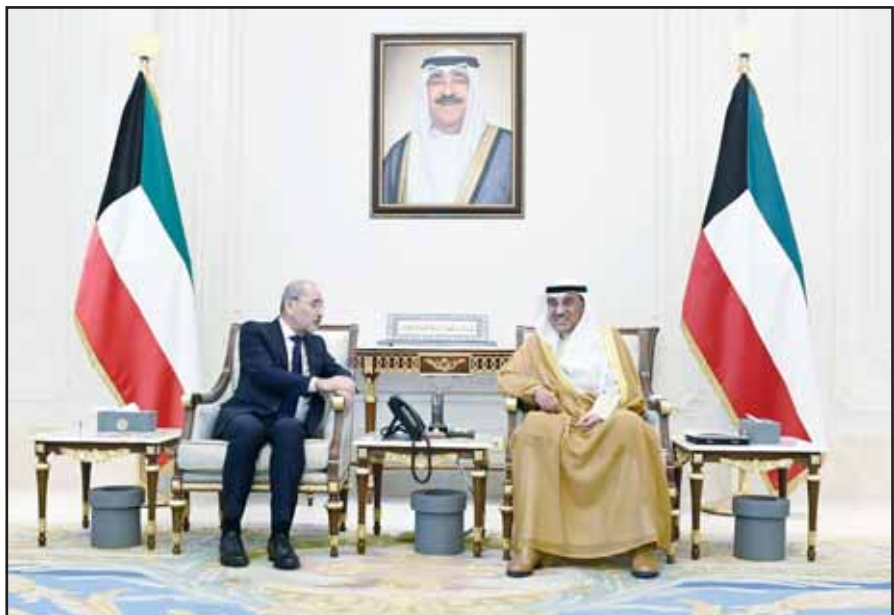




Kuwait Crown Prince receives Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister



HH the Crown Prince receives Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates.

Kuwait, Jordan sign 6 cooperation deals

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Wednesday at Bayan Palace the Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Ayman Safadi and his accompanying delegation during their participation in the fifth Kuwaiti-Jordanian Joint Committee meetings in Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Hamad Al-Marri, Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab World Affairs Ambassador Ahmad Al-Bakr, Secretary-General of Jordan's Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply Dana Al-Zaabi, and Jordan's Ambassador to Kuwait Senan Al-Majali. Meanwhile, the fifth session of the Kuwait-Jordan Joint Higher Committee held Wednesday in Kuwait, co-chaired by Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Al-Safadi.

In a statement, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry said Minister Al-Yahya conveyed greetings of Kuwait's leadership and highlighted the strong and historic ties between the two countries.

During the session, both sides signed six agreements and executive programs, reflecting commitment to strengthening strategic cooperation and achieving mutual interests.

The meeting reviewed cooperation in key sectors, including economy, investment, culture, and tourism. Regional developments, including the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, were also discussed.

— See Also Pages 2 & 4



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

'A generous man accepts willingly to be deceived' – this applies to Caliph Haroun al-Rashid

Haroun ordered the beheading of his employee, but the latter's tears saved his life.

Al-Tusi said, "I fear leaving this world while you are still angry with me."

The Caliph brought him close, despite knowing he was being deceived.

The shepherd said, "Guevara's war with you frightened my sheep."

Karim believed the people he had defended would stand by him.

Not a single merchant came to his aid. They instead blamed him for the destruction of Alexandria.

Napoleon told Karim, "You sacrificed your life for the sake of cowards."

A revolutionary man in an ignorant society is like someone who sets himself on fire to light the way for the blind.

3

6,300 expats booted in Kuwait's 60-day sweep

Speed junkies vanish under tougher traffic rules

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: The Deportation and Detention Department at the Correctional Institutions Sector in the Interior Ministry has completed the deportation procedures for around 6,300 expatriates in May and June 2025.

This is part of the ongoing efforts of the department to expedite the deportation of expatriate violators to their

home countries.

Sources affirmed that the department continues to work hard to deport expatriates referred by various sectors in the ministry for violating the Residency and Labor laws, some of whom are subject to judicial rulings.

Sources said the department remains committed to speed up the completion of deportation procedures, while providing humanitarian support and all other needs of violators during their temporary detention until the procedures are completed.

Sources added the field sectors in the ministry refer violators of the Residency and Labor laws, who are arrested in the ongoing security campaigns throughout the country, including the illegal workers.

In other news, since the implementation of the new traffic law

on April 22 -- about three months ago; areas once frequented by reckless drivers, such as Kabad, Wafra, Abdally and Subiya roads, are now empty of such drivers.

These areas, which used to be venues for nighttime gatherings for car races promoted on social media, are now largely deserted; marking a new era of road safety.

The law introduced sweeping changes, including increased fines, tougher penalties and stricter enforcement. These measures have led to a visible shift in driving behavior, particularly among reckless drivers.

Previously, some of the abovementioned areas hosted illegal, high-risk races that resulted in fatal accidents -- both among

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait affirms rights amid citizenship loss

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabinet on Tuesday affirmed keenness on having a dignified life to people whose citizenship has been withdrawn.

This was announced during a presentation made by First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah on all details in this matter, during a Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday under the leadership of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace.

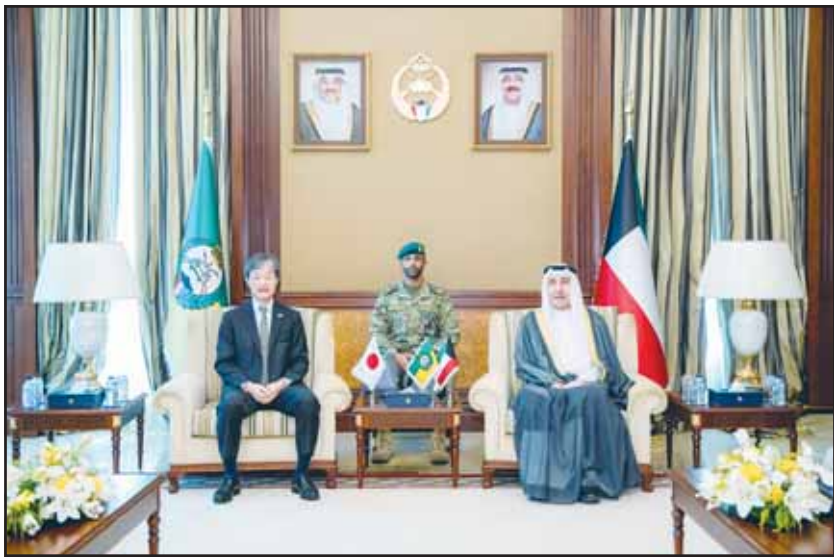
This announcement by the government is part of its eagerness to maintain some of the rights and privileges of this category obtained in line with Article 5 of the Amiri Decree No. 15 issued in 1959, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Abdullah Al-Mousherji said in a statement after the meeting.

The Cabinet approved the report of the Supreme Committee for the Investigation of Kuwaiti Citizenship on the withdrawal and the loss of nationality of some, in line with the above-mentioned decree.

Afterwards, the Cabinet was informed about the official

Continued on Page 5

KNG Chief hails Japan-Kuwait exemplary ties



Kuwait National Guard photo
Chief of Kuwait National Guard receives the Ambassador of Japan to Kuwait Ken-ichiro Mukai.

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): Chief of Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mubarak Hamoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah praised on Wednesday the historical stances of Japan toward Kuwait and the distinguished relations that unite the two countries in various fields.

This came during the Chief's meeting with the Ambassador of Japan to Kuwait Kenichiro Mukai, at KNG headquarters, where the two sides discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations.

He affirmed the commitment to continued coordination and joint cooperation, particularly in the military and security fields.

Red Sea search on; Kuwait tanker saves lives

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (Agencies): Kuwait's oil tanker, Bahra, saved the lives of 45 refugees in the Mediterranean Sea, off Greece coast, on Monday evening, Acting CEO of Kuwait Oil Tankers Company (KOTC) Sheikh Khaled Ahmad Al-Sabah said on Tuesday.

This is a new humanitarian act added to the company's record, he told KUNA, noting that the refugees were onboard a boat, which was out of service in the sea at 4:00 pm (Kuwait

time).

Greece's rescue and research center informed that there is a boat 60 miles away from Greece coast, Sheikh Khaled Al-Sabah said.

Immediately, the tanker was informed to offer required support and humanitarian assistance, as well as basic needs

Continued on Page 5

New pact fights financial crimes

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): Kuwait's financial Intelligence Unit and Iraq's Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Bureau signed on Tuesday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aiming to beef up cooperation on information exchange and financial intelligence efforts.

The deal, signed after a gathering of global financial watchdog body Egmont Group, is a testament to Kuwait and Baghdad's collective commitment to boost transparency and cooperation, based on the principles and guidelines of the global financial organization of intelligence units.

Continued on Page 5

Uzbekistan rolls out free 30-day visa to Kuwaitis in tourism push

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Chairman of the National Tourism Committee of Uzbekistan Umid Shadiyev confirmed that his visit to Kuwait aims to strengthen cooperation with tourism institutions and develop partnerships between relevant parties.

In a statement to reporters, Shadiyev pointed out that Kuwaiti tourism plays a pivotal role within the Middle East group in the regional tourism system and is one of the most prominent partners in this sector.

He said the delegation consists of 10 Uzbek tourism companies and institutions, disclosing that the delegation met with the relevant parties to discuss opportunities to develop bilateral tourism and joint projects.

He revealed that Uzbekistan issued a strategic document for tourism 2025-2026 in February, but it needs innovative implementation tools that take into account the nature of the Gulf markets. He also mentioned new initiatives that will be announced soon, including incentives for investors and regional partnerships.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait reaffirms commitment to OPEC, stability of oil market

VIENNA, July 9, (KUNA): OPEC Secretary-General Haitham Al-Ghais emphasized the significance of the 9th OPEC International Seminar, calling it a major event on the global energy calendar.

In his opening remarks in Vienna, Al-Ghais welcomed energy ministers, industry leaders, and international delegates, expressing gratitude for their continued support, and praised Austria for hosting the high-level event.

Al-Ghais noted OPEC's long history of organizing international energy seminars since 1969, bringing together top global figures to discuss key energy issues.

The two-day seminar features keynote addresses and discussions by prominent energy figures, including Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman and climate negotiators such as COP30 President, Am-



Al-Roumi

bassador Andre Correa do Lago, and COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev.

The agenda includes three high-level ministerial sessions and seven industry roundtables focused on global energy challenges and opportunities.

The event will conclude Thursday with the launch of the World Oil Outlook 2025, which Al-Ghais said contains many surprises.

The seminar discusses sustainable energy and inclusive energy future, and aims to explore the balance between energy security, accessibility, and emission reductions.

Al-Ghais thanked ministers, ambassadors, media, and sponsors for their vital role in making the seminar a success, and concluded by commending the OPEC Secretariat team for their tireless efforts in organizing this landmark event.

Continued on Page 5



8 KFH honors top-performing children of employees in high school



9 Agility joins LOYAC in kicking off 10th edition of KON Program

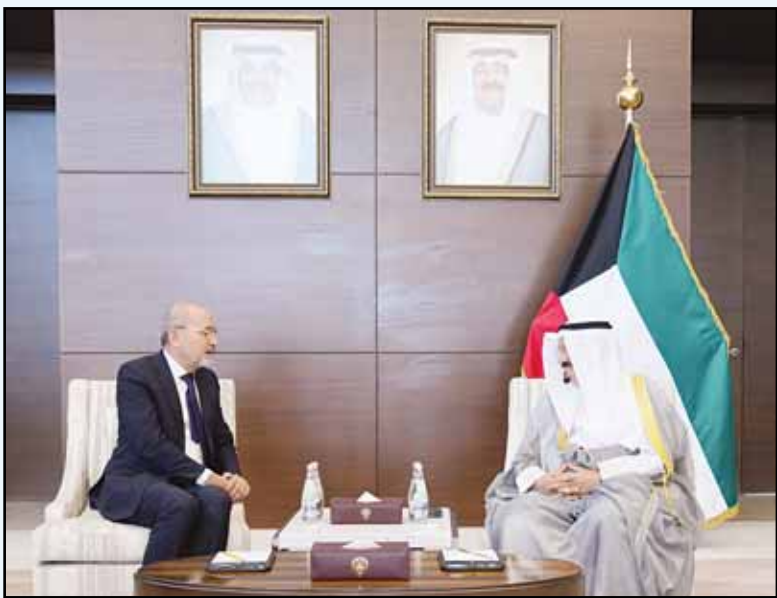


Photo by Mohammad Morsi
Performers play traditional instruments during the International Tourism Forum.

Prayer Timings		
Fajr	03:21	Asr 15:27
Sunrise ..	04:55	Maghrib .. 18:51
Zohr	11:53	Isha 20:22

Local

Weather		
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:		
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind changing to light southeasterly wind later on, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.		
By Night: Hot to rather hot with		
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	48	36
Kuwait Airport	47	32
Abdaly	46	30
Jahra	46	32
Salmiyah	44	33
Ahmadi	42	30
Nuwaisib	46	31
Wafra	45	29
Salmi	44	28
Managish	46	31



PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Ayman Safadi.

Kuwait, Jordan to boost robust bilateral relations

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Wednesday at Bayan Palace, Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Ayman Safadi, and his accompanying delegation during their participation in the fifth Kuwaiti-Jordanian Joint Committee meetings in Kuwait.

During the meeting, they discussed the exceptional bilateral ties and ways of boosting cooperation across a multitude of fields.

Attending the meeting were also Kuwait Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, Chief of Premier Diwan, Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel, Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Hamad Al-Marri, Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab World Affairs Ambassador Ahmad Al-Bakr, Secretary-General of Jordan's Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply Dana Al-Zaabi, and Jordan's Ambassador to Kuwait Senan Al-Majali.

MPW to hire Kuwaiti engineers

500 apply for 100 vacancies

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Head of the Kuwaitization Unit and Assistant Undersecretary for the Planning and Development Sector at the Ministry of Public Works Ahmed Al-Saleh confirmed that the ministry and the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) have started the first round of interviews to employ Kuwaiti engineers to work on ministerial contracts, indicating that the ministry has 12 major road maintenance contracts.

Al-Saleh made the announcement during the meeting of the Interview Committee affiliated with the unit, which conducted interviews with applicants for the first Kuwaitization program at the PAM Theater.

He said the unit was established after the Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan issued a ministerial decision to form a special committee to Ku-

waitize the ministry's contracts. "This is considered an important step towards strengthening the work of nationals in the private sector. The unit ensures the provision of the benefits stipulated in the regulations and bylaws. It also guarantees job security, minimum salaries, annual increases and other benefits that will attract nationals to work in the private sector to gain practical experience and develop technical skills; thus, achieving an important pillar of development in the State of Kuwait," he explained.

He revealed that the ministry was the first government agency, after the oil sector, to establish its own regulations in coordination with PAM, which regulates the work of nationals in its contracts. "The first phase included 100 job opportunities and 500 engineers applied for these positions. The inclusion of the Kuwaitization regulations in the future contracts of the ministry is being monitored," he added.

'Kuwait, US durable strategic partners'

We do not want regional tensions to escalate: Sasahara

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: American Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara has affirmed the strength of American-Kuwaiti relations stressing that Kuwait is a long-standing strategic partner of the United States, and that cooperation, communication and coordination take place daily at the military and civilian levels.

Sasahara made the statement in a meeting with journalists, during which she pointed out the presence of the NATO Center in Kuwait since 2017 -- a manifestation of the high level of cooperation between the two countries.

She said the launching of the Iranian missile at the American Al-Udeid air base in Qatar is a clear example of close coordination; indicating that "we, as partners, need to know what is happening." She emphasized that Iran is not far away, adding that communication is ongoing with the Kuwaiti military and civilian leaders to exchange information and assess the situation. She confirmed that the US military presence in Kuwait is a strategic decision, which reflects the level of trust and partnership between the two countries.

She stated that "the Gulf states are currently focusing on economic growth and trade, not conflict. We also believe in this: partnership for prosperity, not confrontation."

Regarding the American position on tension in the region, she asserted "we do not want this tension to escalate. The recent attacks were worrying, but the Gulf response was unified and swift. This is encouraging. No one wants to be drawn into conflict, being calm is important for everyone."

She also underscored the importance of promoting dialogue in the region, praising the Arab countries' support for Syria and Lebanon. She emphasized that dialogue through the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation is essential to achieving stability.



Al-Seyassah photo

US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara talking to the Kuwaiti press.

Asked about the balance between American support for Israel and Washington's commitment to maintain regional stability and protect human rights; she disclosed "we do not hide our support for Israel, but at the same time, we believe in the importance of balance between interests and principles. Any conflict in the region threatens security and stability, and negatively impacts trade and human rights. That is why we support dialogue and cooperation, instead of escalation."

