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Opinion



Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Dear people, these are the qualities of a regenerating leader

serve the stability of the state and protect the best interests of its people.

This extraordinary leader is never detached from the people or the institutions of the state. Instead, he watches silently, waiting for the right moment when God grants him to the nation. Once he assumes leadership, he begins his work precisely where it is most needed, drawing on his deep understanding of the hidden dynamics at play and the tactics used by the corrupt to gradually erode institutions. He also recognizes the true worth of loyal, honest, and competent officials.

This leader is distinguished by his ability to understand people's conditions, for he is not distant from them. He knows the details of their struggles, understands the cause of their pain, recognizes the nature of the remedy, and applies it in his own unique way.

With a deep knowledge of the complexities of international politics, he does everything in his power to shield his country from surrounding turmoil, ex-

ercising great skill and prudence. He does so by issuing firm directives to officials to ensure that no one is subjected to injustice, knowing that injustice can serve as a loophole through which enemies exploit and threaten social stability. At the same time, he issues decisions to reassure his people.

This man understands that decades of corruption and institutional paralysis cannot be undone overnight, but only through sustained, tireless effort. He is fully aware that his mission is to ease the suffering of his people and help his country reclaim its distinguished and leading position. For this reason, he works quietly, steadily, and with discretion.

Some Arabian Gulf states have faced several setbacks to such an extent that many believed the situation was beyond repair, that the state was finished, and recovery was impossible. However, when new leaders emerged who prioritized the interests of their people above all else, they were able to correct course and eradicate corruption through decisive, yet

measured, measures. As a result, these countries not only recovered but rose to become influential forces on the international stage.

This kind of leader believes in justice, stability, and development, and always works in the best interest of the people. He listens to voices of wisdom and rejects those who spread lies. He values honest officials who work for the good of the nation.

Such a leader works to amend laws in order to restore order, and revitalize state institutions for guiding his country toward a path of security and justice.

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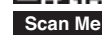
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Ministry of Finance photo
Kuwait's Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Noura Al-Fassam with visiting UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs David Lammy.

Trade growth at core of talks

UK, Kuwait chart next phase of strategic ties

KUWAIT CITY, July 7, (KUNA): UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs David Lammy said the UK is working to strengthen cooperation with Kuwait in trade, investment and business, in addition to security and defense, particularly in light of the current challenging global security environment, especially in the Middle East.



Lammy

In an exclusive statement to KUNA on Sunday at the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute in Kuwait, held on the sidelines of his official visit, the British secretary emphasized the historic and robust relationship between the UK and Kuwait.

He pointed out that the two countries enjoy a "deep close friendship" that goes back more than a century.

He added that the bilateral relationship is built on strong people-to-people and cultural ties, as well as a solid

partnership in defense and security that dates back to 1899, when official relations were established and laid the foundation for long-term cooperation and friendship.

Lammy highlighted the strong educational and cultural links between the two nations, stressing that the presence of 10,000 Kuwaiti students in UK universities forms a strong basis for the future of the relationship.

He explained that his visit falls within the framework of the strategic dialogue between the two countries, which aims to outline the next phase of bilateral cooperation. He noted the UK's strong economic standing in Europe and Kuwait's prominent role in the Gulf and the Middle East, saying that this partnership enables both nations to achieve significant progress together.

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Decree targets lawsuit abuse with scaled fees

Kuwait aims to deter case inflation, favors settlement paths

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: The Council of Ministers has issued Decree-Law No. 78/2025 amending certain provisions of Law No. 17/1973 regarding judicial fees.

This step aims to address legislative inflation, limit the increase in vexatious cases, and promote alternative dispute resolution methods such as arbitration and conciliation.

Article One stipulates the replacement of articles 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22 and 23 of Law No. 17/1973 with the following:

Article Two states that if a lawsuit includes multiple claims of known original value arising from a single legal cause, they shall be assessed as a whole. If they arise from different legal causes, the value of each shall be assessed separately.

Article Three stipulates that if it is impossible to assess the value of a lawsuit, it shall be deemed unassessed.

The following lawsuits shall be deemed unassessed:

- Signature authentication lawsuits
- Lawsuits and objections submitted to the judge of urgent matters
- Forgery lawsuits
- Requests to impose an executive formula on judicial rulings and appeals against such an order

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Photos during the signing ceremony between Kuwait AIoT and Saudi AI Governance Society.



KUNA photos

Pact positions Gulf as tech hub

Kuwait, Saudi push joint AI development

RIYADH, July 7, (KUNA): Chairman of Kuwait Artificial Intelligence of Things (AIoT) Society, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Malek Al-Sabah, declared on Monday signing an agreement for strategic cooperation with the Saudi AI Governance Society to jointly develop technologies in the field.

Sheikh Mohammad said in a statement to KUNA that the agreement partly aims at exchanging expertise, overhauling AI education and training on the Internet of Things (IoT).

He expressed hope that it would contribute to developing joint projects, setting unified criteria for ethical governance of advanced technologies to enhance the Gulf States' status as leading regional hubs for technology and innovation.

Dr. Dhabya Al-Bouainain, Chairperson of the Saudi association, said that the accord was worked out as part

of Riyadh's approach to bolster cooperation with the regional countries to regulate and develop AI technologies. She noted necessity to establish strategic partnerships to contribute to setting up an advanced legislative-ethical environment that backs up innovation and ensures responsible and ethical usage of the emerging technologies.

The society was represented at the signing ceremony by its chairperson Sheikh Mohammad, Secretary Dr. Ayed Salman, member Abdulaziz Al-Bajras, while the Saudi side was represented by the association's chair Dr. Al-Bouainain and board member Majed Al-Otaibi.

Kuwait's AIoT, proclaimed in 2023, organizes seminars and conferences to promote awareness of the necessity of the AI and the IoT, encourage scientific research and cooperation with state departments to develop technologies.

Kuwait underscores global tech commitment at WSIS

GENEVA, July 7, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait is partaking in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in line with its unwavering commitment to enhance global cooperation in technology and communication, said a senior official on Monday.

In a statement to KUNA after participating in a senior-level meeting, part of the summit, Kuwait's Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar said the engagement of the Kuwaiti delegation that comprises senior officials and experts mirrors the State keenness on staying abreast of the rapid changes in this vital sector and bolstering its status in the international technological quarters.

Kuwait is pressing ahead with executing ambitious strategies designed to uplift efficiency of the digital systems, overhaul the institutions' capacities and boost technological competition, he said, affirming the Government's great concern for building efficient international partnerships in this field.

The WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 officially kicked off Monday with the participation of a high-level delegation from Kuwait headed by Communications Minister Omar Al-Omar, and a wide range of representatives from governments, international organiza-



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar during a media interview on the sidelines of WSIS+20 in Geneva.

tions, civil society, the private sector and academia.

The WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 is taking place from July 7 to 11 in Geneva, co-hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

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Public Works Ministry advances unified GIS project

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan announced the completion of the foundational phase of the unified Geographic Information System (GIS) project, as part of her efforts to advance digital transformation and enhance the geographic information infrastructure in all sectors.

Dr. Al-Mashaan confirmed that the

ministry has successfully developed unified technical specifications for delivering geographic data covering all technical sectors.

She explained that these specifications have been successfully implemented in 12 maintenance contracts as an initial trial phase. The project is progressing according to a strategic vision extending until 2026, aiming to apply the unified specifications in all sectors affiliated with the ministry. The plan also includes establishing an

institutional geographic data center to serve as the central reference for managing and updating geographic data.

Dr. Al-Mashaan revealed that the work team has launched an interactive digital dashboard that enables monitoring the progress of maintenance work and ongoing projects, instilling a culture of relying on geographic data for planning, management, and decision-making.

She indicated the adoption of a sys-

tematic field mechanism to integrate contract and work order data by linking GIS system layers with unified coding, in collaboration with the relevant ministry teams.

To ensure data quality and integrity, Dr. Al-Mashaan revealed that direct and continuous coordination is underway with the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) to enhance the system's effectiveness and the reliability of the information provided.

Mol won't text you for cash

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: The Ministry of Interior has denied any connection to fraudulent messages and forged documents circulated in its name requesting financial information, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the ministry confirmed that it does not seek any bank details from individuals through unofficial channels. It urged the public to ignore such messages and to report them through officially approved channels.

News watch

KUWAIT CITY: Three Amiri decrees have been issued for appointing Kuwaiti ambassadors to Chile, Turkmenistan, Fiji, and Andorra, in addition to their current duties, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decrees appointed Abdulaziz Mohammed Al-Bishr as Kuwait's Ambassador-at-Large to Chile, alongside his current role as Ambassador to Argentina.

Aziz Ahmed Al-Adwani was appointed as Kuwait's Ambassador-at-Large to Turkmenistan, in addition to his position as Ambassador to Turkey. Sheikh Sabah Nasser Al-Malik Al-Sabah was named Kuwait's Ambassador to the Republic of Fiji, alongside his duties as Ambassador to New Zealand.

Ziyad Ibrahim Al-Anbai was appointed as Kuwait's Ambassador-at-Large to Andorra, in addition to his role as Ambassador to Spain.

TUNIS: President of the Syrian Civil Aviation Authority Ashhad Al-Sulajibi said that direct flights between Syria and Libya would resume after more than 10 years of suspension. (KUNA)



Buildings are seen during a dust storm in Kuwait City on July 6, 2025. (Xinhua)

Day by Day

DEAR governors, look at how the cities of the world are organized and how they recycle waste to create new products. There are factories dedicated to recycling leftover materials and waste. Many of them return plastic and glass to its original raw form. Some even generate electricity from waste. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



9 Gulf Bank wins 'Best Sustainability Initiative of 2025' award from Asian Banking & Finance



15 NBK renews its two-year partnership with Rafa Nadal Academy

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:20 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 northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-32 km/h.
By Night: Hot to rather hot with

Weather

light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-30 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec		
Kuwait City	45	33	Abdaly	44
Kuwait Airport	45	33	Jahra	46
			Salmiyah	40
			Nuwaisib	45
			Wafra	44
			Salmiyah	43
			Managish	46
				28
				32
				33
				31
				31
				26
				31



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince



HH the Prime Minister

Amir congratulates Solomon Islands on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, July 7, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Monday a cable of congratulations to Governor-General of Solomon Islands Sir David Tiva Kapu on occasion of the country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished him good health and for the people of Solomon Islands further progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent Monday a cable of congratula-

tions to Governor-General of Solomon Islands Sir David Tiva Kapu on occasion of the country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished him good health and for the people of Solomon Islands further progress and prosperity.

Prime Minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent Monday a cable of congratulations to Governor-General of Solomon Islands Sir David Tiva Kapu on occasion of the country's Independence Day.



KUNA photo
 UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs David Lammy visits the Sheikh Saud Nasser Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute.

UK's Lammy attends panel discussion on strategic ties

KUWAIT CITY, July 7, (KUNA): UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs David Lammy, now on a visit to Kuwait, attended a panel discussion hosted by Sheikh Saud Nasser Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute on Sunday.

The discussion focused on the strategic

partnership between the State of Kuwait and the United Kingdom and the prospects of enhancing cooperation, as well as regional and international challenges.

Also in attendance were Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and other senior officials of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry.

Other Voices

The misleading 'sanctities'

By Ahmad alsarraf

There is nothing easier than using the cloak of religion to conceal human flaws and weaknesses. Few things are as effortless, or as seemingly "blessed", as raising money in the name of religion, whether in the East or the West, regardless of doctrine.

The reason is that those who collect donations under the banner of religion understand that people seek hope, spiritual reward, and peace of mind by giving donations.

At the Human Friendship Society, we suffered greatly from the inability or unwillingness of some individuals to distinguish between those truly in need of donations and those who do not. I hope that the new law regulating associations and charitable organizations will put an end to the lax oversight and misuse of charitable work.

Despite the sanctity enjoyed by clerics in varying form and intensity from one country to another, there is a growing sense of apprehension and caution toward them, largely due to the increasing number of violations that have long been concealed beneath this sacred image.

What we are witnessing in our own countries is not unlike what has unfolded in the West, though often to a greater extent, particularly with certain types of crimes.

It is important to note that customs and traditions in many Eastern societies contribute to the suppression of open discussion around such offenses.

Accusations against members of the clergy, particularly within the Catholic Church, have risen sharply in recent years, especially concerning sexual abuse of children. For centuries, the Holy See hesitated to take firm and transparent action on these matters, often choosing instead to quietly ask the implicated clergymen to resign or to relocate them to dioceses far removed from the communities where their crimes had taken place.

These crimes have recently become more public, particularly due to the firm stance taken by the Vatican under the late Pope Francis. This shift in the Vatican's official position came only after overwhelming evidence emerged, documented through judicial investigations, independent commissions of inquiry, and investigative journalism in dozens of countries around the world. These revelations constituted one of the biggest scandals in the history of the Catholic Church, exposing decades of sys-

tematic abuse and institutional cover-ups.

As public discussion around these abuses has increased, so too has the number of victims willing to come forward and speak out about the crimes they suffered. This leads us to a clear conclusion that the issue is global in nature. It is not limited to a specific region or culture but reflects a recurring pattern across borders.

Recent reports from Pennsylvania revealed that more than 300 priests sexually abused more than 1,000 children over a span of 70 years.

An investigation by 'The Boston Globe' uncovered decades of abuse within the Archdiocese of Boston and exposed how Cardinal Bernard Law systematically covered up the crimes by transferring offending priests to other dioceses.

In France, an independent commission estimated that approximately 216,000 children were abused by priests and clergy since 1950, a number that rises to 330,000 when including abuse by non-clerical Church staff.

Similar findings emerged in Australia, where a national inquiry reported widespread abuse by Catholic priests between 1950 and 2010. The investigation concluded that the Church had "tragically failed" to protect children.

Major scandals have also surfaced in Germany, Canada, Ireland, and many other countries. These revelations have caused deep public outrage and delivered severe blows to the reputation and moral authority of the Catholic Church worldwide.

All of this resulted from a gross misuse of the trust placed in religious institutions, with some members of the clergy exploiting their spiritual authority and the trust of children and their families, making it easier to access and abuse their victims. Institutional cover-ups, intimidation, and financial settlements played a major role in enabling these crimes to persist and even escalate.

For many years, the Vatican attempted to deny or downplay the scale of the crisis. However, as scandals mounted and public pressure intensified, its position gradually shifted. Both Pope Benedict XVI and, later, Pope Francis acknowledged the gravity of the crisis and issued public apologies to the victims. Pope Francis went further, describing the abuse as "atrocities" and a betrayal of the Church's mission. For the first time, he authorized legal proceedings to prosecute abusive priests and to hold accountable those who had protected or concealed them. This approach must be adopted universally. There should be no sanctity or immunity for anyone involved in such devastating crimes.

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Embassy marks 63rd independence 'versary

'Kuwait-Algeria tied in fraternal, political bonds'

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: The Algerian Embassy in Kuwait celebrated the 63rd anniversary of independence in the presence of newly appointed Algerian Ambassador Omar Belhadj who arrived in Kuwait last week.

On this occasion, the embassy praised the deep relations between Kuwait and Algeria in various fields, particularly in the political field, confirming the strong fraternal ties between President Abdelmadjid Tebboune and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The embassy highlighted Kuwait's strong support for the Algerian revolution, which continued after independence.

It also commended the role of

the Algerian community in Kuwait in strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two sisterly countries, citing the ongoing efforts to develop bilateral relations.

It also announced the upcoming meeting of the joint bilateral committee between the two parties.

It recalled that Algeria gained its independence on July 5, 1962 -- after a great revolution against French colonialism, during which the Algerian people sacrificed more than one and a half million martyrs in the face of a colonial rule that lasted for 132 years.

It added that Algeria today enjoys political, economic and security sta-

bility; and it is a promising destination for investors in various sectors, considering its huge economic potential.

It then affirmed its readiness to respond to the inquiries of those interested in investing in Algeria, pointing out the launching of a single-window system that allows investors to register online and view available investment opportunities with ease and transparency.

Moreover, the embassy reported that Ambassador Omar Belhadj listened to the requests of the representatives of the Algerian community residing in Kuwait; including their demand to open a direct flight route between Kuwait and Algeria, and intensify the promotion of Algeria's tourism, cultural and commercial potentials in the Kuwaiti market.



Omar Belhadj



KUNA photos
 Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah and Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Sabah at the Guard of Honor.



KUNA photos
 Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah gives certificates to outstanding cadets.

'Joint Command, Staff Course milestone in leadership roles'

Defense minister attends graduation ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, July 7, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah affirmed on Monday that the Joint Command and Staff Course is a key milestone in preparing officers for leadership roles and decision-making responsibilities across various military positions.

This statement was issued by the Ministry following Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah's patronage and attendance of the graduation ceremony for the 29th Joint Command and Staff Course. The cohort included 125 officers, 75 from the Kuwaiti Army, 4 from the Ministry of Interior, 10 from the National Guard, and 36 from the armed forces of friendly and allied nations.

Sheikh Abdullah praised the college and its faculty for their efforts in developing curricula and training methods in line with the latest scientific and military standards, aimed at producing well-qualified military leaders.

He also welcomed the strong participation of officers from the Ministry of Interior, National Guard, and allied countries, reflecting

deep military cooperation and partnerships with Kuwait. He congratulated the graduates on their success.

He prayed for Kuwait to remain blessed with security, stability, and pride under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

For his part, Air Vice Marshal Fahad Al-Khuraiej, Commander of Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College, stated that after nearly three decades since its establishment, the college is now reaping the fruits of its academic reputation, thanks to the efforts of successive military leaderships.

He highlighted the role of instructors in advancing the college by building modern curricula and training systems that equip officers with the ability to understand and analyze operational and strategic environments, enabling sound and well-informed decision-making.

Al-Khuraiej emphasized the importance of keeping pace with rapid changes, especially in technology, information transfer, and artificial intelligence, to enhance the readiness of the armed forces and safeguard national security.

The graduation ceremony was attended by



KUNA photo
 Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah writes his comments.

Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense; Air Vice Marshal Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, Major General Ali Al-Adwani, and Major General Dr. Faleh Shujaa, Assistant for Operations and Training at the National Guard, along with senior military commanders and heads of military attaché offices in Kuwait.

Minister issues order to dissolve board of co-op

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah issued a decision to dissolve the Board of Directors of Salwa Cooperative Society after uncovering serious financial and administrative violations.

The decision included the appointment of an interim director for a period of one year to manage the cooperative; with the aim of correcting the situation, tightening financial and administrative oversight, and ensuring regular operation in accordance with approved legal frameworks.

Sources told the newspaper that the ministry does not tolerate any violation or negligence in the cooperative sector and will take legal measures against anyone proven to be involved in violations; stressing that protecting public funds and the interests of shareholders is a top priority.

Probe underway as bid to smuggle 4 children foiled

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: The Ministry of Interior detained a military personnel assigned at Salmi border, along with members of a Kuwaiti family, for investigation into the smuggling of four minors who crossed the border illegally and were apprehended by Saudi authorities, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source told the daily that Saudi security personnel at Raqi border stopped a four-wheel-drive vehicle carrying a Kuwaiti family. Officers got suspicious after hearing noises coming from inside the vehicle. Upon inspection, they discovered four minors hidden beneath the passengers' feet in an apparent attempt to avoid detection.

The minors did not possess passports and admitted during questioning that they exited Kuwait through the Salmi border without proper documentation. They intended to enter Saudi

Arabia through the Raqi border using the same method, but were caught during the attempt.

The suspects, including the juveniles and the accompanying family, were detained while Saudi authorities notified their Kuwaiti counterparts. The group was handed over to Kuwaiti authorities last Thursday evening, and the latter immediately launched a comprehensive investigation to uncover the circumstances leading to the escape.

The inquiry led to the detention of a soldier assigned at Salmi border, pending further investigation to determine whether the incident involved negligence, facilitation or financial inducement. Officials are working hard to determine the full extent of the soldier's involvement and any additional parties connected to the human smuggling attempt.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Freedom, reconstruction, return of residents ... relief for Gaza comes first

"WE will have time to explore the news surrounding the crisis between Israel, Netanyahu, and his party, as well as the prisoners held in Gaza. New initiatives are emerging with alternative and innovative solutions to alleviate Gaza's suffering and to address Israel's political crisis involving its prime minister and his party", Kuwait writer **Tariq Idris** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The world will not stand idly by. Although Gaza is Palestinian territory and part of the occupied lands despite the Oslo Accords, "relief for Gaza must come first."

"In light of Netanyahu's statements about Gaza's future being outside the control of Abbas and Hamas, one thing is clear - Gaza will remain outside Netanyahu's rule forever.

"Yes, Gaza will be free and an inseparable part of the Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital. In the future, the Gaza Strip and its cities will become centers of finance, business, and industry, God willing!

"The fall of the tyrant Netanyahu is the will of the Israeli people, both politically and popularly, from within, reflecting the political, economic, and social challenges faced by Israelis inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territories.

"Certainly, a secure and comprehensive peace leading to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state is the true guarantee of security and stability for the entire Middle East. This is the goal pursued by all countries that have recognized the State of Palestine, as well as many nations within the United Nations, including major powers like China and Russia.

"Will Netanyahu understand this clear message? Freedom, reconstruction, and the return of Gaza's residents are undoubtedly the will of the Palestinians and Gazans themselves."

Also:

"Beating a dead horse may be forbidden, but the Ministry of Information is neither dead nor on its deathbed. It hasn't been officially declared defunct by the government. Instead, it lingers among the living, burdened with excess fat, failing organs, and weak performance", columnist **Khaled Ahmed Al-Tarrah** wrote in **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"It has been accepted that the government's policies and decisions regarding

citizenship, including its revocation and loss, have become an obvious vulnerability. Since the onset of implementing higher directives related to national identity and its preservation, the ministry has remained a passive observer. It has abandoned its role in raising public awareness, to the extent that we now find ourselves in a media vacuum. Thankfully, history is not written by the Ministry of Information.

"The ministry is neither a loser nor a winner in the battle for national identity, because it has simply chosen to sit on the fence, content with being a spectator. It has willingly relinquished its role and core responsibilities.

"Kuwait has suffered severe political and media wounds on the international stage. Yet these wounds have barely registered within the official media, which continues to operate in a selective and haphazard manner.

"The media campaign against Kuwait targeted all parties, including the government and the Ministry of Interior, through the circulation of distorted statements, manipulated data, and misinterpretations of the policies and decrees issued by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (May God protect him) concerning national identity.

"As the poet Abu Al-Atahiya once said, "Youth, leisure, and wealth corrupt a person's life the most."

"When time, youth, and money are not used wisely and with discipline, they become a source of widespread vice, deviation, and moral decline in society.

"Today, we live in a precarious environment that poses a threat to society as a whole. This is evident in the misuse of social media and the lack of awareness about its dangers and negative impact on public awareness, in the absence of a clear media message.

"National identity cannot be reduced to patriotic songs, celebrations, flag-waving, photo displays, stirring speeches, or elegant interviews. The Ministry of Information has failed to develop a social and political message that reflects the true significance of the national identity issue.

"The issue of national identity is far too complex to be easily understood by young minds. That is why we see victims and cases now before the courts. What is truly surprising is that the Ministry of Information has not been held accountable for its negligence and failure to act.

"Certainly, it is not the Ministry of Interior's responsibility to launch a national awareness campaign regarding the misuse of social media through superficial or frivolous discussions about national identity and citizenship revocation.

Such campaigns fall squarely within the mission of the Ministry of Information.

"Will this continued exposure and vulnerability of sovereign and security decisions persist? I do not know. But what I am certain of is that the Ministry of Information has been seriously negligent and has failed to protect society from descending into social conflict on social media platforms."

□ □ □

"The Farwaniya Specialized Dental Center has achieved a first-of-its-kind breakthrough in Kuwait by successfully performing a delicate and complex surgery to treat temporomandibular joint atrophy using virtual planning technology and stereotactic surgery aided by 3D printing. This is a medical milestone that will be remembered as a source of national pride", Saudi writer **Hajar Al-Salem** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The operation, which was carried out by a specialized medical team led by Dr. Ahmad Ghannam Al-Kandari, restored hope to a patient in her thirties who suffered from difficulty opening her mouth, as well as impaired breathing, chewing, and speech. The patient's condition was complex, involving bilateral atrophy of both temporomandibular joints and a jaw misalignment that required an exceptionally precise surgical approach.

