workers were de-

tained at various sites for violating the ban on outdoor work during peak hours. A total of 30 companies were identified as first-time violators, while another 30 companies that had previously breached the rules successfully met compliance requirements during re-inspections. Follow-up inspections at these sites revealed no further violations, highlighting the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken.

Furthermore, authorities received 12 reports from citizens and residents concerning violations related to worker employment during restricted hours. These reports played a crucial role in detecting and addressing several violations on the ground.

Oil production boost by 548,000 bpd in August

Kuwait backs OPEC+ oil market stability efforts

KUWAIT CITY, July 6, (KUNA): Minister of Oil Al-Roumi reaffirmed on Saturday Kuwait's full support for OPEC+ efforts aimed at enhancing the stability of international oil markets.

Al-Roumi headed the Kuwaiti delegation participating in the meeting of the eight OPEC+ countries, held via video conference on July 5, 2025, Ministry of Oil said in a statement.

The meeting of the eight OPEC+ countries involved in voluntary production cuts, agreeing to increase output by 548,000 barrels per day starting in August 2025, statement added.

The delegation also included Kuwait's Governor at OPEC Mohammed Al-Shatti, and the country's National Representative to OPEC, Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Salem Al-Homoud Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, the State of Kuwait and seven other countries of the OPEC+ coalition have affirmed commitment to back up the oil market stability in light of the its current sound condition and positive forecast of the global economy.



Al-Roumi

The joint stand was declared in a statement released by the media center of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) after a virtual meeting held by the eight states — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, the UAE, Kazakh-

stan, Algeria and Oman.

The meeting was organized to examine the oil market conditions following the 2023 decision for voluntary output cut.

Moreover, the eight oil-producing countries declared that on the basis of the decision released on December 5, 2024, regarding gradual and flexible return to the voluntary output change, amounting to 2.2 million barrels per day, effective April 1, 2025, a decision was also taken to alter the production by 548,000 barrels per day in August compared to the adopted production last July — equivalent to four consecutive monthly increases.

These phased increases can be suspended or cancelled in light of the market conditions. Furthermore, the eight

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya on Sunday contacted his Syrian counterpart Asaad Al-Shaibani.

During the phone conversation, they discussed firm fraternal relations between Kuwait and Syria and their brotherly peoples, ways and means of further promoting them, and the latest regional and international developments, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a press release. (KUNA)

GAZA: At least 80 Palestinians were martyred and 304 others injured in fresh massacres committed by Israeli occupying forces on the Gaza Strip over the last 24 hours, according to health authorities.

This came during Israeli occupation attacks on three displaced families in northern Gaza and several other houses and refugee camps, as well as on Palestinians waiting for humanitarian aid in southern Gaza, the enclave's health authorities said in a press release.

The latest fatalities have brought the Palestinian death toll from the Israeli occupation aggression since October 2023 up to 57,418 fatalities, while 136,261 people have been injured. (KUNA)

Safe-haven gold rockets to KD 32.89 in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, July 6, (KUNA): Global gold prices witnessed a significant increase at the close of the first week of July, with the price of an ounce reaching \$3,337, driven by intertwined economic and political factors that pushed investors toward gold as a safe haven.

According to a report issued on Sunday by Dar Al-Sabaek Company in Kuwait, precious metals prices reflected global movements in the local market. The price of 24-karat gold reached KD 32.890 (about \$107), 22-karat gold was priced at KD 30.150 per gram (roughly \$98), and the price of one kilogram of silver remained steady at KD 407 (around \$1,329).

For reference, the ounce (troy ounce), also called "awqiya", is a unit of mass used in measuring precious metals. It equals 28.349 grams in general measurement, but 31.103 grams specifically when measuring precious metals.

The report explained that growing concerns over the expanding U.S. fiscal deficit played a key role in boosting gold prices. This followed the U.S. House of Representatives' approval of a tax cut and spending expansion package proposed by President Donald Trump's administration.

The package is expected to increase public debt by more than \$3.4 trillion over the next decade, according

to estimates by the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation. This development weakened the U.S. dollar's performance, prompting investors to increase gold holdings as protection against market volatility and reduced purchasing power of the US dollar.

The report also highlighted the rising trade tensions after President Trump announced plans to issue formal notifications to several countries about new tariffs, which could potentially reach 70 percent, set to take effect in early August. This move stirred investor fears of a further deterioration in the global trade environment.

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Decree activates Kuwait-Saudi double taxation avoidance deal

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Decree-Law No. 80/2025 has been published in the official gazette "Kuwait Al-Yaum" regarding the approval of an agreement between the governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to avoid double taxation on income and prevent tax evasion, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decree states that its provisions shall be implemented and take effect from the date of publication in the official gazette.

Article 1 defines the individuals and

entities covered by this agreement, including special provisions for income generated by certain entities or arrangements.

Article 2 outlines the taxes covered, as it is not limited to current taxes but also includes any taxes imposed by either country after the agreement's signing date.

Article 3 provides general definitions for the terms used in the agreement.

Articles 4 and 5 define the terms

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PACI calls on 404 expats to update address or pay fine

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has called on 404 individuals to visit its offices within one month starting today, or alternatively use the Sahel app to register their new residential addresses by submitting the required supporting documents,

reports Al-Seyassah daily.

It warned that failure to comply will result in penalties under Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982, including a fine of up to KD 100 per person.

The authority confirmed that these individuals' current residential addresses were removed from its records following reports from homeowners or due to the demolition of the buildings.



8 Gulf Bank concludes sponsorship of The Influencer 'AlMoather' Plus program

8 Zain's Innovation Nation summer camp ignites children's passion for technology



9 NBK concludes Full Stack Developer Program in collaboration with CODED

| Prayer Timings | | | |
|----------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Fajr | 03:19 | Asr | 15:27 |
| Sunrise .. | 04:54 | Maghrib .. | 18:51 |
| Zohr | 11:53 | Isha | 20:22 |

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north-westerly wind, with speeds of 12-45 km/h.
By Night: Hot to rather hot

| Weather | | | |
|--|-----|-----|---------|
| with light to moderate north-westerly wind, with speeds of 12-35 km/h. | | | |
| Station | Max | Exp | Min Rec |
| Kuwait City | 44 | | 30 |
| Kuwait Airport | 43 | | 31 |
| Abdaly | 43 | | 26 |

| | | |
|----------|----|----|
| Jahra | 43 | 29 |
| Salmiyah | 39 | 30 |
| Ahmadi | 39 | 28 |
| Nuwaisib | 43 | 28 |
| Wafra | 42 | 29 |
| Salmi | 42 | 24 |
| Managish | 43 | 28 |



PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs David Lammy during his official visit to Kuwait.

Kuwait PM, UK official seek boost in ties

KUWAIT CITY, July 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Sunday, UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs David Lammy during his official visit to Kuwait.

During the meeting, both sides touched on enhancing bilateral ties between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Head of the Prime Minister's Office Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for European Affairs Ambassador Sadeq Marafi, Kuwait's Ambassador to the UK Bader Al-Munaikhi, and UK Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis.

MoSA starts issuing licenses for charities

‘Kindness, chivalry inbred in Kuwaitis’

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Ministry of Social Affairs, through its electronic system for charitable societies and charities, started receiving applications from charities seeking to obtain the license to collect donations for charitable projects in and outside Kuwait.



Al-Otaibi

Sources told the newspaper that the integrated electronic system, which allows the submission of applications for licenses to implement charitable projects, is linked with the ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs to facilitate joint monitoring and auditing.

The Social Affairs Ministry had earlier announced that donations for any charitable project would not be permitted unless a license and approval is obtained from the ministry. The regulations state that charitable societies must adhere to the approved legal and regulatory frameworks to preserve

funds allocated for charitable work and ensure they reach the rightful beneficiaries in accordance with the objectives of each project.

Saad Al-Otaibi, Chairman of the Union of Kuwaiti Charitable Societies and Foundations, affirmed that the decision to allow charitable societies to resume receiving donations is in line with the nature of Kuwaitis who love giving donations, and reflects the spirit of goodness and humanity deeply rooted in them.

Al-Otaibi pointed out that Kuwaiti charitable work has gone through many stages throughout its long history, emerging stronger and more established with each stage, which positively impacts the volume of donations and the community's confidence in it in general.

He expressed his optimism, while praising the Ministry of Social Affairs' decision to resume allowing charitable societies to receive donations. He added that the recent measures are consistent with what Kuwaiti charitable societies have been doing for years and emphasize the importance of adhering to transparency and integrity.

He added "these regulations are in line with the aspirations of civil society institutions thereby, enhancing the path of trust that we all strive to consolidate with every step we take."

He affirmed the charitable societies' full commitment -- with all care and responsibility -- to follow official procedures and obtain approvals and permits from the Ministry of Social Affairs before the implementation of any charitable project, whether local or international.

99% engineers are Kuwaitis

MEW Kuwaitization rate reaches 97.8 pc

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Recent statistics indicate that the Kuwaitization train at the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy is approaching its final station, where the total Kuwaitization rate has reached 97.8 percent.

The latest statistical report issued by the ministry for the month of May revealed that 99.2 percent of engineers are Kuwaitis -- 13,499 out of a total of 13,612 engineers in the ministry.

Meanwhile, the percentage of non-Kuwaiti engineers reached eight percent -- 113 engineers in 11 engineering specializations in different sectors at the ministry.

The report indicated that the number of Kuwaiti engineers per specializations is as follows: 4,292 electrical engineers;

3,042 mechanical engineers; 1,415 civil engineers; 1,361 chemical engineers; 1,146 industrial engineers; 232 electronics engineers; 63 architectural engineers; 1,297 computer engineers; 232 petroleum engineers; 170 communications engineers and 249 other engineering specializations.

The number of male Kuwaiti engineers reached 7,971 (58.5 percent of the total number of engineers in the ministry), while the number of female Kuwaiti engineers reached 5,641 or 41.2 percent.

Sources pointed out that the high percentage of Kuwaiti engineers compared to non-Kuwaitis in the technical sectors, especially in the power plants and water distillation sectors, is a result of the commitment of the ministry to implement the Kuwaitization policy. Sources confirmed this was facilitated by the annual educational outputs in different engineering and technical specializations.

Other Voices

The Spain connection ... inspired by stay

By Ahmad alsarraf

Roy Casagrande, Professor of History and Middle Eastern Studies, is considered one of the most dedicated Western scholars in Islamic sciences and studies. He is passionate about Muslim and Arab scholars and deeply appreciative of their contributions to Western civilization.

Since 1995, Professor Roy served as a lecturer in government sciences at Austin College in Texas. His research focuses on the intersection of politics, history, economics, psychology, and philosophy. He is a valued lecturer and regards himself as an expert on Middle Eastern affairs.

He wrote for nearly two years for "Mahnaneh", an Iranian reformist monthly magazine, until it was shut down by the authorities. He has also contributed to American newspapers about the Arab Spring. Fluent in several languages, including Arabic and German, he has lived in Egypt, Lebanon, Algeria, England, and several other Middle Eastern countries.

I have previously written about the feelings of friendliness, or at least acceptance, that Arabs experience in Spain, especially in Andalusia, compared to the rest of Europe. The name Andalusia is an Arabic adaptation of the name of the Germanic Vandal tribe, which settled in the region between 409 and 429 AD. Their Latin name was Vandalusia.

Andalusia, along with the other 16 Spanish provinces, enjoys autonomous rule and governs its own affairs with broad powers. Muslim Arabs ruled Andalusia and large parts of the other provinces for nearly eight centuries, until the fall of Granada in 1492.

During this period, Andalusia witnessed a cultural, scientific, and civilizational flourishing. The era of Arab rule is considered

one of the golden ages in the region's history, though it was also marked by episodes of brutality, murder, and unrest, particularly within the Arab kingdoms themselves.

Professor Roy explains that the first large waves of settlers in Andalusia came from Yemen and Syria, along with Carthaginians (from Tunisia), Germans, and Celts. Over time, the population began to speak a language that was a mix of Arabic and Latin, wear Arab clothing, and embrace Arab customs. Yet, they still considered themselves Europeans, often disregarding their earlier origins. This sparked a movement of separation or segregation from their roots and anything associated with the Arabs, frequently deliberate. They even attempted to erase Arabic words from their dictionaries, though many remained in use, visible today in the names of cities, foods, and other cultural elements. This highlights the difficulty, if not near impossibility, of fully separating the two cultures.

Professor Roy believes that the Spanish hatred toward Muslims was primarily religious. Had the Arabs been Christians, they might have been received more favorably.

With the exodus of Muslims from Andalusia, the war to expel them began violently, often led by outsiders.

Over time, people sought to establish distinctions between European Spaniards and Spanish immigrants, Arabs, or former Muslims. They found their answer in skin color, creating a kind of hierarchy based on skin tones to determine who was Muslim, who was a "pure" Christian, and who was closest to Islam. Darker skin was associated with Arabs and Muslims, while lighter skin was linked to Europeans. From Spain, the idea of racial discrimination based on skin color spread like cancer throughout the rest of Europe.

I would like to express my gratitude to the government of Spain, represented by its distinguished Ambassador to Kuwait, for its honorable stance on the Palestinian issue, which deserves our appreciation and respect.



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HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince



HH the Prime Minister

HH Amir congratulates Algeria, Malawi on Independence Days

KUWAIT CITY, July 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Saturday a cable to Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the Algerian president well-being and Algeria and its brotherly people all progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent Saturday a cable to Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's Independence Day and wishing him good health.

Prime Minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent Saturday a cable to Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

Malawi

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable, Sunday, to the President of the Malawi Lazarus Chakwera, on his country's Independence Day. In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the president good health and the people of Malawi progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable, Sunday, to the President of the Malawi Lazarus Chakwera, on his country's Independence Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished the president good health and the people of Malawi progress and prosperity.

Prime Minister

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Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Shias mourning in one of the Hussainiyas.



Listening to the sermon draws emotions and grief .



A volunteer offers a traditional food parcel to a young boy .

Mol wins Hussainiya Councils praise

Mourning and grief peaks as Shia Muslims mark ‘Ashoura’

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Hussainiyas held in schools throughout the country recently commemorated Ashura Day; amid a spiritual atmosphere filled with grief for the loss of Imam Hussain (Peace be Upon Him) and his family, who were martyred in the immortal epic of Karbala.

The preachers unanimously agreed that Imam Hussain (Peace be Upon Him) is a global symbol of justice and reform. He sacrificed himself, his family and his supporters in order to uphold the truth, renew values and principles, defend freedom and human dignity, and preserve the message of the Seal of the Prophets from distortion and loss.

The preachers emphasized that "the Hussaini cause is not limited to a particular sect or denomination, as it rather belongs to every human being who seeks freedom and justice. It embodies the highest meanings of sacrifice, patience and steadfastness; and continues to inspire free people everywhere up to

this day."

They explained that the commemoration of Ashura has become an annual moment for reflection and drawing inspiration from the supreme values of the Master of Martyrs. They pointed out that the story of Imam Hussain's martyrdom is one of the most eloquent examples of heroism and sacrifice, explaining that "when the arena was empty of supporters, and he had no helper or supporter left; he bid farewell to the women and children and stood alone in front of the overwhelming armies, fighting until his last breath, recording with his blood the most magnificent epic of steadfastness."

The Hussaini councils devoted a portion of the program to reading the events of Ashura and recalling the details of the battle and the stances of Hussein's companions, who set the most wonderful examples of loyalty, in a moving scene where tears mingled with supplication.

In a gesture reflecting appreciation and cooperation, the organizing committees of the councils held in schools

thanked the Ministry of Interior and its security personnel, appreciating their tremendous efforts in securing the mourning venues and organizing the flow of attendees.

The Hussainiyas praised the "high level of preparedness and field coordination demonstrated by the security teams, which contributed to maintaining the smooth flow of traffic inside and around the schools and providing reassurance throughout the period of performing the rituals."

They said "the role of the Interior Ministry personnel is not limited to maintaining order alone; as they also participate in ensuring the smooth running of the Hussainiya councils."

The participants also expressed their gratitude for the cooperation between the security agencies and the organizers, emphasizing that this year's event was characterized by calm and discipline; thanks to the awareness of the attendees, their adherence to instructions, and their commitment to ensure the success of the occasion in a manner befitting its greatness.

MoSA revamps admin for better output

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: In a move aimed at boosting administrative efficiency and developing its work system in various social and developmental initiatives, the Ministry of Social Affairs has approved a new organizational structure.

According to informed sources from the ministry, the revamped structure clearly defines the distribution of various sectors and departments within the ministry to streamline operations and

improve overall effectiveness.

Important departments such as the Office of the Minister, Oversight and Audit, and the Undersecretary's Office will now be directly overseen by the minister.

Meanwhile, the Undersecretary will oversee several important sectors including the Undersecretary's Office, Public Relations and Citizen Service, External Relations, and Legal Affairs.

The sources explained that two main sectors will operate under the Undersecretary's supervision. The

first is the Social Care and Development Sector, which includes the General Directorate of Social Care, including the Elderly Care Department, Juvenile Care Department, and Family Nursery Department. The second sector is the General Directorate of Social Development, comprising the Civil Society Organizations Department, Family Care Department, Charitable Societies and Endowments Department, Women, Childhood and Community Development Department, and Private Nursery Supervision Department.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Lack of seriousness in solving pending issues

“THE government’s decision to withdraw its plan to hike fees for the use of state properties, pending further study, reflects a commendable level of courage,” columnist Eng. **Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“As highlighted in the main article of Al-Jarida daily, the reversal was not a result of fear, but rather a sign of courage. I agree with this view and believe that the decision to correct the course demonstrates courage and reinforces the government’s credibility.



Adel Al-Kharafi

“However, why was the original decision made so hastily? Where were the specialists, and why weren’t they given the opportunity to study the proposal thoroughly? Were they initially convinced of the decision’s merit, only to reverse their stance after realizing it was flawed and required reconsideration?”

“In any case, this is a courageous and positive step by the government, which should be built upon. While previous governments often claimed that the National Assembly was obstructing their progress and blocking their decisions, today the Council of Ministers holds full authority. Yet, many long-standing problems remain unresolved. This highlights what I believe to be the core issue - a lack of serious research and preparation necessary for decisions to succeed upon implementation.

“Take, for example, the repeated increases in chalet fees over the past nine years. Recently, the fees were raised again, only for the decision to be withdrawn for further study. Why wasn’t a thorough study conducted before issuing the decision? Doesn’t the Council of Ministers have an executive body responsible for planning and evaluating decisions before they are announced? I am not referring to the Prime Minister or the ministers themselves, but to the body tasked with conducting the necessary groundwork.

“Research involves identifying the potential negative impacts of a decision before considering the positive ones, especially its effects on citizens, as these are reflected in daily life, public sentiment, and the economy.”

Also :

“O God, forgive Your servant, Dr. Bader Jassim Al-Yaqoub, and have mercy on him, as You showed mercy to him in life, and as You guided us through paths of goodness, justice, and enlightenment,” **Badriya Bader Jassim Al-Yaqoub** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Today, we stand before the gravity of his absence, in a silence that reflects only the dignity of great souls, before a departure unlike any other... A distinguished figure in law in Kuwait and the Arab world has returned to his Lord - a man whose stature never faltered, nor whose principles ever bowed.

“How can we mourn one who was not only a father but also a role model, a beacon, a shining light in the firmament of justice and knowledge? How do we express our sorrow for someone who dedicated his life to his nation, his thoughts to truth, and his conscience to the people?”

“Dr. Bader Jassim Mohammad Al-Yaqoub - minister, academic, scholar, educator, dean, and teacher - was truly a steadfast pillar of legal education and a cornerstone of Arab legal thought. He carried the weight of responsibility in its noblest form, holding positions not for prestige, but to serve a greater mission.

“From his role as Minister of Information to his tenure as Dean of the College of Law at Kuwait University, he was, as we have always known him, a statesman par excellence and a citizen whose purity and loyalty reflected nothing but his homeland. He never closed his door to anyone in need and spared no effort in advancing Kuwait and humanity.

“His students, colleagues, and loved ones mourn him deeply... Indeed, Kuwait mourns him, the law mourns him, and the values he stood for mourn him. His humility was the crown upon his head, and the love he inspired in hearts is beyond words. He lived both simply and nobly, and departed honored and dignified. He dedicated his life to serving Kuwait, leaving a lasting mark in the hearts of his students, readers of his works, and all who regarded him as a model of integrity and loyalty.

“Though his body is gone, his impact remains. Though his voice is silent, its echo lives on. The father, the teacher, and the human being may have departed, but his legacy continues to shine as a beacon for those who walk the path of justice and truth. O God, reward him abundantly for his country, his students, his family, and for us all.

“O God, expand his grave, make Paradise his eternal home, and grant us the strength to follow the values he embodied and preserve the lasting scientific and humanitarian legacy he left behind. To the Gardens of Eternity, dear father... Peace be upon you among the immortal.”

“It is clear that the world has been steadily sliding into the widespread use of chemicals in agriculture, particularly since the end of World War II in 1945. Since then, the production and use of chemicals and toxic substances have expanded rapidly, based on the belief that they could eliminate agricultural pests and insects and protect crops. Humanity mistakenly believed it could eradicate what God created, which was an error with serious consequences,” columnist **Dr. Reem Ahmad Al-Hazeem** (PhD in Botany) wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Food chains are part of a natural system designed by God, and disrupting them leads to a breakdown in biodiversity. This disruption poses a major threat to the planet and causes significant and lasting harm. The truth is that insects, fungi, and pests have begun to adapt, developing resistance to pesticides and toxins, becoming stronger and more aggressive in the process. Humanity has been left with two bitter choices.

“The first is to increase the concentration of the active chemical in existing pesticides, entering a vicious cycle where higher doses lead to more aggressive pests, and the problem only escalates. The second option has been to develop entirely new chemicals, often more toxic than the ones before. This has resulted in the production of pesticides harmful to human health, such as “Tumk,” which contains the active ingredient ‘dicarb’. This substance is internationally banned due to its links to serious diseases and its traces remaining in water and soil for over six months. This is just one example among hundreds.

“In 1962, American scientist Rachel Carson succeeded in drawing global attention to the harmful and destructive use of pesticides through her groundbreaking book ‘Silent Spring’, despite strong opposition from chemical companies. Nevertheless, the book achieved its goal by shifting international policy approaches toward pesticide use and leading to the imposition of strict regulations.

“Carson highlighted the severe dangers posed by these chemicals, sparking a wave of environmental awareness and inspiring the rise of Green Party movements throughout Europe. Thanks to Carson’s work, the world began to curb its excessive reliance on pesticides. Many meetings were later held under the auspices of the United Nations, resulting in the creation of the document “Food Safety Starts at the Farm”, which laid the foundation for organic farming. This initiative launched a global movement in sustainable agriculture, aimed at countering the harmful effects of chemical use and limiting the spread of toxins through land, air, and sea.

“Organic farming is based on three main principles:

1. The use of pesticides is strictly prohibited. In the event of pest infestations, only natural methods and solutions are used to control them.
2. Chemical fertilizers, synthetic substances, and antibiotics are not allowed. Instead, organic farming relies entirely on natural fertilizers, whether plant-based or animal-based.
3. The use of genetically modified seeds, improved hybrid seeds, or seeds coated with pesticides and fungicides is not permitted.