On her assessment of US President Donald Trump's efforts regarding the ceasefire in Gaza and its chances of success, Sasahara stated "the president is very focused on this issue and is following it up himself. The goal is ceasefire because it is the right path. The goal is not only economic gains, but also fulfilling humanitarian pledges."

Regarding the regional situation, she warned that the current situation cannot tolerate further surprises, as all parties need national security. She indicated that the Arab

League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation can play a role in facilitating regional dialogue. She cited the decision of the United States to lift sanctions on Syria to provide food and medicines, as well as the visit of the new Lebanese president to Kuwait; describing them as positive indicators.

Regarding the arrival of the new ambassador, she explained there is a timetable for nominations and the new candidate is still in Washington; indicating the arrival will be announced at the appropriate time through official channels. She said the timetable for appointing ambassadors is subject to internal considerations in the United States and is affected by the summer holidays and the progress of congressional sessions.

She expressed her admiration for the media diversity in Kuwait; affirming that it is good to have such a large number of newspapers in a small country like Kuwait as it reflects a rich diversity of opinions. She praised the Kuwaiti press; disclosing that based on her personal experience, newspapers here hide nothing and enable readers to know what is really going on. She revealed that she still relies on traditional print media as a primary source of information, and that it is more credible and transparent than social media.

Asked about some students being affected by their freedom of expression on social media and being denied entry visas due to their views on the Gaza War, she said "I completely understand the concerns, but visa issuance is subject to criteria set by the US administration, which is the decision-maker in this regard. Expressing an opinion is not a crime, but the procedures are based on national immigration policies. We have to balance opening legitimate travel with national security priorities. We want students to come to study, but we do not want people who have no good intentions for our country. When you fill out a visa application and say you are going to study, that should be your goal. We are committed to welcoming students, while continuing to adapt our visa criteria to changing circumstances. We resumed the F, M and J visa interviews last week. We are now operating normally. There are some additional requirements in the process and we have been clear about them from the beginning."



The MoU being signed.

KFAS, MoFA, diplomatic institute ink MoU to boost diplomats skills

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conduct specialized training programs to raise the efficiency and improve the skills of Kuwaiti diplomats.

This is part of the 2025-2029 strategic objectives of KFAS in terms of building national capacities and promoting knowledge-based sustainable development.

In a press statement, KFAS disclosed that the signing ceremony was held at its headquarters in the presence of Director General Dr. Amina Farhan, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute Affairs Ambassador Nasser Subaih Al-Subaih, and a number of officials from both sides.

The MoU aims to develop the expertise and negotiating capabilities of diplomats; focusing on priority issues like climate action, empowerment of women, and



Handshakes after signing the MoU.

enhancing knowledge and awareness in diplomatic work.

KFAS affirmed the importance of this step in strengthening cooperation among national institutions, achieving sustainable development, and boosting national competencies to keep pace with global challenges and developments.

Kuwait keen to protect creativity & innovation

GENEVA, July 9, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait reaffirmed on Wednesday its commitment in protection of creativity and innovation across commercial and industrial sectors, emphasizing the need for a balanced global intellectual property (IP) system that fosters innovation and sustainable development.

In a statement during the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) General Assembly, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador and other international organizations in Geneva Nasser Al-Hayen, highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen technical cooperation with WIPO and underscored the organization's vital role in supporting national development, enhancing institutional capacities, and advancing IP systems aligned with Kuwait's goals.

The ambassador also emphasized Kuwait's dedication to supporting creators and inventors, while promoting public awareness of the economic and social benefits of intellectual property rights.

Kuwait is scheduled to host the 15th International Exhibition of Inventions in the Middle East in February 2025. The previous event showcased 230 inventions from over 180 inventors representing 42 countries and received strong support from national and international institutions.

In addition, Kuwait celebrated World Intellectual Property Day in April 2025 by organizing a national forum for intellectual property offices, facilitating dialogue and the exchange of expertise.

Grant more power to Arab youths: Kuwait

AMMAN, July 9, (KUNA): Kuwait's Deputy Director of Youth Public Authority (YPA) Abdullah Al-Adwani reaffirmed on Wednesday the country's commitment to engaging in Arab youth initiatives and fostering regional cooperation to empower young people and exchange expertise.

Al-Adwani's remarks to KUNA came following his participation at the launch of the Executive Plan for the Arab Youth, Peace, and Security Strategy held in Amman, on behalf of Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdurrahman Al-Mutairi.

He described Kuwait's participation in the forum as direct embodiment of the country's vision to actively support regional initiatives and achieve national goals into shared Arab achievements.

He further said that this participation aligns with the strategic objectives of YPA, as well as complements with the Arab Youth, Peace and Security Strategy in promoting sustainable development, enhance youth participation in decision-making, conflict prevention, and community peace building.

Other Voices

Grievances panel holds key

By Ahmad alsarraf

FOR various reasons, Kuwaiti citizenship was revoked from tens of thousands of individuals during the period between 1987 and about two years ago. Nearly half of them were women married to Kuwaiti citizens. This caused both minor and major repercussions that could have been anticipated and prevented, but those issues now belong to the past.

As always, I supported the government's decisions, believing that the chaos surrounding the granting of Kuwaiti citizenship since Kuwait's liberation, especially over the past 15 years, should never have happened and cannot continue.



alsarraf

Thus, the decisions to revoke citizenship were made in response to Amiri directives and to deal with the ongoing controversy surrounding troubling, often shocking cases of illegal naturalization.

Given several circumstances, some of which I have previously discussed, it was impossible to rely on traditional methods to uncover these cases or overlook them. Also, there was a risk that reviewers could be accused of bias, and the committee's decisions might be seen as hasty or unfair.

Therefore, it was necessary to take decisive and difficult measures by revoking the citizenship of all individuals in this category first, and then reviewing the files that might have been subject to injustice or arbitrariness.

Some may disagree with what I have said, but this is not a justification for the decisions; rather, it is the reality.

In any case, this is now part of the past, and there is no use crying over spilled milk. The estimated number of wives whose citizenship was revoked is around 30,000. This means that at least ten percent of the country's citizens were directly affected by this

decision, including their spouses, children, grandchildren, and relatives.

I do not criticize the government's decisions, as long as their goal was, and remains, the public interest and the protection of national identity. I also respect those who rightfully obtained Kuwaiti citizenship and have built wonderful families we can all be proud of.

However, it is time to pay attention to the "Grievance Review Committee." Almost no one knows how it operates, its importance, legality, or the binding nature of its decisions. No one knows when it will begin its work. It lacks a spokesperson to reassure those concerned. Justice demands that no one be punished for the mistakes of another.

Reshaping national identity and making it more credible and authentic requires the committee to act quickly and conduct its work with full transparency. Hundreds of thousands await the outcomes of its sessions, which I hope have already begun since the committee's formation was announced a few months ago. Kuwait, a country of freedom and humanity, needs to strengthen its global reputation through the issuance of final and decisive decisions by this committee. Leaving the situation unresolved worries everyone including those whose citizenship was revoked, their families, and all who care about public affairs. It is important to commend the exemplary official handling of this matter so far.

In conclusion, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) can deliver important and significant benefits by reducing waiting periods. AI is highly effective in accelerating data analysis, quickly and accurately reviewing applications, and detecting unfair or discriminatory patterns in the granting or revocation of citizenship. It can identify biases in decision-making, if any, by studying the history of past rulings, conducting statistical analyses, and verifying the authenticity of documents at remarkable speed, all while ensuring applications meet all requirements without human intervention.



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HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



‘A generous man accepts willingly to be deceived’ – this applies to Caliph Haroun al-Rashid

THROUGHOUT history, traitors have always been condemned for lacking honor and patriotism. Some have even betrayed their own families including father, mother, or siblings, as they are driven solely by personal gain. Such individuals have often faced the harshest punishments.

History offers many examples of betrayal, but today’s focus is on one that best illustrates the meaning of the famous Arabic proverb - “If you deceive a generous person, they will be deceived willingly.”

Haroun al-Rashid had an employee named Hamid al-Tusi. One day, al-Tusi made a serious mistake, prompting the Caliph to order his execution by beheading. When al-Tusi was brought forward for execution, he began to cry loudly.

Haroun al-Rashid asked him, “Are you afraid of death?”

Al-Tusi replied, “No, I swear. Death is inevitable, and we all will face it.”

Al-Rashid then asked, “So what makes you cry?”

Al-Tusi responded, “I fear leaving this world while you are still angry with me.”

Moved by his words, Haroun al-Rashid pardoned him and brought him close once again, despite knowing that al-Tusi was likely lying. However, the Caliph understood well the truth behind the old proverb - “If you deceive a generous person, they will accept being deceived.”

Similarly, when a delegation from the Banu Tamim tribe visited the Quraysh, the poet al-Farazdaq advised them, “Seek the help of anyone in Quraysh who is known to accept being deceived, because if you deceive a generous man, he will allow himself to be deceived.”



Che Guevara and the shepherd

When the Argentine revolutionary and Cu-

- Haroun ordered the beheading of his employee, but the latter’s tears saved his life.
- Al-Tusi said, “I fear leaving this world while you are still angry with me.”
- The Caliph brought him close, despite knowing he was being deceived.
- The shepherd said, “Guevara’s war with you frightened my sheep.”
- Karim believed the people he had defended would stand by him.
- Not a single merchant came to his aid. They instead blamed him for the destruction of Alexandria.
- Napoleon told Karim, “You sacrificed your life for the sake of cowards.”
- A revolutionary man in an ignorant society is like someone who sets himself on fire to light the way for the blind.

ban national, Che Guevara, was captured in his hideout after being reported by a local shepherd, the officer asked the latter, “Why did you turn in someone who spent his life defending people like you and fighting for your rights?”

The shepherd replied simply, “His wars with you frightened my sheep.”



Napoleon Bonaparte and Mohammad Karim

Following his resistance against the French military campaign in Egypt led by Napoleon Bonaparte, Muhammad Karim was captured and sentenced to death.

Napoleon summoned him and said, “I regret executing a man who so bravely defended his country. I do not wish for history to remember me as someone who killed heroes who stood for their homelands. Therefore, I have pardoned you but for a price of ten thousand gold pieces as compensation for the soldiers lost in battle.”

Karim replied, “I do not have that kind of money, but I am owed more than one hundred thousand gold pieces by the merchants.”

Napoleon responded, “I will grant you a grace period to collect the amount.”

Karim was then taken to the market in chains, escorted by French soldiers. He hoped the people he had defended and for whom he had risked everything would support him. However, not a single merchant came forward. Instead, they blamed him for the destruction of Alexandria and the decline in economic conditions.

Karim was returned to Napoleon, filled with shock and disappointment. Napoleon said to him, “I have no choice but to execute you, not because you resisted us or killed our soldiers, but because you gave your life for a cowardly people who were too absorbed in their trade to defend the freedom of their homeland.”

The Islamic scholar Mohammad Rashid Rida once said, “A revolutionary man in an ignorant society is like someone who sets himself on fire to light the way for the blind.”

Never fight for cowards. Convincing a fly that flowers are more beautiful than garbage is easier than convincing traitors that their homeland is more valuable than money.

Your son is the cane you lean on when your back grows weak. Your daughter is the light that guides you when darkness falls.



Life is never constant. It is a cycle of ups and downs. As God says in the Holy Quran, “And these days We alternate among the people.”



Your tongue can be your greatest enemy. If you want to avoid trouble, keep it in check and refrain from boasting. Be true to yourself, and never let arrogance take root.



As the old saying goes, “Beware of the donkey from behind, the bull from the front, and the ignorant from all directions.”



Mol photo
Rescue Police verifying validity of some expats residence.

365 criminals nabbed
470 ‘iqama’ violators held in month of June

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: As part of intensified efforts to reinforce public safety and security across the country, the General Department of Rescue Police, under the directives of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, conducted a series of targeted security and traffic campaigns throughout June 2025. These operations were carried out across all six governorates, with patrols deployed during both morning and evening periods, reports Al-Anba daily .

According to an official source, the campaigns resulted in significant outcomes. Between June 1 and 30, 365 individuals wanted on criminal and civil charges were apprehended. This includes 15 individuals arrested on criminal charges and 350 for civil offenses, primarily through checkpoints set up in residential and commercial areas.

In addition, authorities detained 470 individuals for violating residency laws, referring them to the General Department of Residence Investigations. The anti-narcotics effort also saw 46 individuals caught for drug use or distribution, all of whom were referred to the General Department for Drug Control.

Field operations led to the confiscation of 309 vehicles linked to legal cases or subject to court-ordered property seizures. These seizures were made during operations conducted at 37 security checkpoints established across various locations to ensure a strong and proactive security presence.

Rescue Police also solved 11 theft cases, with the perpetrators transferred to the appropriate legal authorities for further investigation and prosecution.

In parallel, ongoing traffic enforcement efforts recorded a total of 25,986 traffic violations, including speeding, signal violations, driving without a license, and other infractions. Twenty-seven individuals were detained for committing serious violations posing a threat to public safety, and 32 vehicles were impounded.

Additionally, Rescue Police responded to 675 traffic accidents, which ranged from minor incidents to those involving serious injuries.

The General Directorate of Emergency Police emphasized that these campaigns will continue on a regular and daily basis as part of its commitment to preserving public safety, enforcing the law, and curbing both criminal and traffic violations.

Authorities also urged citizens and residents to cooperate with law enforcement personnel, stressing that adherence to the law is a shared responsibility that plays a vital role in protecting lives, property, and national stability.

Hunt for gas pump store 3 am robber

Expat robbed at knife-point

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Criminal security personnel have launched an investigation to identify and apprehend an individual who stole merchandise worth more than KD85 from a store located within a gas station, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source stated that investigators are considering the use of biometric fingerprint technology to confirm the suspect’s identity, given the high-quality images recorded by the surveillance cameras of the store. The source pointed out that similar methods were successfully employed in a previous case.

According to the case details, a Kuwaiti citizen born in 1996 -- acting in his capacity as an agent for a company operating multiple branches inside fuel stations -- filed the complaint. He reported that at approximately 3:00 am on the day of the alleged theft a man of medium height and slim build with a light complexion, wearing a black T-shirt and light gray shorts entered the store. The suspect took 10 pieces of chocolates, five tanning lotions and four lighters -- totaling KD85.600, and went out of the store without paying.

The complainant submitted video evidence documenting the theft. It remains unclear whether the incident was discovered immediately by store staff or later through a review of security footage. The report did not specify whether the suspect arrived in a vehicle or whether any additional video captured the vehicle’s make, model or license plate number.

Security authorities continue to review the evidence and are working hard to track down the culprit.



Company breaches rules

Court annuls business contract

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: The Partial Civil/Commercial Circuit of the Court of First Instance ruled to annul an investment contract between a Kuwaiti citizen and a commercial company trading prayer beads, and ordered the company to return the full invested amount along with expenses and at-

torney’s fees.

Lawyer Israa Al-Haddad, who filed the lawsuit on behalf of her client, explained that he had entered into an investment contract with the company, promising a 20 percent profit distribution every ten days, and had paid the company pursuant to a promissory note. The company failed to honor the agreement and did not pay any profits to him despite formal warnings.

Kids take to wheels as holiday starts

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: With the start of the summer vacation, traffic patrols intensified their campaigns against violators of traffic rules and regulations; resulting in the referral of 37 adolescents to the Juvenile Prosecution for driving without a license over the past seven days.

The weekly statistics of traffic patrols revealed the issuance of 18,741 traffic viola-

tion citations, impounding of 46 vehicles, seizure of 57 wanted vehicles; and detention of three individuals found to be in abnormal condition, 22 individuals who failed to present valid identification documents, and 116 others who violated the Residency Law, are wanted by law for involvement in various crimes and absconders.

Meanwhile, officers from the General Department of Emergency Patrols arrested 46 individuals for the possession and consumption of drugs, and referred them to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD).

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MEW achieves milestone in digital transformation drive

63.1% completion marks steady progress

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: The latest annual plan follow up report for fiscal 2024/2025 revealed that 63.1 percent of the digital transformation project of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy was completed by the end of the third quarter of the current plan.

The report stated that the project is under the Interconnected and Transparent Government program, which includes 19 projects being implemented by 15 gov-

ernment agencies. The project aims to re-structure the government system in order to create an interactive government that promotes integrity and transparency, supports the private sector and digital transformation, improves performance and meets the needs of citizens.

Sources from the ministry confirmed that it is keen on achieving high rates regarding the digital transformation project; in line with the directives of the Council of Ministers and its efforts to facilitate and streamline procedures related to the workflow in its sectors, provide better services to customers, and link with other government agencies.

Sources said the ministry has been adding contracts annually since the start of the project in the 2020/2021 plan in a bid to enhance and modernize electronic connectivity. Sources disclosed a number of contracts are included in the annual budget for the current fiscal year; all of which aim to program and re-engineer electronic services and link them with the Sahel government application, in addition to contracts for using artificial intelligence and installation of electronic archiving systems for the sectors and departments in the ministry.