"What distinguishes this surgery is not only its success but also its reliance on advanced technologies, applied with rare professionalism in the local healthcare sector. This includes "3D virtual surgery," which allowed the team to precisely design an artificial temporomandibular joint and simulate the expected outcomes before the operation began.

"The medical collaboration was exemplary, involving the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Unit at the center as part of an institutional integration that culminated in a successful procedure by all measures, and restored the patient's normal life after a long ordeal.

"The medical team expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, and the ministry's officials for their tremendous support in creating an enabling environment for such achievements.

"This success is not only a milestone for the Farwaniya Specialized Center but also a major step forward for Kuwaiti medicine on its path to international recognition. It sends a clear message that Kuwaitis are capable of making a difference when equipped with the right capabilities and determination."

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



Tariq Idris



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah visits a Hussainiya.



Farwaniya Governorate photos of Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah spending some time with people listening to the sermon.

Governor visits Hussainiyas, assures security and safety

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah inspected a number of Hussainiyas and schools in Abdullah Al-Mubarak and West Abdullah Al-Mubarak on the 10th day of Muharram.

This tour is part of his commitment to monitor the security and organizational situation in the governorate.

Director of Farwaniya Security Directorate Brigadier General Mohammad Mutlaq Al-Mutairi, Assistant Director Brigadier General Nayef Mohammed Al-Hajraf and a number of Farwaniya security officials were present during the inspection tour.

Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-

Sabah reviewed the security agencies' preparations and plans to secure religious sites during the 10th day of Muharram. He also checked the conditions of citizens and expatriates, and discussed their needs. He praised the role of Hussainiya and school officials and their cooperation with security agencies, which contributed to the orderly and safe conduct of religious rituals.

At the conclusion of his tour, Sheikh Athbi Nasser commended the efforts of the security forces and their dedication to their work, particularly in protecting lives and properties. He called for adherence to security regulations and instructions to ensure the safety of everyone.

'All on paper, no more verbal nod'

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: The Ministry of Interior has issued a standardized form to regulate the leave applications of its employees; ending the practice of verbal approvals that previously disrupted workflows and created procedural inconsistencies, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

A security source explained that this initiative, introduced as per the directive of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf, is in line with the commitment of the ministry to inculcate institutional discipline and promote a culture of transparency and fairness.

The source added that the decision underscored the determination of the minister to modernize the administrative procedures and apply the highest standards of governance and discipline. The move is expected to improve operational efficiency and the quality of security services.

This step embodies a clear vision for building a modern security institution

founded on clearly define procedures, reducing reliance on personal discretion, and positioning the ministry as a model of organization and professionalism.

Campaigns continue: The Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality announced that inspection campaigns were carried out throughout June in various parts of Farwaniya Governorate to ensure compliance with municipal regulations, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

Talal Al-Oqab, Director of the Audit and Municipal Services Follow-up Department in Farwaniya, stated that the inspections resulted in 89 violations being recorded and 66 warnings issued to individuals and establishments found in breach of municipal regulations.

Al-Oqab confirmed that inspectors will continue their field visits to ensure adherence to regulations and urged shop owners to comply with municipal regulations to avoid penalties.

Jail for inciting sectarian strife

No leniency vowed

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies
KUWAIT CITY, July 7: The Public Prosecution has decided to detain a citizen for 21 days pending investigation and to refer him to the Central Prison on charges of harming national unity and inciting sectarian strife through a video clip posted on social media.

According to the Public Prosecution's decision, the accused will appear before the detention renewal judge on July 24.

On Sunday, the Ministry of Interior had announced that security forces arrested a citizen accused of deliberately harming national unity and inciting discord among the people through social media, and that legal action had been taken against the suspect.

It revealed that the suspect had posted a video on social media that went viral, con-

taining insults that undermine the social fabric and incite sectarianism.

The ministry affirmed that it will show no leniency toward anyone who intentionally undermines or disrupts national unity or spreads hate speech and sectarian strife.

□ □ □

New customs inspectors: The General Administration of Customs (GAC) announced on Sunday that First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef issued decisions to appoint 30 Customs inspectors, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a press statement, GAC explained that the appointments were distributed to the relevant parties during an event held at GAC's hall in Shuwaikh in the presence of several senior officials who welcomed the new employees.

The event also included a presentation aimed at raising professional awareness about the rights and duties of customs inspectors, and promoting the principles of integrity, transparency, and professional commitment in their daily responsibilities.



Firemen at the site of blaze.

Damage in Shuwaikh warehouse for wood

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Fire broke out in a warehouse containing wood and insulation materials in Shuwaikh Industrial Area on Monday afternoon. No casualties were reported.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), firefighting teams from Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Al-Shaheed, and Al-Sanad fire stations rushed to the location and extinguished the fire.

And it's all gone ..., victim of fake link

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: An expatriate lost his entire bank balance within minutes after accessing a fraudulent payment link online, despite not sharing any one-time password (OTP) with the scammers, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to a security source, the victim -- an expatriate born in 1971 -- reported that he had been browsing a social media platform when he came across an advertisement for a product listed at an exorbitant price. Believing the offer was genuine, he attempted to purchase the item and was directed to a payment link. Although the website indicated that the transaction failed, the victim soon discovered that KD226,500 was withdrawn from his account in two transactions.

A felony case, No. 149/2025, was registered and authorities have launched an investigation to track the perpetrators and recover the stolen funds.

Officials urged the public to exercise caution when shopping online and to verify the websites before entering any banking details.



CID personnel examining the seized bullets.

Expat doctor, wife under probe for carrying bullets

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Kuwait Airport T4 security personnel referred an expatriate doctor and his wife to the weapons investigation department, to investigate how they obtained 64 live bullets that were seized in his luggage upon their flight home, and the reasons for smuggling the ammunition out of the country. The couple were referred after their flight was canceled, says **Al-Anba** daily.

According to a security source, the airport security personnel subjected a bag to a thorough inspection after the x-ray machine indicated that it contained strange materials that were not permitted to board the plane. The airport security personnel opened the suspicious bag and found 64 bullets inside. The couple were then arrested.

The husband stated that he had placed the ammunition in his wife's luggage without her knowledge. He demanded that she be allowed to travel, and that he bears full responsibility. However, his request was rejected, and he and his wife were referred to the investigation department to take the necessary measures, or the matter will be referred to the judiciary.



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The Scientific Center inaugurates its new interactive exhibition titled 'Play and Create'.

KFAS photos

Scientific Center launches 'Play and Create' interactive exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: The Scientific Center, a subsidiary of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), launched its new interactive exhibition titled "Play and Create", which offers an educational experience designed to spark curiosity and nurture the creative abilities of visitors of all ages.

According to a press release issued by The Scientific Center, the exhibition is held in collaboration with the Heureka Science Center in Finland, as part of the Scientific Center's international efforts to provide innovative scientific content aligned with global best practices in interactive education.

The exhibition was inaugurated in the presence of the center's

staff, their families, and annual members.

It was open to the public on Monday, July 7 during regular working hours.

The "Play and Create" exhibition offers a unique experience that uses play as a powerful tool for learning, combining entertainment, knowledge, imagination, and communication.

Visitors are invited to embark on an interactive journey through five main styles of play - adventurous play, creative play, empathetic play, playful humor, and risk-taking play.

These experiences are presented in a safe and stimulating environment that encourages self-discovery and builds social connections through interaction and participation.

The exhibition also includes 24 diverse interactive exhibits showcasing fun activities such as apple picking, insect collecting, group painting, and hut building, along with other sensory experiences that encourage visitors of all ages to explore, think, and innovate.

The Director General of The Scientific Center Eng. Musaed Al-Yassin stated that the exhibition is an extension of the center's mission to offer inspiring educational experiences that engage visitors in an interactive scientific journey.

He said the exhibition seeks to redefine play as a valuable source of learning and a catalyst for uncovering visitors' potential.

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Islamic Affairs gets restructured setup

Leadership cut to three

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs to amend its organizational structure, which reduces leadership positions to only three, including the undersecretary and two assistant undersecretaries.

Sources revealed that the two main sectors are the Administrative and Financial Affairs Sector overseen by the assistant undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs; and the Religious Affairs Sector overseen by the assistant undersecretary for Religious Affairs.

Sources confirmed that the Civil Service Council has authorized the CSC to consider requests to amend organizational structures in cases where sectors are created, eliminated or combined; resulting in smaller number of organizational units and lower financial cost for the proposed

structure than the current organizational structure. Sources said other cases will be presented to the Civil Services Council later.

Sources explained that, according to the proposal, the Minister's Office, Coordination and Technical Support Office, Inspection and Audit Office and Center for the Promotion of Moderation are under the direct supervision of the minister.

Sources said the undersecretary is in charge of the Legal Affairs Department, Undersecretary's Office, Strategic Planning Department, Public Relations Department, Media Department, and Citizens' Services Department.

Sources also revealed that the Administrative and Financial Affairs Sector has five departments as follows: Information Systems, Administrative Development and Training, Financial Affairs, Administrative Affairs, and General Services and Maintenance; in addition to the supervision of the assistant undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs and the National Military Service Office.

Sources added the Religious Affairs Sector consists of four general departments: Cultural Affairs, Iftaa and Hajj, Quran and Islamic Studies, and Mosques.

High yield, high quality, chemical-free

KISR pioneers fast-track shrimp farming with biofloc technology

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) researcher Dr. Shireen Al-Subaie has confirmed the use of biofloc technology (bioflocalization) in shrimp farming that resulted in the production of 2.8 kilograms per cubic meter of farmed shrimp, which reached the local market for the first time within just two hours of harvest, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Subaie said the farmed shrimp is very fresh and of high quality, because the feed used was high-quality and chemical-free. He explained this system relies on environmentally friendly or beneficial bacteria in the farming process.

She disclosed that "the private sector and farm owners can rely on this technology to farm shrimp, which was traded in the local market fresh and in record time; surpassing imported shrimp,

such as Iranian or Kuwaiti shrimp that take one full day to reach the market after being caught."

She added "farm owners and investors in this field can calculate the quantity of farmed shrimp by multiplying 2.8 kilograms by the amount of available water in cubic meters. Assuming we have 1,000 cubic meters of water; the total yield will be 2,800 kilograms of farmed shrimp."

She then explained that "the process of harvesting farmed shrimp and trading it in the local market is ongoing. We will calculate the quantity of farmed shrimp once the entire harvesting process is completed. The demand for farmed shrimp has been good, comparable to that of its local counterpart, as the quantity was sold out because it is fresh and only takes two hours to reach the market."

KOTC receives new batch of gas cylinders

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: As part of its ongoing efforts to ensure a stable supply of gas cylinders in the local market, the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) announced the arrival of a new batch of 45,000 12-kg gas cylinders, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

It stated that this delivery is part of a larger contract to manufacture 350,000 cyl-

inders in accordance with the highest approved quality and safety standards.

KOTC reaffirmed its commitment to continuing the implementation of its strategy to ensure the regular availability of this vital commodity, meet consumer demand, and support the local energy supply system.

LOCAL



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Sabah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, during a meeting with Deemah Al-Yahya, DCO Secretary-General.

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Saudi Arabia assumes post as DCO representative

KUWAIT CITY, July 7, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Sabah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah presented his credentials on Monday as Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), during a meeting with Secretary-General Deemah Al-Yahya in Riyadh.

In a statement to KUNA, he affirmed

Kuwait's commitment to supporting the organization's efforts in advancing digital cooperation and infrastructure to meet sustainable development goals. He noted that this step reflects Kuwait's dedication to enhancing its presence in regional and international digital economy forums, stressing the importance of sharing expertise and building strong tech partnerships.



KUNA photo
Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Khaled Al-Maghames, with the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Nisreen Rubaian.

KRCS discusses partnership with UNHCR representative

KUWAIT CITY, July 7, (KUNA): Chairperson of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Ambassador Khaled Al-Maghames met on Monday the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative in Kuwait Nisreen Rubaian, to discuss ways to strengthen their partnership in refugee crisis initiatives.

Al-Maghames highlighted in a press to KUNA, the importance of partnering with international and regional institutions to support cooperation opportunities and promote the exchange of expertise.

He praised the UNHCR's efforts in assisting refugees and people displaced by wars and natural disasters around

the world, reaffirming Kuwait's commitment to fulfilling humanitarian and relief responsibilities.

Kuwait is committed to fulfilling the requirements of humanitarian and relief work, he added.

For her part, Rubaian stated that the meeting aimed to enhance coordination, which contributes to improving conditions for refugees globally, and she commended Kuwait's continued partnership through both governmental and civil institutions.

KRCS is a key supporter of UNHCR's global efforts, including its contribution to providing essential services to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, she added.

Officials stress unity, transparency and global ties

Kuwait determined to bolster human rights system

KUWAIT CITY, July 7, (KUNA): Kuwait is determined to further strengthen its national human rights system, a diplomat said on Monday, citing such efforts as part of a policy based on commitment to the principles of transparency and accountability.

National efforts to bolster Kuwait's human rights system entails ratcheting up cooperation with the United Nations and other relevant international bodies, Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Sheikhha Jawaher Al-Sabah said after a gathering of an ad hoc committee formed to look into the matter.

On the purpose of the committee, Kuwait health ministry assistant undersecretary for foreign healthcare services Dr. Hesham Kalendar said that the body was tantamount to a platform for coordination linking various state bodies that deal with human rights issues, particularly those related to the rights



KUNA photo
Ambassador Sheikhha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duajj Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs.

of women and children, he added. The committee also aims to ensure that state

bodies work as a cohesive unit when compiling Kuwait's routine report on human rights, in addition to the passing of legislations that aim to give impetus to Kuwait's human rights system, the official underlined.

Echoing his sentiments, Kuwaiti Public Authority for Disability Affairs' Acting Director General Wafa Al-Mahana highlighted the importance of the committee, saying that generating national awareness about human rights was among the body's core objectives, in addition to unifying the efforts of state bodies towards the protection of human rights.

On the committee's meetings, Kuwaiti Social Affairs Ministry's juvenile care department chief Dr. Jaseem Al-Kanderi said that these gatherings aim to keep national cooperation on an upward trajectory, which he underlined as crucial to protect human rights.

Higher education minister approves '25/'26 foreign scholarship program

3,007 students in vital sectors granted overseas study

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal approved the acceptance of 3,007 male and female students into the ministry's foreign scholarship program for the 2025/2026 academic year.

These students had graduated from high school in the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 academic years, from various public, private, and international schools.

On this occasion, Dr. Al-Jalal congratulated the students and their families, wishing them success in their academic journey.

In a press statement, he explained that the ministry places great importance on foreign scholarship programs, viewing them as a strategic tool for preparing qualified national specialists equipped with advanced knowledge and skills necessary to meet the demands of comprehensive development.

These programs enhance the competitive-

ness of graduates both locally and internationally and support the country's efforts to achieve its sustainable development goals.

Dr. Al-Jalal went on to explain that this year's scholarship results are in line with the state's development priorities, thanks to the inclusion of new specializations that meet labor market demands, as well as the expansion of available seats in vital fields. These efforts have led to a significant increase in student enrollment in specialized disciplines serving vital sectors, particularly health and technology, including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and supporting medical specializations.

The minister urged accepted students to approach this educational phase with seriousness and diligence, to uphold both academic and national responsibilities, and to preserve national identity and cultural values.

Meanwhile, the acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education Lamia Al-Mulhim revealed that the application sorting process for the scholarship plan followed clear criteria, including the students' order of preferences (up to eight choices) and the number of seats allocated based on agreements with universities in the scholarship countries.

Al-Mulhim stressed the importance of students adhering to immigration laws, scholarship regulations, and equivalency standards to ensure their academic stability and the success of their educational journey.

She affirmed the need for accepted students to verify the financial pledge with their guardian via the Sahel app, as well as to upload the medical examination document through the electronic academic system on the Ministry of Higher Education's website within 60 days of the admission announcement.

Al-Mulhim indicated that an orientation meeting will be held at Kuwait University from Tuesday July 8 to Thursday, July 10, as part of the "Wajihni" (Guide Me) campaign team's efforts to educate accepted students on the required procedures.

She revealed that representatives from the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, heads of cultural offices, and the Scholarships Sector team will participate.

Al-Mulhim said text messages will be sent to students to schedule their attendance according to the approved timetable.

She urged students to follow the third phase of the national 'Wajihni' campaign through the ministry's official accounts.

Committees tackle zoning and sports facility upgrades

Council probes waste management progress

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Municipal Council member Alia Al-Farsi on Monday submitted a query to the executive branch regarding the solid waste management plan of Kuwait Municipality.

In the introduction to her question, Al-Farsi cited the Municipal Waste Management and Public Sanitation regulation, issued according to Ministerial Resolution No. 354/2023.

She asked the executive branch to provide her with a comprehensive report on the implementation status of the plan of the Municipality to convert municipal solid waste landfills into treatment sites, environmental plan for rehabilitating landfills, timeline, and location of each landfill and the

areas it serves.

Meanwhile, the



Al-Farsi

the location of Kuwait Technical Entrepreneur-

ship Complex, chaired by Munira Al-Amir, will hold its fourth meeting for the fourth term on Tuesday.

Following are the items in the agenda of the committee:

- Approval of the final version of the proposed amendments to Table No. 2 regarding the requirements and specifications for investment housing buildings in and outside Kuwait City;
- Request of the Public Authority for Youth regarding

the location of Kuwait Technical Entrepreneur-

ship Complex (formerly the Technology Business City) and modification of some of the project's components in Block Four, Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Block.

The Capital Governorate Committee, chaired by Dr. Hassan Kamal, will hold its second meeting for the fourth term on Wednesday. It will discuss the request of the Ministry of Social Affairs to allocate a ground-level passageway connecting the central market building of Qadisiya Cooperative Society and the Vegetable Branch in the administration building of the cooperative; in addition to the request of the Public Authority for Sports to increase the height of the football stadium at the Kuwait Sports Club in Kaifan.

Article 15: A request for exemption from fees shall be submitted to the Clerks Office at the Court of First Instance, accompanied by supporting documents. A copy thereof shall be sent to the court, and the Clerks Office shall notify the Judicial Fees Department about the request and its supporting documents, so that it may submit its report.

Article 16: The committee referred to in the previous article may, during the course of the case or after judgment, upon the request of the Judicial Fees Department or the party to the case, annul the exemption decision if it determines that the inability to pay has ceased.

Article 17: The committee referred to in the previous article may, during the course of the case or after judgment, upon the request of the Judicial Fees Department or the party to the case, annul the exemption decision if it determines that the inability to pay has ceased.

Article 18 (Paragraph One): A fee of KD 5 is imposed on warnings and notifications for each recipient.

Article 19: A fee of half Kuwaiti dinar is collected for each page of a copy of the judgment requested by non-parties. The same fee is collected for each page requested by parties after obtaining the initial copy.

Article 20: Courts shall adjudicate lawsuits and requests for which fees are paid in advance or where a temporary exemption is established.

Article 21: The provisions of Article 123 of the aforementioned Civil and Commercial Procedure Law shall apply to the assessment of fees and appeals thereof.

Continued from Page 1

Dear people,

This leader is blessed by God with many qualities that guide him on the right path to save his people and his country at the right moment. God has granted him the willpower to take charge of the country's affairs, restore its glory, and safeguard its future by fulfilling his promise that no one will suffer injustice under his leadership.

Fully aware of his people's hopes, always present among them, and deeply familiar with their characteristics, this visionary leader creates power for his people and his country.

UK, Kuwait

He also noted that the visit comes at a time of serious geopolitical challenges and humanitarian suffering around the world. He emphasized both countries' commitment to working together to alleviate the suffering of civilians in Gaza, underlining their joint efforts to push for a ceasefire and continued collaboration on humanitarian matters.

Lammy added that UK-Kuwait cooperation also contributes to addressing other global crises in countries such as Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen, where diseases and humanitarian emergencies are widespread.

He expressed his satisfaction with the signing of memoranda of understanding, which unify resources and development visions, not only for the benefit of both countries, but also for children, women, and all those suffering worldwide.

He also pointed out that the UK has recently launched a new industrial strategy that outlines the government's investment priorities, noting that there are promising opportunities for cooperation with Kuwait in sectors such as defense, space, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, life sciences, and sustainable and renewable energy, all of which can contribute significant-

ly to both economies.

The UK official arrived in Kuwait on Saturday for his first official visit to take part in the strategic dialogue between the United Kingdom and Kuwait. The visit aimed to enhance bilateral relations and explore ways to strengthen and expand joint cooperation.

Earlier today, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Lammy at Seif Palace. He was also received by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, in the presence of Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, where they discussed prospects for boosting bilateral ties and expanding cooperation between the two friendly nations.

Additionally, the second round of the UK-Kuwait Strategic Dialogue was held earlier today, concluding in the signing of three key agreements. These agreements represent a continuation of the long-standing partnership and joint efforts between Kuwait and the United Kingdom, reflecting shared ambitions and achieving mutual interests between the two friendly countries.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Noura Al-Fassam and visiting UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs David Lammy discussed ways to increase the bilateral trade volume.

During their meeting on Sunday, both ministers reviewed the outcomes of the historic visits of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the UK, according to a press release from the Ministry of Finance.

They expressed a shared desire to enhance the strategic investment partnership between the State of Kuwait and the UK.

The State of Kuwait, as the current presidency of the Gulf Cooperation Council, looks forward to speeding up the negotiation on a free trade agree-

ment between the GCC and the UK, the statement quoted Al-Fassam as telling her guest.

In this vein, Managing Director of Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Sheikh Saud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah, who attending the meeting, said the Authority was keen on strengthening the investment relations with the UK through the strategic role of Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) in London.

Founded more than 70 years ago, the KIO manages Kuwaiti assets in various sectors which form solid foundations for greater investments in the coming years, Sheikh Saud noted.

On his part, the British minister noted that the UK investors were ready to contribute to the realization of Kuwait vision for development and the implementation of mega projects.

Also attending the meeting were Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance Aseel Al-Mneifi, Kuwait Ambassador to the UK Bader Al-Munayekh and UK Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis.

Kuwait underscores

and the Swiss Confederation, and co-organized by ITU, the UN's Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN's Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN's Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), with the collaborative engagement of more than 40 UN entities.

The summit is held in parallel with the "AI for Good Global Summit 2025" aiming to foster digital cooperation and address emerging technological challenges.

In her opening address, ITU Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin stated that, "WSIS has been uniting the world for two decades around a shared vision of an inclusive information society that serves everyone."

Noting that this event marks a piv-

otal moment to strengthen this multi-stakeholder framework towards a more inclusive and equitable digital future.

The summit provides a unique platform to assess the achievements and challenges of the global digital community over the past twenty years since the adoption of the Geneva Plan of Action in 2003.

It also aims to strengthen international cooperation in the fields of digital technology and sustainable development.

The summit serves as a comprehensive and inclusive forum for policy dialogue and a key opportunity for all stakeholders to review progress on digital issues particularly in AI digital transformation and global digital cooperation frameworks.

The program also features the annual WSIS Prizes contest which honors the best projects and initiatives that leverage information and communication technologies for sustainable development.

The WSIS Forum remains the only international mechanism mandated by the UN General Assembly to coordinate global efforts to advance digital technologies for development.

Decree targets

- Requests for orders to enforce foreign court rulings
- Requests to replace judges, experts and arbitrators
- Requests and orders on petitions submitted to the Judicial Execution and Grievance Department
- Lawsuits for interpretation and correction of judgments
- Lawsuits for review of endowment properties and claims for entitlement to housing or vacating endowment properties
- Lawsuits for eviction of rented premises

Article Six stipulates proportional fees for lawsuits of known value as follows:

- Five percent for lawsuits with a value less than KD 30,000
- 3.5 percent for lawsuits of more than KD 30,000 up to KD 150,000
- 2.5 percent for lawsuits of more than KD 150,000 up to KD 500,000
- 1.5 percent for lawsuits of more than KD 500,000 up to KD 5 million
- One percent for lawsuits of more than KD 5 million

The fee shall not be less than KD10 in all cases.