Dr. Al-Hazeem

“The primary goal of agriculture is to ensure food security and strengthen the agricultural position of the producing country. Organic agricultural products are produced in accordance with strict specifications and standards set by relevant organizations. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has approved these products for marketing and export, under the supervision and control of competent authorities.

“These products are often found in plant and seed stores labeled “Bio,” featuring a distinctive logo shaped like a leaf composed of 12 small white and green stars. This logo was created by the European Union’s Organic Certification Body to help consumers easily identify certified organic products. In recent years, the world has made significant progress in preserving human health and well-being. Shifting toward healthier food choices and adopting a sustainable lifestyle marks a new beginning that is safer, disease-free, and contributes to the protection of both people and the planet.

“In conclusion, I would like to highlight the experience of Germany, which is a leading agricultural nation with the largest domestic market for organic products in the European Union, and second only to the United States globally. Germany recently implemented a strategic plan to cultivate more than 25 percent of its agricultural land using organic methods and to increase its overall organic production. The country successfully achieved this goal, with organic product sales surpassing 10 billion euros.”

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



Security personnel arriving at one of the Hussainiyas.



Senior security personnel talking to women volunteers.

KFF, Mol jointly provide Muharram security

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: As part of the ongoing cooperation and coordination between security agencies, Head of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Major General Talal Mohammad Al-Roumi met with the acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Major General Ali Misfer Al-Adwani at the security checkpoint in Abdullah Al-Salem suburb on Saturday evening.

According to a press release issued by KFF, they discussed and reviewed security measures to protect Hussainiyas and mourning councils during the month of Muharram.

The meeting focused on enhancing field readiness and improving coordination between KFF and various sectors of the Ministry of Interior to ensure the highest levels of safety and protection for visitors to the Hussainiyas, enforce fire prevention regulations, and deploy support and backup teams as needed.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of ongoing joint cooperation and intensified efforts to ensure that the mourning councils are conducted in a safe and organized manner, serving the public interest and protecting lives and property.

Several senior leaders from both KFF and the Ministry of Interior attended the meeting.



KFF photos Head of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Major General Talal Mohammad Al-Roumi and the acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Major General Ali Misfer Al-Adwani being briefed on the security preparations.

Strategic stockpile shows rise: MoSA

‘Co-ops e-link underway’

By Fares Ghaleb Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Assistant Undersecretary for Finance, Administration and Cooperative Affairs in the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Sayed Issa visited the control room to personally look into the market activity at a co-operative society in which automated connectivity has been completed.

The movement of goods is now displayed in detail on the control screen.

In a video published by the ministry, Issa reviewed the monitoring methods displayed on the screen; explaining that the screen is

dedicated to the strategic inventory movement and the display methods, which illustrate the movement of strategic inventory in the last four days of June.

Issa explained that the screen shows the highest-consumption items; adding that bottled water was the highest, while other basic materials were within normal consumption. “At the bottom of the screen, the consumption rates for each of the 13 strategic stock items are displayed, along with the withdrawal rate and coverage of the items,” he disclosed.

He said the strategic inventory in this cooperative was 68,664 kilograms and it increased to 68,768 or two percent.

He confirmed that the ministry is continuing its work to link with all cooperative societies to create a comprehensive database on the strategic stockpile in real time.

‘Don’t litter, avoid dumping waste on roads’

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality announced that field teams from the Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy departments in various governorates continue to carry out inspection campaigns, reports Al-Anba daily.

This campaign led to the removal of 19 abandoned and scrap vehicles, issuance of 60 removal stickers for abandoned vehicles and non-compliant commercial containers, documentation of 18 violations related to public sanitation and road occupancy, and replacement of 14 old waste containers.

These campaigns are aimed at uncovering and removing violations of municipal sanitation and road occupancy regulations, while reinforcing the oversight role of regulatory bodies in enforcing municipal laws.

As part of this initiative, the Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy Department in

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate conducted extensive inspection tours in residential areas. The campaign focused on improving public cleanliness, preventing the dumping of waste outside the designated containers or areas, and cleaning beaches, main roads and internal streets.

These measures reflect the commitment of the Municipality to maintain a clean and orderly environment for residents.



KFF photo

The cars are totally wrecked by the fire.

3 cars go up in flames

Tanker driver trapped in tire found dead: KFF

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: On Sunday morning, firefighters from Al-Wafra Fire Station responded to an emergency involving a tanker driver trapped in a tire in Wafra. Tragically, the driver was found deceased at the scene.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), the site was handed over to the relevant authorities for further action.

Fire engulfed three vehicles in a school parking lot in Ribah recently. No injuries were reported.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), firefighters from Subhan Fire Station rushed to the location and extinguished the fire before it spread further.

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Municipality tackles waste crisis, eyes safer skies, cleaner streets

Council recommends urgent landfill reforms

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Environmental Affairs Committee at the Municipality Council, chaired by member Alia Al-Farsi, on Sunday held its first meeting for the fourth time.

Present at the meeting were members of the committee and representatives of the executive authority, the Legal Department, Ministry of Health, director general of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), Public Authority for Industry (PAI), Environment Public Authority (EPA), Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), and Kuwait Environmental Lens team.

In a press statement, Al-Farsi disclosed that the primary objective of the meeting was to discuss the letter of the Ministry of Health regarding health supervision of landfills and finding solutions to mitigate the problems resulting from the current mechanism for waste disposal from the source to the disposal sites; such as the spread of insects, stray animals, rodents and birds of prey.

She confirmed that the committee tackled the problems arising from landfills, particularly the spread of birds that impede air navigation.

She said the committee concluded its meeting with eight recommendations as follows:

First: Expedite the implementation of Decree No. 49/2024 approving the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Municipality (represented by the Projects Sector), and the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China, regarding the low-carbon green system for waste recycling, and determine the mechanism for implementing the MoU.

Second: Combine the sanitation departments in the six governorates with the Environmental Affairs Department in the Projects Sector under the umbrella of a single sector within the executive system of the Municipality, in line with the new Municipal Waste Management and Public Hygiene Regulations.

Third: Expedite the completion of waste treatment and management projects, and develop treatment and waste reception sites in accordance with the health and environmental regulations.

Fourth: Expedite the completion of fencing work on landfill sites, in cooperation with the Municipality and in accordance



Al-Farsi

with the specifications of EPA.

Fifth: Include environmental and health rules and regulations for combating stray animals and rodents, and containing organic waste through modern systems within the contracting terms for waste treatment and management projects in the executive authority.

Sixth: Coordinate and communicate with the PAAAFR regarding cooperation with the Environmental Affairs Management team to implement the idea of relocating leafless trees from the current area near Kuwait International Airport to the farthest point from the airport in the landfill opposite the Seventh Ring Road, in coordination with EPA, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and other concerned agencies.

Seventh: Coordinate with PAFN regarding the following:

1. Study the possibility of relocating the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh slaughterhouse to an alternative site by contacting the Ministry of Finance.
2. Dispose slaughterhouse waste in a controlled, discreet manner as quickly as possible, in cooperation with EPA.

Eighth: Ask the relevant departments in the executive body and the Removals Committee at the Municipality, in coordination with EPA, to remove active landfills and camps near Kuwait International Airport and immediately transport their waste.

MoH halts bonuses without fingerprint attendance

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Ministry of Health issued a circular stating that effective July 1, monthly bonuses will no longer be disbursed to employees under the 'Wage for Work' clause unless they record their attendance using the smart fingerprint system; indicating that manual signatures will no longer be accepted as proof of attendance after this

date, reports Al-Anba daily.

The circular stated that this measure aims to instill job discipline, improve attendance monitoring and ensure that financial benefits are granted to employees based on accurate and verifiable records, in line with the regulations and procedures applicable to the government sector.

The ministry emphasized that it remains committed to the highest standards of transparency and accuracy in administrative processes. "All employees covered by this decision are required to use the smart fingerprint system to record their attendance in order to avoid delays in the payment of their monthly benefits," the ministry reiterated.



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Kuwait's HH Amir congratulates Comoros on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, July 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable Sunday to President Azali Assoumani of the Union of the Comoros on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

In the cable, His Highness wished the President good health and the people of Comoros continued progress and

prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a congratulatory cable to President Assoumani, wishing him lasting good health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a similar cable to President Assoumani on the occasion of Comoros' Independence Day.

Strategic shifts target 1.6m bpd

KNPC set for key leadership shake-up to improve output

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Several promotions and appointments related to senior positions, including the deputy chief executive officer position are on table of CEO of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) Wadha Al-Khateeb who also serves as the head of Kuwait oil refineries and acting CEO of Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIIC).

Reliable sources said the tasks of the new appointees are to develop mechanisms and improve operational processes at local refineries, with the aim of increasing the refining production capacity of the three local refineries -- Al-Zour, Mina Abdullah and Ahmadi -- from 1.415 million barrels per day to around 1.6 million barrels per day by the end of 2025.

Sources explained that the production increase will be achieved by improving operating procedures, using modern technology, and continuous maintenance of the refineries; especially since global markets prefer Kuwaiti refined products because they meet global environmental requirements, producing the finest types of low-sulfur diesel, jet fuel and naphtha.

In a related development, Al-Khateeb issued a circular appointing Athraa Al-Otaibi as Director of the General Services Department and Bassam Jaid Al-Shammari as Director of the Information Technology Department effective Thursday. Both of them will report directly to the Executive Vice President for Support Services.

Al-Khateeb also approved the promotion of Grade 12 employees, who completed five years in the same grade, to Grade 15.

KU to organize 'Draw Your Future' admissions drive at Avenues Mall

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Deanship of Admissions and Registration of Kuwait University has announced that it will organize an admissions campaign under the slogan "Draw Your Future" for high school graduates from July 10 to 12 at The Avenues Mall with the aim of familiarize students with the university's admission requirements and application procedures.

In a press statement, the acting Dean Dr. Fadel Aziz explained that the campaign will be held daily from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. over the three-day period. Admissions Department staff will be available on-site to respond to student inquiries and provide guidance on the admission process. The campaign will also include representatives from the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Public



KUNA photo
Dr. Fadel Aziz, Acting Dean of Admission and Registration at Kuwait University.

Authority for Manpower (PAM) to help raise awareness about labor market trends and demands in both the public and private sectors.

NCCAL dissolves Popular Theater Troupe Board of Directors over legal breaches

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) has issued a decision to dissolve the Board of Directors of the Popular Theater Troupe due to violations of Law No. 24/1962 concerning clubs and public benefit associations, along with its amendments, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the decision, which was published in the official gazette 'Kuwait Al-Youm', an interim board of directors has been appointed to manage the troupe for a period of six months.

The board will convene a regular general assembly to elect a new board of directors in accordance with the association's bylaws.

The appointed interim board of directors includes:

- Chairman: Manal Al-Baghdadi (from Ministry of Information)
- Secretary: Abdul Razzaq Al-Enezi (from Kuwait Society of Lawyers)
- Financial Director: Hanan Al-Rubaian (from Ministry of Finance)
- Administrative Director: Talal Al-Osaimi (Specialist)
- Public Relations Director: Jassim Al-Nabhan (Founding artist)

The decision also requires the dissolved board to hand over all papers, documents, funds, trusts, and seals in their possession, documented through official delivery records, within three days of the dissolution decision.

PADA boosts access to assistive devices

CAPT bars 6 firms from disability tender

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has excluded six companies from bidding on a major procurement of prosthetic devices for individuals with disabilities; including wheelchairs, hearing aids and other assistive technologies, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting sources from the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA).

Sources disclosed that out of the original 16 companies, only 10 remain to compete for the contracts expected to be worth millions of Kuwaiti dinars.

Following the exclusions, CAPT forwarded the remaining bids to the authority. The Financial and Administrative Affairs Sector reviewed the offers thoroughly from both the financial and technical perspectives. Based on this evaluation, the authority recommended awarding the contract to the companies that offered the most competitive prices and met the technical specifications in line with international standards and the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Specialists in prosthetics and orthopedic medicine contributed to the project by developing around 35 models of wheelchairs tailored to various types of disabilities. They also selected the latest high-quality hearing aids to ensure optimal comfort and performance for users.

The new procurement process introduces a mechanism aimed at resolving longstanding delays, with the goal of ending the suffering of hundreds of individuals who have been waiting for several years to receive essential devices. This mechanism is designed to accelerate the delivery and disbursement of assistive equipment. The political leadership is keen on supporting persons with disabilities through the improvement of services and expediting related procedures.

In another development, the Educational and Rehabilitation Services Sector at PADA continues to accept applications for external scholarships for the 2025/2026 academic year. The application window, coordinated in advance with the Ministry of Higher Education, was open from June 10-29. A total of 50 scholarship seats have been allocated for students with disabilities as per the regulations and eligibility criteria.

Abdullah Al-Salem University opens admission

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Abdullah Al-Salem University announced the opening of admission applications for Kuwaiti students for the 2025/2026 academic year, from July 7 to 17.

The acting Dean of Admissions and Registration Dr. Ahmed Al-Mutawa explained that the university set the minimum admission percentage at 80 percent for science section high school graduates and 85 percent for arts section graduates. Applications must be submitted through the official admissions portal on the university's website. The authentication feature in the Kuwait Mobile ID app must be activated to create an account and upload the required documents before July 15.

Al-Mutawa revealed that Abdullah Al-Salem University will organize an admissions conference at its headquarters in Khaldiya to explain the academic programs offered and answer inquiries from students and parents.

He emphasized that the university's admissions process is based on transparency and academic differentiation, by evaluating high school results along with national English and mathematics test scores or accredited international certificates such as TOEFL and IELTS.

Al-Mutawa stressed that the admissions plan was developed to align with the university's capacity, labor market demands, New Kuwait 2035 vision, and national development plans.

Kuwait Fund and UK’s FCDO sign MoUs for humanitarian aid to Sudan, Somalia

\$15 mln in joint funding to support UNICEF and ICRC operations in crisis-hit regions

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and the United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) have signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to provide joint emergency humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected communities in the Republic of Sudan and the Federal Republic of Somalia. The signing ceremony took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kuwait.

The MoUs were signed by H.E. Mr. Abdullah Ali

Al-Yahya, Arab Economic Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, on behalf of the Kuwait Fund, and by H.E. Mr. David Lammy, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, on behalf of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

Under this renewed partnership, the Kuwait Fund and the UK FCDO will jointly contribute USD 10 million (USD 5 million from each side) to support UNICEF’s humanitarian operations in Sudan. The grant will help sustain critical services in healthcare, nutrition, water and sanitation, and child protection – ensuring continuity of life-saving interventions for vulnerable populations.

In addition, both parties will provide a further USD 5 mil-

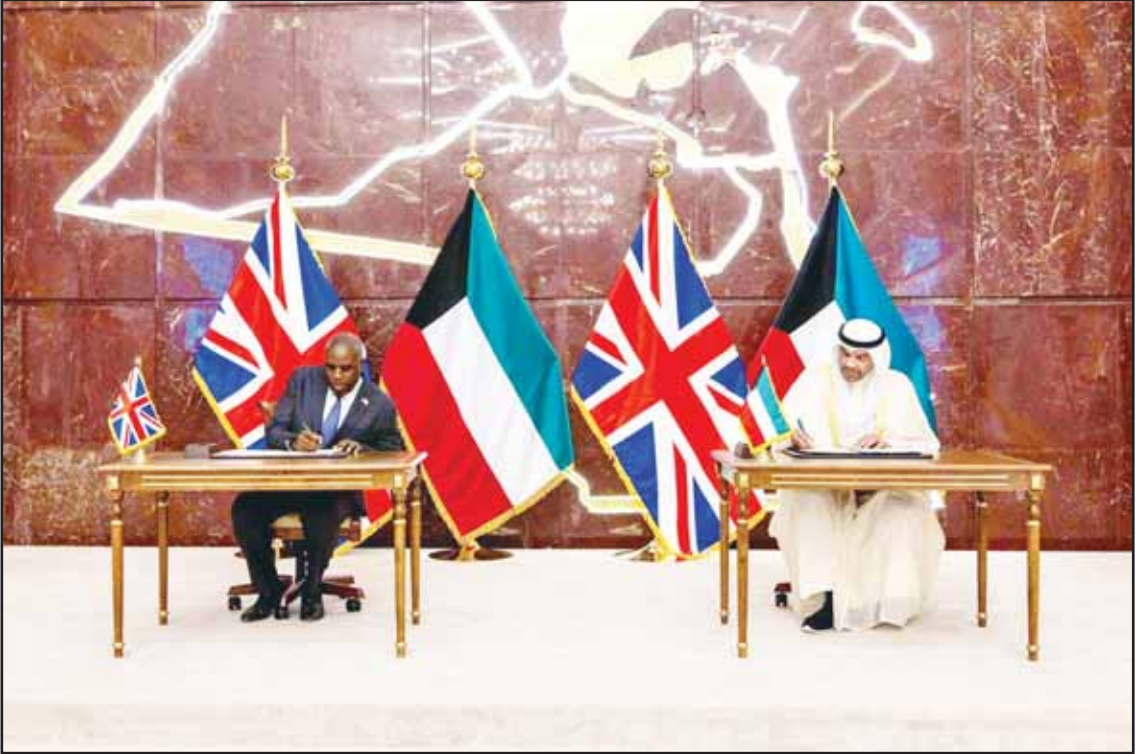
lion (USD 2.5 million from each) to support a joint project with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Somalia, aimed at restoring essential services in marginalized and conflict-affected areas.

Acting Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Mr. Waleed Shamlan Al-Bahar, affirmed that the MoUs reflect the Fund’s commitment to strengthening international partnerships across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding sectors. He noted that cooperation with the UK will facilitate knowledge exchange and enable coordinated action to assist the most vulnerable, thereby enhancing the impact of humanitarian efforts in Sudan and Somalia and reinforcing Kuwait’s leadership in global humanitarian response.

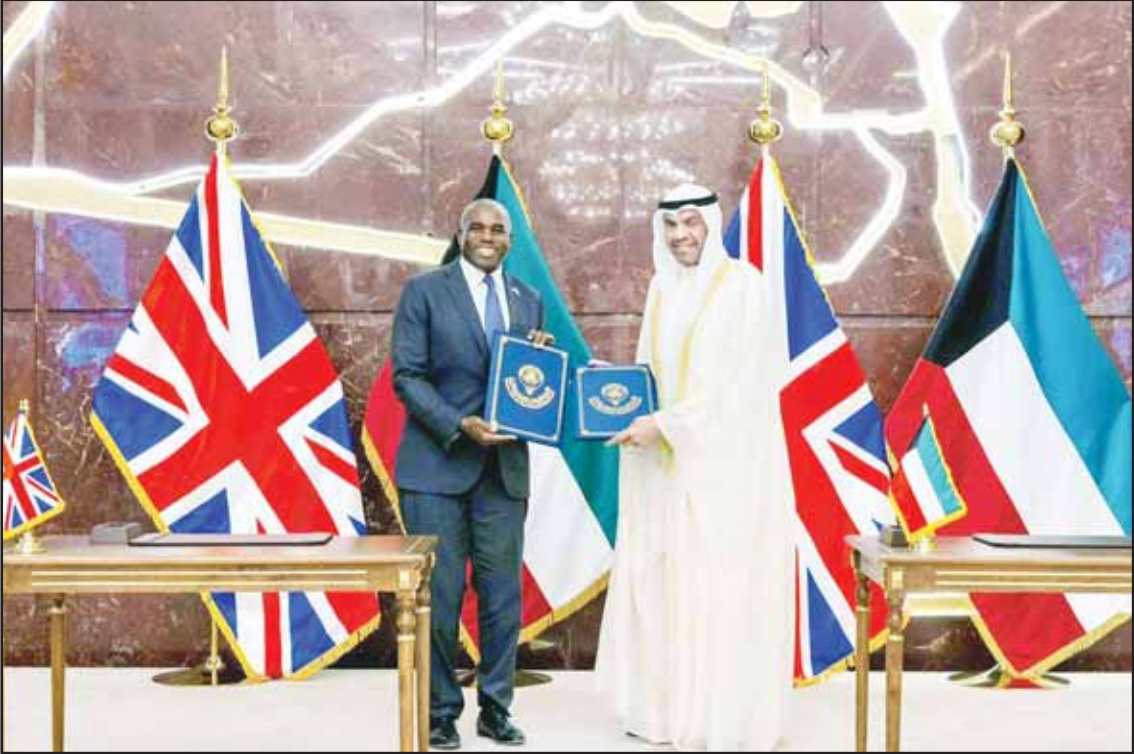
Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Mamadou Sow, Head of the ICRC’s Regional Delegation to the Gulf Coop-

eration Council, said: “Today’s partnership with the Kuwait Fund and the UK’s FCDO reflects a united commitment to humanity. This grant is not just financial support—it’s a clear message that the lives of people in Somalia matter. Together, we are helping restore essential services in communities too often left behind. It’s a testament to Kuwait’s enduring humanitarian leadership and the UK’s steadfast role in advancing global solidarity.”

The signed MoUs build on a cooperation framework established in February 2020 between the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the United Kingdom’s former Department for International Development, reflecting a sustained commitment to coordinated humanitarian efforts that support refugees, displaced populations, and crisis-affected communities worldwide.



Foreign Minister and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Abdullah Al-Yahya, and UK Minister of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, David Lammy, during the signing of the two memoranda of understanding.



KFAED photos

Project to cut aid rolls by 20%

Social Affairs leads digital-first initiative to revamp safety net

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Ministry of Social Affairs has launched a comprehensive executive project in collaboration with five government entities to restructure the social welfare system in the country, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources said the project -- titled “Ensuring the Fairness of the Social Safety Net” -- aims to enhance transparency, fairness and efficiency in the distribution of social assistance.

According to sources, the project is in line with reforms targeting government subsidies and the public wage bill; as part of the national strategy to strengthen the social safety net. Sources revealed the project has a total budget of KD860,000 and it will be completed in 2029.

Sources said the project includes the creation of a digital platform for social assistance, which will serve as the foundation for the restructured safety net. “The platform will be fully integrated with several government agencies, enabling seamless data exchange and automated processing of assistance requests. The digital transformation aims to eliminate redundancies, curb misuse, and ensure that aid is delivered only to eligible citizens,” sources explained.

Sources pointed out that the ultimate goal is to gradually reduce the

number of social assistance recipients by at least 20 percent once the project ends. “This reduction will be based on thorough evaluations and eligibility assessments conducted throughout the project, ensuring that support is directed exclusively to those who genuinely need it,” sources elaborated.

The project includes a comprehensive study on the current social welfare system to evaluate its financial impact and identify areas in need of reform. By examining the socioeconomic dimensions of aid provision, the ministry and its partner entities aim to build a more equitable system that balances both financial responsibility and social protection.

In addition to digital transformation, the project marks a strategic shift from a welfare-based model to an empowerment-focused approach. This includes enabling beneficiaries to access income-generating opportunities in productive sectors; thereby, fostering long-term economic sustainability and reducing dependency on government assistance.