They added the contracts in the plan of the ministry will be tendered successively through the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), in accordance with the applicable controls and standards, and through companies specializing in modern software, with the aim of increasing the achievement rates related to digital transformation.



Kuwait FM with Jordanian deputy prime minister.

KUNA photo

Kuwait FM receives Jordanian deputy PM

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received on Tuesday visiting Jordanian deputy prime minister and counterpart Ayman Al-Safadi and his accompanying delegation.

The visit comes to bolster bilateral relations, and support ways to boost co-operation. (KUNA)

Applications open through July 13

Mol extends online registration for specialized officer course program

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: The Ministry of Interior has announced the extension of the online registration period to join the 33rd batch of the Specialized Officer Course at the Police College and the 15th batch of the Specialized Officer Course for Female Students at the Women's Police Institute through the Sahel application until 11:00 pm on July 13, reports Al-Anba daily.

This extension aims to provide additional time for those interested in applying for admission to the abovementioned courses, specifically for candidates holding university degrees.

In an official statement, the ministry emphasized that the extension is part of its commitment to attract qualified national talent in various academic and professional fields. It pointed out that goal is to expand participation, ensure fairness and equal opportunity, and give more time for applicants to meet all admission requirements in accordance with the announced criteria.

For detailed information on eligibility, required specializations and necessary documentation; applicants are encouraged to visit the official website of the ministry or log in to the Sahel application.

Kazakhstan president appoints Yelikiev as new envoy to Kuwait

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev issued a presidential decree to appoint Yergan Yelikiev as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Kuwait, succeeding former Ambassador



Azamat Berdybay, who was relieved of his duties under the same decree.

Yelikiev is a prominent economic figure, having served as Chair of the Board of Directors of KazakhInvest, the National Company for Attracting Foreign Investments since March 2024.

He has extensive experience in economics and strategic planning and holds a master's degree from the University of Glasgow in the United Kingdom.

Yelikiev is expected to assume his duties in Kuwait soon, where he will officially represent Kazakhstan and work to strengthen bilateral relations.

Bonuses remain unpaid

Faculty work without pay as KU stalls on secondment approvals

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Several faculty members seconded to various university colleges have not received their financial dues for the secondment work performed during the first and second semesters of the 2024-2025 academic year. Despite more than a year passing since they began, no official clarification has been provided by the university authorities, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting informed sources from Kuwait University.

They explained that these seconded faculty members submitted their secondment requests through the Science Department to complete the necessary procedures and obtain official approvals from their employers. However, the university administration has yet to finalize their paperwork, even though the Science Department issued teaching schedules for the academic departments at the colleges. These faculty members have been working full-time since the start of each semester without receiving any bonuses for their efforts, causing frustration and surprise within academic circles.

Several academics had repeatedly contacted the relevant university departments to inquire about their bonuses but received no clear or definitive answers. Instead, they were told that regulatory decisions were still under review, which they considered as an unconvincing excuse given the prior correspondence and approvals confirming the legitimacy of their secondment.

The sources questioned the reasons for this unjustified delay, noting that the approved secondment process requires employer and university approvals before work begins.

They said, "All regulatory and financial matters should be settled in advance. It is unreasonable for seconded employees to perform their duties for a full academic year without compensation, only to be left waiting indefinitely for an administrative decision that may never come."

Meanwhile, Dr. Sultan Al-Sahli, Director of the Practical Education Center at the College of Education in Kuwait University, announced the disbursement of allowances to students who completed the Practical Education course during the second semester of the 2024/2025 academic year, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a press statement, Al-Sahli commended the efforts of the Financial Affairs Department for ensuring the timely distribution of allowances. He also expressed his appreciation to all those involved in supporting the program and conveyed his best wishes for continued success and prosperity to the students, faculty and administrative staff.

Agency vows accountability

Information Ministry launches probe into broadcast misstep

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: The Ministry of Information is taking disciplinary action against those responsible for an incident that aired on Al-Akhbar TV on Monday morning, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to informed sources, the program's technical team has been referred for investigation, the studio manager has been suspended, and a comprehensive administrative review of the news departments is underway as part of the new restructuring effort in the ministry.

They stressed that the ministry is working on taking measures against those responsible for the broadcast error, emphasizing its commitment to the quality and integrity of media content presented to the public.

The sources explained that the ministry is currently conducting a full administrative review of its news departments, which includes leadership rotations as part of a restructuring plan. These efforts coincide with preparations to launch a new visual identity for the news channel, aimed at enhancing content quality, boosting professionalism, and promoting transparency in media performance.

Calls for structural justice

‘MoE overlooks library supervisors’

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Libraries and Information Association Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Suwait sent a letter to Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, praising the efforts of the ministry in preparing the new organizational structure.

However, Al-Suwait pointed out a “fundamental observation” regarding the absence of library and educational technology supervisors from the structure despite the official approval of these positions in job descriptions and the decision of the Civil Service Council on regulating their work, alongside psychological and social service supervisors.

He indicated in his letter that there are around 250 library and technology supervisors in various educational districts and they perform crucial technical tasks; such as monitoring professional performance in school libraries and educational technology, similar to the supervision provided by psychological and social service supervisors over psychological and social workers.

He stressed that ignoring this special category in the new structure creates an organizational vacuum and hinders technical roles that support the quality of the educational process.

He called for the reincorporation of library and educational technology supervisors into the General Administration of Educational Technology and Libraries so that their administrative affiliations become clear and their career paths become stable, while ensuring integration between all specializations in the school setting.

He expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the minister and all the work teams for what he described as “a solid commitment to improve performance and field work;” stressing that addressing this issue he raised will enhance organizational justice and consolidate the ministry’s leadership in supporting all specializations.

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Social Security begins pension payouts

PIFSS steps up to secure retirement benefits for former Kuwaiti citizens

By Saud Al-Farhan
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: In confirmation of the article published by the daily on April 23 regarding the directive issued to the Minister of Finance Noura Al-Fassam to approve the retirement applications of individuals whose citizenships were revoked under Article 8 and treat them as Kuwaiti citizens, informed sources revealed that the Public Institution for Social Security has received the necessary legal instructions and approvals on Monday.

This follows the Civil Service Council's approval to amend the contractual period for female employees in this category to two years instead of one, effective from the day following the revocation of citizenship.

The sources explained that the institution received a letter from the Ministry of Health regarding the referral of 91 female employees for retirement. The Insurance Services Department has begun processing the retirement procedures in preparation for disbursing their financial entitlements, along with their retirement pensions.

The institution has assigned dedicated teams to handle the retirement applications of individuals in this category and has distributed their files to several branches of the institution to accelerate the process.



Al-Fassam

In a circular addressed to ministries, government departments, and state-owned oil companies, the institution affirmed the importance of implementing the Civil Service Council's decisions to ensure that Kuwaiti female employees in the public sector receive all work and financial benefits, in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

The Council of Ministers also reaffirmed recently the government's commitment to preserving a number of rights and benefits for those whose citizenships were revoked, particularly those who had acquired Kuwaiti nationality under Article 5, Paragraph a of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959, which pertains to individuals granted citizenship in recognition of outstanding services to Kuwait.

'Culture key to reviving heritage and economy'

Ahmadi Market, Red Palace to lead revival

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi affirmed the continuation of national efforts in implementing sustainable cultural and development projects.

These projects are aimed at rehabilitating and activating a number of sites, heritage buildings and urban landmarks in various governorates and turning them into vibrant cultural and community centers, linking the past with the present and revitalizing local economy.

Al-Mutairi explained in a statement

to KUNA that these projects are a part of a comprehensive national vision under the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, with the direct follow-up of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Mutairi.

He pointed out that this vision aims to activate the cultural infrastructure and stimulate community participation, and among these projects are Ahmadi Market and the Red Palace.

Al-Mutairi affirmed the commitment of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature to preserve and promote Kuwaiti heritage and the continuous work to develop initiatives that make culture a key pillar in sustainable development.

He praised the permanent support of the political leadership, to integrate culture into the paths of urban and social development, thus consolidating Kuwait's position as a leading cultural center on regional and international levels.

These initiatives represent a qualitative breakthrough towards a future that is inspired by the past and gives the present the tools for creativity so that cultural heritage is a living and effective element in building a renewed national identity and a thriving creative economy, added Al-Mutairi.



Al-Mutairi

Amended regulations aim to balance urban growth

Technical Committee greenlights revised investment housing rules

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: The Technical Committee at the Municipal Council approved Table No. 2, detailing the requirements and specifications for investment housing buildings in and outside Kuwait City during its meeting on Wednesday.

Committee Chairwoman and Municipal Council member Munira Al-Amir said the lengthy discussions resulted in the amended regulations, which she considers a positive step toward developing regulations and systems to keep pace with economic and urban aspirations. She added the environmental, security and societal impact of the decision was confirmed.

She revealed the most important changes in the regulations, such as the accurate definition of all the terms in the table, as well as the addition of new definitions. She stated that the second clause of the bylaw stipulates details of facilities that are not included in the total building percentage like basements, parking areas, mechanical and electrical service floors, frames, skylights, pergolas, building services, main distributor, elevator distributors, suspended floor, evacuation floor (if any), garden floor, balconies and internal staircases. She said the eighth clause covers the terms of licensing

commercial premises on investment plots, indicating there has been a shift in the use of basements, which is detailed in the ninth clause. She affirmed that the owner has the right to use these basements as parking spaces or for recreational purposes for building residents, provided they adhere to the regulations of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF).

She disclosed the 12th clause stipulates the conditions for commercial uses in investment residential areas. The regulations specify commercial uses for the entire building. Combining two of the following uses is prohibited: medical clinics and laboratories, medical centers or clinics, private institutes, nurseries or rehabilitation centers for people with special needs, restaurants, health institute for men or health institute for women, sports arenas, hotel apartments, surface or multi-storey parking lots, smart parking lots, engineering offices and engineering consulting firms, law firms and legal consultancies, private schools, hotels, hospitals, charities, charitable organizations and libraries.



Al-Amir

She stated that this clause details all the requirements applicable to each activity separately, in addition to the permitted commercial uses for the first and second floors of investment residential buildings as follows: medical clinics or laboratories, provided their size is not less than 60 square meters; a clinic, provided the first or second floor or both floors are fully utilized on the licensed area; a tailoring shop for women; a salon for women; private institutes on the entire floor area; engineering offices, consulting offices and specialized engineering offices; a law office and legal consulting firm; medical or psychological consultations; charitable organizations or associations; and an accounting or audit office. It is permissible to use the first or second floor or both as a health institute, combine a health institute and salon for women, and use the first or second floor or both for services for people with disabilities, provided that the Kuwait Accessibility Code is implemented in accordance with the general design.

She cited the third clause, which stipulates the need to allocate a space for garbage containers within the boundaries of the plot, adjacent to the wall on one of the streets for easy waste collection and removal. The size of the space allocated for this purpose is determined based on the number of containers, which is directly proportional to the total building

area, and in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authorities.

She added that Clause 13 is about mixed investment housing -- a system that combines residential and commercial properties for the first time in Kuwait City, indicating that the percentage of commercial units must not exceed 30 percent of the total units.

She said "the owners of existing buildings who wish to benefit from these amendments are entitled to submit a request to the Kuwait Municipality to assess the building's condition and its suitability for implementing the new regulations."

She revealed that Clause 17 stipulates several incentives to encourage building owners to provide housing units for community service in accordance with the regulations of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW). "The incentives include increasing the building percentage by 30 percent of the size of the property to be used for housing units allocated to the authority. Allowing the use of a floor as garden, regardless of the size of the property, and it can be used as an additional space excluded from the building percentage. Commercial activities can be added to the first, second and third floors, which are essential incentives," she concluded.



Al-Seyassah photo
The lawyers seeking to overturn judicial fees amendment before the Constitutional Court.

Lawyers challenge new judicial fee law

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: A number of lawyers have filed a direct constitutional appeal before the Constitutional Court, seeking a ruling that Law No. 78/2025,

which was recently approved and published in the official gazette Kuwait Alyoum, concerning amendments to judicial fees, is unconstitutional.

The Constitutional Court is expected to set a date to consider the appeal in an upcoming session.

Sharks and jellyfish resurface in Kuwait's waters as temperatures rise: diving team

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): Sharks and jellyfish are among the most common marine creatures spotted in Kuwaiti waters during summer, primarily due to rising sea temperatures, according to the Kuwait Diving Team.

Speaking to KUNA, the head of the Kuwait Diving team, Waleed Al-Fadhel said sharks play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance and cleaning marine environments.

Despite misconceptions, most sharks found in Kuwait - particularly in the northern muddy areas and coral reef zones in the south - are not dangerous, and the great white shark, considered the most dangerous, is not present in the region.

Al-Fadhel noted that many spe-

cies are now endangered, with studies showing 20-30 percent are dying off due to harmful human practices, and he emphasized the team's ongoing efforts to rescue marine life, including sharks caught in abandoned fishing nets.

On jellyfish (locally known as doul), Al-Fadhel explained that they appear most frequently in June and July and can sometimes disrupt desalination plants, and though their sting can be painful, local species are not deadly.

Jellyfish also serve as a food source for sea turtles and contribute to marine ecological balance.

He advised swimmers to wear protective gear and avoid infested areas.



Sharks found in Kuwait waters.

KUNA photo

Continued from Page 1

6,300 expats

drivers and spectators -- often under the cover of darkness and away from law enforcement.

Under the new regulations, penalties for reckless or negligent driving and racing have significantly increased. Offenders now face fines of up to KD150 for minor violations upon settlement; and in severe cases, imprisonment of one to three years and fines ranging from KD 600 to 1,000 or any of these two penalties.

Individuals who film themselves committing traffic offenses like reckless or negligent driving now face fines ranging from KD1,000 to KD2,000.

The Ministry of Interior reported a substantial drop in traffic violations and accidents since the law took effect.

According to the General Traffic Department, traffic camera data showed 28,464 violations recorded in May 2025; compared to 168,208 in May 2024 -- 83 percent decrease. These violations included speeding and running the red light.

Violations related to not wearing seatbelts or using mobile phones while driving dropped by 75 percent -- 22,574 violations recorded in the first month of implementing the new law compared to 89,153 in the previous month.

The most important development is that traffic-related deaths fell by 55 percent; with only 10 fatalities reported in May 2025, compared to 22 in the same month of the previous year.

Kuwait affirms

delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during his official visit to Paris next week that includes Minister of Defense Sheikh

Abdullah Ali Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Director of the Office of His Highness the Amir Jamal Al-Thiyab and other officials.

The ministers further were briefed on the letters sent to His Highness the Amir by heads of some sisterly and friendly countries on boosting cooperation between Kuwait and these states, Al-Mousherji noted.

In addition, Al-Yahya informed the Cabinet about the results of official visit of British Foreign Secretary David Lammy and his accompanying delegation to Kuwait on Saturday while attending the second round of Kuwait-UK strategic dialogue.

The dialogue has resulted in signing three key deals, in implementation of the historic path of collaboration between both sides.

Furthermore, the Cabinet was apprised of a visual presentation made by Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizim, in the presence of some senior officials, on Kuwait Vision 2035 aiming to turn the country into a financial and commercial hub to allure investments.

The presentation included some key items like a supportive government and knowledge economy, and the projects of the 2025-2026 plan totaling 141.

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, T2 airport, New Sabah Hospital and others were paramount of this plan.

The ministers then reviewed the minutes of meeting of the ministerial committee for economic affairs involved some items topped with bills on approving the final statements of institutions with independent budgets of FY 2024-2025.

These instructions are the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Zakat House, Kuwait News Agency, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and others.

The Cabinet endorsed these bills and referred them to His Highness the Amir.

Finally, the Cabinet reviewed some topics listed on the agenda, and approved some and referred some others to the competent ministerial committees for study.

Red Sea

like water, food and temporary sheltering on the tanker's board, he elaborated.

After rescuing the refugees, the tanker resumed its trip to the Greek island of Crete, where they peacefully landed and were handed over to Greek authorities, he said.

He pointed that another Kuwaiti oil tanker, Dasma, rescued 40 refugees on July 12, and Salmi Tanker also saved the lives of 536 off Italian coast, one of the largest rescue operations in the world.

Sheikh Khaled stressed that safety and protecting maritime environment are two of the company's top priorities, in line with its efforts aiming to bring together humanitarian and moral values.

Meanwhile, rescuers launched a search Wednesday for survivors of a Liberian-flagged cargo ship that came under attack from Yemen's Houthis rebels in the Red Sea, authorities said. At least three mariners were killed and two were wounded.

The attack on the Greek-owned Eternity C follows the Iranian-backed Houthis attacking another vessel, the bulk carrier Magic Seas, on Sunday in

the Red Sea, which they subsequently sank. Fears grew Wednesday that the Eternity C may have sunk as well as the search for survivors continued.

The assaults are the first Houthi attacks on shipping since late 2024 in the waterway that had begun to see more ships pass through in recent weeks.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center, run by the British military, said in an advisory that "search and rescue operations commenced overnight" for those who had been aboard the Eternity C. Five crew members so far had been rescued, the UKMTO said.