Article Seven: A fixed fee shall be imposed on lawsuits of unassessed value as follows:

- KD10 for requests and orders on petitions submitted to the Execution Department
- KD50 for requests submitted to the Interim Matters Judge and lawsuits filed with the Urgent Matters Judge
- KD100 for lawsuits filed initially before the Court of First Instance, Court of Appeals or the Court of Cassation
- KD150 for lawsuits regarding interim execution issues filed with the Urgent Matters Judge
- KD300 for requests to replace the judge, expert and arbitrator for each judge, expert or arbitrator
- KD 500 for requests to refer the property to the sales judge in preparation for its sale at auction

Article Eight (Paragraph One): If a lawsuit includes multiple original or supplementary claims -- all of which are unquantified, a fee shall be imposed for each one separately. If these claims are related, a single fee shall be imposed.

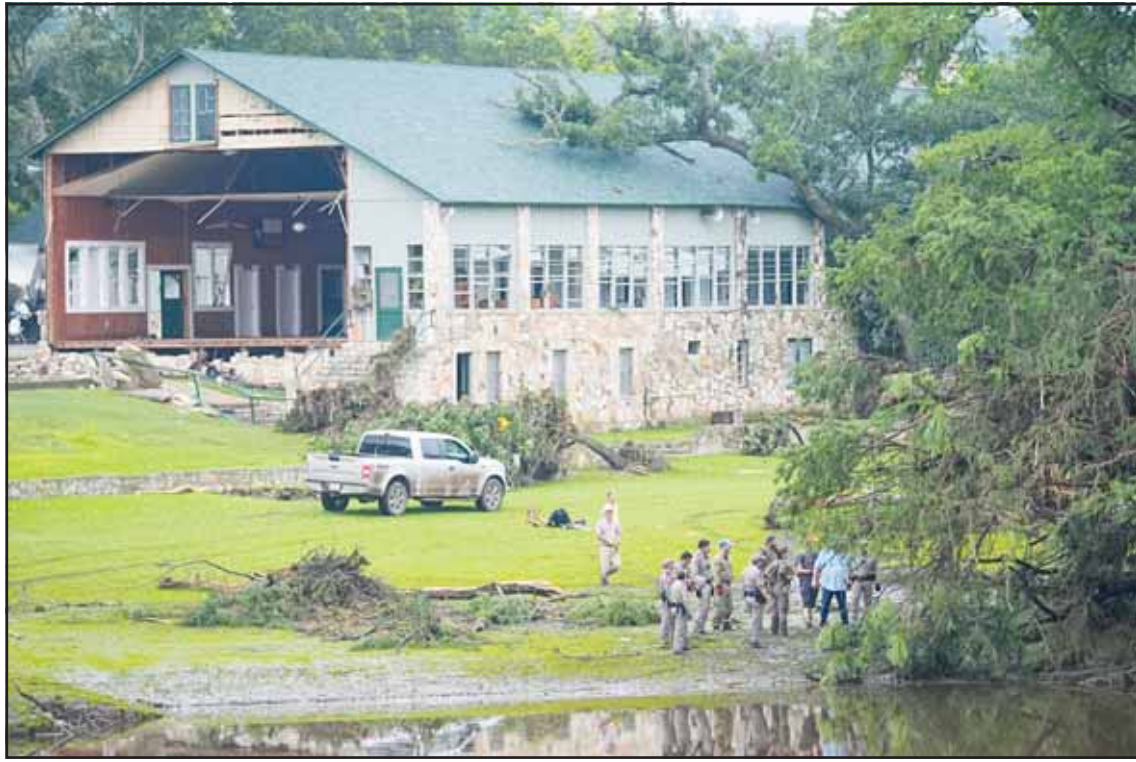
Article Nine: A fixed fee shall be imposed for the following lawsuits:

- Personal status lawsuits of all types
- Partition lawsuits between partners
- Appeals against orders on petitions, fees and expenses

Article 10: Fees shall be collected for each lawsuit filed one year after its dismissal and not renewed from dismissal or after the expiration of the penal or consensual stay and not appealed.

■ A fee of KD5 shall be imposed for

INTERNATIONAL



Officials search on the grounds of Camp Mystic along the banks of the Guadalupe River after a flash flood swept through the area on July 6, in Hunt, Texas. (AP)

Risk of further floods in Texas during search for missing as death toll tops 80

KERRVILLE, Texas, July 7, (AP): With more rain on the way, the risk of life-threatening flooding was still high in central Texas on Monday even as crews search urgently for the missing following a holiday weekend deluge that killed at least 82 people, including children at summer camps. Officials said the death toll was sure to rise.

Residents of Kerr County began clearing mud and salvaging what they could from their demolished properties as they recounted harrowing escapes from rapidly rising floodwaters late Friday.

Reagan Brown said his parents, in their 80s, managed to escape uphill as water inundated their home in the town of Hunt. When the couple learned that their 92-year-old neighbor was trapped in her attic, they went back and rescued her.

"Then they were able to reach their toolshed up higher ground, and neighbors throughout the early morning began to show up at their toolshed, and they all rode it out together," Brown

said.

A few miles away, rescuers maneuvering through challenging terrain filled with snakes continued their search for the missing, including 10 girls and a counselor from Camp Mystic, an all-girls summer camp that sustained massive damage.

Gov. Greg Abbott said 41 people were unaccounted for across the state and more could be missing.

In the Hill Country area, home to several summer camps, searchers have found the bodies of 68 people, including 28 children, Kerr County Sheriff Larry Leitha said.

Ten other deaths were reported in Travis, Burnet, Kendall, Tom Green and Williamson counties, according to local officials.

The governor warned that additional rounds of heavy rains lasting into Tuesday could produce more dangerous flooding, especially in places already saturated.

Families were allowed to look

around the camp beginning Sunday morning. One girl walked out of a building carrying a large bell. A man whose daughter was rescued from a cabin on the highest point in the camp walked a riverbank, looking in clumps of trees and under big rocks.

One family left with a blue footlocker. A teenage girl had tears running down her face as they slowly drove away and she gazed through the open window at the wreckage.

Nearly crews operating heavy equipment pulled tree trunks and tangled branches from the river. With each passing hour, the outlook of finding more survivors became even more bleak.

Volunteers and some families of the missing came to the disaster zone and searched despite being asked not to do so.

Authorities faced growing questions about whether enough warnings were issued in an area long vulnerable to flooding and whether enough preparations were made.

'California's lax election laws were to blame for delays'

Trump targets ballots arriving after Election Day that delay counts, feeds conspiracy fears

ATLANTA, July 7, (AP): US President Donald Trump and other Republicans have long criticized states that take weeks to count their ballots after Election Day. This year has seen a flurry of activity to address it.

Part of Trump's executive order on elections, signed in March but held up by lawsuits, takes aim at one of the main reasons for late vote counts: Many states allow mailed ballots to be counted even if they arrive after Election Day.

The US Supreme Court last month said it would consider whether a challenge in Illinois can proceed in a case that is among several Republican-backed lawsuits seeking to impose an Election Day deadline for mail ballots.

At least three states - Kansas, North Dakota and Utah - passed legislation this year that eliminated a grace period for receiving mailed ballots, saying they now need to be in by Election Day.

Even in California, where week-long vote counting is a frequent source of frustration and a target of Republican criticism, a bill attempting to speed up the process is moving through the Democratic-controlled Legislature.

The ballot deadline section of Trump's wide-ranging executive order relies on an interpretation of federal law that establishes Election Day for federal elections. He argues this means all ballots must be received by that date.

"This is like allowing persons who

arrive 3 days after Election Day, perhaps after a winner has been declared, to vote in person at a former voting precinct, which would be absurd," the executive order states.

It follows a pattern for the president, who has repeatedly questioned the legitimacy of such ballots even though there is no evidence they are the source of widespread fraud. The issue is tied closely to his complaints about how long it takes to count ballots, his desire for results on election night and his false claims that overnight "dumps" of vote counts point to a rigged election in 2020, when he lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

But ballots received after Election Day, in addition to being signed and dated by the voter, must be postmarked by the US Postal Service indicating they were completed and dropped off on or before the final day of voting.

Accepting late-arriving ballots has not been a partisan issue historically. States as different as California and Mississippi allow them, while Colorado and Indiana do not.

"There is nothing unreliable or insecure about a ballot that comes back after Election Day," said Steve Simon, the chief election official in Minnesota, which has an Election Day deadline.

In his executive order, most of which is passed by the courts, Trump directs the attorney general to "take all necessary action" to enforce federal law against states that include late-arriving ballots in their final counts for



A billboard urges drivers to vote on Election Day in Union City, Calif. on Nov 5, 2024. (AP)

federal elections. He also directs the US Election Assistance Commission to condition federal funding on compliance.

Republicans in five states have passed legislation since the 2020 election moving the mail ballot deadline to Election Day, according to the Voting Rights Lab, which tracks election legislation.

Earlier this year, GOP lawmakers in Kansas ended the state's practice of accepting mail ballots up to three days after Election Day, a change that will take effect for next year's mid-

terms. Problems with mail delivery had prompted Kansas to add the grace period in 2017.

Kansas state Sen Mike Thompson, a Republican who chairs the committee that handles election legislation, compared the grace period to giving a football team extra chances to score after the game clock expires.

"We need this uniform end to the election just so that we know that all voters are operating on the same time frame," he said.

California has long been a source of complaints about the amount of time it

takes for ballots to be counted and winners declared.

"The rest of the country shouldn't have to wait on California to know the results of the elections," US Rep-Bryan Steil, a Wisconsin Republican who chairs the Committee on House Administration, said during an April hearing.

He said California's "lax election laws" were to blame for the delays.

The nation's most populous state has the largest number of registered voters in the country, some 22.9 million, which is roughly equivalent to the number of voters in Florida and Georgia combined.

California also has embraced universal mail voting, which means every registered voter automatically receives a ballot in the mail for each election. The deadline for election offices to receive completed ballots is seven days after Election Day as long as they are postmarked by then.

A survey of some 35,000 Los Angeles County voters during last fall's election found that 40% waited until Election Day to return their ballot.

Election officials say the exhaustive process for reviewing and counting mail ballots combined with a large percentage of voters waiting until the last minute makes it impossible for all results to be available on election night.

Under state law, election officials in California have 30 days to count ballots, conduct a postelection review and certify the results.

Dean Logan, Los Angeles County's chief election official, told Congress in May that his team counted nearly 97% of the 3.8 million ballots cast within a week of Election Day in 2024. Jesse Salinas, president of the state clerks' association, said his staff in Yolo County, near Sacramento, already works 16-hour days, seven days a week before and after an election.

Assemblyman Marc Berman introduced legislation that would keep the state's 30-day certification period but require county election officials to finish counting most ballots within 13 days after the election. They would be required to notify the state if they weren't going to meet that deadline and give a reason.

"I don't think that we can stick our heads in the sand and pretend like these conspiracies aren't out there and that this lack of confidence doesn't exist, in particular among Republican voters in California," said Berman, a Democrat. "There are certain good government things that we can do to strengthen our election system."

He acknowledged that many counties already meet the 13-day deadline in his bill, which awaits consideration in the Senate.

"My hope is that this will strengthen people's confidence in their election system and their democracy by having some of those benchmarks and just making it very clear for folks when different results will be available," Berman said.

Ex-minister found dead hours after being fired

Russia fires more than 100 drones at Ukraine

MOSCOW, July 7, (AP): Russian's transport minister was found dead Monday, hours after being dismissed by President Vladimir Putin, in what officials called an apparent suicide.

Roman Starovoyt, who served as Russia's transport minister since May 2024, was fired in a presidential decree earlier in the day.

Hours later, the body of Starovoyt, 53, was found in his car with a gunshot wound, according to Russia's Investigative Committee, the top criminal investigation agency.

A criminal probe has been launched into Starovoyt's death and investigators see suicide as the most likely cause, according to committee's spokesperson Svetlana Petrenko.

Russian media have reported that Starovoyt's dismissal could have been linked to an investigation into the embezzlement of state funds allocated for building fortifications in the Kursk region where he served as governor before being appointed transportation minister.

On Monday in Ukraine, meanwhile, at least 11 civilians were killed and more than 80 were injured, including seven children, in Russian attacks over the previous 24 hours, Ukrainian officials said.

Russia fired more than 100 drones at civilian areas of Ukraine overnight, authorities said.

Russia recently has intensified its airstrikes on civilian areas after more than three years of war. In the past week, Russia launched some 1,270



Paramedics help residents evacuate their house that was destroyed by a Russian airstrike in Kharkiv, Ukraine on July 7. (AP)

drones, 39 missiles and almost 1,000 powerful glide bombs at Ukraine, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday.

Russia's bigger army is also trying hard to break through at some points along the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620 miles) front line, where Ukrainian forces are severely stretched.

The strain of keeping Russia's invasion at bay, the lack of progress in direct peace talks, and last week's halt of some promised U.S. weapons shipments has compelled Ukraine to seek more military help from the U.S. and Europe.

Zelenskyy said Saturday that Ukraine had signed deals with European allies and a leading U.S. defense company to step up drone production, ensuring Kyiv receives "hundreds of thousands" more this year.

"Air defense is the main thing for protecting life," Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram on Monday.

That includes developing and manufacturing interceptor drones that can stop Russia's long-range Shahed drones, he said.

Extensive use of drones has also helped Ukraine compensate for its troop shortages on the front line.

be a promised land as they attempt the perilous crossing clandestinely, ditching belongings to squeeze aboard flimsy inflatable boats that set to sea from northern France.

In a flash, on one recent crossing attempt, French police swooped in with knives, wading into the water and slashing the boat's thin rubber - literally deflating the migrants' hopes and dreams.

Some of the men put up spirited resistance, trying to position themselves - in vain - between the boat and the officers' blades. One splashed water at them, another hurled a shoe. Cries of "No! No!" rang out. A woman wailed.

But the team of three officers, one also holding a pepper-gas canister, lunged at the boat again and again, pitching some of those aboard into the surf as it quickly deflated. The Associated Press obtained video of the police boat-slashing, filmed on a beach near the French port of Boulogne. (AP)

Greece imposes work breaks: Authorities in Greece imposed mandatory work breaks on Monday in parts of the country where temperatures are expected to exceed 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), with the heat wave forecast to last through Thursday.

The labor ministry ordered the work stoppage, in effect from midday to 5:00 p.m. (0900-1400 GMT), for outdoor manual labor and food delivery services, primarily in central Greece and on several islands. Employers were also asked to offer remote work options.

No emergency measures were implemented in Athens, and the current hot spell - following sweltering temperatures across Europe - is not considered unusual. (AP)

Europe

French town bee attack injures 24: An unusual attack by bees in the French town of Aurillac has left 24 people injured, including three in critical condition, according to local authorities.

The Prefecture of Cantal, in south-central France, said passersby were stung over a period of about 30 minutes on Sunday morning. Firefighters and medical teams were rushed to the scene to treat the victims while police set up a security perimeter until the bees stopped their attack.

The three people in critical condition were evacuated to a local hospital.

Pierre Mathonier, the mayor of Aurillac, told French broadcaster France 3 the incident may have been related to Asian hornets threatening beehives that had been installed on the roof terrace of a downtown hotel over 10 years ago. He said that this had likely caused the bees to become aggressive. (AP)



Mathonier

French police slashing boats: Across the English Channel, the UK's white cliffs beckon. On fine days, men and women with children in their arms and determination in their eyes can see the shoreline of what they believe will

Charles leads UK in marking 20 years since deadly 7/7 London bombings

LONDON, July 7, (AP): King Charles III, Prime Minister Keir Starmer and countless ordinary Londoners paused Monday to mark the 20th anniversary of the 2005 London transit bombings, the deadliest attack on the British capital since World War II.

Fifty-two people died and more than 770 were wounded when four British men inspired by al-Qaeda blew themselves up on three subway trains and a bus during the morning rush hour on July 7, 2005. They were the first suicide bombings on European soil.

Two weeks later, four other bombers attempted a similar attack, but their devices failed to explode. No one was hurt.

The bombings remain seared into London's collective memory, and the anniversary was being marked with events including a ceremony at the 7/7 memorial in Hyde Park and a service of commemoration at St. Paul's Cathedral.

At 8:50 a.m., the moment the first bomb exploded 20 years ago, Starmer and London Mayor Sadiq Khan laid wreaths at the Hyde Park monument, a group of 52 steel columns commemorating the people who were killed. At subway stations near where the explosions hit, staff and commuters paused for a minute's silence.



Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, (left), and Prime Minister Keir Starmer lay a wreath at the 7/7 Memorial, in Hyde Park to mark the anniversary of the terrorist attacks in London on July 7, 2005 that killed 52 people, in London July 7, 2025. (AP)

Dan Biddle, who lost both legs in the blast on a Tube train near Edgware Road station, said the day brought mixed emotions.

"You're thankful you've survived it, you feel immense sadness and grief, but still this overwhelming sense of injustice that there wasn't the public inquiry that was suggested and the scrutiny of what went wrong," he told the BBC.

Biddle also recalled the "phenomenal act of bravery" of an injured fellow passenger who crawled along the tunnel, administered emergency first aid and helped save his life.

The king said in a message that his "heartfelt thoughts and special prayers remain with all those whose lives were forever changed on that terrible summer's day."

He said the country could take heart from the bravery of the emergency services and others who responded to the attack, and "the countless stories of extraordinary courage and compassion that emerged from the darkness of that day."

Charles also hailed the "spirit of unity that has helped London, and our nation, to heal."

"As we remember those we lost, let us, therefore, use this 20th anniversary to reaffirm our commitment to building a society where people of all faiths and backgrounds can live together with mutual respect and understanding, always standing firm against those who would seek to divide us," he said.

In a separate message, the prime minister said that "those who tried to divide us failed. We stood together then, and we stand together now."

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said July 7, 2005, was one of Britain's "darkest days."

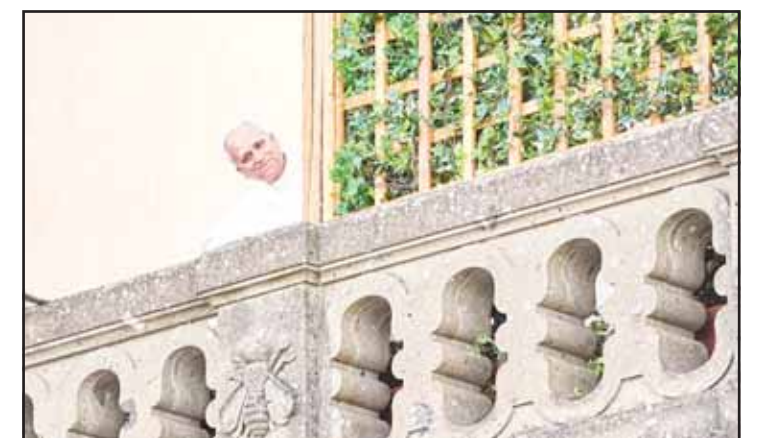
Poland reinstates border controls

SLUBICE, Poland, July 7, (AP): Poland reinstated border controls on Monday with neighboring Germany and Lithuania following similar German restrictions imposed earlier this year aimed at discouraging asylum-seekers.

Polish Prime Minister **Donald Tusk**, whose government recently survived a confidence vote in parliament, announced the restrictions last week. Pressure has been mounting after far-right groups in Poland have alleged Germany was trans-

porting migrants into Polish territory after they reached Western Europe.

The reinstated controls, which began overnight Sunday, will last for an initial period of 30 days, though authorities have not ruled out extending them, according to the Polish Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration.



Pope Leo XIV arrives at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo south of Rome for a six-week vacation on July 6. (AP)

Pope Leo starts six-week vacation

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy, July 7, (AP): Pope Leo XIV arrived in the papal summer retreat of Castel Gandolfo on Sunday to start a six-week vacation, giving the hilltop town back its most illustrious resident after Pope Francis stayed away during his 12-year pontificate.

Leo greeted well-wishers who

lined the main road into town to welcome him before waving from the balcony of the villa where he will be staying for what he says will be a "brief period of rest."

"I hope everyone can have some vacation time to restore the body and spirit," Leo said before leaving the Vatican during his noon prayer Sunday.

INTERNATIONAL



In this image made from a video provided by TVBS, residents look at the collapsed temple structures submerged in floodwaters on July 7, after the Typhoon Danas landed in Tainan, Taiwan. (AP)

Typhoon Danas kills 2 in Taiwan and injuring more than 300

Typhoon Danas brought heavy winds and torrential rains to parts of Taiwan early Monday, killing two people and injuring more than 300 on the island's densely populated west coast.

The typhoon lost intensity and was downgraded to a tropical storm as it moved into the Taiwan Strait on a forecast path to China.

Danas knocked out power for more than 580,000 households, and schools and offices were closed across southern and central parts of Taiwan.

The typhoon made landfall on the west coast late Sunday with

maximum sustained winds of 144 kph (89 mph). It dumped more than 60 centimeters (24 inches) of rain in places, causing landslides and flooding.

Two deaths were reported in the southwestern city of Tainan, according to the National Fire Agency. One person died when their vehicle was struck by a falling tree, while another died after his respirator malfunctioned due to losing power.

At least 334 people suffered injuries, while more than 3,400 people were forced to evacuate - mostly from mountainous areas around the southern port city of Kaohsiung.

Thousands of tourists were stranded on Taiwan's outlying islands of Penghu, Matsu and Green due to the cancellations of ferry services and flights.

Areas of southern and eastern China made preparations ahead of the storm, which is expected to reach the mainland Tuesday afternoon. Authorities in southern Guangdong province called hundreds of vessels to port and evacuated more than 2,000 people from offshore facilities. Two cities in the eastern Zhejiang province suspended ferry services and construction work. (AP)



In this photo released by Geological Agency (Badan Geologi) of the Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki spews volcanic materials during an eruption in East Flores, Indonesia on July 7. (AP)

Indonesia's Mt Lewotobi Laki Laki eruption sends ash 11 miles high

Indonesia's rumbling Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki erupted Monday, sending a column of volcanic materials as high as 18 kilometers (11 miles) into the sky, depositing ash on villages and leading to flight cancellations.

The volcano has been at the highest alert level since last month and no casualties were immediately reported. Indonesia's Geology Agency recorded an avalanche of searing gas clouds mixed with rocks and lava traveling up to 5 kilometers (3 miles) down the volcano's slopes. Observations from drones showed lava filling the crater, indicating deep movement of magma that set

off volcanic earthquakes.

The column of hot clouds that rose into the sky was the volcano's highest since the major eruption in November 2024 that killed nine people and injured dozens, said Muhammad Wafid, the Geology Agency chief. It also erupted in March.

"An eruption of that size certainly carries a higher potential for danger, including its impact on aviation," Wafid told The Associated Press from Switzerland where he was attending a seminar. "We shall reevaluate to enlarge its danger zone that must be cleared of villagers and tourist activities."

The volcano monitoring agency had increased the alert status for Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki to the highest level after an eruption on June 18, and more than doubled an exclusion zone to a 7-kilometer (4.3-mile) radius since then as eruptions became more frequent.

By Monday afternoon, at least 24 flights serving between Bali and Australia, Singapore, South Korea were cancelled and many others delayed, while flights on four domestic routes were cancelled, said Ahmad Syaugi Shahab, spokesperson for Bali's Ngurah Rai international airport spokesperson. (AP)

Days of monsoon rains and flash floods kill at least 72 people in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, July 7. (Agencies): Ten days of heavy monsoon rains and flash floods across Pakistan killed at least 72 people and injured more than 130, the National Disaster Management Authority and local officials said Monday.

The fatalities, since June 26, were reported in several provinces: the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, eastern Punjab, southern Sindh and southwestern Balochistan provinces.

The National Disaster Management Authority urged local officials to remain on high alert and advised tourists to avoid visiting affected areas, as more rains could block highways and trigger flash floods.