The project reflects a broader vision of reform, not only to improve service delivery but also to redefine the role of social assistance in the economic and social fabric of the country -- moving from aid distribution to economic inclusion and empowerment.

Ministry of Interior introduces e-booking for traffic signatures

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The General Traffic Department (GTD) at the Interior Ministry has announced that as part of the ongoing efforts of the Traffic Affairs and Operations Sector to digitize services and simplify procedures, the electronic appointment booking for traffic signature approval is now available on the Sahel application, reports Al-Rai daily.

The department clarified that certain

transactions like the first-time issuance, renewal, replacement of lost, and replacement of damaged licenses will be processed through the Financial, Administrative and Maintenance Services Section at the Capital Governorate Traffic Department.

Meanwhile, renewal-only transactions will continue to be handled exclusively by the Traffic Licensing departments in Ahmadi and Jahra governorates.

Dear government,

decisions without adequate diligence has caused confusion among citizens. This reinforces the importance of carefully examining potential repercussions before acting.

For example, the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) once issued a decision preventing residents over sixty years of age from renewing their work permits. The harmful effects of this decision soon became apparent. When First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef took office, he wisely rescinded the policy, which benefited the local economy significantly.

We will never tire of repeating this - thoroughly study laws and decisions before issuing them.

Finally, how will the government respond to demands from beneficiaries

in other areas calling for equal treatment with tenants on the waterfront?

Beaches, in every country, are public spaces meant for all citizens to enjoy. They should never be the exclusive domain of a particular social class. Instead, beaches must be developed and managed to serve the general public.

Kuwait backs

crude producers indicated that such measures would enable them to speedily make up for the amounts that had been produced above the set quota since January 2024.

They affirmed full adherence to attain consensus including the voluntary modifications that had been agreed upon by the joint ministerial commission for observing the production dur-

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy on Sunday announced in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youm) that it added a tender for the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of smart water meters to its annual plan for the current fiscal year.

Reliable sources said the tender contract includes the installation, operation and maintenance of smart water meters, their software and networks; as well as the replacement of mechanical meters with smart meters in all governorates.

Sources indicated that the contract will be floated as a public tender through the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to specialized companies classified by the agency

and the latter will set the date for opening the bidding envelopes. Once the companies submit their bids to CAPT, it will refer the bids to the ministry as the beneficiary entity for review and preparation of technical recommendations to decide on awarding the best financial and technical bid, sources added.

Sources stated that the ministry formed a specialized committee tasked to prepare the specifications and technical requirements for the smart meter tender, affirming that the committee recently completed the task.

Sources pointed out that when the committee prepared the specifications, it took into account the necessity of ensuring that the meters to be supplied are suitable for the climate of Kuwait, as the case in other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Sources added the ministry will set

the terms and specifications reached through the committee, obligating the best bidder to implement them once the contract is awarded.

Sources confirmed that the ministry is focusing on the tender, considering the smart water meters will contribute to ongoing efforts to rationalize water consumption and eliminate waste that costs the public treasury millions of Kuwaiti dinars in desalination and freshwater production.

Meanwhile, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi held an extensive meeting with directors and supervisors at the Social Welfare and Development Sector to discuss work mechanisms and develop shared visions for improving institutional performance and meeting the needs of beneficiary groups.

During the meeting, Al-Ajmi em-

phasized the importance of integrating roles between the departments in the sector and the supervisory bodies, as well as the need to intensify field and administrative efforts and develop work mechanisms in line with the developmental orientations of the State.

Al-Ajmi confirmed that the ministry is moving forward with its development and modernization processes by reevaluating the methodologies used and strengthening partnership among its sectors, aimed at consolidating institutional work and achieving a tangible and sustainable social impact.

He said the ministry is keen on fully supporting social work and providing the necessary capabilities to ensure the success of programs and initiatives within an integrated strategy that puts citizens at the heart of its priorities, believing that social welfare is a joint national responsibility.

CSC to announce job nominations soon

Civil Service Commission rolls out more digital services for government workers

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) will soon announce new automated services for employees in government entities linked to the integrated systems network to eliminate the need for applicants to personally visit the CSC headquarters, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources said the CSC is pressing ahead with its efforts to expand digital services that no longer require employees to submit paper documents or complete procedures in person.

Sources stated that the CSC has started implementing procedures to automatically update employment status for employees in entities, which have linked their attendance systems to the integrated system of the CSC. “Through this integration, all necessary steps are completed electronically between the employee’s entity and the CSC, without any direct intervention or visit by the employee,” sources explained.

Sources added the CSC has already automated these services: registration and nomination for employ-

ment, adding employees’ academic and practical experience, changing job titles, settling end-of-service benefits, and processing external transfers, specifically in areas and categories exempt from the transfer suspension decision.

In addition, job seekers registered in the Central Employment System are awaiting the announcement of their employment nominations, as the CSC promised to publish the lists of candidates earlier.

The CSC issued an official statement on June 2, confirming that it

would soon announce the nomination of applicants holding a high school diploma or lower, to fill positions in some government agencies. This anticipated step comes about a month after the initial commitment of the CSC to expedite employment procedures for this category of job seekers.

The upcoming announcements are expected to reinforce the strategy of CSC to modernize administrative procedures, enhance service delivery to employees and job seekers, and improve operational efficiency in government entities.

Continued from Page 1

income from immovable property, business profits, maritime, air, and land transportation, joint ventures, dividends, debt claims, royalties, artistic services, capital gains, personal services (both independent and non-independent), directors’ fees, artists’ and athletes’ fees, government pensions, and government services.

Articles 21 and 22 exempt certain categories from taxation such as teachers, researchers, students, and trainees.

Articles 23 and 24 regulate the taxation of government investments and other income.

Article 25 outlines the methods for eliminating double taxation.

Article 26 establishes procedures for mutual agreement in cases where a party believes taxation practices conflict with the provisions of the agreement.

Finally, Articles 27 to 31 govern

the exchange of information, the status of members of diplomatic and consular missions, and entitlement to benefits.

Safe-haven

Without trade agreements by July 9, this escalation could trigger a wave of retaliatory tariffs from nearly 100 countries, according to U.S. Treasury Secretary statements. The uncertainty bolstered gold’s appeal as a hedge during this turbulent period.

In addition, the U.S. dollar index dropped to 97 points against major currencies, providing extra support to gold prices. Reduced liquidity in U.S. markets due to the Independence Day holiday helped ease selling pressure during the week’s final sessions.

However, positive U.S. labor mar-

ket data slowed gold’s rise. June saw an addition of 147,000 jobs, and the unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent, reducing expectations of an immediate interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve.

The report also noted that 10-year U.S. Treasury yields climbed to 4.338 percent, exerting further pressure on gold prices in recent sessions.

Despite the U.S. market holiday, gold remained sensitive to economic and political developments amid declining risk appetite and investor anticipation of upcoming monetary policy decisions from central banks worldwide.

Markets now await the release of the minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, weekly U.S. jobless claims data, and monetary policy announcements from several major central banks worldwide.



This image provided by NOAA shows Tropical Storm Chantal forming off the coast of the Carolinas on July 5. (AP)

Tropical Storm Chantal brings heavy rains

Tropical Storm Chantal is forecast to bring heavy rains as it moves inland across northeastern South Carolina on Sunday.

Tropical storm warnings were issued for portions of the two Carolinas, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

The storm was about 70 miles (112 kilometers) east of Charleston, South Carolina, early Sunday, and 85 miles (136 kilometers) southwest of Wilmington, North Carolina. Its maximum sustained winds were clocked at 50 mph (80 kph), and it was moving north at 8 mph (13 kph).

Rain bands from Chantal were moving onshore, the hurricane center said, with flash floods an increasing concern.

Heavy rain was forecast for parts of North Carolina through Monday, with total rainfall of 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 centimeters) and local amounts up to 6 inches (15 centimeters) that could lead to flash flooding.

South Carolina's Emergency Management division had warned residents earlier of the possibility of isolated tornadoes along the coast and of minor coastal flooding.

It also warned drivers not to venture on water-covered roads or around road-closure signs where flooding occurred. (AP)

Deadly Texas floods claim 51 lives, dozens still missing

KERRVILLE, Texas, July 6, (AP): The grueling, desperate search for 27 missing girls stretched into a third day on Sunday after raging floodwaters surged into a summer camp as rescuers maneuvered through challenging terrain, while Texans were asked to pray that any survivors would be found.

At least 51 people, including 15 children, were killed, with most of the deaths coming in Kerr County in the state's Hill Country. Besides the 43 dead in Kerr County, four deaths were reported in Travis, three in Burnet and 1 in Kendall.

Rescuers dealt with broken trees, overturned cars and muck-filled debris in a difficult task to find survivors. Authorities still have not said how many people were missing beyond the children from Camp Mystic, a Christian summer camp along the Guadalupe River in Kerr County where most of the dead were recovered.

The destructive, fast-moving waters rose 26 feet (8 meters) on the river in only 45 minutes before day-break Friday, washing away homes and vehicles. The danger was not over as at least one flash flood warning remained in effect in central Texas on Sunday.

Searchers used helicopters, boats and drones to look for victims and to rescue people stranded in trees and from camps isolated by washed-out roads.



US Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, (center), speaks with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, (right), about ongoing search and rescue efforts after recent flooding along the Guadalupe River during a press conference on July 5, in Kerrville, Texas. (AP)

Gov. Greg Abbott vowed that authorities will work around the clock and said new areas were being searched as the water receded. He declared Sunday a day of prayer for the state.

"I urge every Texan to join me in prayer this Sunday - for the lives lost, for those still missing, for the recovery of our communities, and for the safety of those on the front lines," he said in a statement.

Pope Leo XIV offered special prayers for those touched by the disaster. History's first American pope spoke in English at the end of his Sunday noon blessing, "I would like to express sincere condolences to all the families who have lost loved ones, in particular their daughters who were in summer camp, in the disaster caused by the flooding of the Guadalupe River in Texas in the United States. We pray for them."

Europe

Zyuganov re-elected head of CPRF: Gennady Zyuganov has been unanimously re-elected chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF), the party announced on Saturday.

The re-election took place at the first organizational plenum of the Central Committee following the 19th CPRF Congress. "On Saturday, July 5, Gennady Zyuganov was unanimously elected chairman of the CPRF Central Committee," the party said in a statement posted on its official Telegram channel.

In addition to Zyuganov's re-appointment, Ivan Melnikov, first deputy speaker of the State Duma, and Yuri Afonin, first deputy chairman of the Duma Committee on Security and Anti-Corruption, were also reappointed as first deputy chairmen of the party's central committee.

Zyuganov has led the CPRF since its founding in 1993. The party, one of Russia's five parliamentary factions, has maintained a presence in the State Duma since



Zyuganov

its inception. (Xinhua)

UK, China to strengthen copyright cooperation: China and Britain held an intergovernmental ministerial meeting on copyright affairs on Friday.

The National Copyright Administration of China and the British Intellectual Property Office renewed and signed an updated version of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on strengthening cooperation on copyright.

The updated memorandum builds upon the original China-Britain strategic cooperation MoU on copyright signed in 2010.

Under the renewed agreement, the two sides will deepen exchanges and cooperation on copyright matters, regularly exchange legal and technical information on copyright and related rights, encourage mutual visits and training programs for copyright administrators and professionals, and promote cooperation between copyright collective management organizations.

Both sides will jointly develop and implement annual work plans, carry out specific initiatives to fully leverage the MoU, and make new contributions to the advancement of international copyright governance and the development of the copyright sector in both countries. (Xinhua)

Rival leaders in Cyprus to meet informally with UN chief this month

UNITED NATIONS, July 6, (AP): UN Secretary-General António Guterres will bring the rival leaders of ethnically divided Cyprus together again this month following a "constructive atmosphere" at an earlier meeting aimed at reviving stalled peace talks, the United Nations spokesman said.

Stéphane Dujarric said the informal meeting on July 16-17 at UN headquarters in New York "will provide an opportunity to continue the dialogue and exchange views on the progress made since March."

At that meeting, Greek Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides and Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar agreed to trust-building measures on issues like energy, environment, opening four new crossing points along a UN-controlled buffer zone, youth affairs and demining.

The Mediterranean island was divided in 1974 when Turkey invaded following a coup by Athens junta-backed supporters of uniting the island with Greece. Only Turkey recognizes a Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence, and it maintains more than 35,000 troops in the island's northern third.



From left: Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar pose for a photo, ahead of a meeting to discuss the future of stalled peace talks over the divided island of Cyprus at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on March 18. (AP)

Negotiations between the rivals have been stalled since 2017.

Maria Angela Holguin, a new envoy Guterres appointed, said at the end of her first weeklong visit to Cyprus in late May that Guterres "continues to push" for a resumption of peace talks.

But no breakthrough is expected at

the meeting this month because Turkey and Turkish Cypriot insist on a two-state accord that Greek Cypriots flatly reject. The agreed-upon, UN-endorsed framework for a peace deal has been a reunified Cyprus as a federation composed of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot zones.

Top Dems in Georgia governor's race each raise \$1.1m

Tech billionaire Musk announces new political party in US



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

Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill, which cut electric vehicle incentives and increased federal spending -- measures that Musk, whose company Tesla benefits from EV subsidies, has opposed.

Musk has threatened to fund challengers to lawmakers who supported the bill. Trump, in turn, has hinted at reassessing what he called "billions in subsidies" tied to Musk-linked ventures. Analysts say Musk's move appears more like a high-profile bargaining tactic than the beginning of a major

shake-up of the US political system.

Also:

ATLANTA: The two leading Democrats running for Georgia governor in 2026 each say they have collected \$1.1 million in early fundraising.

State Sen. Jason Esteves announced on Tuesday that he had raised more than \$1.1 million, and former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced a similar total on Wednesday. Bottoms said she loaned

her campaign \$200,000 and collected \$900,000 from donors, while Esteves said he made a much smaller donation to his campaign with the rest coming from donors.

The reporting period covers Feb. 1 through June 30. Neither campaign had filed an official report with the state Ethics Commission by Thursday. Reports aren't due until next week.

The totals are less than the \$2.2 million that Attorney General Chris Carr, the only major Republican candidate who has declared so far, raised last year. But it's more than Democrats have raised this early on in recent years.

Stacey Abrams didn't officially announce for governor until December 2021, although she went on to oust Republican Brian Kemp even as she lost to the incumbent in 2022.

Before the 2018 election, Abrams had raised \$480,000 at this point in 2017, while fellow Democrat Stacey Evans had raised \$400,000. Like Abrams in the 2022 election, Democrat Jason Carter didn't announce his unsuccessful 2014 bid until November 2013.

No Democrat has won a governor's race in Georgia since Roy Barnes in 1998.

Bottoms said she had nearly 7,100 donors. Her campaign manager, Ned Miller, said in a statement that the one-term Atlanta mayor has "major advantages in name ID and popularity that put Mayor Bottoms in a strong position to win the governor's race in 2026."

July 4th holiday marked by shootings in several cities and fireworks-related death

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., July 6, (AP): This year's Fourth of July holiday was marked by multiple shootings across the US, including one in Indianapolis that left at least two dead and a police chief voicing public frustration over the latest acts of violence in his city.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Chief Chris Bailey told reporters early Saturday morning that the mayhem was "completely unacceptable and unnecessary" and that parents and guardians needed to better control their children.

Mass shootings were reported in other cities, including Philadelphia and Chicago and Brockton, Massachusetts, where six people were hospitalized following an early morning fight on Saturday. Violence and shootings often surge in the summer months, especially around the Fourth of July, historically one of the deadliest days of the year in the US.

The shooting in Chicago, which left seven people in serious or critical condition, came on the heels of another mass shooting that happened late Wednesday in a busy neighborhood known for its restaurants and nightlife. Four people were killed and 14 others injured.

In the New York City borough of Queens, police said one person was dead and three injured following a post-fireworks triple stabbing.

Meanwhile, a Wareham, Massachusetts, man is dead after being hit



Officers work the scene of a shooting on July 2, 2025, in Chicago. (AP)

by a firework. Police said they found 70-year-old Robert Spagnuolo with a "facial injury." He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Officials in Georgia reported two boat explosions on lakes on Friday.

Seven people ranging in age from 5 to 45 suffered second- and third-degree burns when a boat exploded on Lake Lanier, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Seven more people suffered burns when a boat exploded and then sank on Lake Nottely, the department said.

Meanwhile, investigators have located human remains following an explosion at a Northern California fire-

works warehouse, Yolo County said in a statement Friday.

Seven were missing after the Tuesday fireworks explosion near Esparto, which gripped the small farming community. It sparked a massive fire that led to other spot fires. Nearby Fourth of July celebrations were called off.

The county confirmed that its Coroner's Division was allowed access to the site of the fire incident, and the Coroner's Office has been in contact with the families of those who had been reported missing. No positive identifications have been made, and recovery efforts are still underway, the county said in the statement.



Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets with Greek Deputy Prime Minister Kostis Hatzidakis on the island of Rhodes, Greece on July 4. (Xinhua)

China stands ready to strengthen bond of cooperation with Greece, says Li Qiang

RHODES, Greece, July 6, (Agencies): China stands ready to strengthen the bond of cooperation with Greece, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said on Friday.

During his meeting with Greek Deputy Prime Minister Kostis Hatzidakis, Li also said China is willing to work with Greece to leverage complementary advantages, advance the implementation of the plan for the Port of Piraeus in a high-quality manner, and promote more optimized and balanced development of the bilateral trade.

During the meeting, he noted that Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis during his visit to China in November 2023 and reached important consensus on deepening bilateral relations.

Over the past two years, Li said, China and Greece have actively implemented the outcomes of the visit and promoted high-quality development of the Belt and Road cooperation, delivering more benefits to the peoples of both countries.

Noting that next year marks the 20th anniversary of the China-Greece comprehensive strategic partnership, Li said China is willing to work with Greece to continue firmly supporting each other's core interests and major concerns, expand practical cooperation in various fields and achieve more concrete results.

China is also ready to work with Greece to enhance cooperation in such fields as clean energy, power transmission and transformation, and artificial intelligence (AI), and foster new drivers for economic growth, said Li, adding that China supports and encourages more capable Chinese enterprises to actively invest in Greece in accordance with market principles.

The Chinese premier also encouraged both sides to promote mutual learning between civilizations, facilitate tourism and other people-to-people exchanges, and enhance the

friendship between the two peoples.

Noting that China and the European Union (EU) share extensive common interests, Li said that as unilateralism and protectionism are rising globally, China and the EU should jointly send a positive message of supporting multilateralism and free trade, and work together to safeguard economic globalization and international economic and trade order.

It is hoped that Greece will continue to play a constructive role in promoting the development of China-EU relations, he said.

Also:

ANKARA, Turkey: A new wildfire in Greece prompted evacuations in coastal areas south of Athens of Friday, as firefighters in neighboring Turkey remained locked in a battle to contain flames tearing through forested hillsides in the west of the country.

Wildfires that broke out in at least five locations across Turkey's Aegean coastal province of Izmir -- fueled by soaring temperatures, strong winds, and low humidity -- have killed two people, forced the evacuation of tens of thousands and damaged some 200 homes.

Forestry Minister Ibrahim Yumakli said Friday that firefighters, supported by water-dropping aircraft, remained on the ground battling a deadly wildfire near the town of Odemis for a third day. Elsewhere, emergency crews worked to halt the spread of a new blaze that broke out late Thursday near the district of Buca.

The fire near Odemis claimed two lives - a forestry worker who died Thursday trying to contain the flames, and an 81-year-old resident who succumbed to smoke inhalation, according to authorities.

Japan’s emperor begins weeklong visit to Mongolia that will honor POWs

TOKYO, July 6, (Agencies): Japan’s Emperor Naruhito began a weeklong visit to Mongolia on Sunday during which he plans to honor thousands of Japanese prisoners of World War II who were held under harsh conditions in the country.

Naruhito’s visit marks the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII. In recent years, he has toured some of the places where the bloodiest battles and bombings occurred, including Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Hiroshima. The emperor has said it’s part of his effort at atonement and remembrance of the tragedy of war fought in the name of his grandfather, Emperor Hirohito.

While the vast majority of Japanese soldiers were taken to Siberia, around 12,000 to 14,000 ended up in Mongolia, which was fighting alongside the Soviets against Japan.

Most of the POWs were put to hard labor and construction work for the Mongolian government’s headquar-

ters, a state university and a theater that are still preserved in the capital Ulaanbaatar. The prisoners toiled under harsh conditions and scarce food. Japanese records show about 1,700 of them died in Mongolia.

“As we mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the war this year, we should never forget the pain and sorrow of the people,” Naruhito said last week. “I believe it is important to not forget those who died, deepen understanding of the wartime past and to nurture the peace-loving heart.”

Naruhito had previously visited Mongolia as crown prince in 2007.

Also:

TOKYO: An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.4 struck off the Tokara island chain in Japan’s southwestern prefecture of Kagoshima on Sunday, as more people evacuated from the area that has been rattled by a series of temblors.

The quake, which occurred at 2:07 p.m. local time, measured upper 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 on Akusekijima, part of the Tokara island chain, said the Japan Meteorological Agency.

The weather agency said the temblor originated at a depth of 20 km, but there is no threat of a tsunami.

The number of felt quakes detected in the Tokara island chain area has exceeded 1,300 since June 21. Evacuation of islanders began after a quake with a magnitude of 5.5 that measured lower 6 of the Japanese scale was logged on Thursday, Kyodo News reported.

On Sunday morning, a total of 46 residents of Akusekijima and Kodakarajima in the Tokara island chain boarded a ferry, the second batch of evacuees to leave for Kagoshima City on the closest main island of Kyushu, following 13 residents of Akusekijima who evacuated on Friday, the report said.



Japanese Emperor Naruhito, left, and Empress Masako, walk with Mongolian Foreign Minister Batmunkh Battseg, right, after arriving at the Chinggis Khaan International Airport near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on July 6. (AP)

DPRK denounces US ‘cybercrime’ accusations

South Korea special counsel seeks warrant to detain ex-president Yoon Suk-yeol

SEOUL, July 6, (Xinhua): South Korea’s special counsel investigating former president Yoon Suk-yeol’s short-lived martial law imposition sought a warrant to detain the ousted president, the special counsel team’s spokesperson said Sunday.

Cho Eun-suk, independent counsel leading the investigation into Yoon’s insurrection and other charges, requested the warrant issuance from the Seoul Central District Court.

The charges specified in the warrant included the obstruction of justice, abuse of power and writing a bogus official document, the spokesperson noted.

The detention warrant was sought to keep Yoon in custody for an extended period of time, or at least 20 days.

The independent counsel team, which launched its investigation on June 18, sought a separate warrant to arrest Yoon for up to 48 hours last month, but it was dismissed by the Seoul court as Yoon showed his willingness to be questioned by the special counsel.

Yoon rejected the third police call on June 19 to appear for questioning over his charges of ordering the presidential security service to block

the attempt in January to arrest him and to delete information on security phones offered to three military commanders.

Yoon was apprehended in the presidential office on Jan. 15 and was indicted under detention on Jan. 26 as a suspected ringleader of insurrection, but he was released on March 8 as prosecutors decided not to appeal against the court’s release approval.