The advisory did not discuss the ship's status, though it had sustained "significant damage" and had lost all propulsion.

The bulk carrier had been heading north toward the Suez Canal when it came under fire by men in small boats and bomb-carrying drones Monday night. The security guards on board fired their weapons. The European Union's Operation Aspidos and the private security firm Ambrey both reported those details.

Uzbekistan rolls

He then announced that Kuwaitis will be granted a free 30-day visa starting this July to encourage travel and discovery of Uzbekistan's natural and cultural attractions. He said the number of Kuwaiti visitors to his country has not exceeded 500 so far.

He urged Kuwaiti investors to invest in tourism, stating that the Uzbek government provides financial support of up to \$5,000 for each hotel room constructed -- equivalent to half a million dollars for a 100-room hotel.

He affirmed there was new tourism projects in cities like Samarkand, Khiva and Bukhara, in cooperation with

European partners; stressing these destinations are now suitable for family, religious and nature tourism.

He added that direct flights from Kuwait to Uzbekistan are still limited, confirming that the delegation met with representatives of airlines and they are working together to launch new direct routes.

During the promotional ceremony, Assistant Undersecretary for the Tourism Sector at the Ministry of Information Osama Al-Makhayal pointed out that organizing this event is an affirmation of the depth of bilateral relations between Kuwait and Uzbekistan; and embodies the shared desire to open new horizons for tourism and cultural cooperation.

He said Uzbekistan is a promising destination; considering its history, heritage, culture, picturesque nature and unique oriental cuisine.

Also, on the sidelines of the delegation's visit, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Kuwait Ayubkhon Yunusov stated that the two countries are bound by strong ties of friendship and brotherhood. He revealed this year marks the 31st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

New pact

The agreement is a major step forward towards clamping down on financial crime at a time of growing challenges that require greater cooperation and information exchange, the Kuwaiti financial watchdog's chief Hamad Al-Mekrad said in a statement.

The level of cooperation between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi financial intelligence units has been on an upward trajectory even before the new deal came to fruition, added the official, expecting the agreement to be instrumental in

simplifying the flow of bilateral information exchange, he underlined.

The deal is part of Kuwaiti efforts to broaden financial cooperation with international bodies, subsequently putting in place a financial environment marked by transparency and safety, he said.

Kuwait reaffirms

On Tuesday, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Tariq Al-Roumi reaffirmed his country's strong commitment to supporting the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), emphasizing its active participation in international events aimed at promoting stability in global oil markets.

In a statement to KUNA and Kuwait TV, Al-Roumi; at the Ninth OPEC International Seminar in the Austrian capital, Vienna, stressed that Kuwait has participated in the seminar since its inception in 2021, recognizing its importance in addressing global energy challenges and strengthening cooperation among oil-producing countries.

Upon his arrival in Vienna, Al-Roumi was received by the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Austria and OPEC Secretary General Haitam Al-Ghais.

Meanwhile Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman emphasized, Wednesday, the country's firm commitment to supporting the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), as well as partaking the event amid the complex challenges facing the sector.

Speaking at the opening of the Ninth OPEC International Seminar in the Austrian capital, Vienna, the minister described the event as symbol of OPEC's openness and inclusiveness, reaffirming the organization's role as a global platform for constructive dialogue during times of growing need for cooperation.

Rubio impostor uses AI voice to call foreign and US officials

WASHINGTON, July 9, (AP): The State Department is warning US diplomats of attempts to impersonate Secretary of State Marco Rubio and possibly other officials using technology driven by artificial intelligence, according to two senior officials and a cable sent last week to all embassies and consulates.

The warning came after the department discovered that an impostor posing as Rubio had attempted to reach out to at least three foreign ministers, a US senator and a governor, according to the July 3 cable, which was first reported by The Washington Post.

The recipients of the scam messages, which were sent by text, Signal and voice mail, were not identified in the cable, a copy of which was shared with The Associated Press.



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio greets State Department staff during a welcome event at the State Department on Jan 21, in Washington. (AP)

by an impersonator, with a similar incident revealed in May involving President Donald Trump’s chief of staff, Susie Wiles. The misuse of AI to deceive people is likely to grow as the technology improves and becomes more widely available, and the FBI warned this past spring about “malicious actors” impersonating senior U.S. government officials in a text and voice messaging campaign.

The hoaxes involving Rubio had been unsuccessful and “not very sophisticated,” one of the officials said. Nonetheless, the second official said the department deemed it “prudent” to advise all employees and foreign governments, particularly as efforts by foreign actors to compromise information security increase. The officials were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Texas continues search for more than 160 missing

3 dead as flash flooding hits New Mexico village

SANTA FE, NM, July 9, (AP): Three people have died in a mountain village in southern New Mexico that is a popular summer retreat after monsoon rains triggered flash flooding that was so intense an entire house was swept downstream, officials said.

A man and two children were swept away Tuesday by floodwaters, the village of Ruidoso said in a statement. Three people earlier had been reported missing, but it wasn’t immediately clear early Wednesday whether those were the same three who died.

Emergency crews carried out at least 85 swift water rescues in the Ruidoso area, including of people who were trapped in their homes and cars, said Danielle Silva of the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The water had receded by Tuesday night and search and rescue and swift water rescue teams were scouring the town for the missing people, while public works crews cleared debris from the roadways. Some cars were left stranded in the mud.

The floods came just days after flash floods in Texas killed over 100 people and left more than 160 people missing.

In New Mexico, officials urged residents to seek higher ground Tuesday afternoon as the waters of the Rio Ruidoso rose nearly 19 feet (2.7 meters) in a matter of minutes amid heavy rainfall. The National Weather Service issued flood



In this image taken from video, flash flooding is seen behind a house in Ruidoso, NM on July 8. (AP)

warnings in the area, which was stripped of vegetation by recent wildfires.

A weather service flood gauge and companion video camera showed churning waters of the Rio Ruidoso surge over the river’s banks into surrounding forest. Streets and bridges were closed in response.

Kaitlyn Carpenter, an artist in Ruidoso, was riding her motorcycle through town Tuesday afternoon when the storm started to pick up, and she sought shelter at the riverside Downshift Brewing Company with about 50 other people. She started to film debris rushing down the Rio Ruidoso when

she spotted a house float by with a familiar turquoise door. It belonged to the family of one of her best friends.

Also:

HUNT, Texas: As the search in Texas continued Wednesday for more than 160 people believed to be missing days after a destructive wall of water killed over 100 people, the full extent of the catastrophe had yet to be revealed as officials warned that unaccounted victims could still be found amid the massive piles of debris that stretch for miles.

“Know this: We will not stop until every missing person is accounted for. Know this also: There very likely could be more added to that list,” Gov. **Greg Abbott** said during a news conference Tuesday.

Abbot said officials have been seeking more information about those who were in the state’s **Hill Country** during the Fourth of July holiday but did not register at a camp or a hotel and may have been in the area without many people knowing.

The lowlands of **Kerr County** along the Guadalupe River, where most of the victims of the flash flooding have been recovered so far, are filled with youth camps and campgrounds, including Camp Mystic, the century-old all-girls Christian summer camp where at least 27 campers and counselors died. Officials said Tuesday that five campers and one counselor have still not been found.

Trump hosts West African leaders as region reels from US aid cuts

DAKAR, Senegal, July 9, (AP): US President Donald Trump is hosting five West African leaders on Wednesday for a “multilateral lunch” at the White House as the region reels from the impact of US aid cuts.

The leaders of Liberia, Senegal, Gabon, Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau are expected to discuss key areas of cooperation, including economic development, security, infrastructure and democracy, according to a statement from the Liberian presidency. The White House has not provided further details.

The surprise meeting comes as the Trump administration has taken radical steps it said are meant to reshape the US relationship with Africa.

Earlier this month, US authorities dissolved the US Agency for

International Development, and said it was no longer following what they called “a charity-based foreign aid model” and will instead focus on partnership with nations that show “both the ability and willingness to help themselves.”

The US African Affairs senior bureau official **Troy Fitrell** earlier this year said that Trump administration wants to focus on eliminating trade deficits with Africa.

“Assistance involves a donor and a recipient, but commerce is an exchange between equals,” he said.

Critics say that the abrupt shift will result in millions of deaths.

A study published in the Lancet medical journal late last month projected that USAID’s dismantling and deep funding cuts would lead to more than 14 million additional deaths globally by 2030, including 4.5 million children.

West African countries are among the hardest hit by the dissolution of the USAID. The US support in Liberia amounted to 2.6% of the country’s gross national income, and the highest percentage anywhere in the world, according to the Center for Global Development.



Fitrell

Police raids HQ of National Rally

France, UK will ‘save Europe’: Macron

LONDON, July 9, (AP): French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday urged Britain to stick close to its neighbors despite its exit from the European Union, saying France and the UK will “save Europe” by standing for democracy, law and international order in a dangerous world.

On a state visit that mixed royal pageantry with tough political talks on Ukraine and migration, Macron said Europe must strengthen its economy and defenses and reduce its dependence “on both the U.S. and China.”

Macron’s three-day trip, at the invitation of King Charles III, is the first state visit to the U.K. by a European Union head of state since Brexit, and a symbol of the UK government’s desire to reset relations with the bloc after Britain acrimoniously left the EU in 2020.

Macron addressed members of both houses of Britain’s Parliament packed into the building’s ornate Royal Gallery. He said the two countries represent “a world order based on law, justice and respect for territorial integrity, an order that is today being attacked on a daily basis.”

“The United Kingdom and France must once again show the world that our alliance can make all the difference,” Macron said, adding that “we will save Europe by our example and



France’s President Emmanuel Macron and wife Brigitte Macron attend the State Banquet at Windsor Castle, in Windsor, England on July 8. (AP)

our solidarity.”

He said that even though Britain has left the EU, “the United Kingdom cannot stay on the sidelines. Because defense and security, competitiveness, democ-

racy - the very core of our identity - are connected across Europe as a continent.”

The French president and his wife, Brigitte Macron, were treated to the full force of British ceremonial charm, a far cry from the chilly relations of 2022, when then-Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said that the “jury is out” on whether Macron was a friend or a foe.

Also:

PARIS: French police raided the headquarters of far-right party National Rally on Wednesday, seizing documents and accounting records, the party’s leader said, as part of a campaign finance inquiry.

Prosecutors are investigating allegations of illegal financing of **Marine Le Pen**’s 2022 presidential bid, and European Parliament and French parliamentary campaigns.

Jordan Bardella, 29, who took over presidency of the popular party in 2022, said that police seized “all files relating to the party’s recent regional, presidential, legislative, and European campaigns - in other words, all of its electoral activity.”

Bardella slammed the raid in a message on X. “This spectacular and unprecedented operation is clearly part of a new harassment operation. It is a serious attack on pluralism and democratic change,” he said.

Jackson warns of enormous real-world consequences

US Supreme Court allows Trump to resume mass federal layoffs

WASHINGTON, July 9, (AP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday cleared the way for President Donald Trump’s plans to downsize the federal workforce despite warnings that critical government services will be lost and hundreds of thousands of federal employees will be out of their jobs.

The justices overrode lower court orders that temporarily froze the cuts, which have been led by the Department of Government Efficiency.

The court said in an unsigned order that no specific cuts were in front of the justices, only an executive order issued by Trump and an administration directive for agencies to undertake job reductions.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson was the only dissenting vote, accusing her colleagues of a “demonstrated enthusiasm for greenlighting this President’s legally dubious actions in an emergency posture.”

Jackson warned of enormous real-world consequences. “This executive action promises mass employee terminations, widespread cancellation of federal programs and services, and the dismantling of much of the Federal Government as Congress has created it,” she wrote.



US President Donald Trump, (center), speaks during a cabinet meeting at the White House on July 8, in Washington. (AP)

The high court action continued a remarkable winning streak for Trump, who the justices have allowed to move forward with significant parts of his plan to remake the federal government. The Supreme Court’s intervention so far has been on the frequent emergency appeals the Justice Department has

filed objecting to lower-court rulings as improperly intruding on presidential authority.

The Republican president has repeatedly said voters gave him a mandate for the work, and he tapped billionaire ally Elon Musk to lead the charge through DOGE. Musk recently

left his role.

“Today’s US Supreme Court ruling is another definitive victory for the President and his administration. It clearly rebukes the continued assaults on the President’s constitutionally authorized executive powers by leftist judges who are trying to prevent the President from achieving government efficiency across the federal government,” White House spokesperson Harrison Fields said in a statement.

Tens of thousands of federal workers have been fired, have left their jobs via deferred resignation programs or have been placed on leave. There is no official figure for the job cuts, but at least 75,000 federal employees took deferred resignation and thousands of probationary workers have already been let go.

In May, US District Judge Susan Illston found that Trump’s administration needs congressional approval to make sizable reductions to the federal workforce. By a 2-1 vote, a panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals refused to block Illston’s order, finding that the downsizing could have broader effects, including on the nation’s food-safety system and health care for veterans.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, firefighters put out the fire following a Russian attack in Kyiv region, Ukraine on July 9. (AP)

European court rules Russia responsible for shooting down Flight MH17 in 2014

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, July 9, (AP): Europe’s top human rights court delivered two rulings against Russia Wednesday, stating in the first ruling that Russia violated international law during the conflict in Ukraine, the first time an international court has found Moscow responsible for human rights abuses since the full-scale invasion in 2022.

The court also ruled Russia was behind the downing of Flight MH17, the first time Moscow was named by an international court as being responsible for the 2014 tragedy that claimed 298 lives.

Judges at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg are ruling on four cases brought by Ukraine and the Netherlands against Russia, encompassing a wide range of alleged human rights violations during the full-scale invasion since the start of the war, including the downing of the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 and kidnapping Ukrainian children.

Any decision will be largely symbolic. The complaints were brought before the court’s governing body expelled Moscow in 2022, following the full-scale invasion.

Families of the victims of the MH17 disaster see the decision as an important milestone in their 11-year quest for justice.

“It’s a real step in understanding who was really responsible,” Thomas Schansman, who lost his 18-year-old son Quinn in the tragedy, told The As-



Plaintiffs sit in the European Court of Human Rights before it issues a landmark set of rulings about alleged Russian violations in Ukraine since 2014, including the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 on July 9, 2025 in Strasbourg, eastern France. (AP)

sociated Press.

Also:

KYIV, Ukraine: Russia fired a record 728 Shahed and decoy drones at Ukraine overnight, as well as 13 cruise and ballistic missiles, the Ukrainian air force said Wednesday, in the latest escalation after weeks of mounting Russian aerial and ground attacks in the more than three-year war.

The city of **Lutsk**, which lies in Ukraine’s northwest along the border with **Poland** and **Belarus**, was the

hardest hit, though 10 other regions were also struck, Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** said.

Lutsk is home to airfields used by the Ukrainian army. Cargo planes and fighter jets routinely fly over the city. Western regions of Ukraine are a crucial logistical backbone in the war, as airfields and depots there receive vital foreign military aid before forwarding it to other parts of the country. Russian long-range attacks have increasingly sought to disrupt those supply corridors.

Corruption inquiries ensnare party

Spanish PM announces anti-graft measures

MADRID, July 9, (AP): Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez presented anti-corruption measures in response to the mounting corruption cases involving his Socialist Party, and again said he would not step down from office.

Speaking in parliament Wednesday at an extraordinary session about a corruption probe involving a former Socialist Party official, the Spanish leader took responsibility for his poor judgement but repeatedly said he would not step down, calling himself “an honest politician” with “the pride of leading an exemplary party.”

“I will not throw in the towel,” Sánchez said.

The left-wing Spanish leader spoke about a week after a Supreme Court judge ordered the pretrial detention of Santos Cerdán, a former aide to the prime minister and previously the third-most senior member of the Socialist Party, over allegations that he received



Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, (center), applauds after delivering a speech at the Spanish parliament in Madrid on July 9. (AP)

kickbacks for public works contracts.

On Wednesday, Sánchez presented 15 anti-corruption measures, including bringing more transparency to political

and public financing, and working with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to crack down on graft.

Seoul sends 6 rescued North Koreans back across sea border

Ex-S.Korean leader Yoon appears in Seoul court for hearing on possible arrest warrant

SEOUL, South Korea, July 9, (AP): Disgraced former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol arrived in court Wednesday for a hearing to review a special prosecutor’s request for his arrest on charges related to his brief imposition of martial law in December.

Yoon, who was ousted in April after the Constitutional Court upheld his impeachment, was released from prison in March after the Seoul Central District Court overturned his January arrest, allowing him to stand trial for rebellion without being detained.

Arriving in a black van with his lawyers, Yoon did not respond to questions before entering the court in Seoul.

His criminal case is being handled by a team of investigators under a special prosecutor, Cho Eun-suk, who are pursuing additional charges over Yoon’s authoritarian push, including abuse of power, falsifying official documents and obstructing official duties. Cho’s team said they view Yoon as a potential threat to destroy evidence. They questioned him twice before submitting a request for his arrest warrant to the court on Sunday.