Emergency services have been on maximum alert since last month after 17 tourists from the same family were swept away by the Swat River in the northwest. Four were rescued and the bodies of the other 13 were later recovered. Videos circulating online of the family, stranded on a rooftop and pleading for help, sparked outrage and accusations of slow response by emergency crews. Authorities have warned they cannot rule out a repeat of extreme weather like the 2022 devastating floods when rains at one point inundated a third of the country, killing 1,737 people

Also:

LAHORE: The owners of a pet lion that escaped from a farmhouse



Children playing in the water after a heavy rain in Lahore, Pakistan on July 6. (AP)

and injured a woman and her two children have been arrested in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore, authorities said Sunday.

The arrest comes after dramatic video footage surfaced showing the lion leaping over a wall before attacking the victims in a residential area.

The woman and her 5- and 7-year-old children sustained injuries to their faces and arms on Wednesday night when the lion escaped from its cage, police official Faisal Kamran said.

According to a police report, the children's father told police that the lion's owners stood by and watched as the animal clawed at his family,

making no effort to restrain it. The lion later returned to the owners' farmhouse and was relocated to a wildlife park, police said.

ISLAMABAD: The death toll in the building collapse in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi has jumped to 27 as rescuers retrieved more bodies, a spokesperson of the state-owned rescue organization Rescue 1122 said on Sunday.

Confirming the death toll, Hassan Ul Haseeb Khan, the operation's spokesperson, told Xinhua that rescue activities are in the final stage and most of the building debris has been removed.

Philippine police take fifteen officers into custody over feared killings of cockfighters

MANILA, Philippines, July 7. (AP): Fifteen police officers have been taken into custody and are being investigated for their alleged role in the abductions and feared killings of at least 34 cockfighters, the Philippine police chief said Monday.

The missing people were accused of cheating in the hugely popular sport, with their bodies reportedly dumped in a scenic lake with a restive volcano.

The victims went missing around 2021 and 2022 mostly while on their way to or from cockfighting arenas dotting the main northern Philippine region of Luzon, including in the metropolitan Manila capital region.

The unresolved disappearances again drew public attention after a key witness recently surfaced and accused his former employer, a gambling tycoon, of masterminding the killings, with bodies reportedly dumped in Taal Lake south of Manila or burned elsewhere.

National police chief Gen. Nicolas Torre III said in a news conference that a key witness, who used the alias "Totoy," provided crucial details. The cockfighting aficionados and workers were strangled and mutilated before being dumped.

Police investigators have corroborated the details and evidence provided by the witness which will be used in criminal complaints to be filed by the Department of Justice against the suspects, he said.



Police Brigadier General Nicolas Torre speaks during a hearing on the arrest of former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Manila, Philippines on March 20. (AP)

The witness has told local TV networks that he decided to speak out because his former employer was allegedly threatening to have him killed. He said he wanted to help ease the agony of families of the victims who had been demanding justice for their missing kin.

"I was very shocked," Torre said when asked how he felt over the disclosures made by the witness, who is under police guard. "It firmed up our resolve to really solve this because what happened was savage and not

acceptable by any standard."

Criminal complaints will be filed against the influential businessman, who owns cockfighting arenas and other gambling businesses, and other suspects, Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla said. The businessman has denied the allegations.

Remulla said he would ask Japan to help provide technology to help look for traces of the remains of the victims, which could still be retrieved from the bottom of Taal Lake about four years after the killings.

Suriname's parliament elects country's first female president amid economic turmoil

PARAMARIBO, Suriname, July 7. (AP): Suriname's parliament Sunday elected physician Jennifer Geerlings-Simons as the troubled country's first female president.

The South American country's National Assembly chooses the president by a two-thirds vote. Geerlings-Simons, a congresswoman, ran unopposed after her party formed a coalition aimed at ousting the country's current leader following a May election with no clear winner.

The coalition was formed as the troubled country prepares for an influx of wealth following the discovery of major offshore oil deposits, with the first production expected by 2028.

Geerlings-Simons, who leads the National Democratic Party, will be inaugurated as president of the Dutch-speaking country of more than 646,000 people on July 16.

"I am aware that the heavy task I have taken on is further aggravated by the fact that I am the first woman to serve the country in this position," she said after the election.

The five-year term of President Chandrikapersad Santokhi has been riddled with corruption scandals, and he was forced to call on the Interna-



Dr Jennifer Geerlings-Simons listens to a girl sing at a party in Paramaribo, Suriname on July 6 after being appointed Suriname's first female president. (AP)

tional Monetary Fund to get Suriname's economy back on track.

As a result, the country's public debt was largely restructured and government subsidies significantly reduced. Macro-economically, Santokhi achieved success, but people groaned under the austerity measures, which sparked violent protests.

Geerlings-Simons, 71, and her running mate, Gregory Rusland, on Sunday told reporters they will prioritize stabilizing the country's finances. She had previously indicated an interest in increasing state revenues by, among other things, improving tax collections, including in the small-scale gold-mining sector.

Boko Haram militants kill 9 and injure 4 in northeastern Nigeria

ABUJA, Nigeria, July 7. (AP): Islamic extremists killed nine people and injured four in Borno state in northeastern Nigeria, authorities said Sunday.

The attack was carried out by Boko Haram militants on the Malam Fatori community, Babagana Zulum, the state governor, said. He did not say when the attack happened.

The community, very close to the border of Chad, is about 270 kilometers (167 miles) from Maiduguri, Borno's capital city.

The governor, represented by Sugun Mai Mele, the commissioner for local governments, visited the community and warned residents against collaborating with Boko Haram militants.

"Anyone found collaborating with the insurgents to bring harm or attack to the people of Malam Fatori will be cursed," he said, adding that there are measures being put in place to fortify the town against future attacks.



A woman and young girl displaced from Boko Haram attacks push a cart in Dikwa, Borno province, north east Nigeria on April 29. (AP)

Lat/Am

Mexico rejects US proposed policy: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum on rejected US President Donald Trump's proposed immigration policy, including a budget plan that allocates billions for border security and detention facilities.

At her daily briefing, Sheinbaum denounced the US House-approved fiscal plan that includes 170 billion U.S. dollars for immigration enforcement, saying migration should be addressed through cooperation, not repression.

"We do not agree. Migration must be addressed at its root through development cooperation," she said.

Sheinbaum said the Mexican government has helped reduce attempted crossings at both the northern and southern borders. "Yesterday there were just 220 arrests ... That's very few compared to the thousands we saw years ago," she said. (Xinhua)

El Salvador sentences 3 ex-officers: Three former El Salvador military officers were given lengthy prison sentences over the 1982 killings of four Dutch journalists during the country's civil war.

It means former Defense Minister Gen. José Guillermo García, 91, former treasury police director Col. Francisco Morán, 93, and Col. Mario Adalberto Reyes Mena, 85, will likely die in custody. (AP)



Kenya anti-riot police barricade roads to Parliament buildings with razor wire, ahead of the historic 1990 Saba Saba, a Swahili word that means seven seven, protests for democratic reforms in Nairobi, Kenya on July 7. (AP)

Nairobi on lockdown

Police in Kenya clashed with demonstrators Monday during anti-government protests as the authorities blocked major roads leading into the capital, Nairobi, and most businesses closed.

Protesters lit bonfires and hurled stones at police in roadblocks and police fired and hurled teargas canisters, injuring one demonstrator. (AP)

Hundreds greet Nepal ex-king on b'day as support for ousted monarch grows

KATHMANDU, Nepal, July 7. (Agencies): Hundreds of supporters of Nepal's former king lined up outside his residence to greet him on his 74th birthday Monday as support for the ousted monarch grows in the Himalayan nation.

Gyanendra Shah, who makes very few public appearances, allowed his supporters inside his house for three hours. Supporters lined up outside with flower garlands, bouquets, cards, gifts and various food items which are traditionally offered during special occasions in Nepalese culture. "Bring king back to the throne and save the country. We love our king more than our lives," chanted the loyalists, many wearing traditional attire.

Nepal abolished the monarchy and turned the nation into a republic in 2008, bringing in a president as the head of the state.

There has been growing demand in recent months for Shah to be reinstated as king and Hinduism to be brought back as a state religion. Royalist groups accuse the country's major political parties of corruption and failed governance and say people are frustrated with politicians.

"People were looking for change and they removed the king hoping that it would be beneficial for the country, but that was very untrue and the political parties repeatedly betrayed people's trust," said retired worker Kula Prasad Bhattarai,



Nepal's former king Gyanendra Shah, (right), speaks with a supporter as others wait their turn to offer birthday wishes at his residence, in Kathmandu, Nepal on July 7. (AP)

who stood in line for hours outside the king's residence. "The politicians have damaged our nation," said Divesh Singh Hamal, another supporter. "We need to bring the king back or else our country will be finished."

Bursa ends on high note across all indices

KUWAIT CITY, July 7, (KUNA): Bursa Kuwait closed Monday's session with gains across all major indices. The general index advanced 44.86 points, or 0.53 percent, finishing at 8,488.73 points. Trading was active, with 618.6 million shares changing hands through 34,381 cash trans-

actions, totaling 124.7 million Kuwaiti dinars (approximately \$408.4 million).

The Main Market Index rose 37.62 points (0.51 percent) to 7,348.13 points, on a volume of 446.4 million shares traded in 24,012 transactions, with a value of 67.5 million dinars (about \$221 million).

Business

Hesabi for youth program designed to complement needs and lifestyle of young customers

KFH demonstrates tailored banking services for youth and students

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the second Universities Expo, titled "Today's Decision is Tomorrow's Future". The event gathered the most renowned educational entities and bodies under one roof, facilitating decision making and comparison of opportunities for prospective students and researchers.

The four-day event, which was held in Kuwait International Fairground in Mishref, brought together over 60 educational institutions amidst a remarkable interest from a wide audience, particularly recent high school graduates. The visitors were keen to understand the academic disciplines that align with their professional and educational aspirations, as well as learn about the top-ranking

universities and their admission requirements. They also compared available facilities and academic ranking of each university.

KFH's participation as a strategic partner reflects its firm belief in the significance of education and its role in shaping future generations. It also demonstrates KFH's social responsibility and pioneering role in empowering students across all academic stages. These events contribute to shaping the students' decisions, building their academic future, and introducing them to different universities and studying pathways.

At its dedicated booth, KFH showcased a suite of banking services and products offered specifically for the

youth segment. Additionally, a team from KFH was present to answer inquiries and provide sufficient information about the wide range of services and solutions available for young customers and students.

Hesabi

KFH offers Hesabi for youth program, designed to complement the needs and lifestyle of young customers. It features automatic enrollment in KFH Rewards program, 24/7 free banking services, digital banking through KFHonline, free Hesabi pre-paid card, in addition to consumer finance different products on a wide variety of cars, marine equipment and motorbikes as well as auto financing services and more.



Kuwait Finance House pavilion at the exhibition.



The Egyptian Minister of Petroleum made a field visit to Dakahlia Governorate to inspect drilling work at the well site.

KUNA photos

Egypt to drill 11 gas wells to boost output to 160 bln feet

Egypt plans to drill 11 wells projected to produce 160 billion feet of natural gas with an average daily output of 100 million cf of gas and 2,000 barrels of condensates.

The ministry of Petroleum and Minerals said in a press release on Monday that Minister of Petroleum Karim Badawi had visited "Bijona-2" well in Dakahlia Governorate.

Drilling there is in line with the "neo el menzala" concession, operated by El-Wastani Petroleum in partnership with Dana Gas.

The statement has indicated that preliminary projections have shown that the Bijona well holds nine billion cubic feet of gas, affirming that its projected output would contribute to diversifying the natural gas resources.

The ministry is seeking to increase the national gas output in various regions including the Delta.

Cairo had declared that the nation's natural gas exports reached USD 8.4 billion in 2022, compared with 2021 when it stood at USD 3.5 billion (rising by 171 percent). (KUNA)

Reaffirming commitment to nat'l talent

KIB promotes Khlood Al-Salem to GM of the Legal Department

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the promotion of Khlood Al-Salem to General Manager of the Legal Department, a step that underscores the Bank's steadfast commitment to supporting and empowering national talent.

This promotion aligns with KIB's strategic vision to develop national human capital and create opportunities for Kuwaitis to take on leadership roles.

It also reflects the Bank's ongoing efforts to advance the career development of national professionals and to cultivate a culture of appreciation and recognition for Kuwaiti talent.

This promotion stands as a testament to KIB's confidence in the capabilities and expertise of its national talent, who serve as the foundation of the Bank's ongoing journey of development and innovation.

The Bank views its investment in nurturing and empowering this talent as the true driver of long-term success and prosperity. In line with this commitment, KIB continues to provide a motivating work environment that prioritizes capacity building, supports professional excellence, and offers ambitious employees opportunities to refine their skills and achieve their career goals.

Al-Salem is a seasoned legal professional with nearly three decades of banking experience in corporate law and banking operations, most of which was at KIB. She currently oversees the Bank's legal and regulatory affairs and serves as its legal advisor, providing counsel on all operational, administrative, and financial matters.

After a successful legal career in law firms across Kuwait, Al-Salem transitioned into the banking sector, where she progressed through various legal and executive roles before assuming her current position at KIB.

She also previously worked as a lawyer for an investment company. Al-Salem earned her bachelor's degree in law from Kuwait University in 1992, and has completed numerous certified courses and training programs in Islamic banking.

The promotion of Al-Salem underscores KIB's commitment to developing and empow-



Khlood Al-Salem

ering women in leadership, recognizing the vital role Kuwaiti women play in the nation's development.

The Bank is dedicated to providing them with every opportunity to achieve their professional ambitions and advance into senior positions.

This vision goes beyond the empowerment of women, but also encompasses all promising national talent through training, mentorship, and a supportive work environment.

Moreover, KIB's strategy to support and empower national professionals is not limited to legal and administrative roles; it extends across all departments and functions of the Bank.

It is worth noting that KIB continues to invest in specialized training programs in collaboration with partner institutions to enhance the skills of Kuwaiti employees across a wide range of disciplines and empower them to take on greater responsibilities.

This ongoing effort reflects the Bank's strong commitment to Kuwait Vision 2035, which aims to build a diversified and sustainable economy driven by national talent.

Officials eye \$3 bln package tied to financial overhaul

IMF links bailing out Lebanon to concrete reforms

BEIRUT, July 7, (KUNA): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently earmarked USD 250 million to aid Lebanon and dispatched a delegation to Beirut to ensure that the administration is heeding terms for further and broader financial aid.

The IMF officials held talks during the visit with local decision makers on a prospected financial reform program aimed at boosting growth and aiding limited income segments ahead of the aspired bail-out deal.

Prime Minister Nawaf Salam described, in a statement, the talks with the IMF mission as "responsible and realistic," affirming his confidence in the international fund to restore financial stability and follow up on structural reforms in the Lebanese administration.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Minister of Finance Yassin Jaber said the negotiations with the IMF had proceeded positively and revealed that the fund officials during their visit to the country affirmed that there was "tangible progress regarding the financial regulations and the aspired reforms." However, he expressed some concerns at impact of regional "security developments" on the country.

Minister Jaber said his department had "accomplished plenty of reform steps," namely the enactment of the banking confidentiality law (endorsed by the parliament) and the draw-up of the banks regulation law that had been submitted by the government to the assembly to examine it by the legislators ahead of the final endorsement.

Alluding to a major challenge, minister Jaber acknowledged that the aspired "financial vacuum law" (compensating banks' depositors) remains among the required reforms, indicating that the issue would be re-addressed once deputies of the Central Bank Governors have been assigned.

He expressed optimism that positive results in this respect would be ultimately attained due to determination of the president, the parliament



Lebanese Prime Minister holds a meeting with the International Monetary Fund mission.

KUNA photo

speaker and the government to press ahead with the needed reforms "not because this is an international demand but because it is an internal requirement."

Lamyaa Al-Mubayyed, Chairperson of Basil Fleihan Institute for Economy and Finance and member of the Lebanese delegation holding the talks with the IMF, said in a statement to KUNA that the IMF grants soft loans to a member state according to its contributions to the fund, thus Beirut looks forward to attain USD three billion only, though the estimated need considering the heavy losses from the latest war reaches USD eight billion, therefore, "we will be compelled to seek aid from donors"

Al-Mubayyed affirmed that the IMF needs to see tangible financial and administrative reforms before bailing out the country, adding that the fund stand "is technical and not political."

Antoine Farah, the head of the economy department at the local daily

newspaper, "Al-Jumhuriya," said the main axis of the talks with the IMF relates to working out a funding program, affirming that the pace of the discussions with the fund has been slow.

He indicated that the parliament had approved the banking confidentiality law, heeding a main term by the IMF, in addition to the bill for banking reforms. But the most significant bill for the reforms is "the financial vacuum law," related to the afflicted depositors who lost their money in the banks when value of the national currency deteriorated reaching some 90,000 pounds per a single US dollar.

Farah believes that this issue will be delayed until after parliamentary elections due in the next spring and indicated that it will be examined during a planned visit by an IMF delegation to the country in September.

Finance Minister Yassin Jaber had expressed his belief that the banking

regulation law would be endorsed by the parliament before end of this month.

For his part, the former minister of economy, Alaine Hakim, said the Lebanese economy cannot shore up without financial support from the GCC countries. He also indicated that luring external investments is also crucial to re-inject life into the ailing economy, but he stressed that attracting the entrepreneurs requires a stable security and restricting arms' possession to the state hands.

The IMF has recently declared approval to allocate USD 250 million for Lebanon for emergency reconstruction and revealed in a statement that the country needs USD 11 billion to cover some losses that resulted from the war between October 8, 2023, and December 20, 2024.

The Lebanese financial-economic crisis has deepened since 2019 as the national currency lost more than 90 percent of its value and the domestic product has shrunk by 60 percent.



Jazeera CEO and the Ambassador of Russia to Kuwait during the inaugural ceremony at Jazeera Terminal 5.

Jazeera Airways inaugurates 1st-ever direct flight to Sochi

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Jazeera Airways marked a new milestone today with the successful launch of its first-ever direct flight between Kuwait and Sochi, Russia. The inaugural ceremony held at Jazeera Terminal 5, celebrated the opening of a new air corridor between the Gulf and Russia's Black Sea coast.

Jazeera currently operates 13 direct flights between Kuwait and Moscow Domodedovo Airport (DME). The flights to Sochi, operating twice weekly, will offer passengers from Kuwait and other parts of the region direct access to one of Russia's most scenic resort cities – famous for its coastline, mountains, and year-round appeal. The new service also offers Russian travelers the opportunity to connect through Jazeera Terminal 5

in Kuwait to more than 60 destinations across the Middle East, South Asia, and Europe, including popular cities such as Dubai, Riyadh, Delhi, Mumbai, Istanbul, and Cairo.

Barathan Pasupathi, CEO of Jazeera Airways, commented: "We are proud to be the first and only airline offering a direct connection between Kuwait and Sochi. This route opens the door for travelers to explore one of Russia's most attractive leisure destinations, while also enhancing connectivity across our growing network."

The flights are available for booking through the Jazeera Airways website and mobile app, with the route expected to contribute significantly to the growth of outbound tourism from the Gulf to southern Russia.

Transforming advertising materials into reusable bags in partnership with local enterprise IBRAH

Gulf Bank wins 'Best Sustainability Initiative of 2025' award from Asian Banking & Finance

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: In a significant recognition of its long-standing dedication to environmental stewardship and responsible business practices, Gulf Bank has been awarded the prestigious title of "Best Sustainability Initiative of 2025" by Asian Banking & Finance as part of its Retail Banking Awards. The award was granted in acknowledgment of Gulf Bank's innovative initiative to recycle outdoor advertising materials and convert them into stylish, reusable tote bags – executed in collaboration with the local community enterprise Ibrah.

This accolade reaffirms Gulf Bank's deep-rooted commitment to sustainability, underscoring its proactive approach to embedding environmentally responsible practices into

the very fabric of its operations. The initiative saw over 5,000 square meters of used advertising materials upcycled into reusable bags, which were then distributed free of charge during a variety of environmental and social engagement events throughout Kuwait. The campaign sought to actively reduce reliance on single-use plastic and promote a circular mindset of reuse and conservation.

At the heart of this initiative lies a belief that true sustainability starts with intentional action – even the smallest step can be a catalyst for lasting change. Gulf Bank's philosophy is built on the understanding that environmental responsibility is a shared endeavor, not a competitive pursuit. The Bank views sustainability not as a marketing campaign or short-term project, but as an enduring value system that calls for collaboration across all sectors of society.

In this regard, the Marketing Department at Gulf Bank has played a central role in amplifying the message and mission of sustainability. By leveraging the power of storytelling, media, and brand platforms, the Bank has been able to reshape public perception, influence behavior, and champion the values of environmental consciousness. Marketing is no longer a function of promotion alone – it is a driver of social transformation, and Gulf Bank continues to embrace that responsibility with conviction.

Across its social media channels, press campaigns, branch activations, and corporate programs, the Bank consistently integrates messages that elevate public understanding of environmental challenges while also



Gulf Bank - ABF Award

showcasing tangible solutions. The initiative with Ibrah is a prime example of how communications can bridge the gap between awareness and action, encouraging both corporate stakeholders and everyday citizens to take part in meaningful, eco-friendly practices.

This collaborative project also embodies Gulf Bank's broader CSR strategy, which actively supports local talent, creative entrepreneurship, and community empowerment. Ibrah, the Bank's chosen partner for this initiative, is widely respected for its commitment to sustainability, its craftsmanship, and its social impact – particularly its support for

underprivileged families and homegrown artisans. By working with such partners, Gulf Bank not only advances its environmental goals but also reinforces its national commitment to empowering Kuwaiti youth and small businesses with purpose-driven projects.

Commenting on this milestone, Mrs. Najla Aleisa, Chief Marketing Officer at Gulf Bank, said:

"We are immensely proud to have received this award, which stands as a testament to Gulf Bank's strategic commitment to sustainability and environmental accountability. As a Kuwaiti financial institution, we believe

it is our responsibility to lead by example – conserving resources, reducing waste, and cultivating a more sustainable way of doing business. It is especially inspiring to witness the enthusiasm of young Kuwaitis and local entrepreneurs in embracing green initiatives that contribute to the welfare of our society and planet."

She continued: "We invite everyone – individuals, corporations, and institutions – to be part of this journey. Sustainability is not a trend or a competition; it is a collective obligation that requires commitment, creativity, and collaboration. Through small yet purposeful actions, we can create a lasting impact."

In line with its transparent and accountable approach, Gulf Bank also invites the public to explore its most recent Sustainability Report, which is available on its official website. The report offers a comprehensive overview of the Bank's Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) achievements over the past year, including initiatives across waste reduction, climate impact, community development, and responsible governance. It reflects the Bank's ongoing dedication to aligning its operations with global sustainability goals and national development priorities.

As Gulf Bank continues its journey toward a greener, more inclusive future, it remains steadfast in its belief that sustainability must be lived, not just declared. And through the strategic integration of marketing as a force for good, the Bank is not only informing the public – but inspiring a movement.



Scan QR code to watch Gulf Bank's innovative initiative.

PMI accelerates smoke-free vision with IQOS ILUMA i launch in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Philip Morris Kuwait W.L.L. (PMK), an affiliate of Philip Morris International (PMI) today announced the launch of IQOS ILUMA i in Kuwait. The launch follows the recent ten year anniversary of IQOS, originally launching in Nagoya, Japan in 2014.

IQOS ILUMA i is the latest and most innovative addition to PMI's growing portfolio of smoke-free products for adults who would otherwise continue to smoke. While not risk-free, this range of less harmful alternatives to cigarettes includes multiple generations of IQOS, the No. 1 tobacco heating system.

Ross Donovan, General Manager of Philip Morris Kuwait, commented: "A smoke-free, sustainable future is our central objective. Today, we're accelerating our journey in Kuwait by bringing our most advanced device, designed for a cleaner and more intuitive experience. There is growing awareness of smoke-free alternatives in Kuwait and this consumer-tailored, cutting-edge innovation will help to support even more adults to transition away from cigarettes. With continued innovation, regulatory support, and societal collaboration, we believe we can accelerate the decline of cigarette use globally, and in many countries, make them obsolete within the next 10 to 15 years."