The constitutional court upheld a motion to impeach Yoon on April 4 over his botched martial law bid last December, officially removing him from office.

Also:

PYONGYANG: The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) on condemned US judicial authorities for placing its citizens on a wanted list over alleged “cybercrimes,” state media said Friday.

“The recent incident is an absurd smear campaign and grave violation of sovereignty aimed at tarnishing the image of our state, as it is a continuation of the hostile move of the successive US administrations that have talked much about the non-existent ‘cyber threat’ from the



South Korea’s impeached president Yoon Suk Yeol attends the fourth hearing of his impeachment trial over his short-lived imposition of martial law at the Constitutional Court in Seoul, South Korea on Jan 23. (AP)

DPRK,” the official Korean Central News Agency said, quoting a Foreign Ministry spokesperson.

“The DPRK Foreign Ministry expresses serious concern over the US judicial authorities’ provocation which is threatening and encroaching on the security, rights and in-

terests of our citizens by fabricating the groundless ‘cyber’ drama, and strongly denounces and rejects it,” the spokesperson said, adding that the real threat of creating international cyberspace instability comes not from the DPRK but from the United States.

The DPRK has the right to take a proper and proportionate countermeasure to thoroughly protect the security and rights of its citizens from the judicial enforcement for a sinister political purpose, according to the spokesperson.

The country will never tolerate any hostile act of the United States to encroach upon the DPRK sovereignty through groundless slander and illegal application of judicial means, and will firmly defend the legitimate rights and interests of its citizens, the spokesperson said.

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea condemned the “unilateral coercive act” of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, known as the Quad, comprising the United States, Japan, India, and Australia, the official Korean Central News Agency reported on Friday.

“We will never tolerate the attempt of the US and its vassal forces to unilaterally change the position of the DPRK and the current situation on the Korean Peninsula,” the report cited a press statement issued by the DPRK Foreign Ministry a day earlier.

“Nothing can change the position of the DPRK as a nuclear weapons

state ... The US attempt to deny the present position of the DPRK is not only the gravest violation of sovereignty but also a dangerous act of escalating tension which creates instability in the region and escalates the tension,” the statement said.

The US hegemonic act -- interfering in the internal affairs of independent sovereign states, stirring up confrontation and creating instability in international relations by relying on exclusive groups such as the Quad -- is the major risk factor hindering peace and security in the region and the world, the statement added.

It is within the DPRK’s sovereignty to take appropriate and reflective countermeasures of a self-defensive nature against such provocative military actions, as the United States moves to strengthen the multilateral military alliance threatening the security of the region and conduct joint military drills with a clear aggressive character, it said.

During the Quad Foreign Ministers’ meeting held Tuesday in Washington, DC, a joint statement was issued, reaffirming the commitment to the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.



Rescuers work at a boat sinking site in Zixing City, Chenzhou, central China’s Hunan Province on July 5. (Xinhua)

2 dead and 27 rescued after boat sinks in China

Two people were killed and 27 rescued in a boat sinking accident that occurred Saturday afternoon in central China’s Hunan Province, according to authorities.

Search and rescue efforts concluded Sunday afternoon. The only missing person from the accident was found at 2:40 p.m. but showed no vital signs.

The accident occurred around 4:30 p.m. Saturday, when the 40-

seat boat capsized at Dongjiang Lake in the city of Zixing, causing 29 people to fall into the water.

Preliminary investigations revealed that a sudden gust of wind, reaching speeds of up to 30 meters per second, struck the area at the time of the accident.

Also:

BEIJING: China’s national observatory on Sunday renewed a yellow

alert for Typhoon Danas as it is expected to bring strong winds and heavy rain to the southern parts of the country.

As of 5 a.m. Sunday, the typhoon was located at 21.3 degrees north latitude and 118.1 degrees east longitude, moving northeast at 10 to 15 km per hour, with its intensity continuing to strengthen, according to the National Meteorological Center (NMC). (Xinhua)

Alleged mastermind behind shooting of Colombian senator arrested

BOGOTA, Colombia, July 6, (AP): The alleged mastermind behind the shooting of a conservative Colombian senator and presidential candidate was taken into custody Saturday, almost a month after the attack, law enforcement authorities said.

Elder José Arteaga Hernández, alias “Chipi” or “Costeño,” was arrested in a neighborhood in the northwestern part of the capital, Bogota, National Police Director Maj. Gen. Carlos Fernando Triana told reporters. Authorities had previously accused him and other suspects of being near the Bogota park where Miguel Uribe Turbay was shot in broad daylight on June 7.

Uribe was giving a political speech in the park when he was attacked from behind and wounded in the head, allegedly by a minor who was captured as he fled. Three other people have been arrested for participating in the logistics and execution of the crime. The motive is still being investigated.

Uribe, who in October announced his intention to run in the 2026 presidential election, remains in intensive care and has undergone several surgeries. From his Senate seat, he had become one of President Gustavo Petro’s most vocal critics.

The attack has been widely con-



Gen Carlos Fernando Triana, National Police director, (right), arrives for a press conference regarding the arrest of Elder José Arteaga Hernández, alias ‘Chipi’ or ‘Costeño,’ (pictured on a screen in the background), who authorities say is the alleged mastermind behind the shooting of Colombian senator and presidential candidate Miguel Uribe Turbay, in Bogota, Colombia on July 5. (AP)

demned in a country with a dark past in which drug cartels and insurgent groups murdered and kidnapped politicians.

Charges against Arteaga include at-

tempted aggravated homicide; manufacturing, trafficking and carrying firearms or ammunition; and using minors to commit crimes. Interpol issued a red notice against him Friday.

US completes deportation of eight men to South Sudan after weeks of legal wrangling

WASHINGTON, July 6, (AP): Eight men deported from the United States in May and held under guard for weeks at an American military base in the African nation of Djibouti while their legal challenges played out in court have now reached the Trump administration’s intended destination, war-torn South Sudan, a country the State Department advises against travel to due to “crime, kidnapping, and armed conflict.”

The immigrants from Cuba, Laos, Mexico, Myanmar, Vietnam and South Sudan arrived in South Sudan on Friday after a federal judge cleared the way for the Trump administration to relocate them in a case that had gone to the Supreme Court, which had permitted their removal from the US Administration officials said the men had been convicted of violent crimes in the US.

“This was a win for the rule of law, safety and security of the American people,” said Homeland Security spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin in a statement Saturday announcing the men’s arrival in South Sudan, a chaotic country in danger once more of collapsing into civil war.

The Supreme Court on Thursday cleared the way for the transfer of the men who had been put on a flight in



A US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer listens during a briefing on Jan 27, in Silver Spring, Md. (AP)

May bound for South Sudan. That meant that the South Sudan transfer could be completed after the flight was detoured to a base in Djibouti, where they men were held in a converted shipping container. The flight was detoured after a federal judge found the administration had violated his order by failing to allow the men a

chance to challenge the removal.

The court’s conservative majority had ruled in June that immigration officials could quickly deport people to third countries. The majority halted an order that had allowed immigrants to challenge any removals to countries outside their homeland where they could be in danger.

Subcontinent

2 dead in flash floods: Torrential rains triggered severe flash floods that swept through parts of eastern Afghanistan’s Nangarhar province, killing two children and leaving a trail of destruction, a local official said on Sunday.

The floods affected multiple districts, where at least 280 residential houses were washed away, Qurishi Badlon, the provincial director for Information and Culture, told Xinhua.

The disaster has also severely damaged the region’s agricultural sector, said Badlon, adding that around 5,000 acres of farmland were submerged.

According to the official, the number of casualties and the extent of damage could rise as further assessments are underway. Assessment teams have been dispatched to evaluate losses and survey the affected areas. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Mine collapse kills 4: At least four people were killed and several others feared trapped after a portion of a coal mine collapsed Saturday in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand, the police said.

The portion of the mine collapsed at government-run Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) in Karma area of Ramgarh district, about 55 km north of Ranchi, the capital city of Jharkhand. (Xinhua)

People displaced by the fighting with M23 rebels make their way to the center of Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo on Jan 26. (AP)

Rwanda supported M23 rebels in Congo, say UN experts

DAKAR, Senegal, July 6, (AP): Rwanda provided “critical” support to the M23 rebels’ recent offensive in eastern Congo, which helped secure Kigali’s access to minerals and fertile ground, according to a confidential United Nations report seen by The Associated Press.

The Rwanda-backed M23 rebel group is the most prominent armed group in the conflict in Eastern Congo, which has been in and out

of crises for decades. The rebels earlier this year advanced and seized the strategic city of Goma and Bukavu in a major escalation of the conflict.

Rwanda has denied any involvement. But UN experts say Kigali provided backing to the rebels with an aim to “control the territory of the DRC and its natural resources,” using “advanced military equipment, including jamming systems, short-range air defense system and armed drones.”

Boursa opens strong, general index climbs 0.53%

KUWAIT CITY, July 6, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed higher on Sunday, with the general index advancing 44.52 points—or 0.53 percent—to finish at 8,443.87 points. Trading activity was robust, as 465.2 million shares changed hands in 24,680 cash transactions, generating a total turnover of 83.1 million Kuwaiti

dinars (approximately \$274.2 million). The Main Market Index led the gains, climbing 106.87 points (or 1.48 percent) to settle at 7,310.51 points. This segment saw 355.8 million shares traded through 18,800 transactions, with a value of 48.4 million dinars (about \$159.7 million).

Business

Reinforcing its continued commitment to youth empowerment

Gulf Bank concludes sponsorship of The Influencer ‘AlMoather’ Plus program



Participants of The Influencer ‘AlMoather’ Plus program in a group photo.

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: As part of its ongoing commitment to youth empowerment, Gulf Bank has successfully concluded its sponsorship of the The Influencer ‘AlMoather’ Plus program, organized by LOYAC Academy of Performing Arts (LAPA) – a subsidiary of the non-profit organization LOYAC. Aimed at youth aged 15 to 19, the program provided participants with a unique training experience focused on enhancing their public communication and leadership skills.

Running from June 15 to July 2, 2025, the intensive program featured a series of workshops and interactive sessions covering a broad spectrum of topics, including effective communication, leadership development, public speaking and presentation, photography and video editing, digital marketing, and podcast production.

Throughout the program, participants engaged in a dynamic and enriching learning journey filled with practical challenges and interactive sessions. They gained essential skills in public speaking, content creation, and creative expression, while also building self-confidence and developing their storytelling and impactful communication abilities.

Guided by a team of experienced trainers and media professionals, the program equipped participants with the knowledge and tools needed to create a meaningful impact within their communities. The Influencer ‘AlMoather’ Plus served as a dynamic platform that united ambitious young individuals, broadened their perspectives, and empowered them to thrive in their personal and professional journeys.

Gulf Bank firmly believes that youth empowerment starts with providing young individuals the skills and opportunities to express themselves, shape their futures, and drive positive change. The Bank is proud of its ongoing partnership with LOYAC, an organization whose mission closely aligns with Gulf Bank’s vision of nurturing the next generation of leaders and changemakers.

This marks the third consecutive year of Gulf Bank’s sponsorship of The Influencer program, reaffirming the Bank’s commitment to community sustainability through its support for youth-focused initiatives and civil society programs dedicated to skills development and empowerment.

Now in its third season, in collaboration with SACGC and Assima Mall

Zain’s Innovation Nation summer camp ignites children’s passion for technology

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Zain has officially kicked-off the third edition of its Innovation Nation summer camp, an educational initiative aimed at children and young teens, organized in collaboration with Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity – a Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) center – and Assima Mall. The camp aims to develop children’s digital skills while encouraging creativity and discovery in the fields of technology and innovation.

The opening day welcomed the attendance of Zain Kuwait’s Chief Commercial Officer Meshal Al-Kandari and Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti, along with Dr. Dhari Al-Huwail, Board Member at SACGC, and Salem Al-Baz, Director of Technological Development at the center. Also present were representatives from the organizing entities, parents, and stakeholders from the education and tech community.

The camp runs daily until 12 July from 12 PM to 8 PM at Assima Mall – ground floor – and is open to children aged 7 to 14. It features a series of interactive workshops designed to spark curiosity and build future-ready skills, with activities that fully engage participants in a vibrant, hands-on learning environment.

The workshops offer a variety of engaging educational experiences focused on practical and interactive learning. These include building robot pets and delivery bots, learning the basics of artificial intelligence, exploring 3D printing and electronics, as well as renewable energy and smart inventions. Each session is crafted to enrich children’s passion for science and technology through active exploration.

The workshops are led by a team of certified trainers from Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity, supported by engineering students from the Gulf University for Science and Technology - GUST (acting as IN Summer Camp Leaders), and members of Zain’s part-time FUN team. Together, they deliver



Al-Kandari, Al-Khashti, Al-Huwail, and Al-Baz with officials from Zain and SACGC during the camp’s opening.



The initiative aims to encourage children to explore and be creative in the fields of technology and innovation.



Interactive workshops designed to spark curiosity and build future-ready skills.



The camp runs daily until July 12.

ABK promotes ‘Let’s Be Aware’ banking awareness campaign through television, radio and cinema advertising to engage all segments of society

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: As part of its ongoing commitment to engaging with customers and providing innovative banking solutions to meet their needs, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) continues its efforts to support the national ‘Let’s Be Aware’ banking awareness campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) to enhance financial literacy and inclusion across all segments of society in Kuwait.

In line with this initiative,

ABK continue to promote the campaign extensively across various platforms, including television channels, cinemas, and radio, ensuring wide-reaching exposure for the campaign’s messages throughout the country.

In parallel, the Bank sends instant notifications and SMS messages to customers, covering various campaign topics. These include raising awareness on preventing banking fraud, especially while traveling abroad, educating customers on optimal saving and investment



A part of the awareness advertisements.

practices, cautioning against interacting with suspicious parties, and advising customers to avoid sharing personal information.

ABK also encourages the use of official websites for online shopping and digital banking transactions.

Additionally, ABK’s social media platforms feature diverse content, including the latest offers for customers, digital banking solutions, round-the-clock customer support information, and educational videos and infographics on fraud prevention and ways to safeguard customers from scams — supporting the campaign’s goals and ensuring its continuous success.

The Bank also participates in the ‘Let’s Be Aware’ campaign through digital screens across its branches throughout Kuwait, providing customers with tips and guidance on the various banking services available to them. This reflects ABK’s prominent role as a leading banking institution committed to its social responsibility, aligned with the directives of CBK and KBA to serve customers and uphold the highest standards in the banking industry.

Nineteen trainees successfully completed the specialized program

NBK concludes Full Stack Developer Program in collaboration with CODED



Sheikha Al-Bahar, Mohammad Al-Kharafi, Emad Al-Ablani, along with executives from the National Bank of Kuwait and Coded Academy, with the program graduates.

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has concluded the Full Stack Developer Boot camp – an intensive 14-week training initiative held at the Bank’s headquarters in collaboration with CODED Academy. The program aims to strengthen the technical capabilities of young professionals in the banking sector, equipping them with advanced skills in programming and technology to support the industry’s digital transformation.

The closing ceremony of the program was attended by members of NBK’s executive management led by Ms. Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer at NBK, Mr. Mohammad Al-Kharafi, Group Chief Operating Officer at NBK, and Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, Group Chief Human Resources Officer at NBK, alongside senior leaders from both the Bank and CODED Academy.

During the event, certificates were awarded to the 19 trainees who successfully completed the program. Graduates presented their final projects, showcasing the technical skills and practical knowledge they gained throughout the training program, which drew highly favorable reactions from the audience.

The program was designed to equip trainees with professional competencies in software development, introducing them to advanced and comprehensive programming techniques and their practical applications in the workplace. It was structured in two phases: the first – a two-week selection and foundational stage – aimed to assess participants’ technical readiness and commitment to the program’s rigorous standards. The second phase, spanning 12 weeks, provided an immersive experience in advanced programming languages and integrated develop-

Al-Ablani:

■ We are committed to launching innovative training initiatives that foster creativity and empower Kuwaiti youth

■ Our goal is to equip a new generation with the skills needed to drive technological progress and actively contribute to the growth of the national economy

ment techniques, enabling trainees to apply their skills in real-world scenarios.

Commenting on the program, Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, Group Chief Human Resources Officer at NBK, stated: “NBK’s organization of this distinguished program in collaboration with CODED Academy reflects our ongoing commitment to empowering Kuwaiti youth. We remain dedicated to launching innovative

training initiatives, educational programs, and targeted workshops that foster creativity, drive innovation, and prepare young talent to navigate today’s competitive job market with confidence.”He further noted that NBK offers full-time employment opportunities to top-performing graduates of the program.

Al-Ablani emphasized that, in line with NBK’s pioneering role in driving digital transformation and

its firm belief in the importance of empowering national talent, the Bank remains deeply committed to supporting Kuwait’s strategic technological agenda. He noted that NBK continuously works to enhance the digital capabilities of Kuwaiti professionals by equipping them with the technical skills necessary to contribute effectively to the nation’s economic development, address future challenges, and stay abreast of rapid technological advancements – across all sectors in general, and the banking industry in particular.

He emphasized that NBK remains committed to leaving a lasting social impact by supporting a wide range of programs and initiatives focused on developing highly skilled national talent. He added that Kuwaiti youth possess immense potential and capabilities that, with the right guidance and nurturing, can be effectively har-

nessed to advance the nation’s sustainable development goals.

NBK plays a pivotal role in shaping the development journey of the current generation of Kuwaiti youth, placing strong emphasis on programs and initiatives designed to equip young individuals with the knowledge and skills essential to their personal growth and the long-term prosperity of Kuwaiti society as a whole.

Furthermore, NBK remains firmly committed to staying at the forefront of technological advancement, continuously embracing innovation to pave the way for a successful digital future. The Bank consistently rolls out targeted training programs and initiatives aimed at fostering innovation and building specialized skill sets, including programming languages, coding, data analysis, and other key competencies essential to the evolving digital landscape.



Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, right, flashes a thumbs up as he and China’s Premier Li Qiang pose for photos during their bilateral meeting ahead of the upcoming 17th annual BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro, Saturday, July 5, 2025. (AP)

Lula leads moderate talks amid divisions

Brazil hosts BRICS summit, eager to avoid Trump’s ire

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 6, (AP): Brazil will play host to a summit of the BRICS bloc of developing economies Sunday and Monday during which pressing topics like Israel’s attack on Iran, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and trade tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump are expected to be handled with caution.

Analysts and diplomats said the lack of cohesion in an enlarged BRICS, which doubled in size last year, may affect its ability to become another pole in world affairs. They also see the summit’s moderate agenda as an attempt by member countries to stay off Trump’s radar.

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva will have some of his priorities, such as debates on artificial intelligence and climate change, front and center for the talks with key leaders not in attendance.

China’s President Xi Jinping won’t attend a BRICS summit for the first time since he became his country’s leader in 2012. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who will make an appearance via videoconference, continues to mostly avoid traveling abroad due to an international arrest warrant issued after Russia invaded Ukraine.

The restraint expected in Rio de Janeiro marks a departure from last year’s summit hosted by Russia in Kazan, when the Kremlin sought to develop alternatives to U.S.-dominated payment systems which would allow it to dodge Western sanctions imposed after Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

A source involved in the negotiations told journalists Friday that some members of the group want more aggressive language on the situation in Gaza and Israel’s attack on Iran. The source spoke under the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about the matter publicly.

“Brazil wants to keep the summit as technical as possible,” said Oliver Stuenkel, a professor at the Getulio Vargas Foundation think tank and university.

Consequently, observers expect a vague final declaration regarding Russia’s war in Ukraine and conflicts in the Middle East.

As well as suiting Brazil, a watered-down and non-controversial statement may be made easier by the absences of Putin and Xi, Stuenkel said. Those two countries have pushed for a stronger anti-Western stance, as opposed to Brazil and India that prefer non-alignment.

A Brazilian government official told The Associated Press Thursday that the group is expected to produce three joint statements and a final declaration, “all of which less bounded by current geopolitical tensions.” The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the summit’s preparations.

João Alfredo Nyegray, an international business and geopolitics professor at the Pontifical Catholic University in Parana, said the summit could have played a role in showing an alternative to an unstable world, but won’t do so.

“The withdrawal of Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and the uncertainty about the level of representation for countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are confirming the difficulty for the BRICS to establish themselves as a cohesive pole of global leadership,” Nyegray said. “This moment demands high level articulation, but we are actually seeing dispersion.”

Brazil, the country that chairs the bloc, has picked six strategic priorities for the summit: global cooperation in healthcare; trade, investment and finance; climate change; governance for artificial intelligence; peace-making and security; and institutional development.

It has decided to focus on less controversial issues, such as promoting trade relations between members and global health, after Trump returned to the White House, said Ana Garcia, a professor at the Rio de Janeiro Federal Rural University.

“Brazil wants the least amount of damage possible and to avoid drawing the attention of the Trump administration to prevent any type of risk to the Brazilian economy,” Garcia said.

While Brazil will continue to advocate for the reform of Western-led global institutions, a cornerstone policy of the group, the country wants to avoid becoming the target of tariffs – a predicament it has so far largely escaped.

Trump has threatened to impose 100% tariffs against the bloc if they take any moves to undermine the dollar.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Egypt’s Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi will also be absent. Those two countries joined the BRICS in 2024, alongside Ethiopia, Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia has been invited and is participating in member discussions, but it has yet to send its confirmation letter.

US labor market continues to defy odds and remains robust

By National Bank of Kuwait

Market Commentary

Global markets posted a mixed performance this past week, with U.S. equities extending gains on the back of strong jobs data and robust corporate earnings, particularly in the tech and AI sectors. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq hit fresh record highs, while the Dow also advanced. In contrast, European and Asian markets were more cautious ahead of the July 9 U.S. tariff deadline, with the DAX, CAC 40, and FTSE 100 edging lower, and Japan’s Nikkei holding steady. Risk sentiment remained relatively resilient, though investor focus is sharpening on the evolving trade landscape. In the FX space, the U.S. dollar weakened slightly despite higher Treasury yields, as concerns over tariffs and global trade tensions weighed on sentiment. The euro and Swiss franc held firm, supported by safe-haven demand and ECB caution, while sterling rebounded modestly as political clarity improved in the UK. In commodities, Gold posted a modest gain this past week, with spot prices hovering above \$3,300 per ounce, supported by safe-haven demand amid ongoing fiscal concerns in the U.S. and trade policy uncertainty. Meanwhile, Brent crude oil traded in a range of \$66.5 to \$69.0 per barrel, weighed down by expectations of increased OPEC+ supply and softer demand due to global tariff concerns. However, oil briefly spiked by around 3% midweek following heightened geopolitical tensions, including Iran’s suspension of cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog. Overall, markets remain underpinned by solid U.S. data but face near-term headwinds from trade policy developments and fading fiscal momentum globally.

United States

Words From President Trump

President Donald Trump announced plans to send letters to countries starting July 4, outlining the tariffs they must pay to sell goods in the U.S., bypassing traditional trade deal negotiations. This move precedes a July 9 deadline to reinstate broad tariffs following a 90-day pause. While deals have been reached with Vietnam and the UK, and a framework set with China, Trump favors a flat base tariff of 10%, with higher rates for countries with trade deficits. He dismissed the idea of extending the deadline and criticized complex negotiations over specific goods, advocating instead for straightforward tariffs of 20% to 30%.