Yoon’s lawyers issued a statement denouncing the request for his arrest as excessive and lacking evidence. The court is expected to decide on the arrest warrant by Wednesday evening or early Thursday.

The former conservative leader described his martial law imposition on Dec. 3 as a necessary step to quash his “anti-state” liberal opponents, accusing them of using their legislative majority to obstruct his agenda. But Yoon’s decree lasted only hours, after a quorum of lawmakers broke through a blockade of heavily armed soldiers at the National Assembly and voted to lift the measure.

Yoon was impeached by lawmakers Dec. 14 and indicted Jan. 26 by public prosecutors who accused him of masterminding an attempted rebellion, describing his power grab as an illegal attempt to seize the legislature and election offices and detain political opponents. The charges are punishable by the death penalty or life imprisonment.

Yoon also faces accusations of enforcing martial law without following required legal procedure, such as deliberation by a formal Cabinet meeting, and of unlawfully deploying the presidential security forces like a private army to block an initial attempt by law enforcement to detain him at his residence in early January.



Former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, (center) arrives at a court to attend a hearing to review his arrest warrant requested by special prosecutors in Seoul, South Korea on July 9. (AP)

Also:

SEOUL, South Korea: South Korea sent six North Koreans back across the rivals’ sea border on Wednesday morning, months after they drifted south in wooden boats in March and May.

It came after months of failed efforts to contact **North Korea** to coordinate the repatriation of the six individuals, who officials say consistently expressed a desire to go back.

Russian FM to visit North Korea this week in latest sign of expanding ties

SEOUL, South Korea, July 9, (AP): Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will travel to North Korea for a three-day visit beginning Friday in the latest sign of the countries’ deepening ties during Russia’s war in Ukraine, state media reported.

North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency said Lavrov was invited by the country’s Foreign Ministry but did not immediately provide further details, including whether he would meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Lavrov’s visit follows a June trip by Russia’s top security official, Sergei Shoigu, who met Kim in Pyongyang before saying the North had decided to send thousands of military construction workers and deminers to Russia’s Kursk region to help rebuild the war-torn area.

An assessment by South Korea’s spy agency said the dispatch will take place as early as during July or August.

Kim has sent thousands of combat troops and large supplies of military equipment to help prolong Russia’s war efforts against Ukraine, including artillery and ballistic missiles. The North



In this photo released by Russian Foreign Ministry Press Service via their telegram channel, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, (left), and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov greet each other during a meeting in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Oct 19, 2023. (AP)

Korean announcement came as Lavrov was headed to Malaysia for a meeting of the 10-member Association of Southeast

Asian Nations. Some South Korean analysts say Lavrov may discuss arranging a visit by Kim to Russia.

Asia

Death toll rises to 12 in ferry tragedy: The death toll from a passenger ship that capsized in Indonesia’s Bali Strait last Wednesday has risen to 12, as search operations continue for 23 missing persons, officials said on Wednesday.

Ribut Eko Suyanto, deputy for search and rescue operations at the National Search and Rescue Agency, reported that two bodies were discovered on Wednesday morning by fishermen along the coast of Bali Island. This brings the total number of confirmed fatalities to 12, while 30 others were saved.

Search efforts resumed on Wednesday, covering the air, sea surface, and underwater areas. A remotely operated vehicle from the National Transportation Safety Committee (KNKT) has been deployed for underwater detection, according to KNKT head Soejanto Tjahjono.

The wooden vessel, carrying 53 passengers and 12 crew members, was traveling from Ketapang Seaport in Banyuwangi, East Java, to Gilimanuk Seaport in Jember Regency, Bali, when it sank last Wednesday. (Xinhua)

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Heavy rainfall hits SW China: A rain-triggered landslide buried a house in Shizhuang Village, Xuyong County



Suyanto

in southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on Wednesday morning, leaving five people missing, according to local authorities.

Heavy rainfall hit Zhengdong Township, Xuyong County, from Tuesday night to Wednesday morning. The county government reported that 24 residents near the landslide area have been relocated.

Search and rescue operations for the missing are underway.

Personnel from local emergency management and healthcare departments, as well as geological experts, fire and rescue teams, and local disaster relief forces, have been mobilized to the site.

Meanwhile, neighboring Chongqing Municipality has also been battered by severe downpours since Tuesday, with over 100 rainfall stations recording 24-hour precipitation levels classified as extreme heavy rain and heavy rain, according to the municipal meteorological and emergency management departments. (Xinhua)

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Tokyo gas cylinder blast injures 1: At least one person was injured after a gas cylinder exploded Wednesday at a university in the city of Saitama near Tokyo, local media reported.

Firefighters received a report around 11:20 a.m. local time that a cylinder had exploded during an experiment on the premises of Saitama University’s Faculty of Engineering, Kyodo News reported.

A woman was hurt in the explosion, but she remains conscious, the report said.

According to the university, the blast took place outside the Faculty of Engineering building. (Xinhua)



Rescuers and locals look for survivors after several vehicles fell into a river following the collapse of a portion of a bridge in Mujpur near Vadodara in the Indian state of Gujarat on July 9. (AP)

Fighter jet crashes, both pilots killed

Bridge collapse kills 9 in India’s Gujarat state

VADODRA, India, July 9, (Agencies): At least nine people were killed after a bridge over a river collapsed into a river in India’s western Gujarat state on Wednesday, news agency Press Trust of India reported while quoting police officials.

Gujarat’s Health Minister Rushikesh Patel said several vehicles were on the bridge when a portion of it collapsed, sending many into the river. He said at least five people were rescued.

The incident occurred in Gujarat’s Vadodara district, which has witnessed heavy rains over the past few days. The bridge was constructed in 1985, Patel said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the accident was “deeply saddening” and offered condolences to those who died.

India’s infrastructure has long been marred by safety concerns, sometimes leading to major disasters on its high-

ways and bridges.

In 2022, a century-old cable suspension bridge collapsed into a river in Gujarat, sending hundreds plunging into the water and killing at least 132.

Also:

NEW DELHI: An Indian air force jet crashed in the western state of **Rajasthan** on Wednesday, killing both pilots, officials said.

The Indian air force said in a statement on X that the trainer aircraft was on a routine training mission. Both pilots sustained fatal injuries, and an inquiry has been ordered to determine the cause of the accident, the air force said.

The accident occurred near **Churu** in Rajasthan state. The air force did not identify the aircraft. A military pilot familiar with the crash said it involved a two-seater Jaguar fighter jet. The pi-

lot spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to speak to the media.

Images from the crash site showed debris of the aircraft scattered around an agriculture field.

Wednesday’s crash is the latest in a string of accidents involving India’s air force. At least three two Jaguars and one Mirage 2000 had crashed this year while on routine training.

Meanwhile, investigators from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) have submitted a preliminary report on the recent Air India deadly crash to the federal ministry of civil aviation, a local news agency Asian News International (ANI) reported Tuesday.

While the contents of the preliminary report are unknown, it is believed that it will give critical information about what caused the crash.



People gather outside of a shopping mall after an earthquake in Guatemala City on July 8. (AP)

Dozens of quakes, aftershocks cause two deaths in Guatemala

GUATEMALA, July 9, (AP): Two people died when huge rocks fell on their vehicle in Guatemala, after dozens of earthquakes were recorded in a matter of hours, authorities said.

The two men killed were traveling in a pickup truck on a local road in the department of Escuintla Tuesday when the rocks fell from a hillside onto the vehicle, firefighters said.

More than 37 earthquakes and aftershocks with magnitudes ranging from 3.0 to 5.6 were reported in Guatemala Tuesday afternoon, said Edwin Rodas, director of the National Institute for Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology.

The tremors were felt as far away as El Salvador and resulted in the evacuation of buildings, landslides, and minor property damage, authorities said.

Ghana’s president inaugurates special task force to tackle illegal gold mining

ACCRA, Ghana, July 9, (AP): Ghana’s president launched a special task force to combat rampant illegal gold mining and smuggling that has long plagued the West African nation.

The chronic challenge of illegal gold mining - known locally as “galamsey” - was a major issue during Ghana’s presidential election campaign last year and a source of concern for voters, triggering protests and criticism against the outgoing government.

Ghana’s President John Mahama inaugurated the GOLDBOD Task Force, saying its creation “signals our readiness to act decisively.”

The task force - comprised of officers from various security agencies and the military - is empowered to arrest and detain suspects. It follows the establishment of the Ghana Gold Board agency in January as the sole legal entity managing all transactions and exports of gold mined in the country by small mining companies.

Mahama said that along with the agency, the task force will strive to curb the proliferation of illegal miners and “dismantle the black-market economy surrounding gold.”

He touted what he described as the rebound of the cedi, Ghana’s currency, which has had a poor track record against the dollar, as a result of setting up the Ghana Gold Board.



Damien Larbi Tchintchibidja, Vice president of the ECOWAS Commission, left, Ghana’s President John Mahama, center and Nigeria Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Tuggar pose for a photo, prior to the start of the ECOWAS meeting in Abuja, Nigeria on June 22. (AP)

The illegal gold mining industry has resulted in significant economic losses and environmental degradation for Ghana, Africa’s largest gold-producing country. It has flourished as a result of a massive slump in Ghana’s economic fortunes as millions of young people struggle to find jobs.

Huge protests broke out across the country against illegal gold mining after many rivers were polluted, becoming a political hot-button issue in the election. Mahama, who won the election, promised in his campaign to clamp down on the practice.

“Let this serve as a warning to all those involved in gold smuggling and illegal trade: the law will be enforced without fear or favor,” he said Tuesday.

Africa

Kenya prez vows to end anti-govt protests: Kenya’s president on Wednesday broke his silence over recent anti-government protests that left dozens dead, saying he would not allow “anarchy” in the country disguised as peaceful demonstrations.

President William Ruto said “enough is enough” and urged police to “shoot in the leg” those involved in looting and burning businesses. Weeks of protests have rocked Kenya after a blogger died in police custody last month, angering many Kenyans. Tensions heightened after a policeman shot a civilian at close-range during one of the demonstrations against police brutality.

On Monday, police erected roadblocks on all roads leading to the city center in the capital, Nairobi, blocking motorists and pedestrians deemed not to be in essential work. Police clashed with protesters on the outskirts of the city and in 17 of 47 counties across the country, leaving 31 people dead and more than 100 injured. More than 500 others were arrested. (AP)

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‘8 deported from US now in custody’: South Sudanese authorities confirmed on Tuesday that eight men deported from the United States were now in the custody of the government of the African country.

Apuk Ayuel, a spokesperson for the foreign ministry, told reporters that the eight arrived at Juba International Airport on Saturday following “standard deportation procedures undertaken” by the U.S. government.

The men are “under the care of the relevant authorities who are screening them and ensuring their safety and well-being,” she said, without specifying where they are held.

U.S. authorities said on Friday that the eight men deported in May and held for weeks at an American military base in Djibouti arrived in South Sudan after the Supreme Court cleared the way for their transfer. (AP)



Rescuers are pictured in operation after 19 people went missing in floods in Rasuwa district, Nepal on July 8. (Xinhua)

Rescuers search for 19 missing; nine bodies found in Nepal floods

KATHMANDU, Nepal, July 9, (AP): Dozens of rescuers searched the banks of a mountain river Wednesday looking for people missing after monsoon floods swept away Nepal’s main bridge connecting to the country to China and caused at least nine deaths.

Police said dozens of rescuers were already at the area and more are expected to join the rescue efforts. Nine dead bodies have been recovered from the river. Security forces have rescued 55 people, including four Indians and a Chinese person so far, according to the Rasuwa District Administration Office.

Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli, along with top ministers and officials, flew to the area. Oli called an emergency meeting Tuesday night and instructed all security forces and government offices to assist the rescue and recovery efforts.

Kuwait oil price up USD 1.10 to USD 71.08 pb

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): Kuwait oil barrel price rose by USD 1.1 to USD 71.08 per barrel on Tuesday, compared to Monday's USD 69.98 pb, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday.

In global markets, Brent Crude increased 57 cents to USD 70.15 pb while West Texas Intermediate increased 40 cents to USD 68.33 pb.

Business

In line with its commitment to employee engagement

KFH honors top-performing children of employees in high school

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) held a special ceremony to celebrate 64 children of employees who achieved excellence in high school. This event marks the fifth year of the initiative, reflecting the bank's continued commitment to supporting its staff and their families, fostering strong communication, and sharing their significant milestones.

KFH Group CEO, Khaled Yousef Al Shamlan, and KFH Acting Group Chief Human Resources

and Transformation Officer, Ahmad Alhammad, along with several of the bank's leaders, attended the ceremony.

This recognition aligns with KFH's strategy, which prioritizes its employees. The bank believes strong family support boosts staff engagement, strengthens loyalty, and improves performance.

Ultimately, the children's success reflects their parents' dedication to balancing professional ex-



Khaled Al Shamlan and the executive management with the outstanding children of employees.



Khaled Al Shamlan and the executive management with the outstanding daughters of the employees.

CMA introduces Kuwait's CCP model, issues 1st-ever license

9 firms initially approved to participate

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) of Kuwait announced in a statement on Wednesday the launch of the Central Clearing Counterparty (CCP) model and the issuance of the country's first-ever license for a central clearing agency.

It is a major regulatory mile-

stone in the development of Kuwait's capital market since its initial regulation in the early 1980s.

In the statement, the CMA said this step is part of its ongoing efforts to enhance regulatory frameworks and boost Kuwait's market competitiveness regionally and internationally, and that initial approvals have been granted to nine brokerage firms to operate under the new intermediary model.

The Central Counterparty (CCP) model introduces significant post-

trade infrastructure changes aimed at improving settlement efficiency, managing collateral, and reducing counterparty risk - all of which are expected to strengthen market liquidity, stability, and investor confidence.

The move is aligned with the second part of phase three of the CMA's market development program, coordinated closely with key stakeholders including the Central Bank of Kuwait, local banks, Boursa Kuwait, investment firms, and the Kuwait Clearing Company.

The CMA highlighted that in-

tegrating CCP services will help diversify financial products, improve transparency, and align the Kuwaiti market with global standards - all key elements of Kuwait Vision 2035, which aims to transform the country into a leading regional financial and commercial hub.

The authority reaffirmed its commitment to simplifying procedures, attracting investment, and providing a safe, efficient, and transparent investment environment that supports long-term economic growth.

Ongoing support for 'Diraya' campaign

Gulf Bank warns against using open Wi-Fi networks at airports and hotels

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: As part of its ongoing commitment to enhancing financial literacy across all segments of society, Gulf Bank continues its support for the "Diraya" banking awareness campaign. The bank actively shares educational and awareness materials through its social media platforms, website, and other media channels.

As the travel season continues, Gulf Bank urges travelers to be cautious when connecting to public Wi-Fi networks in airports and hotels. These unsecured networks can put your personal and banking information at risk of hacking or cyber theft.

Gulf Bank emphasized the importance of using secure networks or relying on personal data plans when conducting any banking transactions or logging into banking applications, in order to ensure the safe use of bank

cards.

Travelers are also advised not to share their PIN or One-Time Password (OTP) with anyone, and to carefully read the details of any OTP message - such as the merchant name and payment amount - before using it to complete a transaction.

Launched in 2021 by the Central Bank of Kuwait in collaboration with the Kuwait Banking Association, the "Diraya" campaign aims to raise public awareness about essential banking services, promote secure transaction practices, and support financial inclusion and economic stability. The campaign also educates customers about their rights and responsibilities, the advantages of digital banking, and how to stay safe from related risks - reinforcing the importance of cybersecurity.



Diraya awareness flyer

Boursa closes higher amid strong trading volume

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Wednesday's trading session on a positive note, with its general index rising 49.23 points, or 0.58%, to close at 8,545.28 points. Market activity was robust, with 640.6 million shares traded across 30,274 cash transactions, totaling 138.2 million Kuwaiti dinars (approximately \$452.5 million).

The Main Market Index advanced 26.29 points,

or 0.36%, to finish at 7,337.25 points. This was supported by the trading of 383.2 million shares through 18,525 transactions valued at 53.9 million dinars (around \$176.4 million).

The Premier Market Index posted a stronger gain, increasing by 57.38 points, or 0.62%, to reach 9,268.95 points. Trading volume for this segment stood at 257.4 million shares in 11,749 transactions,

with a turnover of 84.3 million dinars (about \$276 million).

Meanwhile, the Major 50 Index showed a modest rise of 2.69 points, or 0.04%, closing at 7,381.49 points. The index's trading activity involved 302.5 million shares across 11,530 cash transactions, valued at 40.4 million dinars (approximately \$132.2 million).



KUNA photo
Head of the Kuwaiti Financial Intelligence Unit, Dr. Hamad Al-Mekrad, with the representative of the Indian Financial Intelligence Unit, Manish Herat, after signing the Memorandum of Understanding.