For over 10 years, PMI has invested heavily in developing a portfolio of scientifically-backed smoke-free alternatives, led by IQOS, that are a better choice than continued smoking. As of Q1-2025, PMI reported that more than 40% of its revenue comes from these products, with the

ambition for the contribution to reach two-thirds by 2030. Today, there are 25 markets where PMI's smoke-free product revenues exceed 50% of total net revenue, including Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Poland, and Romania.

"IQOS ILUMA i is our most innovative offering to date and the new flagship in our portfolio of scientifically substantiated, heat-not-burn smoke-free systems," said Ogie Kapetanovic, President Heat-Not-Burn Platforms at PMI. "Like previous IQOS devices, it emits, on average, 95% lower levels of harmful chemicals compared with cigarettes. We are proud that consumer feedback continuously fuels our innovation, and IQOS ILUMA i is a testament to that."

IQOS ILUMA i features

The IQOS ILUMA i is comprised of three devices: IQOS ILUMA i PRIME, IQOS ILUMA i and IQOS ILUMA i ONE. Currently the IQOS ILUMA i PRIME and IQOS ILUMA i are available in Kuwait. All three deliver an experience that is clean and seamless thanks to PMI's bladeless SMARTCORE INDUCTION SYSTEM™ and bring a range of adaptable new features.

The new touch screen on the device's holder allows adult users to see relevant information quickly and easily. To personalise the experience, IQOS ILUMA i introduces a new Pause Mode. By swiping up or down on the touch screen, users can pause and resume the device usage where they left off. Additionally, FlexPuff allows adult users to set the pace of their experience.



The launch of IQOS ILUMA i in Kuwait.

Post-sanctions push fuels energy recovery plans

Syria looks to solar power as more than patchwork fix to energy crisis

DAMASCUS, Syria, June 7, (AP): Abdulrazak al-Jenan swept the dust off his solar panel on his apartment roof overlooking Damascus. Syria's largest city was mostly pitch-black, the few speckles of light coming from the other households able to afford solar panels, batteries, or private generators.

Al-Jenan went thousands of dollars in debt to buy his solar panel in 2019. It was an expensive coping mechanism at the time, but without it, he couldn't charge his phone and run the refrigerator.

Syria has not had more than four hours of state electricity per day for years, as a result of the nearly 14-year civil war that ended with the ouster of former President Bashar Assad in December.

Syria's new leaders are hoping renewable energy will now become more than a patchwork solution. Investment is beginning to return to the country with the lifting of U.S. sanctions, and major energy projects are planned, including an industrial-scale solar farm that would secure about a tenth of the country's energy needs.

"The solution to the problem isn't putting solar panels on roofs," Syria's interim Energy Minister Mohammad al-Bashir told The Associated Press. "It's securing enough power for the families through our networks in Syria. This is what we're trying to do."

Some of the efforts focus on simply repairing infrastructure destroyed in the war. The World Bank recently announced a \$146 million grant to help Syria repair damaged transmission lines and transformer substations. Al-Bashir said Syria's infrastructure that has been repaired can provide 5,000 megawatts, about half the country's needs, but fuel and gas shortages have hampered generation. With the sanctions lifted, that supply could come in soon.

More significantly, Syria recently signed a \$7 billion energy deal with a consortium of Qatari, Turkish, and American companies. The program over the next three and a half years would develop four combined-cycle gas turbines with a total generating capacity estimated at approximately 4,000 megawatts and a 1,000-megawatt solar farm. This would "broadly secure the needs" of Syrians, said Al-Bashir.

While Syria is initially focusing on fixing its existing fossil fuel infrastructure to improve quality of life, help make businesses functional again, and



A Syrian man Abdulrazak al-Jenan, cleans solar panels set on his house roof, in Damascus, Syria, on June 29, 2025. (AP)

entice investors, the U.N. Development Program said in May that a renewable energy plan will be developed in the next year for the country.

The plan will look at Syria's projected energy demand and determine how much of it can come from renewable sources.

"Given the critical role of energy in Syria's recovery, we have to rapidly address energy poverty and progressively accelerate the access to renewable energy," Sudipto Mukerjee, UNDP's resident representative in Syria, said in a statement announcing the plan.

While the war caused significant damage to Syria's infrastructure, crippling Washington-led sanctions imposed during the Assad dynasty's decades of draconian rule made it impossible for Syria to secure fuel and spare parts to generate power.

"Many companies over the past period would tell us the sanctions impact matters like imports, implementing projects, transferring funds and so on," al-Bashir said.

During a visit to Turkey in May, the

minister said Syria could only secure about 1700 megawatts, a little less than 20% of its energy needs.

A series of executive orders by U.S. President Donald Trump lifted many sanctions on Syria, aiming to end the country's isolation from the global banking system so that it can become viable again and rebuild itself.

The United Nations estimates the civil war caused hundreds of billions of dollars in damages and economic losses across the country. Some 90% of Syrians live in poverty. Buying solar panels, private generators or other means of producing their own energy has been out of reach for most of the population.

"Any kind of economic recovery needs a functional energy sector," said Joseph Daher, Syrian-Swiss economist and researcher, who said that stop-gap measures like solar panels and private generators were luxuries only available to a few who could afford it. "There is also a need to diminish the cost of electricity in Syria, which is one of the most expensive in the region."

Prices for electricity in recent years surged as the country under its former rulers struggled with currency inflation and rolling back on subsidies. The new officials who inherited the situation say that lifting sanctions will help them rectify the country's financial and economic woes, and provide sufficient and affordable electricity as soon as they can.

"The executive order lifts most of the obstacles for political and economic investment with Syria," said Qutaiba Idlibi, who leads the Americas section of the Foreign Ministry.

Syria has been under Washington-led sanctions for decades, but designations intensified during the war that started in 2011. Even with some waivers for humanitarian programs, it was difficult to bring in resources and materials to fix Syria's critical infrastructure – especially electricity – further compounding the woes of the vast majority of Syrians, who live in poverty.

The removal of sanctions signals to U.S. businesses that Trump is serious in his support for Syria's recovery, Idlibi said.

New research reimagines region's economic future in an era of AI disruption

Strategic AI adoption and climate resilience could add US\$232 billion to Middle East GDP by 2035, reports PwC

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, July 7: New research published today by PwC outlines three divergent data-driven scenarios for the Middle East in 2035, revealing a US\$232 billion opportunity if regional governments and businesses successfully harness AI-driven productivity gains and manage the economic impacts of climate change. The research, Value in Motion: The Middle East's time to lead is now, also suggests that over the next decade, industries will reconfigure to meet human needs in new ways, leading to the formation of new 'domains' that cross traditional sector lines. These shifts will create opportunities for businesses and organisations to reinvent themselves and target new client bases, form cross-sector alliances and innovate their service and operating models.

With bold climate commitments, access to the world's lowest-cost renewable energy and rapidly advancing AI capabilities and infrastructure, the Middle East holds a unique strategic advantage and is well-positioned to lead the next wave of sustainable, tech-enabled economic growth.

PwC's modelling shows that under a business-as-usual scenario, regional real GDP could grow by 41.8% by 2035. But when factoring in climate-related risks – such



VIM Picture

as heatwaves, water scarcity and flooding – this growth drops by 13.9 percentage points to a net increase of 27.9%, placing GDP at US\$4.57 trillion. This serves as the foundation for assessing three distinct future scenarios globally, and their impact in the Middle East.

At stake is US\$232 billion – the gap between the region's most optimistic and constrained economic futures. In the most optimistic scenario, widespread AI adoption could add 8.3% through productivity gains; this, combined

with decisive climate action could lift GDP to US\$4.68 trillion by 2035.

Stephen Anderson, Chief Strategy & Technology Officer at PwC Middle East, said: "The decade ahead will challenge the region's imagination and capabilities like never before. As the dynamics of the 'three tomorrows' unfold, they will reshape the Middle East's economy. To stay ahead, businesses and governments must act with pace, purpose and partnership – reimagining traditional models to unlock the competitive advantage the region is uniquely positioned to deliver."

The research introduces a new framework structured around emerging 'domains of growth' – such as how we move, fuel, build, care, compute and connect. These cross-industry ecosystems signal the future of value creation, replacing traditional sector silos with more dynamic, interconnected opportunities.

The report also highlights the role of clean energy in powering AI infrastructure and scaling innovation. As global hyperscalers ramp up investment, the Middle East's renewable energy advantage could help it become a regional and global AI hub.

Dr. Yahya Anouti, Partner at Strategy& and PwC Mid-

dle East Sustainability Platform Leader, said: "A critical factor will be how effectively the region balances the cost and scalability of AI with the availability and affordability of clean energy to power it – especially as AI adoption accelerates at an unprecedented pace. Striking this balance will be essential to unlocking the region's full potential."

The report calls on governments, business leaders and academia to take bold, coordinated action to shape the region's future. It urges governments to redesign institutions around evolving human needs – by establishing ministries focused on care or mobility and creating dedicated funds to fast-track AI adoption in public services. Business leaders are called on to reinvent operating models for a more localised, digital and low-carbon economy, while strengthening supply chain resilience and cross-sector alliances. Meanwhile, academia must anchor national progress by developing future-fit talent, advancing applied research in strategic areas, and embedding entrepreneurship across the education system.

With bold visions and world-leading capabilities, the region has the opportunity not just to adapt, but to lead. The value is already in motion – now is the time to act.

BRICS group blasts tariffs, trade barriers

Middle East tensions overshadow summit

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 7, (AP): The BRICS bloc of developing nations on Sunday condemned the increase of tariffs and attacks on Iran, but refrained from naming U.S. President Donald Trump. The group's declaration, which also took aim at Israel's military actions in the Middle East, also spared its member Russia from criticism and mentioned war-torn Ukraine just once.

The two-day summit was marked by the absences of two of its most powerful members. China's President Xi Jinping did not attend a BRICS summit for the first time since he became his country's leader in 2012. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who spoke via videoconference, continues to mostly avoid traveling abroad due to an international arrest warrant issued after Russia invaded Ukraine.

In an indirect swipe at the U.S., the group's declaration raised "serious concerns" about the rise of tariffs which it said were "inconsistent with WTO (World Trade Organization) rules." The BRICS added that those restrictions "threaten to reduce global trade, disrupt global supply chains, and introduce uncertainty."

Trump, in a post on his social media platform late Sunday, said any country that aligns itself with what he termed "the Anti-American policies of BRICS" would be levied an added 10% tariff.

Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who hosted the summit, criticized NATO's decision to hike military spending by 5% of GDP annually by 2035. That sentiment was later echoed in the group's declaration.

"It is always easier to invest in war than in peace," Lula said at the opening of the summit, which is scheduled to continue on Monday.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who was expected to attend the summit before the attacks on his country in June, sent his foreign minister Abbas Araghchi to the meeting in Rio.

The group's declaration criticized the attacks on Iran without mentioning the U.S. or Israel, the two nations that conducted them.

In his speech, Araghchi told leaders he had pushed for every member of the United Nations to condemn Israel strongly. He added Israel and the U.S. should be accountable for rights violations. The Iranian foreign minister said the aftermath of the war "will not be limited" to one



World leaders partake in the 17th annual BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro, Sunday, July 6, 2025. (AP)

country. "The entire region and beyond will be damaged," Araghchi said.

BRICS leaders expressed "grave concern" for the humanitarian situation in Gaza, called for the release of all hostages, a return to the negotiating table and reaffirmed their commitment to the two-state solution.

Later, Iran's Araghchi said in a separate statement on messaging app Telegram that his government had expressed its reservation regarding a two-state solution in a note, saying it will not work "just as it has not worked in the past."

Also on Telegram, Russia's foreign ministry in another statement named the U.S. and Israel, and condemned the "unprovoked military strikes" against Iran.

The group's 31-page declaration mentions Ukraine just once, while condemning "in the strongest terms" recent Ukrainian attacks on Russia.

"We recall our national positions concerning the conflict in Ukraine as expressed in the appropriate fora, including the U.N. Security Council and the U.N. General Assembly," the group said.

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."

While Lula advocated on Sunday for the reform of Western-led global institutions, Brazil aimed to avoid be-

coming the target of higher tariffs.

Trump has threatened to impose 100% tariffs against the bloc if they take any moves to undermine the dollar. Last year, at the summit hosted by Russia in Kazan, the Kremlin sought to develop alternatives to U.S.-dominated payment systems which would allow it to dodge Western sanctions imposed after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Brazil decided to focus on less controversial issues in the summit, 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.

BRICS was founded by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, but the group last year expanded to include Indonesia, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates.

As well as new members, the bloc has 10 strategic partner countries, a category created at last year's summit that includes Belarus, Cuba and Vietnam.

That rapid expansion led Brazil to put housekeeping issues - officially termed institutional development - on the agenda to better integrate new members and boost internal cohesion.

Despite notable absences, the summit is important for attendees, especially in the context of instability provoked by Trump's tariff wars, said Bruce Scheidl, a researcher at the University of Sao Paulo's BRICS study group.

"The summit offers the best opportunity for emerging countries to respond, in the sense of seeking alternatives and diversifying their economic partnerships," Scheidl said.

Earlier on Sunday, a pro-Israel non-profit placed dozens of rainbow flags on Ipanema beach to protest Iran's policies regarding LGBT+ people. On Saturday, human rights group Amnesty International protested Brazil's plans for offshore oil drilling near the mouth of the Amazon River.

For Lula, the summit is a welcome pause from a difficult domestic scenario, marked by a drop in popularity and conflict with Congress.

The meeting was also an opportunity to advance climate negotiations and commitments on protecting the environment before November's COP 30 climate talks in the Amazonian city of Belém.



A currency trader watches monitors near a screen showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, July 7, 2025. (AP)

Oil slips after OPEC+ move

US tariff fears drag global shares lower

MANILA, July 7, (AP): Global shares mostly fell Monday as the Trump administration stepped up pressure on trading partners to quickly make new deals before a Wednesday tariff deadline, with plans for the United States to start sending letters warning countries that higher tariffs could kick in Aug. 1. In early European trading, Britain's FTSE 100 was down 0.2% to 8,809.23 while Germany's DAX added 0.3% to 23,854.32. In Paris, the CAC 40 edged down 0.1% to 7,688.34.

Japan's Nikkei 225 shed 0.6% to 39,587.68 while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index edged down 0.1% to 23,887.83.

South Korea's KOSPI index rose 0.2% to 3,059.47 while the Shanghai Composite Index edged 0.1% higher to 3,473.13. Australia's S&P ASX 200 fell 0.2% to 8,589.30.

Oil prices also fell after OPEC+ agreed on Saturday to raise production in August by 548,000 barrels per day, accelerating output increases since oil prices jumped, then retreated, in the aftermath of Israel and U.S. attacks on Iran.

U.S. benchmark crude was down 71 cents to \$66.29 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, shed 41 cents to \$68.39 per barrel. U.S. shares were set to drift lower with S&P 500

futures declining 0.4% to 6,295.50 and Dow futures down 0.2% at 45,012.

"We expect markets to be volatile into the 9-July deadline when the 90-day pause on President Trump's reciprocal tariffs expires for non-China trading partners," the Nomura Group wrote in a commentary.

It said the near-term outlook will likely hinge on several key factors like the extent to which trading partners are included in Trump letters, the rate of tariffs, and the effective date of such tariffs. A more distant implementation date might leave scope for some last-minute trade negotiations and maintain market optimism for potential resolutions or extensions, it added.

"With the July 9 tariff deadline fast approaching, all eyes are trained on Washington, scanning for signs of escalation or retreat. The path forward isn't clear, but the terrain is littered with risk," Stephen Innes, managing partner at SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

On Thursday, a report showed the U.S. job market performed stronger than Wall Street expected. The S&P 500 rose 0.8% and set an all-time high for the fourth time in five days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 344 points, or 0.8%, and the Nasdaq composite gained 1%.

US issues ultimatum to global trade partners

Trump to nations: Deals or tariffs

WASHINGTON, July 7, (AP): The Trump administration is stepping up pressure on trading partners to quickly make new deals before a Wednesday deadline, with plans for the United States to start sending letters Monday warning countries that higher tariffs could kick in Aug. 1.

That furthers the uncertainty for businesses, consumers and America's trading partners, and questions remain about which countries will be notified, whether anything will change in the days ahead and whether President Donald Trump will once more push off imposing the rates. Trump and his top trade advisers say he could extend the time for dealmaking but they insist the administration is applying maximum pressure on other nations.

Kevin Hassett, director of the White House National Economic Council, told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday that Trump would decide when it was time to give up on negotiations. "The United States is always willing to talk to everybody about everything," Hassett said. "There are deadlines, and there are things that are close, so maybe things will push back past the deadline or maybe they won't. In the end the president is going to make that judgment."

Stephen Miran, the chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, likewise said countries negotiating in good faith and making concessions could "sort of, get the date rolled."

The steeper tariffs that Trump announced April 2 threatened to overhaul the global economy and lead to broader trade wars. A week later, after the financial markets had panicked, his administration suspended for 90 days most of the higher taxes on imports just as they were to take effect. The negotiating window until July 9 has led to announced deals only with the United Kingdom and Vietnam.

Trump imposed elevated tariff rates on dozens of nations that run meaningful trade surpluses with the U.S., and a 10% baseline tax on imports from all countries in response to what he called an economic emergency. There are separate 50% tariffs on steel and aluminum and a 25% tariff on autos.

Since April, few foreign governments have set new trade terms with Washington as the Republican president demanded.

Trump told reporters Friday that his



US President Donald Trump speaks during an event to announce new tariffs in the Rose Garden at the White House, on April 2, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

administration might be sending out letters as early as Saturday to countries spelling out their tariff rates if they did not reach a deal, but that the U.S. would not start collecting those taxes until Aug. 1. On Sunday, he said he would send out letters starting Monday - "could be 12, could be 15" - to foreign governments reflecting planned tariffs for each.

"We've made deals also," Trump told reporters before heading back to the White House from his home in New Jersey. "So we'll get to have a combination of letters, and some deals have been made."

He and his advisers have declined to say which countries would receive the letters.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent rejected the idea that Aug. 1 was a new deadline and declined to say what might happen Wednesday.

"We'll see," Bessent said on CNN's State of the Union. "I'm not going to give away the playbook."

He said the U.S. was "close to several deals," and predicted several big an-

nouncements over the next few days. He gave no details.

"I think we're going to see a lot of deals very quickly," Bessent said.

Later Sunday, Trump vowed to impose more tariffs against the BRICS bloc of developing nations, which had condemned tariffs increases at its summit in Brazil. Trump said in a post on his social media platform that any country aligning itself with what he termed "the Anti-American policies of BRICS" would be levied an added 10% tariff.

Trump has announced a deal with Vietnam that would allow U.S. goods to enter the country duty-free, while Vietnamese exports to the U.S. would face a 20% levy.

That was a decline from the 46% tax on Vietnamese imports he proposed in April - one of his so-called reciprocal tariffs targeting dozens of countries with which the U.S. runs a trade deficit.

Asked if he expected to reach deals with the European Union or India, Trump said Friday that "letters are bet-

ter for us" because there are so many countries involved.

"We have India coming up and with Vietnam, we did it, but much easier to send a letter saying, 'Listen, we know we have a certain deficit, or in some cases a surplus, but not too many. And this is what you're going to have to pay if you want to do business in the United States.'"

Canada, however, will not be one of the countries receiving letters, Trump's ambassador, Pete Hoekstra, said Friday after trade talks between the two countries recently resumed.

"Canada is one of our biggest trading partners," Hoekstra told CTV News in an interview in Ottawa. "We're going to have a deal that's articulated."

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has said he wants a new deal in place by July 21 or Canada will increase trade countermeasures.

Hoekstra would not commit to a date for a trade agreement and said even with a deal, Canada could still face some tariffs. But "we're not going to send Canada just a letter," he said.

May vehicle production plunges 32.8 percent year-on-year to 49,810 units

UK auto output suffers worst slump in decades

LONDON, July 7, (Xinhua): Britain's auto industry is facing its worst downturn in decades, with May vehicle production plunging 32.8 percent year-on-year to 49,810 units, the lowest for the month since 1949, excluding 2020 pandemic disruption.

According to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), this was also the fifth consecutive monthly decline.

Experts attribute much of the decline to U.S. President Donald Trump's import tariffs, which have severely disrupted supply chains and undermined global competitiveness.

David Bailey, professor of business economics at the University of Birmingham, described

the situation as a "storm" that has thrown the UK auto sector into a "low-volume crisis." He emphasized that the industry is now operating well below capacity, with rising costs and diminished competitiveness.

Jim Saker of Loughborough University echoed this concern, saying, "Trump's tariffs have disrupted the supply chain," leading to uncertainty over where manufacturers should commit future investments.

David Bailey, a professor of business economics with the University of Birmingham, described it as a "storm" that has pushed the UK auto industry into what he calls a "low-volume crisis."

He stressed that the sector is now operating

well below capacity, with costs rising and competitiveness suffering as a result.

Jim Saker, an auto industry expert of Loughborough University, echoed this view, emphasizing that "Trump's tariffs have disrupted the supply chain" and left car manufacturers unsure about where to commit future investment.

The export shock has been particularly severe in the UK's two biggest markets: the United States and the European Union. SMMT data shows that car exports to the US plunged by 55.4 percent, while shipments to the EU dropped by 22.5 percent.

Some manufacturers have responded by halting exports entirely. Jaguar Land Rover (JLR),

which usually exported nearly a quarter of its production to the United States, suspended shipments in April after Washington imposed a 25 percent import tariff on foreign-made cars. Similarly, Lotus has reportedly considered relocating production to the U.S. to offset rising costs and market instability.

A newly negotiated UK-U.S. trade agreement has somewhat eased tensions. It lowers tariffs on UK car exports to 10 percent, capped at 100,000 vehicles per year.

While industry figures welcomed the deal, many see it as insufficient. "It avoided the worst-case scenario of a 25 percent tariff," said Bailey, "but 10 percent is still worse than before, and JLR

alone could exceed the 100,000-vehicle cap."

He also warned that indirect supply chain damage and job losses continue, despite the tariff reprieve.

In response to the crisis, the UK government has launched a 10-year Industrial Strategy aimed at addressing deep-rooted structural problems. Key among its goals is to reduce high energy costs, which are frequently cited as a barrier to competitiveness.

While the policy has been welcomed in principle, experts doubt its effectiveness and timeliness. "There are question marks about how far it goes," Bailey said, "especially when it comes to enabling the transition to electric vehicle production."

Music mogul still faces prison time

Combs gets standing ovation from inmates after court victory

NEW YORK, July 7, (AP): Sean "Diddy" Combs got a standing ovation from fellow inmates when the music mogul returned to jail after winning acquittals on potential life-in-prison charges, providing what his lawyer says might have been the best thing he could do for incarcerated Black men in America.

"They all said: 'We never get to see anyone who beats the government,'" attorney Marc Agnifilo told The Associated Press in a weekend interview days after a jury acquitted Combs of sex trafficking and racketeering conspiracy charges.

Combs, 55, remains jailed at a federal lockup in Brooklyn after his conviction Wednesday on prostitution-related charges, which could put him in prison for several more years. Any sentence will include credit for time already served. So far that's almost 10 months.

After federal agents raided Combs' homes in Los Angeles and the Miami area in March 2024, Agnifilo said he told the "I'll Be Missing You" singer to expect to be arrested on sex trafficking charges.

Interrupted

"I said: 'Maybe it's your fate in life to be the guy who wins,'" he recalled during a telephone interview briefly interrupted by a jailhouse call from Combs. "They need to see that someone can win. I think he took that to heart."

The verdict in Manhattan federal court came after a veteran team of eight defense lawyers led by Agnifilo executed a trial strategy that resonated with jurors. Combs passed lawyers' notes during effective cross-examinations of nearly three dozen witnesses over two months, including Combs' ex-employees.

The lawyers told jurors Combs was a jealous domestic abuser with a drug problem who participated in the open relationship. "You may think to yourself, wow, he is a really bad boyfriend," Combs' lawyer Teny Geragos told jurors in her May opening statement. But that, she said, "is simply not sex trafficking."

Agnifilo said the blunt talk was a "no brainer."