ISM Manufacturing PMI

The ISM Manufacturing PMI in the U.S. rose slightly to 49 in June 2025 from 48.5 in May, above expectations of 48.8, but still indicated a fourth straight month of contraction. The pace of decline slowed, supported by a rebound in production (50.3) and better inventory levels (49.2). However, new orders (46.4), employment (45), and backlogs (44.3) worsened. Inflation pressures ticked up (69.7), driven partly by tariffs. Supplier deliveries slowed (54.2) but signalled improved logistics, suggesting port delays have mostly eased.

ISM Services PMI

The ISM Services PMI rose to 50.8 in June 2025 from 49.9 in May, signalling a return to modest growth in the U.S. services sector after one month of contraction and slightly exceeding expectations. Improvements were noted in business activity, new orders, inventories, and export orders. Price pressures eased slightly, though cost concerns remained common. While tensions in the Middle East were newly mentioned, no related supply disruptions were reported. Tariff-related concerns remained the dominant issue among businesses. However, backlogs of orders continued to shrink, and supplier delivery perfor-

mance weakened further.

JOLTS Job Openings

In May 2025, U.S. job openings rose by 374,000 to 7.769 million, the highest since November 2024, and well above expectations of 7.32 million. The biggest increases came from accommodation and food services (+314,000) and finance and insurance (+91,000), while federal government openings dropped by 39,000. Regionally, the South led gains (+310,000), followed by the Midwest (+97,000) and Northeast (+45,000), whereas the West saw a decline of 77,000 openings.

Non-Farm Employment Change

U.S. nonfarm payrolls increased by 147,000 in June 2025, exceeding expectations and closely matching the 12-month average of 146,000, signalling continued labor market resilience. Government employment contributed significantly to the gains, rising by 73,000, mainly in state government, particularly education, and local government education, which continued its upward trend. In contrast, federal government employment declined by 7,000, with cumulative losses reaching 69,000 since January. The healthcare sector added 39,000 jobs, consistent with recent trends, led by hospitals and nursing and residential care facilities, while social assistance also expanded by 19,000. Despite the solid headline numbers, underlying concerns persist as uncertainty surrounding tariffs, trade tensions, and immigration policy may prompt businesses to take a more cautious approach to hiring in the months ahead. The U.S. unemployment rate dipped to 4.1% in June 2025 from 4.2% in May, beating expectations of a rise to 4.2% and maintaining a stable rate seen since May 2024.

The US Dollar index closed the week at 97.180

Eurozone

Words From ECB President Lagarde

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde warned that persistent supply-side shocks, driven by geopolitical fragmentation and rapid technological shifts, are increasing inflation volatility and complicating monetary control. She reaffirmed the ECB’s commitment to acting “forcefully or persistently” if inflation deviates from its 2% target, signaling a cautious stance amid global uncertainty. Lagarde also described the current climate as a potential “euro moment,” noting that a weakening U.S. dollar and policy unpredictability have created an opportunity for the euro to expand its global role, provided Europe strengthens its financial infrastructure. Meanwhile, the euro extended its rally, with EUR/USD approaching 1.1800, its highest level since 2021, driven by dollar softness, expectations of further easing in the U.S., and attacks launched by President Trump at Fed Chair Powell. Markets now largely expect the ECB to pause its easing cycle, favoring one final 25 bps cut later this year.

Germany Factory Orders

Factory orders in Germany fell by 1.4% month-over-month in May 2025, missing expectations and marking the first decline since January. The drop was driven by a sharp 17.7% fall in orders for computer, electronic, and optical products

after a surge in April, alongside weaker demand for electrical equipment and basic metals. While some sectors saw gains, such as fabricated metal products and other transport equipment, overall capital and intermediate goods orders declined, though consumer goods rose. Domestic orders plunged 7.8%, offsetting a 2.9% increase in foreign demand, mainly from non-euro area countries. Excluding large-scale orders, total demand was down 3.1%. However, on a three-month basis, orders rose 2.1%, helped by the temporary 90-day trade truce.

The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.1778.

United Kingdom

S&P Global UK Construction PMI

The S&P Global UK Construction PMI increased slightly to 48.8 in June 2025 from 47.9 in May, remaining in contraction territory. While residential buildings saw modest growth (50.7), it was offset by sharper declines in commercial (45.1) and civil engineering (44.2) activity. New orders fell for the sixth consecutive month amid weak demand and cautious spending. Business confidence dropped to its lowest since December 2022, and employment continued to decline due to cost-cutting. Purchasing activity also fell, though more slowly, while supplier performance improved. Input cost inflation persisted but eased to its lowest level since January.

The GBP/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.3652.

Asia-Pacific

China’s Manufacturing and Non-Manufacturing PMIS

China’s manufacturing sector contracted for a third consecutive month in June 2025, with the official PMI rising slightly to 49.7 from 49.5, still below the 50 mark that separates expansion from contraction. Despite modest improvements in production and new orders, factory inventories and employment continued to decline. The non-manufacturing PMI inched up to 50.5, with construction activity strengthening but services growth slowing. The rebound in new export orders, rising to 47.5 from 44.7, likely reflects renewed U.S. demand following a mid-May trade truce. However, overall exports to the U.S. have plunged due to earlier tariffs, prompting Chinese firms to seek alternative markets. Meanwhile, deflation remains a concern, with consumer and producer prices falling, and industrial profits down 9.1% in May. Analysts warn that fading fiscal support could weigh on growth in the second half, though further stimulus is expected, including consumption incentives and increased debt issuance. Recent trade negotiations between China and the U.S. show signs of progress, but uncertainties remain over implementation details, particularly regarding sensitive exports like rare earths.

The CNY/USD currency pair closed the week at 7.1645.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30490.

| Currencies | Previous Week Levels | | | | This Week’s Expected Range | | 3-Month Forward |
|------------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| | Open | Low | High | Close | Minimum | Maximum | |
| EUR | 1.1711 | 1.1702 | 1.1829 | 1.1778 | 1.1685 | 1.1860 | 1.1853 |
| GBP | 1.3686 | 1.3560 | 1.3788 | 1.3652 | 1.3550 | 1.1590 | 1.3665 |
| JPY | 144.43 | 142.66 | 145.23 | 144.55 | 143.50 | 145.50 | 143.09 |
| CHF | 0.7992 | 0.7869 | 0.7995 | 0.7939 | 0.7850 | 0.8030 | 0.7851 |

Transatlantic trade faces high-stakes decision

EU braces for Trump’s tariff hammer



Wheels of Parmesan cheese are stored in a deli in Rome, Thursday, Oct. 3, 2019. (AP)

‘The value of EU-U.S. trade in goods and services amounted to 1.7 trillion euros (\$2 trillion) in 2024, or an average of 4.6 billion euros a day, according to EU statistics agency Eurostat.’

FRANKFURT, July 6, (AP): America’s largest trade partner, the European Union, is among the entities awaiting word Monday on whether U.S. President Donald Trump will impose punishing tariffs on their goods, a move economists have warned would have repercussions for companies and consumers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Trump imposed a 20% import tax on all EU-made products in early April as part of a set of tariffs targeting countries with which the United States has a trade imbalance. Hours after the nation-specific duties took effect, he put them on hold until July 9 at a standard rate of 10% to quiet financial markets and allow time for negotiations.

Expressing displeasure the EU’s stance in trade talks, however, the president said he would jack up the tariff rate for European exports to 50%. A rate that high could make everything from French cheese and Italian leather goods to German electronics and Spanish pharmaceuticals much more expensive in the U.S.

The EU, whose 27 member nations operate as a single economic bloc, said its leaders hoped to strike

a deal with the Trump administration. Without one, the EU said it was prepared to retaliate with tariffs on hundreds of American products, ranging from beef and auto parts to beer and Boeing airplanes.

Here are important things to know about trade between the United States and the European Union.

A lot of money is at stake in the trade talks.

The EU’s executive commission describes the trade between the U.S. and the EU as “the most important commercial relationship in the world.” The value of EU-U.S. trade in goods and services amounted to 1.7 trillion euros (\$2 trillion) in 2024, or an average of 4.6 billion euros a day, according to EU statistics agency Eurostat.

The biggest U.S. export to Europe is crude oil, followed by pharmaceuticals, aircraft, automobiles, and medical and diagnostic equipment. Europe’s biggest exports to the U.S. are pharmaceuticals, cars, aircraft, chemicals, medical instruments, and wine and spirits.

Trump has complained about the EU’s 198 billion-euro (\$233 billion) trade surplus in goods, which shows Americans buy more stuff from European businesses than

the other way around. However, American companies fill some of the gap by outselling the EU when it comes to services such as cloud computing, travel bookings, and legal and financial services.

The U.S. services surplus took the nation’s trade deficit with the EU down to 50 billion euros (\$59 billion), which represents less than 3% of overall U.S.-EU trade.

Before Trump returned to office, the U.S. and the EU maintained a generally cooperative trade relationship and low tariff levels on both sides. The U.S. rate averaged 1.47% for European goods, while the EU’s averaged 1.35% for American products.

But the White House has taken a much less friendly posture toward the longstanding U.S. ally since February. Along with the fluctuating tariff rate on European goods Trump has floated, the EU has been subject to his administration’s 50% tariff on steel and aluminum and a 25% tax on imported automobiles and parts.

Trump administration officials have raised a slew of issues they want to see addressed, including agricultural barriers such as EU health regulations that include bans on chlorine-washed chicken and

hormone-treated beef.

Trump has also criticized Europe’s value-added taxes, which EU countries levy at the point of sale this year at rates of 17% to 27%. But many economists see VAT as trade-neutral since they apply to domestic goods and services as well as imported ones. Because national governments set the taxes through legislation, the EU has said they aren’t on the table during trade negotiations.

“On the thorny issues of regulations, consumer standards and taxes, the EU and its member states cannot give much ground,” Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Germany’s Berenberg bank, said. “They cannot change the way they run the EU’s vast internal market according to U.S. demands, which are often rooted in a faulty understanding of how the EU works.”

Economists and companies say higher tariffs will mean higher prices for U.S. consumers on imported goods. Importers must decide how much of the extra tax costs to absorb through lower profits and how much to pass on to customers.

Mercedes-Benz dealers in the US. have said they are holding the line on 2025 model year prices

“until further notice.” The German automaker has a partial tariff shield because it makes 35% of the Mercedes-Benz vehicles sold in the U.S. in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, but the company said it expects prices to undergo “significant increases” in coming years.

Simon Hunt, CEO of Italian wine and spirits producer Campari Group, told investment analysts that prices could increase for some products or stay the same depending what rival companies do. If competitors raise prices, the company might decide to hold its prices on Skyy vodka or Aperol aperitif to gain market share, Hunt said.

Trump has argued that making it more difficult for foreign companies to sell in the U.S. is a way to stimulate a revival of American manufacturing. Many companies have dismissed the idea or said it would take years to yield positive economic benefits. However, some corporations have proved willing to shift some production stateside.

France-based luxury group LVMH, whose brands include Tiffany & Co., Louis Vuitton, Christian Dior and Moët & Chandon, could move some production to the United States, billionaire CEO Bernard Arnault said at the company’s annual meeting in April.

Arnault, who attended Trump’s inauguration, has urged Europe to reach a deal based on reciprocal concessions.

“If we end up with high tariffs, ... we will be forced to increase our U.S.-based production to avoid tariffs,” Arnault said. “And if Europe fails to negotiate intelligently, that will be the consequence for many companies. ... It will be the fault of Brussels, if it comes to that.”

Some forecasts indicate the U.S. economy would be more at risk if the negotiations fail. Without a deal, the EU would lose 0.3% of its gross domestic product and U.S. GDP would fall 0.7%, if Trump slaps imported goods from Europe with tariffs of 10% to 25%, according to a research review by Bruegel, a think tank in Brussels.

Given the complexity of some of the issues, the two sides may arrive only at a framework deal before Wednesday’s deadline. That would likely leave a 10% base tariff, as well as the auto, steel and aluminum tariffs in place until details of a formal trade agreement are ironed out.

The most likely outcome of the trade talks is that “the U.S. will agree to deals in which it takes back its worst threats of ‘retaliatory’ tariffs well beyond 10%,” Schmieding said. “However, the road to get there could be rocky.”

The U.S. offering exemptions for some goods might smooth the path to a deal. The EU could offer to ease some regulations that the White House views as trade barriers.

“While Trump might be able to sell such an outcome as a ‘win’ for him, the ultimate victims of his protectionism would, of course, be mostly the U.S. consumers,” Schmieding said.

‘Yiwu represents the ideal place to build a career bridging cultures’

‘World’s supermarket’ embraces foreign trade talents

‘As Yiwu deepens its role as a testbed for comprehensive trade reforms, officials say the new talent certification system is only the beginning.’

HANGZHOU, July 6, (Xinhua): In a city long famed as the “world’s supermarket,” foreign businesspeople are no longer just visitors -- they are being officially recognized as vital drivers of China’s future development.

Yiwu City, a bustling hub in east China’s Zhejiang Province that trades with over 230 countries and regions, has launched China’s first standardized system for formally certifying foreign trade talents.

The pilot program, launched in June, marks a shift away from traditional talent criteria that focus solely on education or technical credentials, instead rewarding foreign entrepreneurs for their real-world business contributions.

Under the new guidelines, any foreign national with a valid work permit and a registered company in Yiwu can be classified as A or B-level talent if they meet key performance metrics, such as import-export volume, job creation, or long-term local operations.

B-level talent now enjoys two-to-four-year work permits, rather than having to renew them annually. At the same time, A-level recognition offers five-year permits,

along with priority services and faster approvals.

“Foreign businesses and investors are essential participants in China’s modernization,” said Wang Liqin, head of the talent and cooperation section at Yiwu’s science and technology bureau. “This pilot program offers institutional support for their entrepreneurship and serves as a model of high-quality development in trade and foreign investment.”

As of late June, over 609 foreign businesspeople in Yiwu had been certified under the program, part of a community of more than 8,600 foreign work permit holders that makes Yiwu the top city in Zhejiang for foreign employment.

Yiwu’s decision to pioneer this reform reflects its long-standing international DNA. On any given day, more than 28,000 foreign merchants work in the city, a density unmatched in most of China.

For Sakhi Ibrahim, a Moroccan businessman who first learned about China at a Confucius Institute back home, Yiwu represents the ideal place to build a career bridging cultures.

“Foreigners are afraid of mis-

communication,” he said. “So I decided to be that bridge.”

Ibrahim arrived in Yiwu in 2013 after studying at Beijing International Studies University. He now runs a kitchenware export business while helping Moroccan clients understand the Chinese market and ensuring local suppliers profit.

“The work opportunities here are very good. Even getting a driver’s license is easy -- they offer the theory test in Arabic,” said Ibrahim.

Ibrahim credits the city’s infrastructure, openness, and new certification system for creating a foundation of trust. “It shows they recognize our contribution. That trust is why I can succeed here,” he said.

Nidal R.A. Sabarneh, who calls himself “Ni Dale” in China -- a name he chose to express his hope that the support and opportunities he finds in China can reach his homeland, Palestine -- also found a professional home in Yiwu.

Born in 1994, he was inspired by his father’s trade trips to China and chose to study international economics at Wuhan University, central China’s Hubei Province.

He arrived in Yiwu in 2016 and

now runs his own company that sells automotive repair tools. His supply network includes over 80 factories across Zhejiang.

“Honestly, if it wasn’t Yiwu, a modern, open trade city, I doubt I could get so many factories to work with me,” he said.

His products reach 36 countries, with demand rising thanks to China’s own booming new energy vehicle exports. Yet for him, Yiwu’s greatest advantage is security.

“My home is in a war zone. I’ve traveled to many countries, and China is the safest place I know. That security is what allows us to do business,” he said.

For Dumar Bishnuprasad, head of the Nepal-China chamber of commerce and industry in Yiwu, Yiwu has been both a business base and a family home for over two decades. He first arrived in 2002, married a local from Ningbo, and is raising three children in China.

“Yiwu is a great platform for foreigners,” he said. He pointed to opportunities created by the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative and the dedicated China-Nepal railway cooperation.

Bishnuprasad’s businesses encompass trade and logistics, with a focus on selling hardware, stationery and footwear. As chamber head, he often mediates disputes between merchants and suppliers.

“Ninety percent of problems can be solved inside the chamber,” he said.

He also praised Yiwu’s attentiveness to foreign families. “I take my parents to local senior centers and dining halls. It’s convenient and reassuring,” he said.

As Yiwu deepens its role as a testbed for comprehensive trade reforms, officials say the new talent certification system is only the beginning. Future plans include refining criteria, expanding service support, and sharing lessons with other regions in China.

For foreign merchants in Yiwu, the new system is not just about paperwork. It represents a formal invitation to build a lasting life in China -- a place where trade ties turn into personal connections and foreign investment becomes local development.

“Yiwu isn’t just a city of small commodities,” Bishnuprasad said. “It’s a city that really takes care of people.”

‘Anora’ director backs indie cinemas with ‘Free Movie Weekend’

Baker calls himself a ‘weird spokesperson’ for theaters

LOS ANGELES, July 6, (AP): During his best director acceptance speech at this year’s Academy Awards, Sean Baker zealously spoke about the importance of theatergoing, particularly the increasingly threatened independently-owned cinemas.

Baker was accepting the award for “Anora,” which won five of the six Oscars it was nominated for that night.

On the other side of that awards campaign, the independent filmmaker is continuing his evangelism for seeing films on the big screen by teaming up with Pluto TV for “Free Movie Weekend,” which highlights independent and family-owned theaters across the country throughout the summer, including the Music Box Theatre in Chicago recently.

The initiative kicked off with Baker’s pick near Los Angeles - the Gardena Cinema. Complimentary tickets will also be offered to the Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, as well as Detroit’s Redford Theater in the coming weeks.

In an exclusive interview, Baker spoke with The Associated Press about why he feels like a “weird spokesperson” for theatergoing and how he hopes his next film will differ from his previous work. The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: You are an outspoken advocate for independent and family-owned movie theaters. Why are they so important to you?

Baker: I’m Gen X. Growing up, the theaters that we primarily went to were independently owned and usually family owned. Multiplexes kicked in in the late 80s.

I love multiplexes. They’re great, but there is something that’s a little more intimate and has that family



Sean Baker arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party on March 2, 2025 in Beverly Hills, Calif. (AP)

warmth. It’s not a corporate environment. For a very long time, that’s how I discovered and fell in love with the movies.

And then I actually worked in an independently-owned theater.

It was the craziest thing. It was called the Roberts Cinema in New Jersey, and I applied for a job as the ticket ripper.

It was a small business, so next thing you know, they are training me on the projectors.

Next thing, they’re like, “We need a manager.” So, at 17 years old, I was managing, projecting and ticket ripping at a theater in Manville, New Jersey, that’s no

longer there.

They played mostly Disney films during the day and foreign films at night. It was my first real job and I look back fondly on that time.

And then I went to film school and I started making movies. It’s always been with the intention of making feature films for theaters.

A dream of mine is to someday maybe even own a theater.

AP: I think there are a lot of people who think big movies with big movie stars are the secret to getting people into theaters.

Baker: That’s something that I’ve been personally battling with. I am preaching that this sort of entertainment is meant first and foremost for theaters, so come out and see them.

And then at the same time, I make films that are a little bit difficult and not exactly friendly for a wide audience.

But I hope that, since my films lean into a little more into that prestige world, maybe people will come out looking for that sort of thing. “This film won the Palme d’Or and then eventually an Academy Award. Maybe this is something we should see in the theater, even though it doesn’t fit the mold of what we normally are going to see, which are the blockbuster popcorn movies.”

Those are the movies that keep cinemas alive, not my films. Maybe someday. But it’s the “Barbies” that are keeping the cinemas alive, not the “Anoras,” even though “Anora” did amazingly well in the hands of Neon. I do sometimes feel like a weird spokesperson for this because I’m not exactly delivering what I’m preaching on.

AP: The Oscars this year were sort of like a PSA

for theatergoing. I wonder if you subscribe to the idea that that message would be received better if the Academy recognized movies like “Wicked” or “Dune: Part Two” more.

Baker: They do. I mean, those films were nominated. But maybe. Maybe we do need that one extra category for box office success. Why not celebrate that too? I mean that’s something that other awards shows around the world celebrate and there’s no reason not to celebrate when a film hits the zeitgeist. That’s an important cultural milestone. So why not celebrate that publicly? That’s what the Oscars are for in many ways.

AP: We’ve talked before about the success of “Anora” and how you are thinking about how it will inform your next film.

Baker: I think the new thing that I’m dealing with is just the pressure of how do I follow up “Anora?” I don’t want to disappoint people, but I want to give something a little new and different. It’s just scary. I don’t know how else to say it. I just woke up. It’s scary. But hopefully I’m working with the same people again, not only making the film, but also distributing the film. And hopefully we make another film that connects.

My favorite filmmakers are filmmakers that do mix it up. They stay in their wheelhouse because that’s their voice. But there’s always a new thing. And hopefully my new thing is just leaning a little more into comedy.

For a long time, I’ve made films that I would consider to be dramas or tragedies with comedic elements and I kind of want to push it into the comedy with dramatic or tragic elements. That might be my change.

People

Gigs cancelled

Celebs boycott Philly July 4 fest

PHILADELPHIA, July 6, (AP): Rapper **LL Cool J** and R&B singer Jazmine Sullivan did not perform at a Fourth of July festival in Philadelphia in support of a strike by nearly 10,000 city workers in Philadelphia.

LL Cool J had been scheduled to appear at the Wawa Welcome America Festival on Friday, along with Sullivan and other performers.

LL Cool J said in a video posted on social media that “there’s absolutely no way that I can perform, cross a picket line and pick up money when I know that people are out there fighting for a living wage.”

“I hope, I hope, I hope that, you know, the mayor and the city can make a deal. I hope it works out,” he said.

LL Cool J also said that he never wants to disappoint his fans and that he plans to be in Philadelphia in case an agreement is reached.

The festival comes as the strike moved into a fourth day Friday. Trash has been piling up in some areas, and more than 30 Medical Examiner’s Office staffers have been ordered back to work because of a growing backlog of bodies in storage.

Striking

Sullivan, a Philadelphia native and Grammy award-winning artist, said in a post on Instagram on Friday that she would stand with the striking workers “until the city and the union find a way to bring fair living wages to our working class. I love my city and I believe in you,” she wrote. “Hopefully we will get to celebrate when things are better.”

The latest talks between the city and leaders of District Council 33 - the largest of four major unions representing city workers - ended late Wednesday. Both sides have said they were willing to continue negotiations. The union represents many of the city’s blue-collar workers, from trash collectors to clerks to security guards. Police and firefighters are not on strike.

The city has offered a three-year contract with annual raises of about 3%, which the union said amounts to little more than \$1,000 after taxes for members making \$46,000 a year on average.

Mayor Cherelle Parker has said the city has “put its best offer on the table.” She stressed that the effective 13% pay hike over her four-year term -- including last year’s 5% bump - along with a fifth step on the pay scale would be the best contract the union has seen in decades.