Boost anti-money laundering co-op

Kuwait and India deepen financial transparency with landmark deal

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): Kuwait's financial Intelligence Unit and India's Anti-Money Laundering Bureau signed on Tuesday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aiming to beef up cooperation on information exchange and financial intelligence efforts.

In a statement to KUNA, the Kuwaiti financial watchdog's chief Hamad Al-Mekrad said the deal, signed after a gathering of global financial watchdog body Egmont Group, is a testament to Kuwait and India's collective commitment to boost transparency and cooperation, based on the principles and guidelines of the global financial organization of intelligence units.

The agreement is a major step forward towards clamping down on financial crime at a time of growing chal-

lenges that require greater cooperation and information exchange.

The level of cooperation between the Kuwaiti and India financial intelligence units has been on an upward trajectory even before the new deal came to fruition, added the official, expecting the agreement to be instrumental in simplifying the flow of bilateral information exchange, he underlined.

Al-Mekrad noted that the priority now is to expand the scope of international cooperation, enhance the efficiency of information exchange in accordance with the highest standards, strengthen technical analysis capabilities, and build partnerships with counterpart units, thus contributing to protecting the national and global financial system from any illicit exploitation.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, July 9, (AP): Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim warned Wednesday that global trade is being weaponized as Southeast Asia's foreign ministers held annual talks ahead of the looming threat of U.S. trade tariffs.

Concerns about U.S. tariffs have jolted the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a 10-member bloc that includes some of the world's most trade-dependent economies.

Six ASEAN members are among the 14 countries that could see duties on their exports to the U.S. skyrocket on Aug. 1.

Launching the group's foreign ministers' meeting, Anwar said the world is now witnessing an era where "power unsettles principle" and "tools once used to generate growth are now wielded to pressure, isolate and contain." Without mentioning the U.S. by name, he again urged ASEAN to work together to respond to trade threats.

"Our cohesion must not end at declarations," he said, calling for members to increase intra-ASEAN trade, invest in regional integration, and reduce strategic dependencies on external powers. "This is no passing storm," he said. "It is the new weather of our time."

Trump first announced tariffs in April, but then delayed them for 90 days to allow for deals to be negotiated. On Tuesday, he announced new tariffs with rates of between 25%-40% on 14 countries, which will go into effect Aug. 1 unless new deals are struck. He also threatened to increase tariffs if any countries



Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim delivers his keynote address during the opening ceremony of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' meeting and related meetings at the Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Wednesday, July 9, 2025. (AP)

retaliate.

Many ASEAN members have launched bilateral talks with the U.S., but officials have said they plan to hold an ASEAN-U.S. summit later this year to seek a common position.

So far, only Vietnam has secured a deal, bringing down its tariffs from 46% to 20%.

The list threatens 36% tariffs for Thailand and Cambodia, 32% for Indonesia, 25% for Malaysia, and 40% for Laos and war-torn Myanmar.

Reacting to the economic headwinds, Malaysia's central bank on Wednesday cut its benchmark interest rate for the first time in five years.

Separately, Trade Minister Zafrul

Aziz said Malaysia will continue tariff talks with the U.S. but won't compromise on issues impacting national interest and sovereignty. He referred to U.S. requests on policy and laws in areas such as government procurement, halal certification, medical standards and digital tax, without giving details.

"It has to be fair ... if the deal does not benefit Malaysia, we should not have a deal," he said.

In addition to confronting trade fallout, the bloc faces mounting internal challenges including the ongoing civil war in Myanmar and a border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia.

The gathering in Malaysia will be immediately followed by a series of critical meetings with ASEAN's major trade partners, including the U.S., China, Japan, Russia, India, and the European Union, scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who last week cancelled trips to Japan and South Korea, will arrive Thursday for the talks on his first visit to Asia. Others visiting foreign ministers include China's Wang Yi and Sergei Lavrov of Russia.

Analysts said these talks will test ASEAN's ability to assert its voice amid escalating geopolitical tensions.

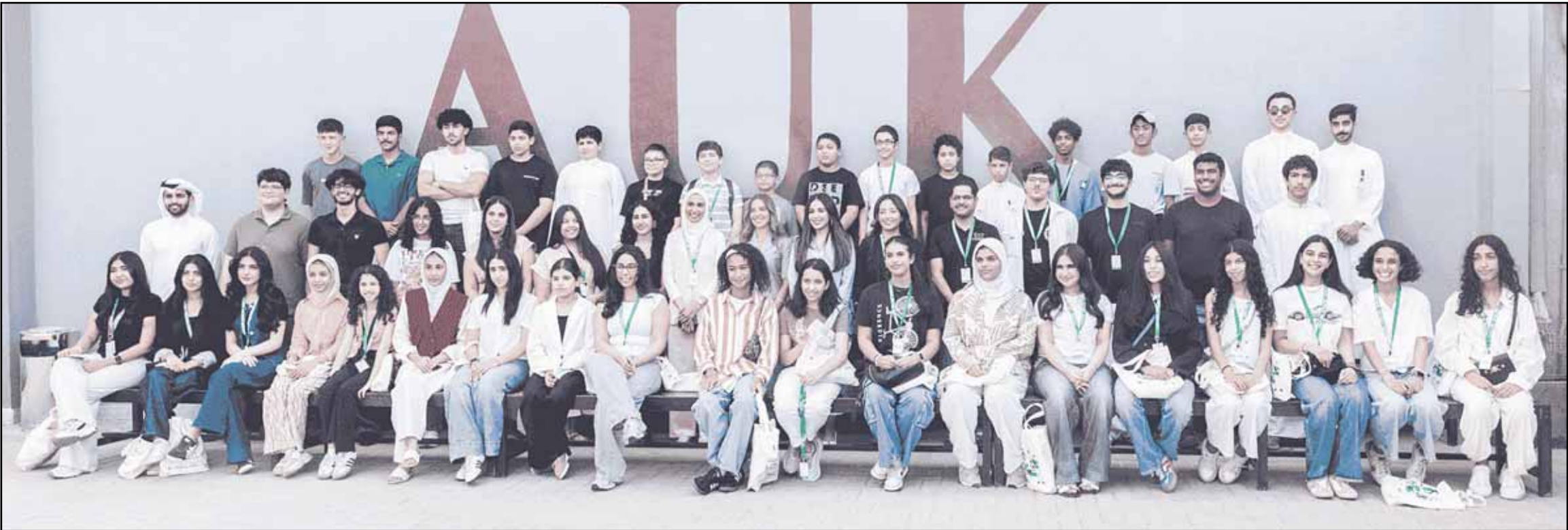
The bloc hopes to reinforce its commitment to a rules-based trade order while resisting pressure to align exclusively with any one global power.

"ASEAN must be among those who choose to stand for rules, even when others choose retreat," Anwar said. Officials said the premier will meet Rubio to discuss the tariff issue.

Analysts said Rubio's presence signaled renewed U.S. engagement in the region.

It will be a reminder to "the region that Washington remains its most vital economic and security partner," said Collins Chong Yew Keat, a foreign affairs, strategy and security analyst with Universiti Malay. But he said that U.S. support may now come with clearer expectations.

"Trump's administration, while still offering the strongest military deterrence and market access, expects ASEAN to stop exploiting this security umbrella while cozying up economically to China," he said.



Group photo of the 10th edition batch.

19 years of collaboration to support youth and promote financial literacy in Kuwait

Agility joins LOYAC in kicking off 10th edition of KON Program

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Agility, a supply chain services, infrastructure and innovation company, marked its sponsorship of the 10th edition of the KON Social Entrepreneurship Program at a special launch event hosted by LOYAC to celebrate the program’s 10-year milestone.

The KON program will provide 60 students aged 12 to 16 with five weeks of intensive training in business management skills. This program, designed in partnership with Babson College, an international leader in entrepreneurship education, aims to instill an entrepreneurial mindset in students and empower them to become active agents of social change. Through interactive workshops, mentor-



Second from left: Agility's Corporate Investment Manager, Ms. Lamia Hayat

ing sessions, and team-based projects, students will explore business fundamentals, address real-world social and environmental challenges, and develop leadership, communication, and critical thinking skills, guided by a team of experienced professionals and subject-matter experts.

Mariam Al-Foudery, Agility’s Group Chief Marketing Officer said: “Kuwait has placed a strong emphasis on developing its human capital and fostering innovation. At Agility, we’re proud to support initiatives that empower Kuwait’s youth and equip them for the future. The KON Social Entrepreneurship Program is a great example—it gives young people the tools and experience they need to succeed.”

Agility’s strategic partnership with LOYAC has extended since 2006, contributing to the preparation of 550 young people in Kuwait to enter the job market through LOYAC’s specialized courses and distinguished initiatives promoting financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

The support for the 10th edition of the KON program is part of Agility’s 2025 Corporate Social Responsibility Program, which aims to empower 5,000+ people in Kuwait. This is achieved through Agility’s partnership with leading non-profit institutions in Kuwait, continuing a collaboration that has spanned over 20 years and has positively impacted more than 51,000 individuals in Kuwait to date.

Unions, farmers demand wage hikes

India sees widespread unrest as workers protest Modi’s reforms

NEW DELHI, July 9, (AP): Hundreds of thousands of workers across India went on a nationwide strike on Wednesday in opposition to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s efforts to privatize state-run companies and other economic reforms, partially disrupting public services and manufacturing.

A coalition of 10 major trade unions that represent laborers and several other groups that speak for farmers and rural workers called for the one-day industrial action, dubbing it ‘Bharat Bandh’, Hindi for “Shut Down India.”

The strikes pose fresh challenges for Modi’s efforts to attract foreign companies by easing labor laws to streamline business operations and boost productivity.

Unions that helped organize the strikes say that coal mining operations were halted in several states while some trains came to a grinding halt as protestors blocked the network, and that banks, insurance companies and supermarkets were disrupted.

An Associated Press photographer in the eastern city of Kolkata saw protestors walking in a rally at a local railway station, some shouting slogans against the government and burning an

effigy of Modi. Another, in the financial capital Mumbai, witnessed bank employees shouting slogans against the privatization of state-run banks.

The Press Trust of India reported traffic in eastern India’s Odisha state was halted in some areas, while in the southern state of Kerala, shops, offices and schools remained closed, with roads looking deserted.

The government hasn’t formally commented on the workers’ strike. It usually dismisses assertions made by these unions.

The workers’ demands include higher wages, halting privatization of state-run companies, withdrawal of new labor laws and filling vacancies in the government sector. The farmers’ groups also want the government to increase the minimum purchase price for crops such as wheat and rice.

Modi’s government has opened some sectors of the Indian economy to foreign direct investments and offered billions of dollars in financial incentives to attract local manufacturing. It has also aimed to bridge the budget deficit with a drive to privatize loss-making state-run companies and unveiled new labor laws that promise

workers higher statutory minimum wages, social security and healthcare.

However, the trade unions aren’t convinced and want the new laws to be scrapped.

“The government intends to suppress workers in the name of ease of doing business through labor reforms,” said Amarjeet Kaur, general secretary of All India Trade Union Congress, a prominent union taking part in the strike.

Tapan Sen, general secretary of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, or CITU, which is aligned with a communist party and a key trade union that is part of the group that called for the strike, said he got reports of protesting workers blocking several national highways and rail routes.

“Coal mining operations in most states have come to a halt. Services in banking, insurance, manufacturing and petroleum refineries are impacted too,” said Sen.

A. Soundararajan, a prominent trade union leader in the southern state of Tamil Nadu said the police detained around 30,000 protesting workers on Wednesday. Manufacturing activities at several companies have also been hit, he said.

Global shares climb as US trade talks intensify



A currency trader watches monitors near a screen showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI), top center left, and the foreign exchange rate between U.S. dollar and South Korean won, top center, at the foreign exchange dealing room of the Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, July 9, 2025. (AP)

Trump’s new tariffs deadlines loom

NEW YORK, July 9, (AP): World shares mostly climbed on Wednesday, following a choppy trading day on Wall Street as the Trump administration seeks to win more favorable trade deals with nations around the globe.

In early trading, major indexes in Europe were all higher. Germany’s DAX added 0.7% to 24,373.05. Britain’s FTSE 100 edged 0.1% higher to 8,861.90. France’s CAC 40 rose 0.8% to 7,829.04.

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

In Asia, Japan’s Nikkei 225 closed 0.3% higher to 39,821.28, while South Korea’s Kospi added 0.6% to 3,133.74 as Tokyo and Seoul work on a trade deal with the U.S. before higher tariffs announced by Washington take effect on Aug. 1.

“Sectoral carve-outs remain the

thorniest terrain,” Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management wrote in a commentary, adding that Korea and Japan are likely seeking relief for their car and steel exports. “But Washington is unlikely to bend,” he warned.

Meanwhile, Chinese markets were lower. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index fell 1.1% to 23,892.32, while the Shanghai Composite index edged down 0.1% to 3,493.05.

Lynn Song, ING’s chief economist for greater China, said in a commentary that deflationary pressures remain despite China’s June consumer price index inflation returning to positive territory for the first time since January, beating market expectations. Inflation rose to 0.1% year on year from -0% year on year in May, according to data released on Wednesday.

Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 slipped 0.6% to 8,538.60. India’s BSE Sensex edged 0.1% higher to 83,722.05.

Mizuho Bank said the tariff deadlines distract from “far more consequential, and expedient, sectoral tariffs, which arguably reverberate across global in-

dustrial eco-systems” and that the U.S. aims to isolate China from trade partners, supply chains and markets.

“The real danger is underestimating the fallout when (rather than if) China hits back” against the U.S. and countries it perceives as aligned with the U.S., the bank wrote.

On Wall Street on Tuesday, the S&P 500 slipped 0.1% a day after posting its biggest loss since mid-June. The benchmark index remains near its all-time high set last week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average gave back 0.4%. The Nasdaq composite eked out a gain of less than 0.1%, staying near its own record high.

The sluggish trading came as the market was coming off a broad sell-off following the Trump administration’s decision to impose new import tariffs on more than a dozen nations, which are set to go into effect next month.

In other dealings on Wednesday, benchmark U.S. crude gained 51 cents to \$68.84 per barrel, while Brent crude, the international standard, addwd 49 cents to \$70.64 per barrel.



Rural child care workers shout slogans during a nationwide strike in Ahmedabad, India, Wednesday, July 9, 2025. (AP)

Deficit hits 5.7% of GDP, third highest in Europe

UK faces mounting fiscal crisis, OBR warns

LONDON, July 9, (Xinhua): The United Kingdom (UK) is facing a bleak outlook for public finances, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) said Tuesday.

The UK government’s deficit stood at 5.7 percent of GDP at the end of 2024, approximately 4 percentage points higher than the average for advanced economies, according to a fiscal risks and sustainability report released by the office.

This figure ranked as the third highest among 28 advanced European economies and the fifth highest among 36 advanced econo-

mies.

Meanwhile, the government’s debt reached 94 percent of GDP, the fourth highest among advanced European economies and the sixth highest among advanced economies.

OBR said successive governments have failed to take the tough decisions needed to start bringing the deficit under control.

“Efforts to put the UK’s public finances on a more sustainable footing have met with only limited and temporary success in recent years,” said the report.

The OBR warned of a “substantial erosion

of the UK’s capacity to respond to future shocks and growing pressures on public finances,” noting that underlying public debt is now at its highest level since the early 1960s and is projected to increase further in the medium term.

The report added that the debt burden will become increasingly difficult to manage as economic growth slows and interest rates rise. Demographic pressures from an aging population, along with rising healthcare and other age-related costs, are also expected to push borrowing even higher in the long run.



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer, right, Chancellor Rachel Reeves and Health Secretary Wes Streeting during a visit to the Sir Ludwig Guttman Health & Wellbeing Centre in east London, Thursday, July 3, 2025. (AP)

Tariff standoff turns into global ‘game of chicken’

Investors jittery as Trump resets trade clock



Cranes and shipping containers are seen at a port in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, Tuesday, July 8, 2025. (AP)

‘Trump has now extended the deadline for negotiations to Aug. 1 and tinkered with his threatened tariffs, leaving the global trading system pretty much where it stood three months ago - in a state of limbo as businesses delay decisions on investments, contracts and hiring because they don’t know what the rules will be.’