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

"The violence was so clear and up front and we knew the government was going to try to confuse the jury into thinking it was part of a sex trafficking effort. So we had to tell the jury what it was so they wouldn't think it was something it wasn't," he said.

Combs and his lawyers seemed deflated Tuesday when jurors said they were deadlocked on the racketeering count

but had reached a verdict on sex trafficking and lesser prostitution-related charges. A judge ordered them back to deliberate Wednesday.

"No one knows what to think," Agnifilo said. Then he slept on it.

"I wake up at three in the morning and I text Teny and say: 'We have to get a bail application together,'" he recalled. "It's going to be a good verdict for us but I think he went down on the prostitution counts so let's try to get him out."

He said he "kind of whipped everybody into feeling better" after concluding jurors would have convicted him of racketeering if they had convicted him of sex trafficking because trafficking was an alleged component of racketeering.

Agnifilo met with Combs before court and Combs entered the courtroom rejuvenated. Smiling, the onetime Catholic schoolboy prayed with family. In less than an hour, the jury matched Agnifilo's prediction.

The seemingly chastened Combs mouthed "thank you" to jurors and smiled as family and supporters applauded. After he was escorted from the room, spectators cheered the defense team, a few chanting: "Dream Team! Dream Team!" Several lawyers, including Geragos, cried.

Victory

"This was a major victory for the defense and a major loss for the prosecution," said Mitchell Epner, a lawyer who worked with Agnifilo as a federal prosecutor in New Jersey over two decades ago. He credited "a dream team of defense lawyers" against prosecutors who almost always win.

Agnifilo showcased what would become his trial strategy - belittling the charges and mocking the investigation that led to them - last September in arguing unsuccessfully for bail. The case against Combs was what happens when the "federal government comes into our bedrooms," he said.

During an eight-week trial, Combs' lawyers picked apart the prosecution case with mostly gentle but firm cross-ex-

aminations. Combs never testified and his lawyers called no witnesses.

Sarah Krissoff, a federal prosecutor in Manhattan from 2008 to 2021, said Combs' defense team "had a narrative from the beginning and they did all of it without putting on any witnesses. That's masterful."

Ironically, Agnifilo expanded the use of racketeering laws as a federal prosecutor on an organized crime task force in New Jersey two decades ago, using them often to indict street gangs in violence-torn cities.

"I knew the weak points in the statute," he said. "The statute is very mechanical. If you know how the car works, you know where the fail points are."

He said prosecutors had "dozens of fail points."

"They didn't have a conspiracy, they just didn't," he said. "They basically had Combs' personal life and tried to build racketeering around personal assistants."

Some personal assistants, even after viewing videos of Combs beating his longtime girlfriend, Casandra "Cassie" Ventura, had glowing things to say about Combs on cross examination.

For Combs, Agnifilo sees a long road ahead once he is freed and resumes work on personal demons, likely reentering a program for domestic batterers that he had just started before his arrest.

"He's doing OK," said Agnifilo, who speaks with him four or five times daily.

He said Combs genuinely desires improvement and "realizes he has flaws like everyone else that he never worked on."

"He burns hot in all matters. I think what he has come to see is that he has these flaws and there's no amount of fame and no amount of fortune" that can erase them," he said. "You can't cover them up."

For Agnifilo, a final surprise awaited him after Combs' bail was rejected when a man collapsed into violent seizures at the elevators outside the courtroom.

TV

Top shows

Salem launches 'Jennings' show

CAMARILLO, Calif., July 7, (AP): Salem Media Group, Inc. has announced the launch of "The Scott Jennings Show", a new daily program that adds a powerful voice to the frontlines of the conservative movement. Beginning Monday, July 14, the show will air weekdays from 2:00 to 3:00 PM ET on the Salem Radio Network (SRN) and be available on demand via the Salem Podcast Network (SPN).

Jennings, known to millions as the rare conservative who wins debates inside the lion's den of CNN,

will bring his signature fire and facts to the Salem lineup. The program replaces The Jack Posobiec Show in the SRN live broadcast slot, while Posobiec continues as a force on SPN with exclusive podcast content.

"We're going on offense," Jennings said. "Every day, I'll take calls, interview big names, and take the fight directly to the liberal machine. It's time to bust the narratives and bring back some plain old common sense."

"Scott Jennings is a disruptor," said Phil Boyce, Senior VP at Salem. "He's the Lone Ranger of the CNN panel, armed with facts and fearless in delivery. He doesn't just survive in hostile territory - he dominates. Now, with a national platform on Salem, Scott becomes a daily fixture in the battle to save the country."

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IMDb, the world's most popular and authoritative source for movie, TV, and celebrity content, has unveiled its Top TV Shows of 2025 so far, based on the ratings of millions of IMDb customers globally. This year's list showcases how compelling narratives transcend borders. Netflix's Korean drama When Life Gives You Tangerines, which ranked #1, exemplifies this trend, as the show's heartfelt storytelling and strong performances by some of Korea's biggest stars resonate with viewers worldwide. From animated adventures to acclaimed dramas, the most celebrated shows demonstrate the rich diversity of global television, with new voices joining beloved franchises in capturing audiences' imagination.

IMDb user ratings are determined by customers who rank movies and TV shows on a 10-point scale. To rate a title, customers can click the "Rate This" star on any IMDb movie or TV show title page.

Top TV shows of 2025 so far, as determined by IMDb user ratings:

1. When Life Gives You Tangerines (Poksakk Sogatsuda);
2. Invincible;
3. The Pitt;
4. Andor;
5. Severance;
6. Solo Leveling (Ore dake Level Up na Ken);
7. MobLand;
8. Black Mirror;
9. Dept. Q;
10. 1923;
11. Daredevil: Born Again;
12. American Primeval;
13. Adolescence;
14. Reacher;
15. Paradise;
16. The White Lotus;
17. The Studio;
18. Your Friends & Neighbors;
19. The Residence and 20. The Eternaut (El Eternauta)

Film



This image released by Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment shows Scarlett Johansson in a scene from 'Jurassic World: Rebirth.' (AP)

Dino film hailed as the perfect summer adventure

'Jurassic World Rebirth' roars to \$318M globally

LOS ANGELES, July 7, (AP): Dinosaur fatigue may be a theme in "Jurassic World Rebirth," but moviegoing audiences don't seem to have that reservation. The newest installment in the "Jurassic World" franchise ruled the Fourth of July holiday box office with a global, five-day launch of \$318.3 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Universal Pictures release, directed by Gareth Edwards, opened on Wednesday and earned \$147.3 million in its first five days in 4,308 North American theaters. An estimated \$91.5 million of that comes from the traditional "three day" weekend, which includes the Friday holiday, Saturday and projected Sunday ticket sales.

Internationally, it opened in 82 markets including China, adding \$171 million to the opening total. According to the studio, \$41.5 million of that came from China alone, where it played on 65,000 screens, 760 of which were IMAX. It's the country's biggest MPA (Motion Picture Association) opening of the year.

"It's just a tremendous result," said Jim Orr, who oversees domestic distribution for Universal. "Jurassic World Rebirth is exactly what audiences crave during the summer: a very big, fun, extraordinarily well-done adventure."

"Jurassic World" was missing from IMAX screens domestically (due to a commitment to continue showing "F1"), but it thrived on the premium large format screens it played on like Dolby Cinema, where it made nearly \$8 million over the five-day from only 167 screens.

"Rebirth," starring Scarlett Johansson, Mahershala Ali and Jonathan Bailey, is the fourth movie in the "Jurassic World" series and the seventh since Steven Spielberg's original Michael Crichton adaptation stormed theaters in the summer of 1993. The new film received mixed reviews from critics, carrying a 51% on Rotten To-

matoes, and B CinemaScore from opening weekend audiences.

The studio was struck by the broad audience turnout, from ages eight to 80, and the fact that the film exceeded estimates at every step despite the reviews.

"The word of mouth on it is stellar," Orr said. "And it should point to a very long run throughout the summer as well."

Factors like the holiday weekend, inflation and post-COVID moviegoing realities make it difficult to fairly compare the "Rebirth" launch to the other films in the "Jurassic World" franchise, the first of which opened to \$208 million domestically in 2015. The other two, "Fallen Kingdom" and "Dominion" opened to \$148 million and \$145 million respectively.

Hunt

"Jurassic World Rebirth" introduced a new main cast to the series and brought back a familiar voice in "Jurassic Park" screenwriter David Koepp to guide the story about a dangerous hunt for dinosaur DNA (not for making dinosaurs this time, but for curing heart disease). It cost a reported \$180 million net to produce, not including marketing and promotion costs.

The campaign was far reaching, including a global press tour, with stops everywhere from London to Seoul, integrated marketing across NBC Universal platforms and brand tie-ins with everything from Jeep and 7-11 to Johansson's skincare line.

No major new films dared go up against the dinosaurs, who left last week's champion, the Brad Pitt racing movie "F1," in the dust. "F1" fell a modest 54% in its second weekend with \$26.1 million, helping bring its domestic total to \$109.5 million. It continues to

play on IMAX screens with accounted for \$7.6 million of the North American weekend ticket sales. Globally, it's nearing \$300 million with a running total of \$293.6 million. Third place went to Universal's live-action "How to Train Your Dragon," which earned \$11 million in its fourth weekend, bringing its domestic total to \$224 million. Disney and Pixar's "Elio" landed in fourth place with \$5.7 million. Globally, "Elio" has just crossed \$96 million in three weekends. "28 Years Later" rounded out the top five with \$4.6 million.

A 41-year-old movie also made the domestic top 10: The re-release of Rob Reiner's 1984 film "This is Spinal Tap."

Having the Fourth of July land on a Friday could have negatively impacted the overall box office, but the holiday didn't blow up the weekend's earnings. "We had a solid Friday despite some pretty heavy competition from the fireworks," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

And there's still some major movies to come in the packed summer movie calendar, including "Superman," which opens later this week.

"This is one of the most competitive summer movie seasons ever," Dergarabedian said. "For moviegoers, it's so much fun."

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore: 1. "Jurassic World Rebirth," \$91.5 million; 2. "F1 The Movie," \$26.1 million; 3. "How to Train Your Dragon," \$11 million; 4. "Elio," \$5.7 million; 5. "28 Years Later," \$4.6 million; 6. "Lilo & Stitch," \$3.8 million; 7. "M3GAN 2.0," \$3.8 million; 8. "Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning," \$2.7 million; 9. "Materialists," \$1.3 million and 10. "This is Spinal Tap" (41st Anniversary re-release), \$931,737.

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ington and Ulysses S. Grant and, more recently, of writer and humorist Mark Twain. (AP)

BEIJING: China's Central Archives on Monday opened over 57,000 documents to the public to mark the 80th anniversary of victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. The newly accessible material includes more than 40,000 items specifically chronicling the resistance period from September 1931 to September 1945.

The wartime records -- sourced from Party-led government bodies, organizations, military units and mass groups -- feature telegrams, announcements, summaries, reports and other records highlighting the Communist Party of China's leadership role. (Xinhua)

Variety

PHILADELPHIA: The Broadway musical "Hamilton" and the historian whose book inspired it will collect the National Constitution Center's Liberty Medal this fall, an award for efforts to spread liberty around the world. **Ron Chernow** and "Hamilton" will collect the medal and its \$100,000 cash prize at an event in October on Philadelphia's Independence Mall.

Award organizers credited the book and musical for having a "singular impact" by bringing to life and spreading the story of the US Constitution and Alexander Hamilton, a pivotal figure in drafting and promoting the governing document. He was also the first US



Chernow

treasury secretary.

"Hamilton," which debuted on Broadway a decade ago, has become a cultural touchstone, winning the Pulitzer Prize, a Grammy and 11 Tony awards. Lin-Manuel Miranda, who created the musical, called the award a deep honor.

"The Constitution is not just a historical artifact - it's a challenge. A call to participate. To speak up, to imagine better, and to work, every day, toward that more perfect union," he said in a statement released before the formal announcement.

Chernow's many books have included biographies of former presidents George Wash-



Haiffa Mustafa, supervisor of Beit Khairat Jerash, highlights women-led project empowering over 20 women.



Sanna Hanatle's home kitchen serves popular dishes to locals and tourists alike.



Beit Khairat Jerash allows tourists to participate in preparing the food they love.

Jerash project blends tradition, tourism, and women's empowerment

Jordanian women lead transformative change in hospitality sector

AMMAN, July 7, (KUNA): In a unique experience rich in culture and traditions, Jordanian women have created the "Beit Al-Aseilat for Home Taste Food and Olive Experience" project in Jerash, serving traditional Jordanian food and sweets.

Jordanian women have turned their heritage and culture into a sustainable source of income, empowering families and women financially, and play a vital role in boosting tourism as well as Jordan's cultural identity.

The project's manager, Noor Banat, told KUNA that this project represents Arab hospitality in all forms, as the house hosts Arab and foreign visitors alike, as well as the locals, saying that Beit Al-Aseilat holds so much history and old stories dating back to their ancestors.

Sanna Hanatle told KUNA that she turned her home into a productive kitchen

which serves popular food and is famous for many dishes including lasagna, providing meals not only for foreign visitors but also for Jordanian local families.

Hanatle added that she succeeded in overcoming challenging financial hardship, and called on official authorities to support Jordanian women with small businesses so that other families can overcome their financial troubles and enable them to support one another.

Supervisor of Beit Al-Aseilat, Haiffa Mustafa, told KUNA that the project is run by Jordanian women, and that it currently funds more than 20 women, noting that visitors and guests can participate in making local dishes with them.

For his part, Head of the Union of Charitable Societies in Jerash Governorate, Zaid Al-Zaboun, affirmed to KUNA that women in the Jordanian countryside were

able to outperform themselves, pointing out that the Union's experience with these women's projects was largely successful.

He added that Jordanian government institutions are trying to encourage these successful experiences, but this encouragement needs more support, stressing that he is in constant contact with women's associations that present initiatives that contribute to the advancement of society.

Al-Zaboun pointed out that these successes would not have been achieved without the strong determination of women and the fruitful cooperation between non-governmental organizations and local authorities. Furthermore, he called for providing a supportive, sustainable environment that allows rural women to expand their economic and social activity and enhance their leading role in comprehensive development.

Heritage



French 'rejoneadora,' or mounted bullfighter, Lea Vicens greets the crowd during a bullfight at the San Fermin Festival in Pamplona, northern Spain, on Sunday, July 6. Inset: Revelers run with bulls from Fuente Ymbro ranch during the first day of the running of the bulls on July 7. (AP)

Daredevils run with charging bulls at Pamplona's festival

Thousands of daredevils ran, skidded and tumbled out of the way of a stampeding group of bulls at the opening run of the San Fermin festival Monday.

It was the first of nine morning runs or "encierros" during the famous celebrations held in the northern Spanish city of Pamplona. The bulls pounded along the twisting cobblestone streets after being led by six steers. Up to 4,000 runners take part in each bull run, which takes place over 846 meters (2,775 feet) and can last two to four minutes.

Most runners wear the traditional garb of white trousers

and shirt with red sash and neckerchief. The expert Spanish runners try to sprint just in front of the bull's horns for a few death-defying seconds while egging the animal on with a rolled newspaper.

Thousands of spectators watched from balconies and wooden barricades along the course. Millions more follow the visceral spectacle on live television.

The festival kicked off Sunday with the traditional "chupinazo" firework blast after which revelers doused one another with red or sparkling wine.

While gorings are not rare, many more people are bruised and injured in falls and pileups with each other. Medics rush in to treat the injured and take the seriously hurt to a hospital.

On Monday, Spanish newspaper El Pais reported that a few revelers had been injured, but it wasn't clear if their injuries were from gorings.

Unofficial records say at least 15 people have died in the bull runs over the past century. The deadliest day on record was July 13, 1980, when four runners were killed by two bulls. The last death was in 2009. (AP)

Variety

HONG KONG: A premiere ceremony for the documentary "The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru" was held in Hong Kong on Sunday 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.

The documentary was based on true stories of the Pacific War. In October 1942, the Japanese army requisitioned a cargo vessel "Lisbon Maru" to carry more than 1,800 British prisoners of war (POWs) from Hong Kong to Japan. In violation of international conventions, the Japanese army did not put any markings on the ship to indicate the POWs inside. Torpedoed by the US army, the vessel sank in the waters off the Zhoushan Islands in east China's Zhejiang Province. Local fishermen risked their own lives to rescue 384 POWs under Japanese gunfire.

"Hong Kong is where the story of the 'Lisbon Maru' began," Fang Li, producer and director of the documentary, told Xinhua.

It was particularly significant to be able to show Hong Kong viewers the story and humanity behind the story on the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, said Fang, who spent eight years making the documentary. (Xinhua)

MACAO: The Macao Book Carnival 2025 opened on Friday at the Macao Polytechnic University, bringing tens of thousands of Chinese, English, and Portuguese publications together with over 30 events.

The book fair, in its 28th edition, was hosted by the Macao Association of Literacy Promotion and co-organized by the Macao Polytechnic University, with the theme of "East Asian Culture is the Brilliance of the World."

At the opening ceremony, Chan Im Wa, president of the Macao Association of Literacy Promotion, remarked that Macao holds a unique position in the historical and cultural development of East Asia. She expressed hope that Macao's writers would redouble their efforts, extend their reach beyond the city, and tap into the global Chinese-language reading market. (Xinhua)

DAR ES SALAAM: The Confucius Institute at the University of Dar es Salaam, in collaboration with China's Chang Jiang Printing Media Co., Ltd., on Thursday unveiled a new two-volume book titled "Overview of China."

Tailored for Chinese language learners in Tanzania, the book consists of two volumes, each comprising 12 chapters that cover a total of 19 themes, primarily aimed at enhancing linguistic proficiency, according to Zhang Xiaozhen, the Chinese director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Dar es Salaam. (Xinhua)

NEUÖTTING, Germany: Breathing glacier photography features in the international exhibition "Walk of Water", which launches simultaneously this June in Almaty, Delft, and Manila. Amid predictions that up to two-thirds of Earth's glaciers will vanish by 2100, this exhibition offers a stunning visual journey into melting ice worlds, highlighting critical water stories, ingenious local solutions, and the urgent need for global action.

Organised by German non-profit Onewater, with support from UNESCO's World Water Assessment Programme, MPB, the Asian Development Bank, and the City of Burghausen, the 2025 "Walk of Water" showcases a curated collection from highly decorated artists, including World Photography Awards winners and National Geographic explorers. (AP)

Noosphere offers fresh approach to journalism

Award-winning reporter launches new journalism hub

NEW YORK, July 7, (AP): Jane Ferguson has won awards for unflinching reporting from dangerous lands including Afghanistan, Somalia and Yemen. So she was unlikely to be intimidated by seeking financing for a new journalism platform, despite tough times for the news industry.

"It's very high pressure," said Ferguson, founder of Noosphere. "I'm used to pressure in the field."

Started this year, Noosphere offers journalists a place to showcase work to consumers who are attracted by a more personal style of reporting than they'd normally see on traditional outlets.

It's similar to Substack, with a twist. Instead of paying for feeds of individual journalists - the Substack model - people who subscribe to Noosphere for \$14.99 a month get access to all of its journalists. There are 20 so far, expected to increase to 24 with the site's upcoming British launch.

Noosphere - named to reference a state of consciousness advanced by Jesuit philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin - arrives at a time of flux in the news industry. Consumers are fleeing newspapers and television news and trying different approaches springing up in a new media world.

Ferguson raised \$1 million to get Noosphere off the ground and is about to announce an additional round of investment.

Ferguson, 40, grew up in Northern Ireland, and was attracted to the high-stakes, high-risk world of international reporting. For CNN International and then PBS NewsHour, she worked largely alone, covering stories about famine and war crimes in South Sudan, the conflict in Syria and Afghanistan following the US withdrawal in 2021.

The latter experience left her shell-shocked and heartbroken, wondering if she'd reached the end of that phase of her career. "I had been on the road for 15 years," she said. "I was exhausted, and in some respects, burnt out."

She settled in the United States, teaching - and learning - at Princeton. She took classes in entrepreneurship and built contacts in the business world. Ferguson knew how many of her former international colleagues had to hustle to find outlets for their work, and envisioned Noosphere as a landing spot. Her business partner, Seb Walker, worked at Vice Media, known for its strong international reporting before filing for bankruptcy in 2023.



Jane Ferguson, founder of Noosphere, is photographed in the site's office, in New York, June 25, 2025. (AP)

"It's gotten a lot harder to continue making a living doing this," said Matthew Cassell, an international correspondent whose credits include Vice. A member of Noosphere's inaugural class of journalists, Cassell has posted videos giving his perspectives on the Israeli-Iran war, along with recent reporting from the West Bank.

Shrouq Al Aila contributed video from Gaza, showing efforts to distribute aid as the sound of gunfire is heard in the background. Oren Ziv reported from a missile strike in Israel, walking through a hospital's shattered hallways to show the destruction.

"It feels like a really high-quality reporter is Face-Timing you from the field," Ferguson said, "which is really cool."

News consumers, particularly young ones, are souring on more stilted, conventional television news reporting, said veteran journalist Kate O'Brian, who is on Noosphere's board of directors. "The stage has been set for an audience who wants to hear directly from the journalist," O'Brian said.

Ferguson envisions a reporting staff that is roughly half international, half based in the United States. Former CNN journalist Chris

Cillizza reports on Washington for Noosphere.

Her biggest signing to date is former "Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd. He started a Sunday night show in June, with "War Room" host Steve Bannon and Trita Parsi, founder of the National Iranian American Council, as his first guests. Todd has hired the former producer for Charlie Rose's PBS talk show, a clue to his ambitions for an eclectic show interviewing interesting people from politics and business.

"Jane's hard to say no to," Todd said. "Like any smart executive, she knows what she doesn't know, and goes to find smart people who she thinks know more."

Ferguson's bet is that audiences can only afford so many Substack subscriptions to individual journalists, and that Noosphere will offer access to more at a set price. She's also talked to news outlets interested in acquiring some of the reporters' work.

The challenge to getting Noosphere established is an increasingly crowded marketplace, and several of her journalists aren't household names.

Noosphere journalists are paid a percentage of subscription fees, and given a greater amount if a subscriber specifically cites that contributor's work in signing on. Ferguson will not say how many subscribers she has yet.

"Substack created a market that did not exist before and I give them huge kudos for that," O'Brian said. "This is just a different way of approaching it."

To succeed, "you have to offer a lot," Todd said. "You can't just offer one or two things. Every hot spot around the world, Noosphere will have journalists on the ground. They have a reasonable chance to be very successful in their lane. The question is how big the lane can get."

Todd said Noosphere's advantage is that it has been created by reporters, a distinction from the lack of journalism experience found among executives in the business, he said.

Ferguson, too, has wondered whether journalism can survive the diminishment or death of news organizations. "The solution for the problems of the industry are going to come from journalists and not media executives," she said.

Half of stem cell recipients face chronic graft-versus-host disease risk

Chronic GvHD: Ushering in new era of superior post-transplant care

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Chronic graft-versus-host disease (cGvHD) is a serious life-threatening condition, which can occur after an allogeneic stem cell transplantation. It is triggered when the donor's immune cells attack the recipient's tissues. Though 50 per cent of transplant recipients are at risk of developing this debilitating condition, it is often overlooked and patients lack awareness about it.

According to Dr. Salem Alshammary, Hematologist and Medical Oncologist at Kuwait Cancer Center, its consequences can be life-altering, especially for cancer survivors who have undergone stem cell transplantation and are battling long-term health challenges, which are not

widely understood. He also stated that cGvHD can cause secondary malignancies, cardiovascular complications, and infertility, necessitating proactive monitoring of the patient's health status.

Though medical practitioners follow clearly defined post-transplant care protocols, there are still gaps when it comes to the management of chronic conditions. Present treatment protocols are not sufficient to effectively control cGvHD, especially in its more aggressive forms affecting the lungs or skin.

In such a scenario, Dr. Salem states that timely access to innovative therapies could dramatically enhance patient outcomes since new



Dr. Salem Alshammary

therapies offer early and more direct interventions, which can help prevent the onset of irreversible compli-

cations. He also remarked that this is crucial in cases involving the lungs, where damage can become permanent, or the skin, where fibrosis can impair mobility.