Parker responded to LL Cool J’s statement, saying that she spoke with him on Thursday.

“I respect his decision, and understand his desire to see the city unified,” the mayor said. “He is always welcome in Philadelphia.”

The union also responded, saying LL Cool J’s support for municipal workers “highlights his commitment to social justice and community well-being.”

Film

New ‘Jurassic’ movie revives the old spirit

Koepp reboots the rules in ‘Rebirth’

NEW YORK, July 6, (AP): If you’re going to let dinosaurs run amok, it’s good to have some ground rules.

That’s how screenwriter David Koepp saw it, anyway, in penning the script for “Jurassic World Rebirth,” which opened in theaters July 2. Koepp wrote the original “Jurassic Park and its 1997 sequel, “The Lost World. But “Rebirth,” the seventh film in the franchise, marks his return to the franchise he helped birth.

And Koepp, the veteran screenwriter of “Carrito’s Way” and “Mission: Impossible,” saw it as a chance to get a few things in order for a movie series that had perhaps strayed too far from its foundational character. Inspired by the animator Chuck Jones, Koepp decided to put down a list of nine commandments to guide “Jurassic World Rebirth” and future installments.

Jones had done something similar for the Roadrunner cartoons. His “commandments” included things like: the Roadrunner never speaks except to say “meep meep”; the coyote must never catch him; gravity is the coyote’s worst enemy; all products come from the ACME Corporation.

Principles

“I always thought those were brilliant as a set of organizing principles,” Koepp says. “Things become easier to write when you have that, when you have a box, when you have rules, when you agree going in: ‘These we will heed by.’ So I wrote my own, nine of them.”

Koepp shared some - though not all of them - in a recent interview.

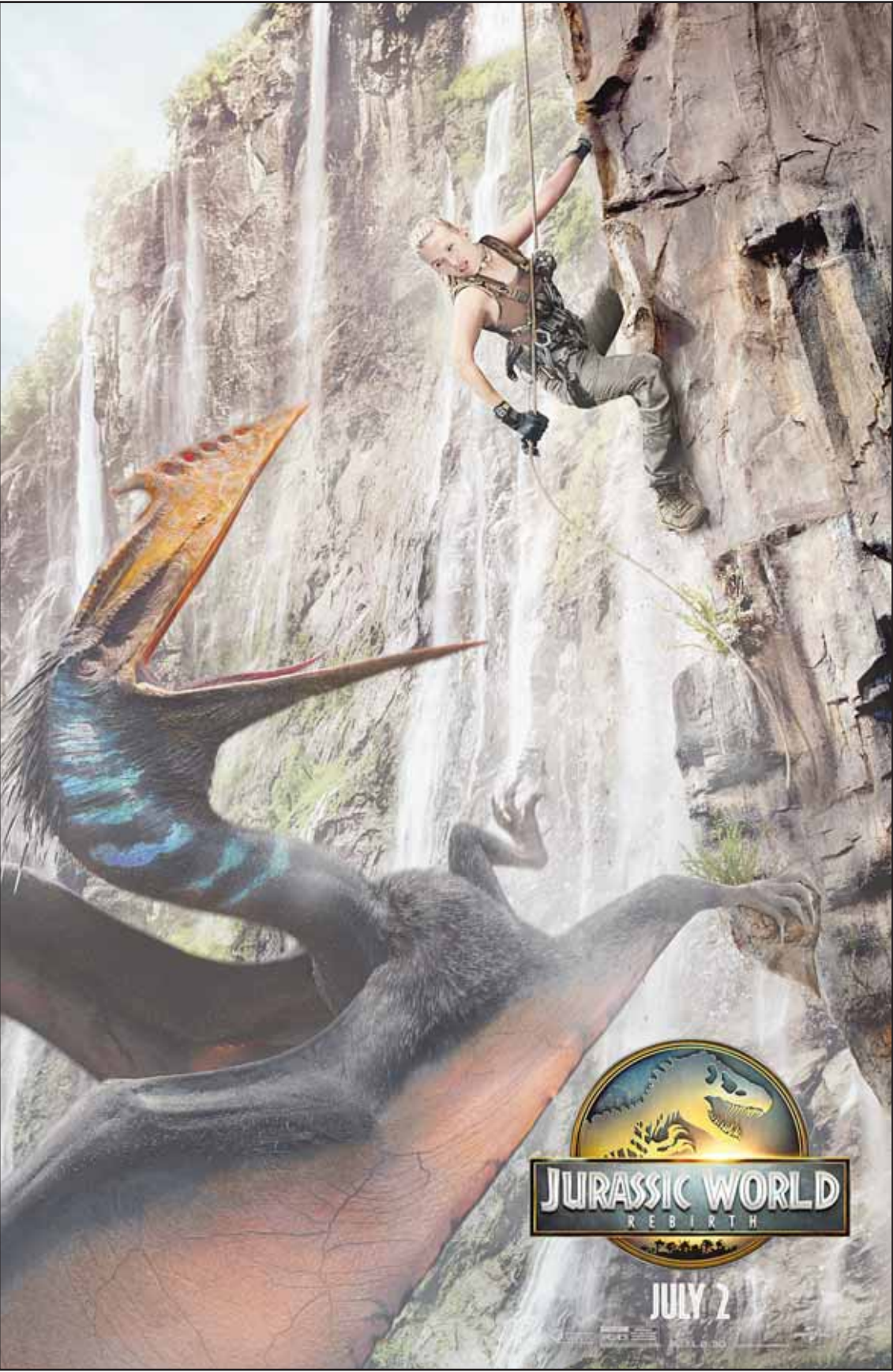
“I hate a retcon. I hate when they change a bunch of things: ‘Oh, that didn’t actually happen. It was actually his twin.’ I don’t like other timelines. So I thought: Let’s not pretend any of the last 32 years didn’t happen or happened differently than you thought. But we can say things have changed.”

“On the first movie, anyone working on the movie would get fined for referring to them as monsters. They’re not monsters, they’re animals. Therefore, because they’re animals, their motives can only be because they’re hungry or defending their territory. They don’t attack because they’re scary. They don’t sneak up and roar because they want to scare you.”

“You can’t forget it.”

“The tone that Steven (Spielberg) found and I helped find in that first movie is really distinctive. I haven’t gotten to work on a movie with that tone since then. So to go back to that sense of high adventure, real science and humor, it was just kind of joyful.”

“And then there were a number of other rules that I would define as trade secrets. So I’ll keep them to myself.”



This image released by Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment shows promotional art for ‘Jurassic World: Rebirth.’ (AP)

‘Charmed’ actor battled cancer

Julian McMahon, ‘Fantastic Four’ actor, dies

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif., July 6, (AP): Julian McMahon, an Australia-born actor who performed in two “Fantastic Four” films and appeared in TV shows such as “Charmed,” “Nip/Tuck” and “Profiler,” has died, his wife said in a statement.

McMahon, 56, died peacefully this week after a battle with cancer, Kelly McMahon said in a statement provided to The Associated Press by his Beverly Hills, California-based publicist.

“Julian loved life,” the statement said. “He loved his family. He loved his friends. He loved his work, and he loved his fans. His deepest wish was to bring joy into as many lives as possible.”

McMahon played Dr. Doom in the films “Fan-

tastic Four” in 2005 and “Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer,” which came out two years later.

Along with “Charmed,” “Nip/Tuck,” and “Profiler,” he also had roles in the TV shows “Home and Away,” “FBI: Most Wanted” and “Another World,” according to IMDB.

Actress Alyssa Milano, who appeared with McMahon on “Charmed,” mourned his death on social media, saying “Julian was more than my TV husband.”

“Julian McMahon was magic,” Milano said. “That smile. That laugh. That talent. That presence. He walked into a room and lit it up - not just with charisma, but with kindness. With mischief. With soulful understanding.”

Variety

LONDON: Novak Djokovic won the match on Centre Court on Saturday, but it was his 7-year-old daughter who really wowed Wimbledon.

Tara Djokovic’s victory dance brought a smile to dad’s face. Everybody else’s, too.

Djokovic had just clinched his 100th Wimbledon singles win and was asked during his on-court interview to shed light on the little dancer he’s been doing recently.

He said it’s done to a song called “Pump It Up.”

“There’s a song with my kids - look my daughter’s doing it right now,” a smiling Djokovic said as he looked into the crowd. “You want to show it darling?”

The TV camera then panned to

Tara, who then showed everyone how it’s done: pump your fists down, then left, right and overhead.

The crowd roared.

“She’s the master. It’s a little tradition we have right now. Hopefully we can keep going so we can keep pumping more in Wimbledon.” (AP)

ZAGREB, Croatia: A concert by right-wing singer Marko Perkovic, notorious for his perceived sympathy for Croatia’s World War II pro-Nazi puppet regime, has drawn tens of thousands of his fans to Zagreb on Saturday.

Some 450,000 are expected to be in attendance at the Hippodrome later in the evening, the biggest concert in Croatia’s history, according to the police, viewed as a major security challenge.

Perkovic, also known as Thompson, has been banned from performing in some European cities over frequent pro-Nazi displays at his gigs, but he remains hugely popular in Croatia, frequently attending rallies and sports events.

Organizers said any display of any hate-fueling insignia is strictly banned at Saturday’s concert.

Some fans were seen wrapped in Croatian flags while others wore black Thompson-inscribed T-shirts.

“See you at Hippodrome,” Perkovic wrote on Facebook. “Take care of each other.”

In Zagreb, a city of nearly 700,000 people, the event has been virtually blocked and traffic suspended in various areas days before the event. Authorities deployed thousands of police officers and set up a special control center and a field hospital.

The state-owned HRT television said snipers were guarding the venue and helicopters were flying above as visitors streamed in. (AP)

BEIJING: A Chinese adaptation of “Le Nozze di Figaro,” one of the most famous operas by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, will be performed at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) from July 15 to 20.

The opera, based on a French Enlightenment novel by Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais, eulogises the common French people’s victory against the hypocritical aristocrats.

The opera made its debut at the Burgtheater in Vienna in 1786 with Mozart as the composer.

In 2013, the NCPA’s production of “Le Nozze di Figaro” premiered in Beijing, achieving a box office sensation and gaining widespread acclaim from audiences. (Xinhua)



Darb Al-Nahr in the town of Jahiliya, Lebanon.

Darb Al-Nahr in Jahlieh, Lebanon ... natural hiking grounds with wondrous allures

Darb Al-Nahr (River Trail) in the 600 meters above sea level town of Jahlieh, Lebanon, is a natural two-kilometers hiking grounds attracting people from far and wide via its wondrous allures.

While on a hike, one could feel the urge to stay forever due to the stupendous natural landscape and well-kept man-made rock and wooden paths and bridges.

Adding to the natural attractions, visitors could sit in the many simple facilities built on the hiking path, bringing in a social aspect to those with an adventurous spirit. (KUNA)

Gaming

Cultural clicks

Games connect Gen Z, heritage

BEIJING, July 6, (Xinhua): Chinese video games are increasingly connecting ancient culture with younger generations. Through immersive digital design and real-world collaborations, homegrown titles are inspiring young players to rediscover traditional arts, driving tourism and reinforcing cultural confidence.

One prime example, “Ashes of Kingdom,” immediately captured players’ imaginations after its domestic launch last September, attracting fans with its richly detailed late Han Dynasty (202 B.C. - 220 A.D.) and the Three Kingdoms period (220-280) world.

In Yangzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province, young gamers flocked to the city’s historic landmarks, including Slender West Lake, Ge Garden, and He Garden, as they were transformed into immersive in-game quest hubs. From mid-May to late June, the collaboration project drew thousands of visitors eager to trace the lacquerware motifs featured in the game.

“The game has drawn many Gen Z travelers to Yangzhou to discover its beauty through its landscapes, cuisine and traditions,” said Dai Bin, deputy director of the city’s culture and tourism bureau.

Artisans

During the three-day Dragon Boat Festival, the Yangzhou Intangible Cultural Heritage Treasure Museum welcomed approximately 20,000 visitors daily, a significant portion of whom were gaming enthusiasts. Under the guidance of master artisans, visitors sketched, inlaid and polished Luodian -- also known as mother-of-pearl inlay -- on wooden panels, transforming digital motifs into tangible artworks.

This “game-plus-heritage” model turns cultural landmarks into living classrooms, Dai added.

Cultural tourism-related online searches of the city surged by 300 percent during the month-long project as Gen Z travelers flooded in to experience Han culture firsthand, according to data.

Behind these successful activities stand young development teams who weave authentic history into modern gameplay. “We chose a few representative cultural fragments -- lacquerware, guqin music and traditional attire -- to spark curiosity,” said Xiao Meng, the producer of “Ashes of Kingdom.”

“It’s a two-way journey: We invite players in and they, in turn, bring new perspectives to our shared heritage,” she said.

National policies and education initiatives are fueling this cultural craze further. In April, the Ministry of Commerce rolled out a game export plan that calls for the development of overseas gaming operations, the expansion of application scenarios, and the establishment of an industrial chain spanning IP development, game production, publishing and international operations.



This undated image provided by the Game Science shows the Monkey King or Sun Wukong, one of the most iconic characters in global fiction, from the video game ‘Black Myth: Wukong.’ (Xinhua)

Music



Ozzy Osbourne performs during the Commonwealth Games closing ceremony at the Alexander stadium in Birmingham, England, Monday, Aug. 8, 2022. (AP)

Heavy metal icon rocks Birmingham one last time

Ozzy bids farewell to live performance

LONDON, July 6, (AP): Hard-rock royalty and some 40,000 fans gathered for an ear-splitting tribute to Ozzy Osbourne at what the heavy metal icon says was his last-ever live performance.

The original lineup of Osbourne’s band Black Sabbath performed at Villa Park soccer stadium in their home city of Birmingham, central England, on Saturday.

The 76-year-old singer, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease, sang from a black throne that rose up from under the stage.

“Let the madness begin!” he urged as he took the stage, and later paid tribute to fans.

“I don’t know what to say, man, I’ve been laid up for like six years. You have no idea how I feel - thank you from the bottom of my heart,” Osbourne said.

“You’re all ... special. Let’s go crazy, come on.”

Osbourne performed several songs solo before being joined onstage, for the first time in 20 years, by Black Sabbath bandmates Tony Iommi, Terence “Geezer” Butler and Bill Ward. The band ended a short set with “Paranoid,” one of its most famous songs.

It capped a day-long metal festival that included performances from the likes of Anthrax, Metallica and Guns N’Roses. Artists who sent plaudits and well-wishes included Jack Black, Dolly Parton and Elton John.

“You are one of the most remarkable singers of our time,” John said. “You are the king, you are the legend.”

Osbourne formed Black Sabbath in 1968 in Birmingham, a city then known for its heavy industry that became the crucible of the British metal scene. Black Sabbath’s devil imagery and thunderous sound made them one of the era’s most influential - and parent-scaring - metal acts. Both the band and Osbourne as a solo artist have been inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Osbourne’s fame expanded into the mainstream in the early 2000s, when he joined his wife Sharon Osbourne, and two of their children in the MTV reality TV show “The Osbournes.”

He has struggled with health issues since 2003 following a near-fatal quad bike crash. He revealed his Parkinson’s diagnosis in 2020 and paused touring in 2023 after spinal surgery.

Traditional choir festival echoes across Estonia

Thousands of voices unite in Estonia’s song fest

TALLINN, Estonia, July 6, (AP): The voices of more than 21,000 choir singers rang out in the rain in Estonia, and a huge crowd of spectators erupted in applause, unfazed by the gloomy weather.

The Song Festival Grounds, a massive outdoor venue in the Estonian capital, Tallinn, was packed on Saturday evening despite the downpour. The traditional Song and Dance Celebration, that decades ago inspired resistance to Soviet control and was later recognized by the UN’s cultural agency, attracted tens of thousands of performers and spectators alike, many in national costume.

The four-day choir-singing and dancing event centers around Estonian folk songs and patriotic anthems and is held roughly every five years. The tradition dates back to the 19th century. In the late 1980s, it inspired the defiant Singing Revolution, helping Estonia and other Baltic nations break free from the Soviet occupation.

To this day, it remains a major point of national pride for a country of about 1.3 million.

This year, tickets to the main event -- a seven-hour concert on Sunday featuring choirs of all ages -- sold out weeks in advance.

Rasmus Puur, a conductor at the song festival and assistant to the artistic director, ascribes the spike in popularity to Estonians longing for a sense of unity in the wake of the global turmoil, especially Russia’s war in Ukraine.

“We want to feel as one today more than six years ago (when the celebration was last held), and we want to feel that we are part of Estonia,” Puur told The Associated Press on Friday.

The tradition to hold massive first song-only, then song and dance festivals dates back to the time when Estonia was part of the Russian Empire.

The first song celebration was held in 1869 in the southern city of Tartu. It heralded a period of national awakening for Estonians, when Estonian-language press, theater and other things emerged, says Eelo-Hanna Seljamaa, associate professor at the University of Tartu.

The festivals continued throughout a period of Estonia’s independence between the two world wars and then during the nearly 50 years of Soviet occupation.

The Soviet rulers were into “mass spectacles of all kinds, so in a way it was very logical for the Soviet regime to tap into this tradition and to try to co-opt it,” Seljamaa said in an interview.

Estonians had to sing Soviet propaganda songs in Russian during that time, but they were also able to sing their own songs in their own language, which was both an act of defiance and an act of therapy for them, she said.

At the same time, the complicated logistics of putting together a mass event like that taught Estonians to organize, Seljamaa said, so when the political climate changed in the 1980s, the protest against the Soviet rule naturally came in the form of coming together and singing.

The unity extended beyond Estonia’s borders. During the Singing Revolution, 2 million people in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania joined hands to form a 600-kilometer (370-mile) human chain that protested Soviet occupation of the Baltics with a song.

In 2003, the United Nations’ cultural body, UNESCO, recognized Estonia’s folk song festival and similar events in Latvia and Lithuania for showcasing the “intangible cultural heritage of humanity.”

Marina Nurmning recalls attending the Singing Revolution gatherings in the 1980s as a teenager. This year she travelled to Tallinn from Luxembourg, where she currently lives, to take part in the Song and Dance Celebration as a choir singer -- her longtime hobby.

The Singing Revolution is a time “when we sang ourselves free,” she told AP.

Seljamaa says the song and dance celebration may have suffered a drop in popularity in the 1990s, a somewhat difficult time for Estonia as it was emerging as an independent country after the Soviet Union collapsed, but has since bounced back.

There is a tremendous interest in it among young people, she says, and always more performers willing to take part than the venue can fit in, and there are people who had left Estonia to live abroad, but travel back to take part.

Nurmning is one example. She is part of the European Choir of Estonians - a singing group that unites Estonians from more than a dozen countries.

This year’s four-day celebration, which started on Thursday, included several stadium dancing performances by over 10,000 dancers from all around the country and a folk music instrument concert.

Variety

NEW YORK: Good Game Group Inc. has announced the launch of Good Game, the world’s first ‘As-live’ Global Gaming Reality Show, blending the thrill of reality television with the high-stakes world of competitive gaming, to crown the world’s first Gaming Celebrity Superstar. The company has signed ace Indian cricketer, **Rishabh Pant** as the global brand ambassador and partnered with Spunnee Media Private Limited for the first show.

Good Game will be available globally across select Broadcast Partners and Good Game’s YouTube channel, supported by watch parties across various social media platforms. The company is currently inviting interest for sponsorships and partnerships from brands looking to reach Gamers, who sit at the intersection of pop culture, gaming and entertainment. (AP)



Pant

BEIJING: A series of TV dramas, documentaries and short dramas will soon be released to mark the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, according to a State Council Information Office press conference on Thursday.

Classic Chinese audio and visual works related to the war on anti-Japanese aggression will be re-broadcast on nationwide TV channels and online platforms from July to September, said Liu Jianguo, deputy director of China’s National Radio and Television Administration. (Xinhua)

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia has seen a remarkable increase in the number of Chinese tourists to its iconic Angkor Archaeological Park in the first half of 2025, an official report said on Thursday. A total of 47,571 Chinese tourists visited the UNESCO-listed world heritage site during the January-June period, up 25 percent over the same period last year, said the state-owned Angkor Enterprise’s report.

China remained the fourth biggest source of international tourist arrivals to Angkor after the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, it added. According to the report, a total of 567,673 foreigners from 171 countries and regions toured the ancient park in the first half of this year, generating a gross revenue of 26.3 million U.S. dollars from ticket sales. (Xinhua)

Next-gen bone imaging tool to transform osteoporosis care

US develops AI model to spot silent threats in heart patients

LOS ANGELES, July 6, (Agencies): Researchers at Johns Hopkins University have developed a new artificial intelligence (AI) model that significantly outperforms current clinical guidelines in identifying patients at high risk of sudden cardiac death, according to a newly published study.

The AI system, known as Multimodal AI for ventricular Arrhythmia Risk Stratification (MAARS), integrates cardiac MRI images with a wide range of patient health records to detect hidden warning signs, offering a new level of precision in cardiovascular risk prediction.

The study, published this week in Nature Cardiovascular Research, focused on hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, one of the most common inherited heart conditions and a leading cause of sudden cardiac death in young people.

“Currently we have patients dying in the prime of their life because they aren’t protected and others who are putting up with defibrillators for the rest of their lives with no benefit,” said senior author Natalia Trayanova, a researcher focused on using AI in cardiology. “We have the ability to predict with very high accuracy whether a patient is at very high risk for sudden cardiac death or not.”

Clinical guidelines used in the United States and Europe currently have an estimated accuracy of only 50 percent in identifying at-risk patients. In contrast, the MAARS model

demonstrated an overall accuracy of 89 percent, and 93 percent for patients aged 40 to 60 -- the group at the greatest risk.

The AI model analyzes contrast-enhanced MRI scans for patterns of heart scarring -- something that physicians have traditionally found difficult to interpret. By applying deep learning to this previously underused data, the model identifies key predictors of sudden cardiac death.

“Our study demonstrates that the AI model significantly enhances our ability to predict those at highest risk compared to our current algorithms and thus has the power to transform clinical care,” said co-author Jonathan Chrispin, a Johns Hopkins cardiologist.

The team plans to further test the new model on more patients and expand the new algorithm to use with other types of heart diseases, including cardiac sarcoidosis and arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy.

□ □ □

Medimaps Group S.A., a global leader in AI-driven bone microarchitecture imaging solutions, announces the European launch of its MDR-cleared next-generation TBS Osteo Advanced software. Following the product launch in the United States last month, this next milestone reflects the company’s commitment to advancing osteoporosis detection

and bone health management worldwide.

The TBS Osteo Advanced software delivers refined correction for soft tissue thickness anterior to the lumbar spine, ensuring inclusivity of TBS assessment across a wide range of body phenotypes.

It also introduces new system management capabilities, allowing hospitals and healthcare networks to centrally manage the TBS software on their DXA systems fleet, and to standardize workflows across multiple locations. These improvements enhance operational efficiency, streamline clinical processes, and ensure consistent patient care.