WASHINGTON, July 9, (AP): US President Donald Trump and his advisers promised a lightning round of global trade negotiations with dozens of countries back in April. White House trade adviser Peter Navarro predicted “90 deals in 90 days.” Administration officials declared that other countries were desperate to make concessions to avoid the massive import taxes - tariffs -- that Trump was threatening to plaster on their products starting July 9. But the 90 days have come and gone. And the tally of trade deals stands at two - one with the United Kingdom and one with Vietnam. Trump has also announced the framework for a deal with China, the details of which remain fuzzy. Trump has now extended the deadline for negotiations to Aug. 1 and tinkered with his threatened tariffs, leaving the global trading system pretty much where it stood three months ago - in a state of limbo as businesses delay decisions on investments, contracts and hiring because they don’t know what the rules will be. “It’s a rerun, basically,” said William Reinsch, a former U.S. trade official who’s now an adviser

with the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank. Trump and his team “don’t have the deals they want. So they’re piling on the threats.” The pattern has repeated itself enough times to earn Trump the label TACO - an acronym coined by The Financial Times’ Robert Armstrong that stands for “Trump Always Chickens Out.” “This is classic Trump: Threaten, threaten more, but then extend the deadline,” Reinsch said. “July 30 arrives, does he do it again if he still doesn’t have the deals?” (Trump said Tuesday that there will be no more extensions.) The deal drought represents a collision with reality. Negotiating simultaneously with every country on earth was always an impossible task, as Trump himself belatedly admitted last month in an interview with the Fox News Channel. (“There’s 200 countries,” the president said. “You can’t talk to all of them.”) And many trading partners - such as Japan and the European Union - were always likely to balk at Trump’s demands, at least without getting something in return. “It’s really, really hard to negotiate trade agreements,” which usually

takes several months even when it involves just one country or a small regional group, said Chad Bown, an economic adviser in the Obama White House and now senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. “What the administration is doing is negotiating a bunch of these at the same time.” The drama began April 2 - “Liberation Day,” Trump called it - when the tariff-loving president announced a so-called baseline 10% import tax on everybody and what he called “reciprocal” levies of up to 50% on countries with which the United States runs trade deficits. The 10% baseline tariffs appear to be here to stay. Trump needs them to raise money to patch the hole his massive tax-cut bill is blasting into the federal budget deficit. By themselves, the baseline tariffs represent a massive shift in American trade policy: Tariffs averaged around 2.5% when Trump returned to the White House and were even lower before he started raising them in his first term. But the reciprocal tariffs are an even bigger deal. In announcing them, Trump effectively blew up the rules governing world trade. For decades,

the United States and most other countries abided by tariff rates set through a series of complex negotiations known as the Uruguay round. Countries could set their own tariffs - but under the “most favored nation” approach, they couldn’t charge one country more than they charged another. Now Trump is setting the tariff rates himself, creating “tailor-made trade plans for each and every country on this planet,” in the words of White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt. But investors have recoiled at the audacious plan, fearing that it will disrupt trade and damage the world economy. Trump’s Liberation Day tariffs, for instance, set off a four-day rout in global financial markets. Trump blinked. Less than 13 hours after the reciprocal tariffs took effect April 9, he abruptly suspended them for 90 days, giving countries time to negotiate with his trade team. Despite the Trump administration’s expressions of confidence, the talks turned into a slog. “Countries have their own politics, their own domestic politics,” Reinsch said. “Trump structured this ideally so that all the concessions are made by the other guys

and the only U.S. concession is: We don’t impose the tariffs.” But countries like South Korea and Japan needed “to come back with something,” he said. Their thinking: “We have to get some concessions out of the United States to make it look like this is a win-win agreement and not a we-fold-and-surrender agreement.” Japan, for example, wanted relief from another Trump tariff - 50% levies on steel and aluminum. Countries may also be hesitant to reach a deal with the United States while the Trump administration conducts investigations that might result in new tariffs on a range of products, including pharmaceuticals and semiconductors. Frustrated by the lack of progress, Trump on Monday sent letters to Japan, South Korea and 12 other countries, saying he’d hit them with tariffs Aug. 1 if they couldn’t reach an agreement. The levies were close to what he’d announced on April 2; Japan’s, for example, would be 25%, compared to the 24% unveiled April 2. Trump did sign an agreement last month with the United Kingdom that, among other provisions, reduced U.S. tariffs on British automotive and aerospace products while opening the U.K. market for American beef and ethanol. But the pact kept the baseline tariff on British products mostly in place, underlining Trump’s commitment to the 10% tax despite the United States running a trade surplus - not a deficit - with the U.K. for 19 straight years, according to the U.S. Commerce Department. On July 2, Trump announced a deal with Vietnam. The Vietnamese agreed to let U.S. products into the country duty free while accepting a 20% tax on their exports to the United States, Trump said, though details of the agreement have not been released.

The lopsided deal with Vietnam suggests that Trump can successfully use the tariff threat to bully concessions out of smaller economies. “They just can’t really negotiate in the same way that the (European Union) or Korea or Japan (or) Canada can negotiate with the United States,” said Dan McCarthy, principal in McCarthy Consulting and a former official with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in the Biden administration. “A lot of (smaller) countries just want to get out of this and are willing to cut their losses.” But wrangling a deal with bigger trading partners is likely to remain tougher. “The U.S. is gambling that these countries will ultimately be intimidated and fold,” Reinsch said. “And the countries are gambling that the longer this stretches out, and the longer it goes without Trump producing any more deals, the more desperate he gets; and he lowers his standards. “It’s kind of a giant game of chicken.”

What Trump’s big tax law could mean for the youngest Americans

Safety nets shrink as tax breaks expand

‘Advocates worry that if an adult loses Medicaid coverage, it could ratchet up household stress and make it more difficult for parents to make ends meet, both of which can negatively impact youngsters.’

WASHINGTON, July 9, (AP): The impact of the massive spending bill that US President Donald Trump signed into law on Independence Day is expected to filter down to infants and toddlers - a segment of the population that is particularly vulnerable to cuts to the federal social safety net. Many middle-class and wealthy families will see benefits from the new legislation, but programs that help low-income families keep babies healthy have been cut back. While state money funds public schools and preschool in some cases, programs supporting the youngest children are largely backed by the federal government. The law extends tax cuts that Trump passed during his first term in office and pours billions more into border security as the president seeks to broaden his crackdown on immigration. To pay for these initiatives, the law cuts Medicaid and food stamps - programs relied upon by poor households with children - by more than \$1 trillion. The legislation Republicans called Trump’s “big beautiful bill” is set to deliver some gains for families with children. It increases tax credits, including one that now allows parents to deduct up to \$2,200 per child from their tax bills. And it introduces investment accounts for newborns dubbed “Trump Ac-

counts,” each seeded with \$1,000 from the government. Still, advocates say they do not make up for what children are likely to lose under the new law. And they fear what comes next, as the next Trump budget proposes more cuts to programs that help parents and babies. Over 10 million Americans rely on Medicaid for health care. About 40% of births are covered by Medicaid. Newborns, too, qualify for it when their mothers have it. The new law doesn’t take little kids or their parents off Medicaid. It institutes Medicaid work requirements for childless adults and adults with children over the age of 13. But pediatricians warn the cuts will be felt broadly, even by those who do not use Medicaid. The Medicaid cuts are expected to put a financial strain on health care providers, forcing them to cut their least profitable services. That’s often pediatrics, where young patients are more likely to use Medicaid, said Lisa Costello, a West Virginia pediatrician who chairs the federal policy committee for the American Association of Pediatricians. The ripple effects could exacerbate an existing shortage of pediatricians and hospital beds for children. “Any cuts to that program are going to trickle down and impact children, whether that’s pediatric

practices who depend on Medicaid to be able to stay open or children’s hospitals,” Costello said. States also use Medicaid to pay for programs that go beyond conventional medical care, including therapies for young children with disabilities. Under the new law, states will foot a greater portion of the bill for Medicaid, meaning optional programs are at risk of getting cut. Advocates worry that if an adult loses Medicaid coverage, it could ratchet up household stress and make it more difficult for parents to make ends meet, both of which can negatively impact youngsters. And parents who lose their health insurance are less likely to take their children to the doctor. “When parents lose their health insurance, they often think that their children also are no longer eligible, even if that’s not the case,” said Cynthia Osborne, a professor of early education and the executive director of the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center at Vanderbilt University. The law increases the child tax credit to \$2,200 per child, up from \$2,000. But parents who don’t earn enough to pay income tax will still not see the benefit, and many will only see a partial benefit. The measure also contains two provisions intended to help families pay for child care, which in many

places costs more than a mortgage. First, it boosts the tax credit parents receive for spending money on child care. The bill also expands a program that gives companies tax credits for providing child care for their employees. Both measures have faced criticism for generally benefiting larger companies and wealthier households. “It’s a corporate business tax break,” said Bruce Lesley, president of the advocacy group First Focus on Children. “It makes their child care dependent upon working for an employer who has the credit.” The law launches a program that creates investment accounts for newborn children. The “Trump Accounts” are to be seeded with \$1,000 from the government, and children will be able to use the money when they become adults to start a new business, put the money toward a house or go to school. Unlike other baby bond programs, which generally target disadvantaged groups, the federal program will be available to families of all incomes. The program’s backers have pitched the accounts as a way to give young people a boost as they reach adulthood and teach them about the benefits of investing. Critics have argued that families in poverty have more immediate needs and that their children should re-

ceive a larger endowment if the goal is to help level the playing field. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) faces the largest cut in its history under the law. It will, for the first time, require parents to work to qualify for the benefit if their children are 14 or older. But even households with younger children could feel the impact. The law kicks some immigrants - including those with legal status - off food assistance. It makes it more difficult for individuals to qualify by changing how it considers their utility bills. SNAP has historically been funded by the federal government, but under the new law, states will have to shoulder some of the financial burden. Cash-strapped governments could decide to implement new requirements that would make it more difficult for people to qualify, said Katie Bergh, a senior policy analyst with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Some states may decide to exit the program altogether. “When young children lose access to that healthy nutrition, it impacts them for the rest of their lives,” Bergh said. “This bill fundamentally walks away from a long-standing nationwide commitment to making sure that low-income children in every state can receive the food assistance that they need.”

New contract gives artists AI protections and likeness rights

Video game performers vote on AI deal that could end 3-year battle

LOS ANGELES, July 9, (AP): Results from a union member vote on a tentative contract between video game performers and their employers are expected Wednesday evening.

If ratified, the contract would formally end a nearly three-year effort from Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists negotiators to obtain a new contract for video game performers. The process, which included an 11-month strike against several major game makers, hinged on how artificial intelligence would affect performers in the industry.

If approved, the agreement will deliver pay raises, control over performers' likenesses and artificial intelligence protections. The contract was first reached in early June between the union and an industry bargaining group consisting of several major video game companies, including divisions of Activision and Electronic Arts. The nearly year-long strike was suspended on June 11 and about 3,000 SAG-AFTRA members covered by the interactive media agreement have had since June 18 to vote. Results will be announced soon after the vote ends at



A picketer holds a sign for the SAG-AFTRA video game strike at Warner Bros. Games headquarters on Aug. 1, 2024, in Burbank, Calif. (AP)

5 p.m. Pacific.

The 11-month strike "was a grueling and excruciating process," Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, the SAG-AFTRA national executive director and chief negotiator said before the voting period closed.

"I hope and I believe that our members, when they look back on this, will say all of the sacrifices and difficulty we put ourselves through to achieve this agreement will ultimately be worth it because we do have the key elements that we need to feel confident and moving forward in this business," Crabtree-Ireland said.

The new contract secures "industry-leading" AI protections, said Audrey Cooling, a spokesperson for the video game producers involved in the deal. The proposed contract delineates clear restrictions on when and how video game companies can create digital replicas, which use AI to generate new performances that weren't recorded by an actor.

Employers must obtain written permission from a performer to create a digital replica - consent which must be granted during the performer's lifetime and is valid after

death unless otherwise limited, the contract states.

The time spent creating a digital replica will be compensated as work time, according to the agreement. The agreement also requires the employer to provide the performer with a usage report that details how the replica was used and calculates the expected compensation.

The contract also secured an increase in performer compensation of just over 15% upon ratification and an additional 3% increase each year of the three-year contract.

Increasing awareness and knowledge about the new AI provisions among union membership is crucial moving forward if the contract is ratified, Sarah Elmaleh, a voice actor and chair of the union's interactive branch negotiating committee, told The Associated Press before the voting period closed.

"Actually applying these guardrails in our work is going to take members paying attention, understanding what they should look out for, being engaged with their union and reporting things that look fishy or that are actually violations," she said.



Gina Deuters poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Modigliani Three Days On The Wing Of Madness' on Tuesday, July 8, in London. (AP)

Film

'Pie in the sky ambition' becomes reality

Meet Corenswet, cinema's new Superman

LOS ANGELES, July 9, (AP): In true Clark Kent form, the new Superman would like to correct the record.

David Corenswet gave an interview to Entertainment Weekly in 2019 where he said his "pie in the sky ambition" was to play Superman.

At that point, the role was not on the market. And Corenswet, a Julliard graduate and Philadelphia native, was just making a name for himself in the industry, with plum breakout roles in two Ryan Murphy Netflix series: "The Politician" and "Hollywood." Tall, dark, and you know, handsome, people had told him that he looked like Superman for a long time. He did not, he told The Associated Press in a recent interview, think that he was going to get the chance to play him.

But a few years later he was actually cast to lead James Gunn's "Superman" which will begin a new, hopefully high-flying, era for the DC universe of films when it hits theaters on July 11. And that once innocent quote took on a life of its own. Many headlines and stories misinterpreted the phrase and wrote that he said it was his dream role, as though he'd manifested it into existence.

"I said it was my pie in the sky ambition, which I meant to mean that there was no (expletive) way it was ever going to happen," Corenswet, 31, said. "I sort of was thinking of it as, 'Oh, who wouldn't love to get to play an iconic role like that? Wouldn't it be amazing and impossible if we lived in a universe where that could even be considered?'"

Right around the time when Gunn was starting to think about casting his new Superman movie, he decided to watch his friend Ti West's movie "Pearl." In that darkly comedic horror, Corenswet stood out to him as an interesting and charismatic presence. He played a projectionist at a local movie theater who catches Pearl's attention (and, later, faces her wrath). West had nice things to say about him too.

"David was one of the very first auditions that I got," Gunn said. "Instantly, it was a relief because he had a playful charm about him that was not evident in 'Pearl.' He had a sense of humor. That made me go, 'Ooh, this might be a really good match.'"

That was just the beginning of the long casting process. Even Nicholas Hoult, who was ultimately cast as Lex Luthor, was up for the part. And though it was "extensive," Corenswet said it was one of the most "satisfying audition processes" he's ever gone through - not because he booked the role, but because he felt he got the opportunity to show them what he had to offer.

Gunn laughed that Corenswet actually has a lot of Superman in him. "Superman is a square and David



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows David Corenswet in a scene from 'Superman.' (AP)

is a square," Gunn said. "He listens to American Songbook. Like Dean Martin and Cole Porter. That's what he listens to on his iPad. That's weird. But oh, so Superman."

When Gunn called him with the good news, the first person he told was his wife. The second was his sister, who couldn't pick up the phone because she was on a golf course.

"She texted, 'Is it possible that was a phone call with super good news?'" he said. "I said, 'Yes. Super good news.'"

It may be something of a Superman tradition to try on your predecessor's costume during a screen

test. Henry Cavill did it with Christopher Reeve's, and Corenswet did it with Cavill's, which he called a "marvel of engineering."

But the first time Corenswet put on his own Superman costume was not some magical, transportive moment. In fact, he said, it was "wonderfully mundane." The suit was still in its beginning stages, not totally put together and even a little small, as he'd already started putting on weight for the role.

"I remember the feeling of kind of growing into the suit and the suit growing around me fitting by fitting," Corenswet said. "We had such an amazing costume team

and they built the suit around me over the course of many weeks and months and it started to feel just a little bit like home for me."

The first time he felt the impact of it was through the eyes of other people. To him, it was old hat, but when he walked onto set the first time in the suit he noticed something different from the cast and crew.

"I saw their faces sort of light up and I went, 'Wait a minute, these people aren't that fond of me,'" he laughed. "That's when it hits you."

There are almost three roles involved in playing Superman. There's the person he is with his

parents and the people he grew up with. There's Clark Kent of the Daily Planet. And then there's Superman.

"He's a public facing character, he's a symbol," Corenswet said. "There's a presentational element to it, because he does want to present an image of calm and authority. While he doesn't always feel that way, he always wants to make other people feel that way as Superman."

To prepare for Clark Kent, Corenswet looked at the All-Star Superman comic and how Christopher Reeve changed his posture when Lois left the room, but he also drew inspiration for the voice and demeanor way outside of the canon: His brother-in-law, who is 6'8" and 270 pounds, but is the "quietest, most wonderful man."

"That's where I sort of took the spirit of Clark," Corenswet said. "He's this big presence, but he's desperately trying to be as small as possible and as quiet as possible."

Gunn has promised that the film is "a personal journey for Superman that's entirely new." He's a character who is "pretty damn good, but flawed." And anyone who has seen the trailer knows there will be romance with Rachel Brosnahan's Lois Lane - but there's even a different spin on that.

"He's in love with her," Gunn said. "She's the one that needs the convincing in the relationship. It's not him. You really see where he needs her in his life."

Corenswet said that in addition to the action and thrills, the movie also has a Preston Sturges quality to it with "longing romance and witty comedy." Fitting for their reporter characters, "His Girl Friday" was also a big reference with "the rhythm, the patter and the feeling of two people in love who really are an equal match for the other."