Furthermore, Dr. Salem highlighted the critical role of long-term patient education and structured follow-up in the management of this condition, as patients often require consistent multidisciplinary support, including dermatology, pulmonology, nutrition and psychological care. Without robust collaboration between these essential specialties, outcomes can deteriorate even when advanced medical care is provided.

In addition, the ongoing transformation shaping the medical research

and healthcare domains presents an unprecedented opportunity to enhance the lives of those living with cGvHD. Dr. Salem also highlights that it is no longer just about treating the disease but also about anticipating complications, empowering patients and integrating therapies that address the root cause, not just the symptoms.

According to Lama Saleh, General Manager, General Medicines for KSA & Gulf Countries at Sanofi, when it comes to challenging diseases like cGvHD, every breakthrough plays a vital role in reducing the burden of patients and their families. He noted that while 50 per cent of all stem cell transplant patients could develop this serious condition, treatment options

are still very limited. To tackle this important concern, Sanofi is actively partnering with local healthcare systems, offering physicians innovative solutions that address diverse patient needs. Such initiatives align with the organisation's broader efforts to ensure that medical innovations reach people who need it the most, particularly those living with high unmet medical needs.

The availability of advanced new-generation therapies also presents a new glimmer of hope for both patients and physicians. Moreover, ongoing efforts by nations, such as Kuwait, to expand access to superior medical care, are paving the way for enhanced post-transplant outcomes.

New hope for vascular patients

Kuwait performs first bypass surgery using bovine biograft

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: In a remarkable medical achievement, Vascular Surgery Consultant at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital Dr. Ahmed Amir announced the successful completion of the first bypass surgery in Kuwait and the Gulf region using a biograft derived from a bovine carotid artery, reports Al-Rai daily.

The procedure was performed on a 60-year-old patient suffering from severe blood flow insufficiency to the lower extremities.

Amir explained that the patient had been battling chronic and complex arterial blockages in his legs, with severe calcifications that made interventional catheterization attempts ineffective. "This necessitated the surgical option of performing an arterial bypass from the femoral artery to the knee artery. Artificial grafts and autologous veins were not available for this patient, making the biograft the best alternative," he stated.

He pointed that the biograft used is made from a bovine carotid artery, which undergoes biological processing to become a natural tissue resistant to inflammation and

capable of efficiently transporting blood. He said this technology offers an advanced and effective solution for patients who do not have suitable veins for grafting or who suffer from complex conditions linked to chronic diseases like diabetes and kidney failure. "This technique is a qualitative leap in the treatment of acute limb ischemia. It opens the door to a large segment of patients who previously had no effective solutions when conventional treatments failed," he asserted.

He added the bovine carotid artery biograft can be used to create arteriovenous (AV) fistulas for patients with chronic kidney failure who lack veins suitable for dialysis, providing them with a safe and effective treatment option.

He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Health for its continuous support in bringing the latest global medical technologies to Kuwait. He stressed that the physicians' role goes beyond treatment, encompassing the introduction and adoption of innovative medical solutions that improve patients' lives and the quality of healthcare.

Health Ministry launches new MRI ward at Al-Razi Hospital

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: The Ministry of Health announced on Sunday the opening of a new MRI ward at Al-Razi Hospital, which will contribute to increasing the number of available machines and enhancing overall capacity, reports Al-Seyasah daily.

In a press statement, Head of the Radiology and Radiotherapy Departments Dr. Buthaina Al-Kandari explained that this development will help reduce waiting times, expedite diagnostic procedures, improve medical response, and ensure the highest standards of accuracy and clinical safety.

She praised the support of Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi and the ministry's Undersecretary Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi for their commitment to overcoming challenges and enabling work teams to complete the project according to the highest technical and operational standards.

Dr. Al-Kandari reaffirmed the Ministry of Health's ongoing com-

mitment to developing Kuwait's healthcare system and expanding diagnostic and therapeutic services, in line with Kuwait's vision to enhance quality of life and provide safe, high-quality healthcare based on best medical practices and cutting-edge technology.



MoH expands medical imaging at Al-Razi Hospital with new MRI wing and increased capacity.

Action urged

ILC aims for zero leprosy

BALI, Indonesia, July 7, (Xinhua): More than 700 participants from 23 countries and various international organizations gathered in Indonesia's Bali for the 22nd International Leprosy Congress (ILC) from Monday to Wednesday.

Carrying the theme "Towards a World with Zero Leprosy," the meeting highlights the importance of accelerating leprosy elimination efforts through global cross-country collaboration.

"The theme is an urgent call to action to end the disease, disability, stigma, and discrimination," said Saima Wazed, World Health Organization (WHO) regional director for the South-east Asia region as well as head of the WHO Global Leprosy Program, during the opening ceremony on Monday.

Saima added that WHO prioritizes strengthening surveillance systems, increasing community engagement, including that of persons affected by leprosy, and enhancing the capacity of local health workers.

The organization also called for broader partnerships with governments, researchers, civil society, and persons affected to make a leprosy-free world a reality without leaving anyone behind.

WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination Yohei Sasakawa said that leprosy is a curable disease if detected and treated early, yet nearly 200,000 new cases are still reported each year, with many hidden cases going unrecorded.

Indonesian Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin said that as the world's third-highest leprosy-burden country after India and Brazil, Indonesia underscores its commitment through political support, implementing screening programs, and providing therapies to reduce case numbers.

Dengue: Laos reported 2,614 cases of dengue fever in the first half of 2025, marking a significant decrease from the 5,192 cases recorded during the same period in 2024.

Meanwhile, no dengue-related deaths were reported in the country from January to June 2025, compared with three deaths in the same period in 2024.

According to a report from the Center of Information and Education for Health under the Lao Ministry of Health on Monday, the highest number of cases occurred in Lao capital Vientiane, where 1,495 cases were reported, while 338 cases were recorded in Oudomxay, and 236 cases in Luang Namtha province.

Lao health authorities are urging all sectors and the public to remain vigilant in preventing the spread of dengue, particularly during the rainy season, when flooding creates ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes and raises the risk of infection.

'Every delay is a slow death sentence'

When machines stop: Gaza's dialysis patients face death amid fuel scarcity

GAZA, July 7, (Xinhua): Abdullah Al-Mashharawi's crutches lean against the flimsy wall of a tent wedged in the rubble of the damaged Tal al-Hawa neighborhood in western Gaza City.

For nine years, dialysis has sustained the 39-year-old father of seven. Now, displaced five times across a war-torn strip, he faces an impossible equation: no fuel means no treatment.

"The number of patients has increased, and the rooms are no longer equipped to serve us. With no fuel or water, the situation has returned to zero," he told Xinhua, sweat beading on his forehead in the sweltering heat. His reality mirrors that of hundreds of kidney failure patients across Gaza, where dialysis machines stand silent amid chronic fuel shortages.

The collapse is systematic. At al-Shifa Hospital, once Gaza's medical cornerstone, all dialysis services were suspended starting from Tuesday. Intensive care now operates mere hours daily.

"This is not incidental damage. It is a deliberate effort to dismantle essential services," said hospital director Mohammed Abu Selmeia.

Over 400 kidney failure patients have died since October 2023, health authorities in Gaza said in a press statement, warning of "inevitable death" for patients across the enclave.

For 55-year-old Umm Islam Al-Dadah, who has lived with kidney failure for 15 years, reduced sessions have triggered violent complications.

"Normally, I'd receive dialysis three times a week. Now, there's no fuel, no treatment," the woman, lying on a thin mattress in a makeshift shelter close to the hospital, told Xinhua in a weak voice.

"Last week, I had only one session.



A medical worker is seen at the dialysis department of al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, on July 1, 2025. (Xinhua)

I later suffered a terrible colic attack. We eat lentils because there's nothing else. My anemia is getting worse, and the pain is constant," she lamented.

While observers estimate Gaza needs 500 aid trucks daily, Israel restricts the entry to dozens. "The Israeli army imposes suffocating restrictions on the entry of fuel and medical supplies. Every day in our hospitals feels like a battle to save lives with empty hands," Munir al-Bursh, director of the health authorities in Gaza, told Xinhua.

"Patients cannot wait. Every delay is a slow death sentence," he said.

Meanwhile, medical staff are operating in exhaustion. "They work without pay or equipment. The patients are dying in front of us, and we can do nothing," kidney specialist in Gaza Nidal Al-Sharif told Xinhua. Human

rights groups have also been pleading for evacuation corridors amid the widespread shutdown of machines due to fuel shortages and lack of maintenance.

Families of patients living in the ruins now have the same plea. "We're not asking for anything impossible. We just want to live and get our treatment like people anywhere else in the world," Mariam Salam, a woman with only one kidney from Gaza City, told Xinhua.

"As calls for a humanitarian ceasefire and increased aid access rise internationally, we are hundreds of kidney patients in Gaza who remain in critical condition, with our lives hanging in the balance as we wait for electricity, fuel, and functioning medical equipment," she said.

Awareness raised about rare joint disorder

China art expo shines light on rare disease

BEIJING, July 7, (Xinhua): In the courtyard of Beijing's Xuannan Bookstore, an unusual art exhibition is quietly unfolding. Each painting features figures wracked with pain -- gripping knees, clutching elbows and wincing in discomfort.

This public-interest exhibition is dedicated to raising awareness of tenosynovial giant cell tumor (TGCT), a rare joint disorder. The artworks are the result of a collaborative effort by patients, their families, medical professionals and artists.

Organized by China Alliance for Rare Diseases (CARD), the Beijing Association for Rare Disease Diagno-

sis, Treatment and Security, and the Chinese Organization for Rare Disorders (CORD), the exhibition will run from Friday to Sunday.

"Swollen joints, pain, stiffness and limited mobility. These paintings aren't just artistic expression -- they're windows into the lived reality of patients," said Li Linkang, executive director of CARD, during a salon event on Friday morning. Li pointed to a hand-drawn image of a deformed joint, its twisted lines and vivid red tones capturing the raw, daily suffering of those living with TGCT.

TGCT is a rare condition that originates in the synovial lining of joints,

bursae and tendon sheaths. With an incidence rate of just one in 20,000 -- it has been included in China's catalog of rare diseases.

According to experts, TGCT is easily misdiagnosed or overlooked altogether because of its rarity and often subtle symptoms. Data shows that around 60,000 new cases are diagnosed in China each year.

Niu Xiaohui, director of the bone and soft tissue tumor diagnosis and treatment center at Beijing Jishuitan Hospital, believes that doctors need to step out of the clinic to raise public awareness -- while the public needs to stay alert to spot rare symptoms.

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Brown seals emotional BMW title

Campbell edges Grillo in playoff at John Deere Classic

SILVIS, Ill., July 7. (AP) Brian Campbell won for the second time this year on the PGA Tour, both in a playoff, when he closed with a 4-under 67 and beat Emiliano Grillo with a par on the first extra hole Sunday in the John Deere Classic.

It extended the win-or-bust season for Campbell, who won the Mexico Open in a playoff in late February. He has finished out of the top 30 every tournament except for his two victories.

This one might be enough to get him into the British Open, depending on how high up he moves in the world ranking published Monday, traditionally used as the alternate list.

Grillo, who also closed with a 67, took the lead when Campbell made double bogey on 15, only to three-putt for bogey on the 16th.

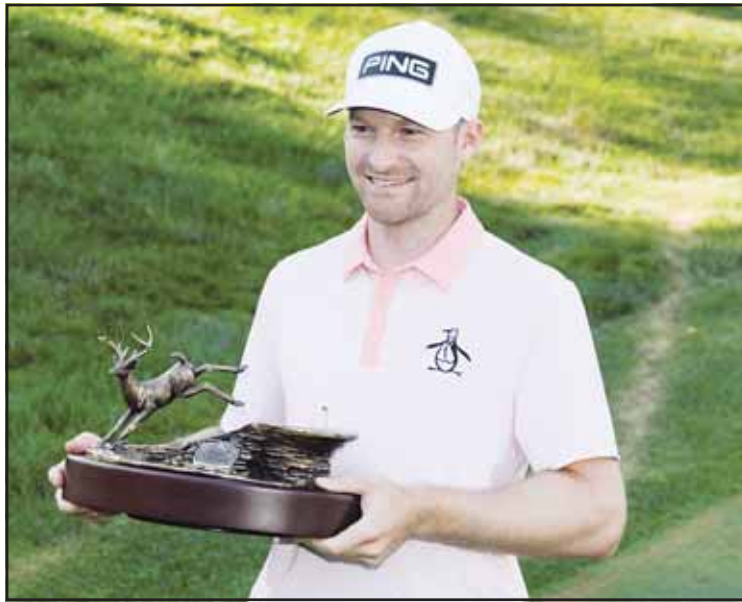
Campbell, one of the shorter hitters on tour, blasted a 3-wood to 18 feet for a two-putt birdie on the par-5 17th and narrowly missed a 25-foot birdie on the 18th. He was the first player to post at 18-under 266.

Grillo got up-and-down for birdie on the 17th, holing an 8-foot putt, and caught a bad break on the 18th when his drive settled into a divot. He hit wedge to just inside 40 feet and two-putted for par to join Campbell at 266.

David Lipsky was poised to join them when he hit a punch 3-wood to 8 feet for eagle on the 17th to tie for the lead. But he hooked his drive on the 18th, couldn't reach the green, and his 15-foot par putt to get into the playoff caught the left lip and spun away. He shot 68 and tied for third with Kevin Roy (65).

Daniel Brown was in tears after winning the BMW International Open by two strokes, days after the death of a close friend.

The No. 170-ranked Brown shot a bogey-free 6-under 66 in the final round to capture his second European tour title, after the ISPS Handa World Invitational in 2023. It was his first top 10 since February.



Brian Campbell poses with the John Deere Classic trophy in Silvis, Ill. (AP)

After making his sixth and final birdie of the day at the par-5 18th, Brown walked off the green and started to cry. The Englishman said a close friend died last weekend and that was his motivation to win at Golfclub München Eichenried.

Brown started the day with a one-shot lead over Jordan Smith (67), birdied four of his first six holes, and picked up two more birdies coming home to finish on 22-under par for the week.

Lottie Woad of England became the first amateur in three years to win a Ladies European Tour title, closing with a 4-under 69 for a six-shot victory in the Women's Irish Open.

Woad, the world No. 1 amateur, entered the final round with a seven-stroke lead.

The 21-year-old Woad just completed her junior year at Florida State and won the Augusta National Women's Amateur in 2023. She finished at 21-under par, six shots ahead of Madelene Sagstrom of Sweden.

The last amateur winner of an LET event was Jana Melichova in the 2022 Czech Ladies Open.

Scott Vincent of Zimbabwe closed with a 3-under 70 for a four-shot victory over Danthai Boonma in the International Series Morocco on the Asian Tour.

Maximilian Steinlechner of Austria won his first Challenge Tour title when he closed with a 5-under 69 for a two-shot victory over Filippo Celli of Italy in the Interwetten Open. ... David Perkins closed with a 4-under 67 and won the Explore NB Open in Canada by one shot over Tripp Kinney for his first title on the PGA Tour Americas.

Saki Nagamine made par on the 18th hole four times, first in regulation for a 2-under 70, and then three times in a sudden-death playoff before beating Megumi Kido in the Shiseido-JAL Ladies Open on the Japan LPGA.

Hyunjung Park closed with a 2-under 70 for a one-shot victory over Seung-hui Ro in the Lotte Open on the Korea LPGA. Keith Horne of South Africa had a third consecutive 4-under 68 and won the inaugural Reignwood Legends Championship in Beijing on the European Legends Tour.

Gibbs and Reddick round out top 3

Shane wins again in Chicago to cap off perfect weekend

CHICAGO, July 7. (AP) Shane van Gisbergen burned out his tires in celebration, sending a plume of white smoke into the air. He signed a rugby ball and punted it into the stands in downtown Chicago.

It was a familiar scene. Van Gisbergen completed a Windy City sweep Sunday, winning the NASCAR Cup Series race on the tricky street course in downtown Chicago.

"Epic weekend for us. I'm a lucky guy," van Gisbergen said.

A talented one, too. The 36-year-old New Zealand native became the second driver to sweep the Xfinity and Cup races in a single weekend from the pole, joining Kyle Busch at Indianapolis in 2016. With his third career Cup win, he also became the winningest foreign-born driver on NASCAR's top series.

It was van Gisbergen's second victory of the season after the Trackhouse Racing driver also won last month on a Mexico City road course.

"He's the best road course stock car racer that I've ever seen," Trackhouse owner Justin Marks said. "I think when he's done with us all and walks away from the sport, I think he's going to walk away as the best road course racer that this sport has ever seen."

Marks brought van Gisbergen over from Australia's Supercars for the first edition of NASCAR's Chicago experiment in 2023, and he became the first driver to win his Cup debut since Johnny Rutherford in the second qualifying race at Daytona in 1963.

He also won Chicago's Xfinity Series stop last year and the first stage in the Cup race before he was knocked out by a crash.

"This joint, it's changed my life," van Gisbergen said. "I didn't have any plans to do more NASCAR races when I first came over here, and I never thought I'd be in NASCAR full time."

In what might be the last NASCAR race on the downtown Chicago circuit, Ty Gibbs was second and Tyler Reddick finished third. Denny Hamlin and Kyle Busch rounded out the top five.

"My team called a great strategy and got me in position to get me up front to compete for the win," Gibbs said. "It worked out for us today, so I'm glad to have a good finish, but we wish we could have gone for the win."

Michael McDowell joined van Gisbergen on the front row and quickly moved in front. He won Stage 1 and led for 31 laps before he was derailed by a throttle cable issue.

Van Gisbergen regained the lead when he passed Chase Briscoe with 16 laps left. As fog and rain moved into downtown Chicago, van Gisbergen controlled the action the rest of the way. AJ Allmendinger was sixth, and Ryan Preece finished seventh. Ryan Blaney, who won the second stage, was 12th.



Shane van Gisbergen does a victory burnout after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at the Grant Park 165 in Chicago. (AP)

"I thought overall it was a pretty decent day. It was nice to win that stage," Blaney said.

William Byron's day was cut short by a clutch problem. The Hendrick Motorsports driver leads the point standings by 13 points over Chase Elliott.

After McDowell seized the lead early in the race, Carson Hocevar caused a multicar crash when he hit the wall and spun out between Turns 10 and 11. Brad Keselowski, Austin Dillon, Daniel Suárez and Will Brown were among the drivers collected in the wreck.

"I didn't see it until the last second," Keselowski said. "I slowed down and I actually felt I was going to get stopped and then I just kind of got ran over from behind. It's just a narrow street course and sometimes there's nowhere to go."

Ty Dillon and Reddick moved into the third round of NASCAR's inaugural in-season tournament when Keselowski and Hocevar were unable to finish the race. Dillon, the No. 32 seed, eliminated Keselowski after he upset top-seeded Denny Hamlin last weekend at Atlanta.

Gibbs, Preece, Alex Bowman, John H. Nemechek, Zane Smith and Erik Jones also advanced. The winner of the five-race, bracket-style tournament takes home a \$1 million prize.

Bowman, the 2024 champion on the downtown street course, won his head-to-head matchup with Bubba Wallace. Bowman and Wallace made contact as they battled for position late in the race after they also tangled in Chicago last year.

"I wasn't expecting that to happen or to get raced like that, but we did," Bowman said. "We just have to move on from it and keep digging. I don't really know what I could have done much different."

Katherine Legge finished 19th for her best career Cup result. She became the first woman to finish in the top 20 in a Cup race since Danica Patrick at Texas in November 2017.

Mohamed and Khalil lead Egypt to Pentathlon World Cup Final sweep



Farida Khalil of Egypt competes in the obstacle during the UIPM 2025 Pentathlon World Cup women's final in Alexandria, Egypt. (Xinhua)

'A great achievement'

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, July 7. (Xinhua): Moutaz Mohamed and Farida Khalil won the men's and women's titles respectively for Egypt at the UIPM 2025 Pentathlon World Cup Final in the coastal city of Alexandria.

Mohamed broke his own overall world record to win the men's individual gold while 14-year-old Khalil thrilled Egyptian fans by winning the women's final.

The 20-year-old Mohamed extended the overall world record by seven points to 1,583, ahead of Czech athlete Matej Lukes (1,574) and France's Ugo Fleuret (1,567).

Building on his first Pentathlon World Cup gold

and second Junior World Championships title, Mohamed completed the obstacle event in a 27.45 seconds, placed first in swimming with a time of 2:00.34, and sealed his victory with a confident laser run in 10:00.33 - one of the fastest times of the day.

"I'm extremely happy to have claimed this title today," Mohamed told Xinhua after his win. "It's a huge achievement to win the Pentathlon World Cup final." "We started preparing early in the season," he added. "This was my fourth competition in the season, and it came just four days after the Junior World Championships, where I also won gold. So, the focus was on quick recovery and preparation, and thankfully, it paid off." Earlier in the day, Khalil claimed her third gold of the season. Her performance, combined with Mohamed's triumph, brought Egypt's medal tally in the 2025 World Cup series to eight: five golds, one silver, and two bronzes.

"The victories of Farida and Moutaz today are cer-

tainly a great achievement, but we should not stop there. We are on the right path, and we view each competition as a stepping stone, immediately shifting our focus to the next challenge," Sherif El-Erian, UIPM vice president and president of the Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation, told Xinhua.

"Our policy is clear: every athlete has set numerical goals to achieve, and we aim for each season to conclude on a strong note - just like this one," he added.

Held at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport in Alexandria, this round of the UIPM 2025 Pentathlon World Cup series featured 36 qualified athletes - 18 men and 18 women - from around the world competing in the season finale.

This year's event also marked the first World Cup Final to feature the new obstacle discipline, introduced as a replacement for equestrian after the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Lyon nears McGrath record

Australia 'clinches' series with win in 2nd test against Windies

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, July 7. (AP) Australia completed its recovery to win the second cricket test against West Indies by 133 runs with a day to spare, clinching the series to retain the Frank Worrell Trophy.

Australia dismissed West Indies for 143 in 34.3 overs on Day 4 to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-test series.

On Saturday, half-centuries by Steve Smith and Cameron Green had helped to put Australia back in charge after the visitors lost early wickets in their second innings, as one stage slipping to 28-3.

After resuming Sunday at 221-7 - and a lead of 254 runs - Australia was all out for 243, setting West Indies a tricky target of 277 for victory. Shamar Joseph took 4-66.

At 33-4, West Indies' chase was in trouble. The match was over in the afternoon session. Left-arm pace bowler Mitchell Starc returned 3-24 from eight overs to lead the Australian attack. Josh Hazlewood took two



Australia's Mitchell Starc celebrates taking the wicket of West Indies' captain Roston Chase on day four of the second cricket Test match at the National Cricket Stadium in St. George's, Grenada. (AP)

wickets and offspinner Nathan Lyon returned 3-42 from 5.3 overs to clean up the lower order.

A six-wicket match haul moved Lyon to within one of Glenn McGrath at No. 2 on Australia's all-time list of leading wicket-takers.

Lyon has 562 wickets from 139 tests dating back to 2011. McGrath took 563 in 124 tests from 1993-2007. Shane Warne, the great legspinner who died in 2022, tops the Australian list with 708 wickets in 145 tests from 1992-

2007. Captain Roston Chase top scored for West Indies in the second innings with 34 before he was trapped lbw by Starc with a ball that kept low as it angled toward leg stump.

Shamar Joseph clouted three sixes in a run-a-ball 24 before he skied a catch off Lyon to Beau Webster in the deep and was the next-to-last wicket to fall.

Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey was voted player of the match for his innings-salvaging 63 in the first innings, 30 in the second and four catches behind the stumps.

"To be able to do that and win a series for Australia is fantastic," Carey said. The Caribbean tour was a vast improvement for his team on the previous bilateral series in Australia in 2023-24 when the West Indies troubled the home team and scored an upset win in the Gabba test. "They came out two years ago, and they challenged us. For us to win this series outright, it has been a fantastic tour."