TBS Osteo is available through a convenient subscription model, a flexible option providing customers with eligibility for software updates, new features and support services. This approach ensures healthcare organizations stay up to date with the latest innovations in osteoporosis care. Current TBS Osteo users have the possibility to upgrade to the next generation version and to take advantage of the new capabilities.

“The TBS Osteo next-generation software has been developed with busy radiology professionals in mind for a maximum of clinical output with a minimum of logistics. The software is seamlessly integrated into the clinical workflow and performed at time of DXA scan. This

approach sets TBS Osteo apart from competition,” said Univ. Prof. **Dr. Didier Hans**, CEO and Co-founder of Medimaps Group. “TBS Osteo delivers within seconds a comprehensive report combining BMD and clinical factors, providing results beyond the standard of care.

Adopted by many top hospitals across the world, including in the US, DXA and TBS Osteo have become the gold standard to detect and monitor osteoporosis.”

Since its initial launch in 2012, TBS Osteo has been widely adopted across the world, to support the assessment and management of osteoporosis.

The software is backed by over 1,400 peer-reviewed publications and endorsed by more than 30 national and international osteoporosis assessment and management guidelines.

In Europe, the software has received clearance from the Medical Device Regulation (MDR) and remains the only approved medical software for bone microarchitecture evaluation in clinical practice.

Osteoporosis is a condition that weakens bones and increases the risk of fractures. Fractures due to osteoporosis have a devastating impact on millions of people worldwide and result in enormous socio-economic costs to society and healthcare systems.

Elderly most vulnerable

Heatstroke symptoms, risks, and how to stay safe: expert

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: A medical report has warned against prolonged exposure to high temperatures during the summer, and the potential health risks associated with sun exposure, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the British daily ‘The Independent’, heat-related illnesses are increasingly common, with mild heat exhaustion capable of quickly progressing to life-threatening heatstroke if a person remains exposed to high temperatures for an extended period.

Early forms of heat-related illness include heat cramps and heat rash, often caused by excessive sweating in hot conditions. These can usually be relieved by cooling the body and staying hydrated with cold fluids.

Heat-related illnesses can sometimes develop into heat exhaustion, which is a more serious condition. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include dizziness, nausea, excessive sweating, weakness, thirst, and headache.

Heat exhaustion occurs when the body can no longer regulate its internal temperature. To prevent heat exhaustion from escalating into heatstroke, which is the most severe heat-related condition, immediate action is essential. Recommended steps include moving to a cool, air-conditioned environment, drinking plenty of fluids, removing excess clothing, and applying wet towels.

Heatstroke is a medical emergency where the body can no longer maintain a stable internal temperature. A person suffering from heatstroke can rapidly reach a body temperature of 41°C (104°F) or higher, which can quickly cause severe damage to the brain, heart, and kidneys.

During heatstroke, the body exhausts its stores of sweat and salts needed to cool down. Sweating stops, cognitive functions decline, and the person becomes unable to recognize or avoid danger. Heatstroke can lead to seizures or coma as the internal temperature rises. Without prompt treatment and if the internal temperature continues to increase, heatstroke can be fatal.

Simple steps

Taking a few simple precautions can help prevent serious heat-related health issues. Avoid strenuous outdoor activities during high temperatures whenever possible, and stay well-hydrated by drinking fluids.

Be especially cautious when indoor temperatures reach 37°C or higher, as this can increase the risk of heat-related illnesses. Seeking refuge in air-conditioned spaces during the hottest hours of the day is highly recommended.

Heat-related dehydration occurs when excessive sweating causes the body to lose vital water and salts. It is crucial to regularly replace both to maintain balance. Elderly individuals and people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable during heatwaves, especially if they have limited mobility to access cooler environments. They require special care and attention during such times.

Doctors in Gaza overwhelmed as war cripples health system

A boy with brain injury fights for life in Gaza’s decimated health system

BEIRUT, July 6, (AP): It’s as if the whole weight of Israel’s war in Gaza has fallen on Amr al-Hams. The 3-year-old has shrapnel in his brain from an Israeli strike on his family’s tent. His pregnant mother was killed. His father is paralyzed by grief over the death of his longtime sweetheart.

Now the boy is lying in a hospital bed, unable to speak, unable to move, losing weight, while doctors don’t have the supplies to treat his brain damage or help in his rehabilitation after a weeks-long blockade and constant bombardment.

Recently out of intensive care, Amr’s frail body twists in visible pain. His wide eyes dart around the room. His aunt is convinced he’s looking for his mother. He can’t speak, but she believes he is trying to say “mom.”

“I am trying as much as I can. It is difficult,” said his aunt Nour al-Hams, his main caregiver, sitting next to him on the bed in Khan Younis’ Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza. “What he is living through is not easy.”

Reassure

To reassure him, his aunt sometimes says his mother will be back soon. Other times, she tries to distract him, handing him a small ball.

The war began Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel and killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 people captive. Israel’s retaliatory campaign has killed over 57,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry, which says women and children make up most of the dead but does not specify how many were fighters or civilians.

Nearly 21 months into the conflict that displaced the vast majority of Gaza’s 2.3 million people, it is nearly impossible for the critically wounded to get the care they need, doctors and aid workers say.

The health care sector has been decimated: Nearly half of the territory’s 36 hospitals have been put out of service. Daily bombings and strikes overwhelm the remaining facilities, which are operating only partially. They struggle with shortages of anything from fuel, gauze and sutures to respirators or scanners that have broken down and can’t be replaced.

Israeli forces have raided and besieged medical facilities, claiming Hamas militants have used them as command centers. Doctors have been killed or were displaced, unable to reach hospitals because of continued



Three-year-old Amr al-Hams, who has brain damage caused by an Israeli strike on his family’s tent in April, lies in a bed at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, Wednesday, June 25, 2025. (AP)

military operations.

For more than 2 1/2 months, Israel blocked all food, medicine and other supplies from entering Gaza, accusing Hamas of siphoning off aid to fund its military activities, though the U.N. said there was no systematic diversion. The population was pushed toward famine.

Since mid-May, Israel has allowed in a trickle of aid, including medical supplies.

Rehabilitation

Gaza’s Health Ministry estimates that 33,000 children have been injured during the war, including 5,000 requiring long-term rehabilitation and critical care. Over 1,000 children, like Amr, are suffering from brain or spinal injuries or amputated limbs.

“Gaza will be dealing with future generations of kids living with all sorts of disabilities, not just brain, but limb disabilities that are consequences of amputation that could have been prevented if the health system was not under the pressures it is under, wasn’t systematically targeted and destroyed as it was,” said Tanya Haj-Hassan, a pediatric intensive care specialist who has volunteered multiple times in Gaza with international medical organizations.

In April, one week before her due date, Amr’s mother, Inas, persuaded her husband to visit her parents in northern Gaza. They trekked from the tent they lived in on Gaza’s southern coast to the tent where her parents live. They were having an evening meal

when the strike hit. Amr’s mother and her unborn baby, his grandfather and his brother and sister were killed.

Amr was rushed to the ICU at Indonesian Hospital, the largest in northern Gaza. A scan confirmed shrapnel in his brain and reduced brain function. A breathing tube was inserted into his throat.

“He is 3. Why should he bear the weight of a rocket?” his aunt asked.

His father, Mohammed, was too stunned to even visit the ICU. His wife had been the love of his life since childhood, the aunt said. He barely spoke.

Doctors said Amr needed advanced rehabilitation. But while he was at the hospital, Israeli forces attacked the facility - encircling its premises and causing damage to its communication towers, water supplies and one of its wards. Evacuation orders were issued for the area, and patients were transferred to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

But Shifa was overwhelmed with mass casualties, and staff asked the family to take Amr south, even though no ambulances or oxygen tanks could be spared.

The father and aunt had to take Amr, fresh out of ICU with the tube in his throat, in a motorized rickshaw for the 25-kilometer (15-mile) drive to Nasser Hospital. Amr was in pain, his oxygen levels dropped. He was in and out of consciousness. “We were reading the Quran all along the road,” said his aunt, praying they would survive the bombings and Amr the bumpy trip without medical care.

Dengue cases

India confirms 2 Nipah cases

NEW DELHI, July 6, (Xinhua): The southern Indian state of Kerala has reported two new Nipah virus cases, the state-run broadcaster All India Radio said Saturday.

According to officials, the deadly virus has claimed the life of an 18-year-old girl. A 38-year-old woman, whose condition was stated to be critical, is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

Officials said the samples of the duo tested positive at the National Institute of Virology on Friday.

The teenager was taken to Kozhikode from a private hospital in Kottakkal with high fever and severe vomiting. According to doctors, she was brain-dead when she was brought to the hospital.

The woman developed fever nearly 20 days ago and sought treatment at two places.

The resurfacing of Nipah cases has triggered fresh concerns among the health officials in the state.

□ □ □

Dengue: The Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh donated anti-dengue supplies to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) of Bangladesh here Thursday.

Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh Liu Yuyin attended the event alongside Md. Sayedur Rahman, special assistant of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Md. Abu Jafor, director general of DGHS.

In his remarks, Liu stated that China and Bangladesh are good neighbors, good friends and good partners. The donation of anti-dengue supplies is a concrete step in implementing the important consensus reached by the leaders of both countries.

□ □ □

Bat bite: Experts are urging the Australian public to exercise extreme caution around bats following the death of a man in his 50s from the New South Wales (NSW) state, who contracted the rare and deadly Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV) after being bitten several months ago.

The case, confirmed by NSW Health recently, is the first in the state and only the fourth recorded nationwide since the virus was identified in 1996.

Alison Peel, a veterinarian and wildlife disease ecologist at the University of Sydney, emphasized that ABLV circulates naturally in Australian bats, but infected bats cannot always be identified by appearance alone.

Japan issues heatstroke alerts in 19 prefectures as heat grips

TOKYO, July 6, (Xinhua): Japan’s weather agency on Sunday issued heatstroke alerts in 19 prefectures, including this season’s first for central Tokyo and Kanagawa, as dangerously high temperatures gripped much of the country.

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said a high-pressure system is likely to cover western Japan and elsewhere, bringing mostly sunny and hot weather on Sunday.

Daytime highs in the mid- to high-30s were logged nationwide, including 38.3 degrees Celsius in Kuwana, Mie Prefecture, 37.9 degrees Celsius in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture, and 37.7 degrees Celsius in Tajimi, Gifu Prefecture, Hamamatsu,

Shizuoka Prefecture and Kofu, Yamaguchi Prefecture, the JMA said.

Weather officials advised people to use air conditioners as needed, take liquids and salt, and rest frequently when working outside. According to the Tokyo Fire Department, as of 3 p.m. local time on Sunday, 28 people aged between 9 and 89 in the capital had been taken to the hospital by ambulance for suspected symptoms of heatstroke.

Meanwhile, Portugal has just recorded its third hottest June on record, with experts warning that extreme heat events may become increasingly frequent and intense, potentially signaling a “new normal” for future summers.

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Islam claims maiden five-wicket haul

Bangladesh fights back to level ODI series in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, July 6, (AP): Tanvir Islam’s maiden five-wicket haul and Parvez Hossain Emon’s maiden half-century helped Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka by 16 runs in the second one-day international.

Bangladesh was out for 248 in the 46th over at R. Premadasa Stadium. Sri Lanka was cruising at 75-2 but reduced to 170-8, needing 79 more runs.

The ninth-wicket stand between Janith Liyanage and Dushmantha Chameera knocked off 58 runs but the pressure told in the end.

The series was at 1-1 with the decider on Tuesday inallekele. Bangladesh lost its first wicket with the total on 10 when Tanzid Hasan (7) edged fast bowler Asitha Fernando to wicketkeeper Kusal Mendis.

Emon and Najmul Hossain Shanto overcame the early loss of Tanzid Hasan with 63 runs for the second wicket. Shanto was out for 14 to Sri Lanka captain Charith Asalanka but Emon lasted for 67 off 69 deliveries until he failed to read a googly from leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga. Emon hit three sixes and six

boundaries.

Towhid Hridoy’s 51 off 69, including only two boundaries, pushed Bangladesh and there were useful contributions from Tanzim Hasan Sakib (33 off 21), Jaker Ali (24) and Shamim Hossain (22).

Fernando took 4-35 and Hasaranga 3-60.

Chasing 249 to win, Sri Lanka opener Pathum Nissanka failed again, lbw to Sakib for 5. Nissanka was in great form in the test series with two hundreds, but in the first ODI he went for a duck.

Kusal Mendis and Nishan Ma-

dushka shared 69 for the second wicket, and Mendis brought up his 34th ODI half-century in just 20 deliveries, the quickest at the venue.

He hit spinner Tanvir for 17 runs in the eighth over and four consecutive fours in the next over bowled by pacer Mustafizur Rahman.

Tanvir came back strong in his next over having Madushka caught by Hridoy. He dismissed Kusal Mendis in his following over for 56 off 31 deliveries, including a six and nine boundaries.

Sri Lanka slumped to 132-6 in the 30th over, still needing more than 100 runs.

Liyanage gave the host hope while hitting 78 off 85 deliveries with two sixes and seven boundaries. But his partnership with No. 10 batter Chameera was always nervous.

Liyanage slammed left-arm fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman for a straight six but next ball a slower ball deceived Liyanage and Mustafizur held a catch off his own bowling.

Tanvir returned 5-39 for Bangladesh.



Bangladesh's Tanvir Islam celebrates the wicket of Sri Lanka's Dushantha Chameera during the second ODI cricket match between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (AP)

Historic defeat for England as France ends Wiegman’s flawless Euros record



France's Delphine Cascarino, left, fights for the ball with England's Jessica Carter, right, during the UEFA Women's EURO 2025 Group D soccer match between France and England at the Letzigrund stadium in Zurich, Switzerland. (AP)

Miedema hits milestone in Dutch win over Wales

ZURICH, July 6, (AP): England set a number of unwanted firsts as it began the defense of its Women’s European Championship title by losing to France 2-1.

Marie-Antoinette Katoto and Sandy Baltimore scored two quickfire goals towards the end of the first half as France recorded a ninth straight win and stunned the defending champion.

Keira Walsh reduced the deficit three minutes from time but it wasn’t enough to prevent England from becoming the first titleholder to lose its opening match at a women’s Euros.

The defeat also ended England coach Sarina Wiegman’s remarkable flawless record in the competition, after winning 12 out of 12 matches across two tournaments as she steered first the Netherlands to the title and then England.

The Netherlands beat Wales 3-0 in the early match in Group D.

It was a statement victory for France, which - despite being without injured captain Griedge Mbock - was in firm control for most of the match, apart from the opening 15 minutes and a tense finale after Walsh’s goal.



Netherlands’ Victoria Pelova, left, is challenged by Wales’ Esther Morgan during the Euro 2025, Group D, soccer match between Wales and the Netherlands at Allmend Stadion Luzern in Lucerne, Switzerland. (AP)

However, France coach Laurent Bonnedei was quick to dismiss any suggestion his team was emerging as one of the favorites

England got off to a strong start and Lauren James - starting her first match since a hamstring injury at the start of April - almost gave England the lead within 40 seconds with a clever run into the box but fired narrowly over.

Alessia Russo thought she gave England the lead in the 16th minute, turning in the rebound after Lauren Hemp’s shot was saved but it was ruled out for a tight offside decision on Beth

Mead in the buildup.

As England appeared to deflate after that call by the video assistant referee, France grew in ascendancy and broke the deadlock in the 36th.

Elise De Almeida won the ball in her own half before surging down the right and threading the ball through to Delphine Cascarino, who put in a low cross for Katoto to tap in at the back post.

France doubled its lead just three minutes later. Baltimore mazed her way into the area, close to the byline, and Lucy Bronze inadvertently kept the ball in play with her attempted tackle, allowing the Chelsea forward to curl into the far side of the net.

Netherlands great Vivianne Miedema’s 100th goal in international soccer was key to a 3-0 win over debut-making Wales.

After Miedema’s injury-hit season, no one expected the all-time Dutch record goal-scorer to complete its opening game in the toughest of groups.

Those 70 minutes of Miedema were more than enough in a dominant win that gave Wales a tough lesson in its entry to major women’s tournament soccer.

The result and performance suggested the Euro 2017 champion - and 2019 World Cup finalist - was up to advancing from Group D. France won

2-1 against England, the defending champion, in the late game Saturday.

Miedema made her historic mark scoring with a delightful curling shot in stoppage time at the end of the first half. “Special, very special,” Miedema told Dutch broadcaster NOS about the mark she eventually reached at age 28 after three years blighted by injury. Her 95th was scored in 2022.

The skill she showed to create the chance, by twice deceiving a defender when faking to strike the ball, seemed unlikely to that point. Miedema’s first touch had been heavy in the penalty area and she seemed to lack match fitness after so little game time at Manchester City this season because of knee and hamstring injuries.

The Dutch were relentless in the second half, adding goals in the 48th by Victoria Pelova and the 57th by wing back Esmee Brugts.

It could have been more. The Wales crossbar was struck twice between the second and third goals by shots from Jill Roord and Jackie Groenen. Roord also struck a post with a first-half shot.

Miedema’s exit let another recently injured star forward, Lineth Beerensteyn, return to action and the winger quickly looked dangerous.

Jefferson-Wooden wins women’s 100m

Kipyegon & Chebet set world records at Prefontaine Classic

EUGENE, Ore., July 6, (AP): Kenyans Faith Kipyegon and Beatrice Chebet set world records and American Melissa Jefferson-Wooden won a star-studded women’s 100 meters as the Prefontaine Classic celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Kipyegon finished the 1,500 in 3 minutes, 48.68 seconds, besting her own record of 3:49.04 in the event set last year.

Chebet became the first woman to run under 14 minutes in the 5,000, finishing in 13:58.06 to surpass Ethiopian Gudaf Tsegay’s 2023 mark of 14:00.21.

“When I was coming here to Eugene, I was coming to prepare to run a world record, and I said I have to try. I said, ‘If Faith is trying, why not me?’” Chebet said about her good friend. “And today, I’m so happy because I’ve achieved being the first woman to run under 14. I’m so happy for myself.”

The day’s most anticipated race was the 100, which featured the top three finishers from the Paris Olympics.

Jefferson-Wooden, who took the bronze medal last summer, finished in 10.75 seconds. Gold medalist Julien Alfred of Saint Lucia was second in 10.77, and Marie Josée Ta Lou-Smith of Ivory Coast was third in 10.90.

Sha’Carri Richardson, the silver medalist in Paris, finished last in the nine-runner field. It was just the second outdoor 100 of the year for Richardson, who said she struggled with an unspecified injury in February.

“The only motivation that I had today was having a healthy race and the fact that I executed a healthy race knowing that now I have the time, because I do have that by being the reigning world champion, and all I have to do is just keep pushing and focusing in our practice, so I’m super excited to just finish,” said Richardson, who has her attention



Kipyegon



Chebet

on September’s world championships in Tokyo.

Jamaica’s Kishane Thompson won the men’s 100 in 9.86 seconds, ahead of British runner-up Zhanel Hughes. Thompson, who finished second to Noah Lyles at last summer’s Olympics, went into the Pre with the world’s best time this year at 9.75.

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, who set the world record in the 400 hurdles in Paris, easily won the flat 400 in 49.43.

“It’s a long year, so I’m really just taking it day by day, taking it slow, building and seeing which direction you want to go in by the end of it,” McLaughlin-Levrone said.

Ethiopian Tsige Duguma, the silver medalist at last year’s Olympics, won the 800 in 1:57.10.

Rudy Winkler set an American record in the hammer throw with a hurl of 272 feet, 10 inches. Canadian Camryn Rogers won on the women’s side.

“My training this week was very bad, so I kind of came into this like zero expectations of like ‘Whatever I throw, I throw,’ so I was super surprised by that today,” said Winkler.

In the other field events, American Chase Jackson won the women’s shot put at 68-8 1/2. Lithuanian Mikolas Alekna took the discus at 232-10.

Tara Davis-Woodhall won the long jump with leap of 23-2 1/2 inches. Pole vaulter Armand Duplantis, who set a world record in Stockholm last month, cleared 19-8 1/4 at the Pre.

Biniam Mehary of Ethiopia ran the 10,000 in 26:43.82, a world best this year. Jamaican Ackera Nugent won the 100 hurdles in 12:32.

Alison dos Santos of Jamaica, the bronze medalist in both the Tokyo and Paris Games, won the men’s 400 hurdles in 46.65. Olympic gold medalist Letsile Tebogo of Botswana won the 200 in 19.76. British sprinter Matthew Hudson-Smith held on to win the flat 400 in 44.10.

Niels Laros of the Netherlands won the Bowerman Mile, an event unique to the Prefontaine, in 3:45.93.

The Prefontaine Classic is named for Steve Prefontaine, the Oregon track star who died in a car accident in 1975. The event is the lone U.S. stop on the Diamond League series.

Huff heads to Pacers

Wizards acquire Whitmore in trade with Rockets

WASHINGTON, July 6, (AP): Cam Whitmore is going back to his home area after being traded by the Houston Rockets to the Washington Wizards for a pair of second-round picks, a person with knowledge of the deal said Saturday.

The trade will likely be folded into a larger multiteam series of moves and cannot be finalized until Sunday at the earliest, said the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of that pending NBA approval. The league’s offseason moratorium on most player movement gets lifted Sunday at noon EDT.

ESPN first reported the trade agreement.

Whitmore, a Maryland native, averaged 10.8 points in his two seasons with the Rockets - who took him with the No. 20 pick in the 2023 draft.

Whitmore’s acquisition is another



Houston Rockets forward Cam Whitmore pushes down the court during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Oklahoma City Thunder in Oklahoma City (AP)

step in the offseason overhaul by the Wizards, who have been in the mode of acquiring young players who can play multiple positions

while continuing to accumulate assets.

They could have \$100 million available - if not more - in cap space next summer, and earlier in this offseason acquired CJ McCollum and Kelly Olynyk in a trade with New Orleans for Jordan Poole along with landing Tre Johnson with the No. 6 pick in the draft.

Eastern Conference champion Indiana, in need of a center after losing Myles Turner to Milwaukee, has agreed to acquire Jay Huff from the Memphis Grizzlies in exchange for second-round draft capital, a person with knowledge of that deal said.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity to AP because it, like most deals, cannot be finalized with league approval of terms until at least Sunday.

The 7-foot-1 Huff averaged 6.9 points in 64 games with Memphis this past season.

Collier scores 22, Lynx tops Valkyries

Stevens’ double-double lifts Sparks over Fever

INDIANAPOLIS, July 6, (AP): Azura Stevens scored 21 points and added 12 rebounds, Kelsey Plum added 20 points and the Los Angeles Sparks won at Indianapolis for the second time in nine days, defeating the Fever, minus Caitlin Clark, 89-87.

Since dominating the fourth quarter en route to an 85-75 win, the Sparks had lost two straight. The Fever had won three, including the Commissioner’s Cup, without Clark. She missed her fifth consecutive game with a groin injury.

This game was close throughout. The Sparks’ biggest lead was three points in the first quarter, and the Fever went up by eight midway through the third.