China's Liang stunned in first round

WASHINGTON, July 7. (Xinhua) French qualifier Lilian Bardet stunned fourth seed Liang Jingkun of China in a five-game thriller in the men's singles first round of the World Table Tennis (WTT) United States Smash in Las Vegas.

World No. 5 Liang twice held the lead but was unable to close out the match, falling 5-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-8, 11-5 to the 85th-ranked Frenchman.

Liang's teammate Chen Yuanyu also exited early, suffering an 11-7, 11-8, 11-13, 12-10 defeat to England's Liam Pitchford.

Their losses leave world champion Wang Chuqin as the only Chinese player remaining in the bottom half of the men's draw.

Wang, who claimed his first major singles title at the World Championships in Doha this May, defeated Romania's Iulian Chirita 3-1 and will next face Kao Cheng-ju of Chinese Taipei in the second round.

"Chirita posed a huge challenge to me, but I managed to make adjustment when trailing in the second game and snatch some crucial points," said Wang.

Top names including Felix Lebrun, Darko Jorgic and Qiu Dang also advanced to the round of 32.

In the women's draw, world No. 1 Sun Yingsha edged Australia's Liu Yangzi in a full-distance battle, 11-7, 6-11, 11-4, 4-11, 11-4.

"In my first match here, I was not quite focused on the game," admitted Sun. "In the opening stages of the second and fourth games, I could not catch up with the opponent on the scoreline. Finally, I got my concentration back in the deciding game." Facing Sun, Liu said she was like playing against AI as "she can solve everything." Chen Xingtong overcame He Zhuojia in a five-game all-Chinese clash and was joined in the second round by compatriots Chen Yi and Kuai Man.

Japanese stars Miwa Harimoto and Hina Hayata also progressed to the last 32.

The WTT United States Smash runs through July 13.

In line with its aim to promote healthy living and tennis in Kuwait

NBK renews its two-year partnership with Rafa Nadal Academy

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Pursuing its endeavors to promote healthy living and practice of sports, National Bank of Kuwait renewed its partnership for two more years with Rafa Nadal Academy (RNA), the leading sports institution specializing in tennis and fitness, to sponsor all the academy's exquisite sports activities and events.

The renewal of this partnership comes in line with NBK's unwavering commitment to fulfilling its social responsibilities and its relentless pursuit of sustainable development by encouraging its customers to exercise, adopt healthy lifestyles, and take on all initiatives aimed at spreading health awareness in society.

The RNA extends a diverse array of offerings to its members, encompassing extensive options such as professional tennis training for those aspiring to participate in the sport. Alongside this, fitness sessions are also available, all overseen by a specialized team of international professional athletes. Moreover, NBK is the only bank in Kuwait that offers customers exclusive access to the Rafa Nadal Tennis Academy, including organizing a group of fun athletic activities for customers, with the aim to elevate their knowledge in Tennis and provide a suitable platform for the youth to put it into

Al-Othman:

- We strive to offer our customers an exceptional experience that goes beyond providing banking services to involve their daily life.
- We leverage our solid ties with leading institutions across different sectors to provide exclusive offers to our customers.

Al-Marzouq:

- We are pleased with the continued collaboration with NBK and we aim to promote healthy living among Kuwaiti youth.



Mohammed Al-Othman and Mohammed Mustafa Al-Marzouq during the signing of the agreement.

ous sectors to enrich our customers' experience beyond providing banking services to involve their daily life by giving them premier offers, benefits and discounts that suit their various needs and lifestyles."

Al-Othman emphasized that NBK aims to encourage customers to practice sports and follow healthy living, considering its central focus on promoting sports culture in general among all segments of society and consistent endeavors to raise awareness of the importance of sports, especially among



Rafa Nadal Academy players pose with officials.

young people. Meanwhile, Mohammed Mustafa Al-Marzouq, CEO of Tamdeen Sports Company, a subsidiary of Tamdeen Group, commented: "We are very pleased with the ongoing collaboration with NBK, through which we aspire to elevate awareness about tennis and a wholesome lifestyle among the youth in Kuwait. This initiative is expected to engage a fresh wave of sports enthusiasts."

Furthermore, Al-Marzouq indicated that the academy strives to position Kuwait as a prominent regional tennis hub, as presents itself as an exceptional platform that utilizes all its resources and collaborates with leading global experts and innovative partnerships to actively contribute to turning the aspirations of tennis enthusiasts into tangible achievements through refining their on-field technical abilities. It is worth mentioning that back in

2021, NBK signed a two-year partnership and sponsorship agreement with Rafa Nadal Academy (RNA), the leading sports institution specializing in tennis and fitness.

RNA members enjoy a variety of world-class sports facilities, including 15 high-end indoor and outdoor tennis courts, as well as padel and squash courts, indoor swimming pool, separate male/female gym providing a wide range of fitness classes and programs.

Kuwait to host two beach volleyball championships in upcoming season

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: After years of suspension, beach volleyball competitions are set to return in Kuwait with the announcement of two local championships in the upcoming 2025-2026 season, according to Abbas Ashkanani, head of the Beach Volleyball Committee at the Kuwait Volleyball Federation and an international referee.

Ashkanani confirmed that the committee has begun coordinating with local clubs regarding their participation and the scheduling of these tournaments, marking a major step in reviving



Abbas Ashkanani

the sport domestically.

In parallel with these efforts,

training for the men's and women's youth national beach volleyball teams has officially begun at the Al-Jazirah Al-Khadra courts. The teams are preparing for two key upcoming competitions:

West Asian Championship: August 31 - September 6
Arab Championship: September 6 - 10

Both events will be hosted in Lebanon.

Ashkanani revealed the preliminary men's youth roster, which includes:

Abdulwahab Talib, Jassim Al-Sabbagh, Nawaf Al-Shammari, Ibrahim Al-Ahmad, Ahmed Diaa, and Saud Al-Hashem.

The preliminary women's

team includes:

Ghadeer Al-Sayegh, Munira Yousef, Alaa Al-Enezi, Asayel Al-Enezi, Shama Al-Enezi, and Dana Mansour.

Both teams are being trained under the leadership of national coach Ahmed Abdul-Razzaq. The current extended squads will eventually be narrowed down to two final teams per category to represent Kuwait in the championships.

Ashkanani expressed optimism about the return of beach volleyball to the local sports scene and emphasized the importance of youth development in building a strong foundation for future success on the regional and international stage.

Al-Daham retains Vice Presidency in Arab Sports for All Federation

CAIRO, July 7, (KUNA): Haya Al-Daham, Acting Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Sport for the "Sports for All" Sector, has been re-elected as Vice President of the Arab Federation for Sports for All representing Asia.

This came during elections held by the Federation's General Assembly in Cairo.

Al-Daham told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Monday that the elections were held last week with the participation of member states, resulting in her re-election to the position.

Haya Al-Daham expressed her gratitude for being re-elected, considering it a proud achievement for Kuwait.

She thanked Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sport Bashar Abdullah for their support during the elections.

Al-Daham stressed that community sports is a health necessity, not a luxury, and pledged to continue working to strengthen Arab cooperation and advance the Federation's goals.



Haya Al-Daham

Host Switzerland back on track

Hansen lifts Norway into Euros quarterfinals

BERN, Switzerland, July 7, (AP): Host nation Switzerland put its Women's European Championship campaign back on track with a 2-0 win over Iceland on Sunday, eliminating its opponents in the process and avoiding the possibility of a penalty shootout in its final group match.

Géraldine Reuteler netted with 14 minutes remaining as the Stadion Wankdorf erupted in celebration in a sea of red, and Alayah Pilgrim sealed the result right at the death to leave their team on the brink of history.

It was only a second-ever win at the Euros for Switzerland, which has never made it to the knockout stages.

It will now be all to play for on Thursday when Switzerland meets Finland in their final group match, with a place in the quarterfinals at stake. Both teams are level on three points - three points behind Norway, which beat Finland 2-1 earlier and has now advanced to the knockout stage as Group A champion.

The 90th-minute goal for Switzerland also means that the hosts can progress to the last eight with just a draw against Finland, courtesy of a



Switzerland's Iman Beney, left, and Iceland's Saedis Heioarsdottir challenge for the ball during the Euro 2025, Group A, soccer match between Switzerland and Iceland at Stadion Wankdorf in Bern, Switzerland. (AP)

better goal difference.

Had its match against Iceland ended 1-0, Switzerland would have been level with Finland on all the other tiebreakers if their match finishes in a draw on Thursday, necessitating a penalty shootout.

Iceland has zero points and is out of the tournament regardless of what happens in its final match against Norway.

Many of the players were in tears as they performed the Icelandic thunder clap with their fans after the final whistle.

Norway winger Caroline Graham Hansen showed why she was second in the Ballon d'Or vote last year to her superstar Barcelona teammate Aitana Bonmatí.

Graham Hansen lifted Norway into the quarterfinals of the Women's European Championships with a decisive late goal in a 2-1 win over an impressive Finland which deserved more.

It meant Norway became the first team in the knockout rounds.

In the 84th minute of a tied game, there seemed little danger when

Graham Hansen got the ball tight on the right wing marked by two Finland opponents 40 meters (yards) from goal.

She dribbled past both players detailed to stop her, darted into the penalty area, met two more defenders, deceived them and created space to float a deft chip that went into the net off the far post.

Maybe it was a cross aimed for Norway captain Ada Hegerberg but it still looked great. Hegerberg, a Ballon d'Or winner, put her hands to her head as if in disbelief at what Graham Hansen had done.

Just three minutes earlier, she had missed a much easier chance to win the game by scooping a shot over the bar when having almost too much time to think and pick her spot.

It gave Norway a second 2-1 win at Euro 2025 after being outshined for much of the game. Norway had opened Wednesday with a come-from-behind win over Switzerland which had dominated the first half.

Norway now sits atop Group A with six points. Finland is on three, from its opening-day 1-0 win over Iceland, and Switzerland also has three points.

Switzerland plays Finland in the final round of Group A games on Thursday. Norway holds the head-to-head tiebreaker over either team if they end tied on six points. Iceland was eliminated Sunday ahead of playing Norway in its last game.

Sulaibikhat extends coach contract

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: Sulaibikhat Club has announced the renewal of head coach Walid Salmeen's contract for the upcoming season, following his strong performance with the first handball team and the squad's continued presence in the Kuwait Handball Premier League.

The club also appointed Ahmed Abdul Latif as goalkeeper coach to strengthen the technical staff ahead of the new season.

Hussein Saywan, Director of Sulaibikhat's handball program, confirmed the renewal of contracts for Estonian player Karl Tom and, while Estonian professional Denir Janima will not return this season. The club is currently seeking a third foreign player to complete its import quota.

Saywan added that efforts are underway to renew the contracts of key local players Mishari Abbas Taha and Ahmed Al-Qattan, citing their experience as essential to the team's ambitions. He also hinted at additional local signings in the coming weeks.

Preseason training will begin in early August, with the team conducting two weeks of local preparation before heading to an external training camp, which is likely to be held in either Bosnia or Montenegro.



Algerian-French player Nouri Ben Hallima shoots the ball as opponents defend.

Saywan praised the team's performance last season, noting that Sulaibikhat - known as the "Red North" - delivered positive results that secured its place in the Premier League. The team now aims to compete for local championships in the upcoming campaign.

He also extended his gratitude to the club's board of directors for their continued support and commitment to the first team, expressing optimism about what lies ahead.

In related news, Burgan Club has renewed the contract of player Hamoud Qaid Al-Adwani for another season.

Fans flock to celebrate Al-Nassr star

Ronaldo museum debuts in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, July 7: Soccer fans in Hong Kong waited in long lines to get a glimpse of Cristiano Ronaldo's legacy as the first-ever international exhibition dedicated to the Portuguese icon opened its doors outside his home country.

The CR Life Museum, located in a luxury shopping mall in Hong Kong, features life-size statues of Ronaldo in his signature goal celebrations, along with jerseys and trophies from his storied career at Manchester United, Real Madrid, and currently, Saudi club Al-Nassr.

"Cristiano Ronaldo is my idol... he's special," said 14-year-old Alvin Lai, who arrived early to be first in a queue of more than 100 people eager to take photos and explore the exhibits.

The opening of the museum comes shortly after Ronaldo



Ronaldo's Golden Boot at Hong Kong exhibition.

signed a new two-year contract with Al-Nassr, which he described as a "new chapter" via Instagram. His club is also set to compete in the Saudi Super Cup in Hong Kong next month as part of its pre-season preparations.

The Saudi Football Federation has announced that the 2025 edition of the Super Cup will take place in Hong Kong from August 19 to 23, featuring Al-Nassr, Al-Ittihad, Al-Hilal, and Al-Qadisiyah.

Thomas Froese, a representative from Ronaldo's family office, shared that the five-time Ballon d'Or winner is looking forward to welcoming fans to the museum "very soon."

Organizers confirmed that the Hong Kong exhibition will run for one year, after which it will move to various locations across China.

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United States' players celebrate with the trophy after winning the FIBA U-19 Basketball World Cup final match between the U.S. and Germany in Lausanne, Switzerland. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait's road to AFC U-23 finals begins with Cairo training camp

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, July 7: Kuwait's U-23 Olympic football team began its training camp in the Egyptian capital as part of its preparations for the AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers, scheduled to take place in January 2026 in Saudi Arabia.

The Blues arrived in Cairo earlier in the day and launched their training program under the guidance of Croatian head coach Dario Pesic and his assistant Mohammed Al-Fulaikawi. The camp aims to boost player fitness and team cohesion ahead of the upcoming qualifiers.

Kuwait will compete in Group B of the qualifiers, which includes Japan, Afghanistan, and host nation Myanmar. The group matches will take place from September 1 to 9.

Pesic has named a 29-player squad, drawing talent from several domestic clubs:

Al-Qadisiya: Jassim Al-Matar, Abdullah Al-Ghaniman, Ahmed Bodi, Mohammed Al-Sharifi

Al-Arabi: Abdullah Musa, Abdulredha Shehab, Bader Al-Mutairi, Yousef Majed, Hussein Al-Aryan

Kuwait Club: Mohammed Al-Kandari, Omar Al-Matar, Khaled Al-Kharqawi, Mohammed Al-Suraie

Kazma: Saleh Al-Muhattab, Jarrah



The U-23 delegation pose for a group photo before departing to Cairo for the training camp.

Al-Hilali, Salem Al-Khatlan, Omar Al-Saleem, Montaser Abdulsalam, Omar Al-Azmi, Hussein Shehab

Al-Nasr: Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi, Ali Jabr, Nasser Al-Enezi, Bandar Al-Barazi

Al-Tadamon: Abdulrahman Al-Harbi

Al-Jahra: Jassim Al-Enezi, Adel

Al-Shammari

Al-Sahel: Dhari Al-Masri

Al-Salmiya: Moaz Al-Asima

Al-Shabab: Munir Al-Subaie

As part of the camp, the team will play four friendly matches, including two against the Egyptian national team on July 17 and 20, and two others against ENPPI and Malia Kafr El-

Zayat on dates to be confirmed.

The coaching staff is focused on elevating the readiness of both seasoned and newly selected players. Building team chemistry and integrating fresh talent are central to their strategy, with the ultimate goal of advancing to the tournament finals.

Following the Cairo camp, the team

will return to Kuwait for continued daily training sessions before heading to an East Asian country in August for a second training camp. From there, they will travel directly to Myanmar one week ahead of their group stage matches to acclimate to local conditions.

According to tournament regula-

tions, the top team in each of the ten qualifying groups, along with the five best second-placed teams, will advance to the final tournament, joining host Saudi Arabia. The 16 qualified teams will be divided into four groups for the 2026 AFC U-23 Asian Cup.

Kuwait basketball team heads to Istanbul for Arab Championship preparations

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 7: The Kuwait national basketball team departs for Istanbul this evening to begin a training camp that will run until July 24, in preparation for the upcoming Arab Men's Basketball Championship, scheduled to take place in Tunisia from July 25 to August 2.

The training camp is part of Kuwait's broader preparation plan, as the team eyes both regional success and readiness for the upcoming Asian qualifiers.

The team delegation is led by Owaid Al-Enezi, Assistant Secretary of the Kuwait Basketball Federation, and includes:

Administrators: Fahad Al-Bous, Mohammed Al-Hasawi

Team Manager: Khaled Bou Zabar

Head Coach: Serbian tactician OIver Kosic

Assistant Coach: Khaled Al-Qallaf

Fitness Coach: Bashir Farih



Owaid Al-Enezi

The squad features 14 players: Ahmed Al-Balushi, Rashed Al-Rabah, Mohammed Ashkanani, Mohammed Adnan, Abdulrahman Al-Shammari, Adel Al-Saeed, Talal Al-Obaidi,

Abdulaziz Al-Hamidi, Suho Al-Shammari, Ahmed Al-Foudari, Hussein Ashkanani, Adam Asad Allah, Faisal Al-Bahr, and Faisal Al-Husseini.

As part of its camp, Kuwait will

play five friendly matches, including one against the Saudi national team, which is also holding its camp in Istanbul.

The team's training sessions began last week in Kuwait, under the leadership of Coach Kosic, with the goal of improving team chemistry and performance ahead of the regional tournament.

Speaking ahead of the team's departure, Owaid Al-Enezi emphasized the importance of the Arab Championship as part of the team's preparation during the international break. He noted that these competitions and friendlies are vital in building momentum ahead of the Asian Cup qualifiers.

Al-Enezi added that the current roster includes several young talents, and the coaching staff is focused on integrating them alongside seasoned veterans. This blend of youth and experience is part of a long-term vision to strengthen the national team in future competitions.

Dehydrated Mbappé delayed by doping test after Real win

NEW JERSEY, July 7: Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappé found himself alone at MetLife Stadium on Saturday night after his team departed for the airport without him following a 3-2 win over Borussia Dortmund in the Club World Cup quarterfinals in the United States.

Mbappé, who scored his first goal of the tournament during the victory, remained behind after being selected for a mandatory doping test. While the rest of the Real Madrid squad boarded the team bus en route to West Palm Beach, Miami, the French star was delayed on the field for nearly an hour.

Sources close to the team revealed that Mbappé had difficulty providing a sample due to dehydration, compounded by the intense heat and a recent recovery from a stomach and intestinal illness.

Nearly an hour after the team's departure, Mbappé finally exited the stadium. He left in a black vehicle, accompanied by a club official and escorted by five police cars, to catch up with the team at the airport.



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappé celebrates scoring his side's 3rd goal during the Club World Cup quarterfinal soccer match between Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund in East Rutherford, N.J. (AP)

Mbappé had missed Real Madrid's first three matches in the Club World Cup. He returned to action as a substitute in the round of 16 match against Juventus, and again in the quarterfinal showdown with Dortmund.

Al-Ahli targets Messi as free agent

RIYADH, July 7: Saudi club Al-Ahli has entered negotiations to sign Argentine superstar Lionel Messi, currently playing for Inter Miami, according to French newspaper L'Equipe.



Inter Miami skipper, Lionel Messi gestures during MLS game.

The report states that Al-Ahli's management aims to acquire Messi as a free agent once his contract with the American club expires in December.

Interest from Saudi clubs in Messi is no secret, with strong efforts made during the summer of 2023 after his contract with Paris Saint-Germain ended.

L'Equipe highlighted, "Two years later, Saudi clubs have not lost hope of signing Messi, who will become a free agent at the end of this year."

While financial details of the talks remain undisclosed, the report notes Saudi Arabia's determination to secure a deal, especially as the country prepares to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup.

Officials from Al-Ahli, winner of this year's AFC Champions League, have been pursuing Messi for weeks. Meanwhile, Inter Miami is also keen to retain the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner after his two impressive seasons in MLS.

Álvarez the hero as Mexico wins record 10th Gold Cup

Disappointment for US

HOUSTON, July 7, (AP): Edson Álvarez scored a tiebreaking goal in the 77th minute after a video review reversed an offside call, and Mexico beat the United States 2-1 on Sunday night for its record 10th CONCACAF Gold Cup title.

Chris Richards put the U.S. ahead in the fourth minute, heading in a Sebastian Berhalter free kick for the second time in the tournament, but Raúl Jiménez tied the score in the 27th with his third goal of this Gold Cup.

Mexico was awarded the free kick when Diego Luna fouled Alexis Vega on a flank. Johan Vásquez flicked the restart across the goal mouth and Álvarez burst past the defense, redirecting the ball from 3 yards just inside Matt Freese's far post. While the play was initially called offside, the goal was awarded by the VAR, and Mexico defended its title from 2023 while improving to 6-2 in Gold Cup finals against the U.S.

Patrick Agyemang had a chance two minutes into stoppage time but he didn't make good contact on his short-range shot that was blocked by goalkeeper Luis Malagón.

"We're disappointed obviously to not come away with a win," U.S. captain Tim Ream said.

A sellout crowd of 70,925 at NRG Stadium was about 70% pro-Mexico and booed U.S. players when they walked out for pregame warmups. Mexico dominated with 60% possession and had 12 corner kicks to none for the Americans.

This was the last competitive match for the U.S. and Mexico before co-hosting next year's World Cup with Canada.

The U.S., which has seven Gold Cup titles but none since 2021, used a starting lineup with only a handful of players currently projected as World Cup starters, missing regulars due to vacation, injuries and the Club World Cup.

Coach Mauricio Pochettino used their absence to evaluate players who could push for starting jobs during the friendlies this fall and next spring, and Luna, Agyemang and Freese emerged as contenders for World Cup roster spots.

Richards out the U.S. in front when he headed Berhalter's free kick from about 40 yards off the crossbar. The ball bounced straight down and just crossed the goal line.

Jiménez scored his 42nd international goal, third-most in Mexican history. He burst past the defense and one-timed the pass from Marcel Ruiz, beating Freese from about 10 yards on a shot that might have nicked Ream.

Djokovic overcomes poor start to reach quarters

LONDON, July 7, (AP): Novak Djokovic overcame an uncharacteristically unsteady start to avoid what would have been his earliest exit at Wimbledon since 2016, coming through for a 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 victory over 11th-seeded Alex de Minaur in the fourth round Monday.

With Roger Federer, an eight-time Wimbledon winner, sitting in the front row of the Royal Box, very little went right at the outset for the 38-year-old Djokovic on the grass below during a breezy afternoon with the temperature in the 60s Fahrenheit (teens Celsius), a week after matches were contested in record-breaking heat.

But Djokovic turned things around enough to grab the middle two sets and then really surged at the end after trailing 4-1 in the fourth. He took the last five games and 14 of the final 15 points.

His bid for an eighth Wimbledon title and 25th Grand Slam singles trophy overall will continue against No. 22 Flavio Cobolli of Italy. Cobolli reached his first major quarterfinal with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3) victory over 2014 U.S. Open champion and two-time major runner-up Marin Cilic.



Belinda Bencic of Switzerland celebrates winning a point during her women's singles fourth round match against Ekaterina Alexandrova of Russia at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London. (AP)

Djokovic will be appearing in his 63rd Slam quarterfinal.

Belinda Bencic advanced to her first Wimbledon quarterfinal - 11 years after her All England Club debut - by beating 18th-seeded Ekaterina Alexandrova 7-6

(4), 6-4.

Bencic, who had lost in the fourth round on three previous occasions, failed to convert five match points while serving at 5-3 in the second set. But on the sixth one, Alexandrova sent a forehand long on No. 1 Court.

"For you guys it was entertaining," Bencic said about that marathon game at 5-3, where Alexandrova finally converted her fourth break point to stay in the match. "For me it was a big stress."

The 28-year-old Bencic's best result at a Grand Slam was reaching the semifinals at the 2019 U.S. Open, where she also reached the quarters on two other occasions.

The Tokyo Olympic champion, playing at Wimbledon for the ninth time, had not been into the last eight at any of the other three majors, until now.

"I always got stuck in the fourth round (at Wimbledon)," Bencic said in an on-court interview. "So it was so important for me today to be able to kind of break through to the quarterfinal." Bencic missed last year's grass-court Grand Slam tournament while she was on maternity leave, having given birth to her first child - a daughter named Bella - in April 2024.



Mexico players and staff celebrate after their win in the CONCACAF Gold Cup final soccer match against the United States in Houston. (AP)