Dearcia Hamby scored 18 points for the Sparks (6-13) and Rickea Jackson added 15, including the go-ahead basket that made it 88-87 with 57.4 seconds left. Indiana missed its last five shots, four in the final minute. Stevens rebounded a miss and was fouled, making a free throw with 3.3 seconds to go. The Fever used their reset timeout but Aliyah Boston missed a shot from the top of the key.

Boston led Indiana (9-9) with 23 points and 12 rebounds, and Natasha Howard had 21 points and nine rebounds. Kelsey Mitchell added 19 points. Howard surpassed 2,000 career rebounds and Mitchell, who reached 600 3-pointers with three, broke a tie with Fever assistant coach Briann January with her 251st game for the Fever, second behind Tamika Catchings.

Mitchell had 13 points and Plum 11 in an evenly played first half that featured nine ties and nine lead changes before Indiana went on top 45-42. Plum scored the last seven LA



Indiana Fever’s Kelsey Mitchell (0) goes to the basket against Los Angeles Sparks’ Julie Vanloo during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

points of the third quarter for a 70-69 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Napheesa Collier scored 22 points and the Minnesota Lynx topped the Golden State Valkyries 82-71.

The Valkyrie took a 56-54 lead in the middle of the third quarter with a 10-0 run that started with a pair of 3-pointers by Tiffany Hayes but the Lynx closed with a 15-4 run to take a 69-60 lead into the fourth quarter.

Minnesota pushed the lead to 78-63 on Kayla McBride’s 3-pointer with 4:16 to play.

Team departs for 10-day Tunisia camp

Kuwait names 14-player squad for West Asian Volleyball Championship

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The technical staff of Kuwait men's volleyball team, led by Argentine head coach Julian Al-Fayez and his Zaid Al-Kazemi, has officially selected 14 players to represent the team at the inaugural West Asian Men's Volleyball Championship, set to take place in Bahrain from July 17 to 27.

The selected squad includes: Abdulaziz Najm, Mahmoud, Yousef Mandeel, Fahad Saad Yaqoub, Abdul Nasser Al-Enezi, Abdullah Fares Al-Enezi, Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa, Saud Al-Duwaisan, Ahmed Al-Munais, Rashid Anbar, Adhbi Malik Al-Enezi, Fares Suleiman, Talal Ahmed Abdul Razzaq, Ibrahim Mandeel, and Abdulrahman Mohammed Kamel.

In preparation for the tournament, the team departed at dawn today for a



Naif Al-Khamili

10-day training camp in Tunisia, where it will play four friendly matches.

The team's delegation is headed by the Assistant Secretary-General of the Kuwait Volleyball Association, Naif Al-Khamili, and includes team administrator Mohammed Al-Balushi, fitness trainer Kozak Lux, statistician, physiotherapist Mohammed Al-Yamam, and the 14 selected players.

According to the tournament draw, Kuwait has been placed in Group B alongside Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman. Group A consists of host nation Bahrain, Jordan, the UAE, and Lebanon.

Speaking before the team's departure, Al-Khamili encouraged the players to make the most of the Tunisia camp and emphasized the importance of a strong showing at the tournament, viewing it as both a competitive opportunity and a chance to build a new generation of players capable of long-term success.

'We prepared well'

Kuwait U-16 basketball team eyes strong start

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

MANAMA, July 6: Kuwait's Under-16 basketball team will begin its campaign in the Gulf Cup Qualifiers today with a crucial opening match against the United Arab Emirates at 5:00 pm, followed by Bahrain vs. Oman at 7:30 pm. All matches will take place at Umm Al-Hasam Hall in the Bahraini capital.

The qualifiers will follow a single round-robin format, with the top two teams advancing to the Asian Junior Cup Finals scheduled for August in Mongolia.

The Kuwaiti squad, led by head coach Dr. Talal Al-Qallaf and assistant Yahya Al-Bahr, enters the tournament after three weeks of local training followed by an intensive training camp in Cairo, where the team played five friendly matches to fine-tune preparations.

Among the standout players in the squad are: Abdulaziz Al-Mutawa, Fareej Al-Freej, Omar Al-Saleh, Musaad Al-Obaidi, Mishaal Al-Azmi, Abdulrahman Al-Qatifi, and Abdullah Al-Jarid.

Mishaal Mohammed, Board Member of the Kuwait Basketball Association and National Teams Director, expressed confidence in the team's readiness.

"We prepared well, and the training camp was successful. The technical staff worked hard to correct mis-



Mishaal Mohammed

takes from the Cairo friendlies and ensure the players are in peak condition. We are aiming to compete for top spots and qualify for the Asian Finals," he said.

Messi stars as Miami wins again



Inter Miami's Lionel Messi, center, attacks the net while defended by CF Montreal's Luca Petrasso (13) and Caden Clark, right, during first-half MLS soccer match action in Montreal. (AP)

Cincinnati edges Fire for 4th straight victory

MONTREAL, July 6, (AP): Lionel Messi scored a pair of spectacular goals, including the tie-breaker late in the first half, as Inter Miami defeated CF Montreal 4-1.

Luis Suárez directed a long ball from Tomás Avilés to Messi with a header, who had time to gather the ball, dribble into the box and finish with his left foot to the far post to make it 2-1 in the 40th minute.

It was the first MLS game in over a month for Miami while competing in the Club World Cup. PSG eliminated Miami 4-0 last week.

Prince Owusu gave Montreal (3-13-5) a quick lead two minutes into the game.

Tadeo Allende, assisted by Messi, scored in the 33rd minute to tie the game for Miami (9-3-5), which has won three straight, including a 3-2 win over Montreal at home on May 28.

Telasco Segovia scored in the 60th minute and Messi connected again two minutes later, again weaving through a pack of Montreal defenders. Messi has 12 goals in 14 MLS games this season.

Evander Da Silva Ferreira - known simply as "Evander" - had a goal and an assist. Kevin Denkey also scored a goal and FC Cincinnati beat the Chicago Fire 2-1 for its fourth consecutive win.

Cincinnati (13-5-3) has 42 points, most in all of MLS, and moved ahead of Philadelphia (40) into first in the Eastern Conference.

Hany Mukhtar converted from the penalty spot in the 11th minute of stoppage time and Nashville SC beat the Philadelphia Union 1-0 for its fourth consecutive win.

Nashville (12-4-5) is unbeaten in 12 straight - the longest active streak of its kind in MLS - and has 41 points, one fewer than Eastern Conference-leading Cincinnati, which beat Chicago earlier Saturday. The Union (12-5-4), which fell from first to third in the conference standings, have 40 points.

Jonathan Pérez was shown a straight red card in the 63rd minute and Nashville played a man down the rest of the way.

Noel Caliskan scored his first career goal in MLS. Diogo Gonçalves added his first goal of the season and Real Salt Lake beat St. Louis City 3-2.

Rafael Cabral had four saves for Real Salt Lake (6-10-4), which won for just the second time in its last 10 games.

St. Louis (3-12-6) has four losses during its five-game winless streak.

Pablo Ruiz played a corner kick into the area that was redirected by defender Jake Girdwood-Reich's but the 24-year-old Caliskan blasted a shot from just outside the area into the net to give Salt Lake a 1-0 lead in the sixth minute.

Goncalves, on the left side of the area, cut inside to evade Girdwood-Reich and then bounced a shot off the back post and into the net to make it 2-0 in the 43rd minute.

Ezequiel Ponce scored his second goal 10 minutes into extra time and the Houston Dynamo defeated San Diego FC 4-3.

Ethan Barlow gave Ponce a short middle feed to the top of the box and he used his left foot to deliver a roller to the far corner for the win, just the second home loss of the season for San Diego.

Ponce tied the game from the spot in the 87th and then 17 minutes were added at the end of regulation.

Anders Dreyer's shot deflected off the leg of teammate Onni Valakari in the 67th minute to give Western Conference leading San Diego a 3-2 lead. Just four minutes later an offside call negated Ponce's tying goal but Ponce got a second chance on the penalty.

Dashti set to join Al-Qadsiya for the new handball season

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Al-Qadsiya handball team is close to completing the signing of Al-Salmiya Club star Haidar Dashti for the upcoming 2025-2026 season, as well as acquiring Hamoud Al-Adwani from Burkan Club.

The team kicked off its preparations for the new season early, having already brought in Ahmed Abdulhadi and goalkeeper Mishaal Al-Shatti to strengthen the first-team squad. The club is also actively pursuing three foreign professionals—two of whom will play on the court and one to be positioned as a substitute—under the league's foreign player participation rule for the upcoming season.

In addition to foreign reinforcements, the club is relying on a core group of experienced national players, especially after its strong performance last season. The "Banu Qadis" won the First Division League title, securing promotion to the Premier League, and also made a deep run to the Federation Cup final, narrowly losing to Kuwait Club by a single



Haidar Dashti

goal. Its cup journey included notable victories over Al-Fahaheel, Burkan (league runner-up), and Kazma.

Given the success of last season, the club is expected to renew the contract of Tunisian coach Amen El Gafsi, who impressed with his tactical leadership and team management throughout the campaign.

Best of the Rest

Chelsea completes signing of Gittens: Chelsea continued with its movement in the summer transfer market with the club on Saturday announcing the signing of England winger Jamie Gittens from Borussia Dortmund.

The 20-year-old Gittens has agreed a contract until the end of June 2032 and has cost an initial 48.5 million pounds (66.25 million U.S. dollars).

He is the third attacking player to join Chelsea this summer, following Liam Delap from Ipswich and Joao Pedro from Brighton.

Pedro joined up with Chelsea in the USA earlier this week and will be able to play for the club in the remaining rounds of the FIFA Club World Cup, but Gittens won't be able to do that as he has already appeared for Dortmund, who plays Real Madrid in the quarter-finals later on Saturday.

Gittens can play on either wing and he made 107 appearances for Dortmund after joining from Manchester City in 2021.

"It feels great... It's a great feeling to join such a big club as Chelsea." "I can't wait to learn from everyone in the team and to push myself to the max here. It's an amazing feeling," Gittens said on the Chelsea website. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Walker joins Burnley from Man City: Veteran England defender Kyle Walker has joined newly promoted Burnley from Manchester City for a fee of around five million pounds (6.8 million U.S. dollars).

The 35-year-old has signed a two-year contract with Burnley to put a definitive end to eight seasons with Manchester City, who he joined from Tottenham in 2017, making 319 appearances and winning 17 trophies.

The move sees Walker reunite with Burnley coach Scott Parker, who he played alongside at Tottenham.

"I'm delighted to be here and I can't wait to come in and add my experience and quality to what looks an exciting squad."

"When I spoke to Scott and heard about his plans for next season, it was an opportunity I jumped at. He's done an amazing job here, guiding the club back to the Premier League," said Walker on the Burnley website.

Walker spent the second half of last season on loan at AC Milan after making 15 appearances for Manchester City, when he seemed to have lost some of the pace that made him such a key defender for Pep Guardiola. (Xinhua)

Depleted England clinical against Pumas in La Plata

Wilson's late try saves Australia against Fiji

NEWCASTLE, Australia, July 6, (AP): A last-gasp try by captain Harry Wilson has salvaged a dramatic 21-18 win for Australia on Sunday in its international season-opener against Fiji.

Wilson twisted and spun over from close range after several minutes of the Wallabies pressuring the Fijian line defense to earn a narrow, comeback victory that had appeared unlikely after a stunning Fijian rally.

Wilson's try with less than two minutes remaining saved what would have been a difficult two weeks of reflection for the Wallabies ahead of the series-opening test against the British and Irish Lions in Brisbane on July 19.

"Such a tough game," Wilson said. "It was awesome to go to battle with you guys. It's always a tough one."

A spectacular long-range try for Fiji midway through the second half appeared to be enough for the visitors to claim another famous victory over Australia - the latest being at the 2023 Rugby World Cup - before Wilson's late intervention.

After a frantic start from both teams, the Wallabies bore the line through hooker Dave Porecki, playing his first test in almost two years since the 2023 World Cup, when he dived over from the back of a rolling maul in the eighth minute. Noah Lolesio added the conversion.

The best move of the first half - frequently punctuated by stoppages



Australia's Fraser McReight, right, scores a try as Fiji's Josua Tuisova comes in too late during their rugby union international match in Newcastle, Australia. (AP)

which stifled any match momentum - led to the Wallabies' second try when a sweeping backline move featuring Len Ikitau and Joseph Suaali'i allowed Fraser McReight to score in the corner. Lolesio again converted to stretch the lead to 14-0.

Fullback Saleisi Rayasi responded almost immediately for Fiji just before the halftime break, somehow finding space to to wriggle through the defense to score in the corner after his team had counterattacked from an ill-advised chip kick by the Wallabies. The Australians had only needed to maintain possession for a few seconds more to preserve a

14-point margin into the break. Flyhalf Caleb Muntz missed the conversion from the sideline for a 14-5 half-time score.

The Wallabies may have dominated the first half, but it was almost all Fiji in the second.

England without 13 British and Irish Lions stunned recent Lions conqueror Argentina 35-12 in test rugby on Saturday.

Argentina beat the Lions 28-24 in Dublin two weeks ago for the first time and left most of the team intact for its first test at home this year.

But Argentina's failure to score any points in a first half it dominat-

ed came back to bite it as England opened the new half by suddenly running the ball and scoring three tries in seven minutes.

The Pumas rallied with two tries to forwards Pablo Matera - his 110th appearance tying Agustín Creevy's national caps record - and Pedro Rubiolo.

But that's all England allowed in an impressive show of depth and ruthless efficiency.

It even finished with a flourish. Replacement wing Caden Murley scored the fourth try and co-captain George Ford, who became the eighth man to play 100 England tests, capped off a surprisingly emphatic win with 15 points and a try assist.

The Pumas arrived at halftime utterly frustrated. They were held up over the tryline three times and England flanker Sam Underhill was underneath two of them.

England lock Alex Coles and new midfielder Seb Atkinson were yellow-carded. For at least four minutes, Argentina was playing against 13 men.

The blowout expected from world champion South Africa didn't eventuate as it scratched out a 42-24 win over Italy at Loftus Versfeld.

The Springboks led 28-3 at halftime, dominating every facet. But even the "bomb squad," which entered to a roar of acclaim, could not press home the advantage into a scoreline their fans are used to against the Azzurri.

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NEWS



McLaren driver Lando Norris of Britain celebrates winning the British Formula One Grand Prix race at the Silverstone racetrack in Silverstone, England. Norris wins thrilling British Grand Prix in the rain to cut Piastri's lead. (AP)

Sports

Club warns of legal action

Al-Arabi Club accuses KFA of mishandling Hamdan transfer

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: Al-Arabi Club has formally written to the Kuwait Football Association (KFA), expressing surprise and concern over the association's lack of response regarding the removal of defender Hassan Hamdan from Al-Arabi's roster.

The letter highlights the involvement of KFA President Sheikh Ahmed Al-Yousef, who urged the prevention of violations to safeguard club rights and maintain the association's reputation among sports fans.

Al-Arabi accused the KFA of ignoring a notarized contract and attempting to issue an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) without proper authorization.

On June 19, Al-Arabi submitted Hamdan's new contract to the KFA for registration and authentication, proving his ongoing contractual ties.

Despite responding promptly to KFA's July 3 request for additional information, Al-Arabi discovered through the Transfer Matching System (TMS) that their name was removed from Hamdan's records.



Hassan Hamdan (center) trains with his teammates.

The club claims the KFA issued the ITC before receiving their reply, violating official procedures.

The letter alleges deliberate delays and obstruction aimed at undermining Al-Arabi's contractual rights by processing the ITC before the new contract was officially approved, raising concerns of bias and unfairness.

Al-Arabi warns that the KFA's silence could strengthen the player's position and potentially lead to future arbitration disputes, damaging the reputations of both Al-Arabi and the Kuwait Football Association.

The club holds the KFA fully responsible for any legal or sporting consequences arising from this inaction.

Separately, Al-Arabi is preparing a formal complaint against Al-Ahli Club of Jordan for engaging in unauthorized negotiations with Hassan Hamdan despite his active contract with Al-Arabi. This follows a previous failed negotiation with Al-Ramtha Club of Jordan last June.

Al-Arabi's move aims to protect the club's contractual rights and prevent external clubs from approaching its players without prior consent.

Al-Qadsiya General Assembly endorses reports, calls for return to former glory

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The General Assembly of Al-Qadsiya Club approved the club's administrative and financial reports during a meeting at the club headquarters, chaired by Vice Chairman Sheikh Fahad Talal.

"Al-Qadsiya is not just a supplement to the federations. We work for Al-Qadsiya out of love, despite the very poor sporting situation."

He warmly welcomed former club head Fawaz Al-Hasawi, describing Al-



Fawaz Al-Hasawi

Qadsiya as "his home and his place." Sheikh Fahad also addressed a recent disciplinary issue, noting,

"No one dared to punish the president of Kuwait Club. The Disciplinary Committee met and overturned the warning but did not punish the club president in a tournament that bears our most precious name."

"Thanks and appreciation to my brothers, the members of the Board of Directors, headed by my brother Sheikh Khaled Al-Fahad, and my brother Fahad Talal, for your trust in me. God willing, He will write for us what is best for us and in the best interest of all."

Al-Hasawi, who previously led the

club and its football team before stepping away in 2012, expressed his hopes for the club's success in the upcoming season. While not confirming a return, he affirmed his ongoing support:

"I will always stand behind Al-Qadsiya Club and support it and everything related to the club's advancement and success, whether I am at the club or outside of it. I have not left until I return." "We wish Al-Qadsiya Club success, and we call on the club's fans and supporters to back it so that Al-Qadsiya can return to its former glory and position."

Kuwait U-23 team departs for training camp in Cairo



Official congratulates players after a successful training session.

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 6: The Kuwaiti Olympic soccer team departed for Cairo, Egypt, to begin a training camp that will feature three friendly matches as part of their preparation for the AFC U-23 Championship qualifiers.

This camp marks the second phase of the team's preparations for the qualifiers scheduled from September 1 to 9. Kuwait is drawn in Group B alongside host Myanmar, Japan, and Afghanistan.

The Blues are set to play two confirmed friendlies against Egypt on July 17 and July 20, with negotiations ongoing for a third friendly match to further sharpen the squad.

The team began its initial training phase on June 15 at the Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium's auxiliary field, under the leadership of Croatian coach Dario Pasic. The camp features the full squad except for Mohsen Falah, who was sidelined due to injury. Mohammed Al-Sharifi from Al-Qadisiyah has been called up as his replacement.

Madrid survives late scare



Real Madrid's Gonzalo Garcia, right, and Borussia Dortmund's Ramy Bensebaini battle for the ball during the Club World Cup quarterfinal soccer match between Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund in East Rutherford, N.J. (AP)

Late drama as PSG books semifinal spot against Real

NEW YORK, July 6, (Xinhua): Real Madrid will face Paris Saint-Germain in the FIFA Club World Cup semifinals after both sides claimed quarterfinal victories.

In New Jersey, Real Madrid survived a late scare to secure a 3-2 win over a fast-finishing Borussia Dortmund while Paris Saint-Germain overcame Bayern Munich 2-0 in Atlanta.

Fifteen-time UEFA Champions League winner Real Madrid looked to be cruising as they entered second-half stoppage time with a 2-0 lead courtesy of first-half goals from Gonzalo Garcia and Fran Garcia at MetLife Stadium. Maximilian Beier pulled one back in the 93rd minute before Kylian Mbappe appeared to settle Madrid's nerves a minute later by volleying home his first goal of the tournament.

But Serhou Guirassy reduced the deficit again by converting from the penalty spot after he was dragged down by Dean Huijsen, an offense that earned the Spain international defender a straight red card.

The Spanish side held on to set up a duel with PSG at the same venue next Wednesday for a place in the final.

The result was overshadowed by a serious ankle



Bayern Munich's Manuel Neuer and Paris Saint-Germain's Bradley Barcola battle during the Club World Cup quarterfinal soccer match between PSG and Bayern Munich in Atlanta. (AP)

injury suffered by Bayern midfielder Jamal Musiala in a collision with PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma just before halftime.

Doue put the European champions ahead in the 78th minute with a long-range effort that beat goal-

keeper Manuel Neuer at his near post.

The Parisian side was then reduced to nine men after William Pacho and Lucas Hernandez were both shown straight red cards within 10 minutes.

Despite the double setback, Dembele swept home PSG's second goal in stoppage time following Achraf Hakimi's cross.

"It's always difficult to play against a great team like Bayern Munich," PSG manager Luis Enrique told a post-match news conference. "And thinking about the last part of the match where we played with one man less and then two, it was very difficult."

"Tomorrow we fly home and have three weeks off. It's important that the boys can also mentally switch off a bit now. We need to regain our strength for next season." Kompany said the club's thoughts were with Musiala and wished the German international a prompt recovery.

"I've rarely been so angry at halftime, not against my players - I know there are much more important things in life, but for these guys it's their life," the former Belgian international defender said.

"Someone like Jamal lives for this. He just came back from a setback, and now this happens. You feel powerless. My blood is still boiling right now, not because of the result, that's football. But because it happened to someone who enjoys the game so much."

Khachanov beats Majchrzak

Fritz reaches last eight after Thompson retires with injury

LONDON, July 6, (AP): U.S. Open runner-up Taylor Fritz moved into the Wimbledon quarterfinals for the third time in four years on Sunday, advancing when his injured opponent, Jordan Thompson, quit while trailing 6-1, 3-0 after 41 minutes.

The unseeded Thompson's movement and power were clearly compromised. The Australian entered the match with back and leg issues and left the court for a medical timeout in the second set Sunday, then stopped after trying to play for three more points.

"It's obviously not the way that I want to go through," the No. 5-seeded Fritz said. "It's just sad. ... Respect to him for coming out. His body's not right."

For Fritz, it was a shorter workday after playing a pair of five-setters and one four-setter earlier in the tournament.

Now the American will meet No. 17 seed Karen Khachanov of Russia on Tuesday for a berth in the semifinals - a round neither has reached at the All England Club.

Khachanov beat Kamil Majchrzak 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 Sunday.

"To be honest, today was a really great performance - at least from my side," said Khachanov, who finished with more than twice as many winners as unforced errors, 44-21.

The 109th-ranked Majchrzak was playing in a fourth-round match at a major for the first time. He was on a six-match Grand Slam losing streak before Wimbledon.

Khachanov has been a Grand Slam semifinalist twice, at the



Karen Khachanov of Russia plays a return to Kamil Majchrzak of Poland during their men's singles fourth round match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London. (AP)

U.S. Open in 2022 and the Australian Open in 2023. Fritz made it that far for the first time when he got to the final at Flushing Meadows in September before losing to No. 1 Jannik Sinner.

The quarterfinals will be set after Monday's play, which leads off at Centre Court with 24-time major champion Novak Djokovic against No. 11 Alex de Minaur at 1:30 p.m. local time (8:30 a.m. ET). They were supposed to face each other in last year's quarterfinals at Wimbledon, but de Minaur was forced to withdraw before the match with a hip injury. That's to be followed by No. 7 Mirra Andreeva vs. No. 10 Emma Navarro, who eliminated 2024 champion Barbora Krejickova in the third round, and then No. 1 Jannik Sinner vs. No. 19 Grigor Dimitrov. Others in action: Iga Swiatek, Ben Shelton and Marin Cilic.