The movie is the start of a new era for DC films, and will raise Corenswet's profile immeasurably. He's been in big movies before, including "Twisters." But being Superman is different.

"The thing that it changed about my life immediately was that I had this amazing mission that I got to go on of playing the part and getting to be a piece of making this awesome film," he said. "I have so many new friends now. James brings together such a familial cast and crew. And shooting the film is sort of like an extended summer camp."

Adding to the summer camp vibes: On the last day they even gathered to watch a little blooper reel that Gunn had put together. But what will happen come release is not really something he can fathom at this point.

"I expect some things will change when the film comes out," he said. "But you know, one still has to wake up and eat breakfast."

Variety

LOS ANGELES: IMDb, the world's most popular and authoritative source for information on movies, TV shows, and celebrities, has presented its first-ever "Fan Favorite Filmmaker" Award to **James Gunn**. This new category reflects the growing interest of global audiences in the visionaries behind the camera, expanding the prestigious IMDb STARmeter Award program to celebrate the creators who shape entertainment.



Gunn

The award is determined by IMDbPro MOVIEmeter rankings, which track page views from the global audience of hundreds of millions on IMDb. These rankings provide unique insights into audience interests and industry trends, supporting filmmakers throughout their careers.

This press release features multimedia.

"This is so cool. I'm honored by this recognition from IMDb, which celebrates the connection between storytellers and fans," said Gunn. "This is truly an award for the passionate audience members who have supported me and my films over the years. So this belongs to them. Except I'm keeping it in my office." (AP)



KABUL: Police have taken into custody 11 people on charges of digging a historical site in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, Provincial Director for Information and Culture Abdul Bari Rashid said Wednesday.

The individuals were arrested while illegally excavating the Shah Hussain Historical Cemetery, a heritage site located on the outskirts of the provincial capital, Lashkar Gah, the official said, adding that no one has the right to dig or excavate historical sites and cultural monuments.

All the arrested would be handed over to the judiciary after preliminary investigations. (Xinhua)



SEOUL, South Korea: Paul Shin, whose decades-long career in journalism, including nearly 20 years with The Associated Press, placed him at the heart of South Korea's most turbulent and transformative moments since the 1960s, has died. He was 84.

Shin, who spent about a decade mentoring reporters at South Korea's Yonhap news agency after retiring from the AP in 2003, had dealt with various health issues in recent years, including a worsening spinal condition. He died Tuesday morning at his home in Seongnam city, surrounded by his family, said his son, John Shin.

Paul Shin, whose Korean name is Shin Ho-chul, landed his first reporting job in 1965 with the Seoul-based English-language daily, Korea Herald, and later worked as a correspondent for United Press International before joining the AP in 1986.

He covered many of the defining events that shaped post-war South Korea, from the era of harsh military dictatorships through the 1980s, to its dramatic economic ascent, the global spotlight of the 1988 Seoul Olympics and the turbulent cycles of confrontation and reconciliation with its war-divided rival, North Korea. (AP)



This cover image released by Spiegel & Grau shows 'Culpability' by Bruce Holsinger. (AP)

NEW YORK, July 9, (AP): Oprah Winfrey has chosen a novel with a timely theme for her latest book club pick. Bruce Holsinger's "Culpability" is a family drama that probes the morals and ethics of AI.

"I appreciated the prescience of this story," Winfrey said in a statement Tuesday, the day of the novel's publication. "It's where we are right now in our appreciation and dilemmas surrounding Artificial Intelligence, centered around an American family we can relate to. I was riveted until the very last shocking sentence!"

Holsinger, a professor of English at the University of Virginia, is the author of four previous novels and several works of nonfiction. He said in a statement that he had admired Winfrey's book club since its founding in 1996.

"Oprah Winfrey started her book club the same year I finished graduate school," Holsinger said. "For nearly 30 years, as I've taught great books to college students in the classroom and the lecture hall, she has shared great books with the world. Her phone call was like a thunderbolt, and I'll never forget it. I am deeply honored and profoundly grateful that she found 'Culpability' worthy of her time, praise, and recognition."

Tuesday's announcement continues Winfrey's book club partnership with Starbucks. Her interview with Holsinger, held recently at a Starbucks in Seattle, can be seen on Winfrey's YouTube channel or through other podcast outlets.

June 2025: "The River is Waiting," by Wally Lamb

May 2025: "The Emperor of Gladness," by Ocean Vuong

April 2025: "Matriarch," by Tina Knowles

March 2025: "The Tell," by Amy Griffin

February 2025: "Dream State," by Eric Puchner

January 2025: "A New Earth," by Eckhart Tolle

December 2024: "Small Things Like These," by Claire Keegan

October 2024: "From Here to the Great Unknown," by Lisa Maria Presley and Riley Keough

September 2024: "Tell Me Everything," by Elizabeth Strout

June 2024: "Familiaris," by David Wroblewski

'Culpability' tackles timely theme

Winfrey's latest book club pick delves into AI ethics



A traditional gathering in Al-Fahidi neighborhood offers an authentic experience in an atmosphere of warmth and hospitality.



A traditional staircase reflecting the simplicity of architecture in Al-Fahidi neighborhood.



The historic Al-Fahidi neighborhood.

KUNA photos

Al-Fahidi: A timeless journey through Dubai’s historic heart

Al-Fahidi historical neighborhood, located along Dubai Creek, is more than just a reflection of the past but a vibrant window into the city’s early life. With its clay houses, narrow alleys, and traditional architecture, the dis-

trict captures the essence of Emirati heritage from the early 20th century. Thanks to its strategic location on Dubai Creek, Al-Fahidi played a key role in trade and foreign relations, and today thrives as a vibrant cultural hub.

The neighborhood not only preserves Dubai’s history but also brings it to life, offering each visitor a journey through time and a rare glimpse into the city’s authentic, artistic roots and rich cultural identity. (KUNA)

Fashion

Chanel marks 110 years

Rolland lets couture shine with space-age glamour

PARIS, July 9, (AP): Stéphane Rolland went back to what he does best on Tuesday: unadulterated couture. This season at Paris Couture Week, Rolland stripped away gimmicks and let the clothes do the talking, unveiling a dazzling palette of ivory, black, and red - with giant spangles shimmering like stardust or cosmic fish scales.

A live string orchestra set the mood as Rolland’s signature silhouettes reshaped the female form: mermaid gowns hugged the body, giant tulle trains trailed behind, and severe white dresses with razor-sharp shoulders brought a surreal, intergalactic edge. Space-age references ran throughout, from pointy shoulders to jewels worn as talismans - adorned on gowns or set on the forehead like interplanetary insignia.

It marked a confident return to classic Rolland after recent seasons experimenting with format and mood. Last year, Rolland broke with tradition, staging a collaborative, student-led show inspired by the serenity of the desert. But on Tuesday, the focus was undiluted couture, delivered with maximum impact.

Armani Privé

Armani Privé opened Tuesday under an unmistakable shadow. For the first time in the 20-year history of his couture house, Giorgio Armani was not present in Paris to take his bow.

Days from his 91st birthday and following doctors’ advice after a recent hospital stay, Armani reportedly oversaw the Paris couture week show remotely from home, a moment of absence that lands heavily for a designer who has shaped every one of his brand’s collections since its founding.

The show’s theme, “Seductive Black,” played out with literal and symbolic force on the runway: black in myriad forms, from liquid velvet and lacquered silk to pavé crystals and flashes of gold. Even the models’ makeup followed suit, rendered in shades of gray.

For some in the front row, the relentless palette felt pointed. Guests quietly wondered if the choice of black was a coded message from the maestro himself.

This is not the first major show Armani has missed this season. Just weeks ago, he was forced to sit out Milan Fashion Week for the first time in the label’s history, following a brief hospitalization.

According to the brand, the absence was a precaution to save energy for his Paris couture appearance.

For decades, Armani - often referred to as “Re Giorgio,” or King George, in Italy - has been both the creative and business force behind one of fashion’s last great independent empires.

The Tuesday collection balanced tension and control. After an uncertain start, including velvet jodhpurs and stark crystalline seams, Armani’s familiar codes quickly emerged: tuxedo jackets transformed into evening gowns with plunging lapels and floating bow ties, tailored blazers worn on bare skin and military-inspired equestrian jackets paired with slim velvet pants.

Bursts of embroidery and colored feathers provided a balance from the monochrome.

Armani’s recent absences have sent ripples through the industry. In a landscape dominated by conglomerates like LVMH and Kering, Armani remains the sole shareholder of his company, personally overseeing every collection for nearly 50 years. In 2024, Armani Group reported revenues of \$2.5 billion, while Giorgio Armani’s personal fortune is estimated at \$11-13 billion - even as the global luxury market faces headwinds.

Armani is widely credited with redefining men’s and women’s tailoring, pioneering gender-fluidity in fashion, and inventing celebrity red-carpet dressing, from Julia Roberts to Cate Blanchett. Yet the designer himself has acknowledged that age is now a reality to deal with and that pulling back could be a necessity.

Whether the monochrome collection was a deliberate metaphor or simply a showcase of discipline, “Seductive Black” felt personal - both a mood

and a message, perhaps an understated nod to a master whose presence, even in absence, remains absolute. As the show closed, the final bow belonged to the models alone. But Armani’s vision - uncompromising and unmistakably his - filled the room.



A model wears Stéphane Rolland’s Fall-Winter 2025/26 Haute Couture in Paris. (AP)



A model presents Giorgio Armani Privé Fall-Winter 2025/26 Haute Couture. (AP)

Chanel

Only Chanel would call its legendary Rue Cambon salon “too small” - then rebuild it, supersized, in a palace.

On Tuesday, as the house marked 110 years of its haute couture - a century and more of Coco Chanel’s revolution in how women dress - it blew up its atelier as a giant set inside the freshly restored Grand Palais, turning intimacy into spectacle for a nature-drenched show at Paris Couture Week.

Chanel, whose founder banished corsets and reimagined luxury as liberation, showed just how far that legacy stretches - from the tiny salons of 1915 to its modern colossus.

It was a flex only a handful of luxury giants could pull off - and perhaps, as one front-row guest suggested, a dazzling distraction as the fashion world counts down to the debut of Chanel’s new designer Matthieu Blazy.

Penélope Cruz, Keira Knightley, Naomi Campbell, Kirsten Dunst and the house’s tightest VIP circle scaled gilded steps, sweating past marble and gold, to enter the reconstructed atelier. The set by Willo Perron was classic Chanel - intimate yet monumental, Old World yet futuristic.

“It just felt special,” Campbell said, “like stepping into a memory and



A model wears a creation as part of the Giorgio Armani Privé Fall-Winter 2025/26 Haute Couture collection presented Tuesday, July 8, in Paris. (AP)



A model showcases Franck Sorbier Fall-Winter 2025/26 Haute Couture in Paris. (AP)



A model wears a creation by Stéphane Rolland in Paris. (AP)

something completely new. There’s warmth, intimacy, nostalgia. Chanel can recreate anything, and it works.”

More drama unfolded on the runway. This was couture as nature fantasy, filtered through the Chanel prism. Menswear tailoring added swing to sculpted jackets and coats, while mohair suits in deep greens and plums channeled autumn’s hush. Bouclé tweeds mimicked sheepskin; feathers and tweed created illusory faux fur.

Gold-sprayed wheat ears - the house symbol of abundance - were everywhere: stitched into flounces, embroidered on necklines, set on every guest’s seat. The theme may have been country, but make no mistake: This

was as close as Chanel gets to “roughing it.”

Technique dazzled at every turn: jewel-buttons, embroidered florals and a finale of lamé so luminous it mimicked sunlight on harvest fields. The studio team, holding the fort after Virginie Viard’s abrupt and unceremonious exit last year, anchored the show in classic codes but played with wit and lightness.

That obsessive handwork matters - not just for tradition, but for business. Chanel is fashion’s juggernaut: Privately held, the brand reported \$18.7 billion in revenue for 2024, cementing its status as one of the world’s most powerful luxury houses. Couture

may be the crown, but its influence drives global sales in fragrance, bags and jewelry, making it the envy of rivals.

Change is always looming at Chanel. For more than 30 years, Karl Lagerfeld transformed the brand from Parisian legend to pop phenomenon, staging ever-grander spectacles at the Grand Palais. After his death in 2019, Viard, his longtime deputy, guided Chanel into a softer, more discreet era.

Now the industry is holding its breath for Blazy, a Belgian talent with stints at Margiela, Celine and most recently Bottega Veneta, where he won fans for his blend of innovation and reverence for craft.

Belly Laughs

AAPL comedy meets cuisine

LOS ANGELES, July 9, (AP): With the Belly Laughs Festival, an ambitious Asian American and Pacific Islander-centered comedy festival, the food is as important as the talent line-up. Every detail is intended to send a message of unabashed cultural pride.

“It’s like we grew up kind of shying away and hiding our Asian-ness,” said Viv Wang, a volunteer festival producer with Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment, or CAPE, who helped conceive the idea for the event. “It just made a lot of sense to have comedy and food - these two ways that people can connect and just celebrate being Asian and having a place to feel cool to be Asian.”

For one weekend, Belly Laughs is mounting an unprecedented gathering of 30 AAPL stand-up comics - from headliners to newer scene-stealers - in downtown Los Angeles. There will also be 20 food and beverage vendors set up in the spirit of a Taiwanese night market. The L.A. Live entertainment complex will be a playground where ticketholders can watch marquee names like Kumail Nanjiani and Margaret Cho, while simultaneously enjoying anything from biriyani to boba.

With federal immigration crackdowns nationwide, the participating comedians - most hailing from immigrant families - are being thoughtful about striking the right balance of politics and humor.

Aiming

Organizers, including Netherlander Concerts and Gold House, are aiming to draw between 6,000 to 8,000 people over the two-day tentpole event.

Comedians will be split between two stages. The entertainers lending their star power include several comics-turned-actors like Hasan Minhaj, Bobby Lee, Joel Kim Booster and Sherry Cola. It’s an impressive statement in an industry that has historically tried to put Asian comedians in boxes and often relegated them to “ethnic nights” like “Wonton Wednesdays” or “Asian Invasion.”

Asif Ali, one of the stars of the new Hulu series “Deli Boys,” has never taken part in any AAPL-focused event save an occasional comedy club night or as part of a mainstream festival. But Asian American comics were never the main event for an audience of thousands. So there was no hesitation on Ali’s part to join in the festival.

“Just to be a part of something like this was so cool,” said Ali, who performs Sunday. “To have it be of this scope and in LA and have it tied in with food - which I think is such a slam dunk - is great.”

Comedian and writer Hari Kondabolu called it “our Lollapalooza.”

“Like I don’t know if people understand ... I don’t know if this will happen every year, if it will happen again. But like this is a pretty cool moment in time to be a part of something like this,” Kondabolu said.

MAMA, a community group dedicated to promoting immigrants and their cultures through night markets, is the curator of the event’s food stalls. There will be no national restaurant chains. But an array of Asian cultures will be represented - Indonesian, Malaysian, Singaporean and Chinese among them.



Asif Ali poses for a portrait on Wednesday, July 2, in Los Angeles. (AP)

‘NCDs cause over half of deaths worldwide’

Health official stresses awareness campaigns to fight chronic diseases

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): Director of the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases Department at the Ministry of Health Dr. Homoud Al-Zaabi emphasized on Wednesday, that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for more than half of deaths worldwide.

During the Awareness Day for Non-Communicable Diseases, held under Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi’s patronage, Al-Zaabi stressed the importance of awareness campaigns to combat these diseases and reduce their associated risk factors.



Dr. Al-Zaabi

He stated that the campaign aims to raise awareness about NCDs and key risk factors, including physical inactivity, unhealthy diet, and smoking, while the Ministry has developed a strategy targeting cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory conditions.

Al-Zaabi highlighted that these diseases are the leading cause of death globally, not just in Kuwait, referring to international and regional recommendations from global organizations.

He emphasized the importance of community-level plans and initiatives, such as organizing awareness days and celebrating global health events, to reduce risk factors and promote scientifically proven awareness based on World Health Organization (WHO) studies.



Several participants attending the Awareness Day for NCDs event.

KUNA photo

Breakthrough in oncology surgery and reconstruction

Kuwait performs first laparoscopic breast tumor removal

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: The Ministry of Health confirmed the success of a first-of-its-kind surgery in Kuwait to remove a breast tumor using a surgical laparoscope, followed by breast reconstruction with silicone implants, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the ministry explained that the procedure was performed by Dr. Dalal Al-Aradi, a consultant surgeon and subspecialist in breast tumors and reconstruction at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, using advanced and internationally recognized



Ministry of Health announces successful laparoscopic breast tumor removal and reconstruction.

surgical techniques. One of the main advantages of laparoscopic surgery is the ability to make concealed cos-

metic incisions, which helps reduce pain and complications, and contributes to a faster recovery process.

Meanwhile, Head of the Surgery Department at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital Dr. Suleiman Al-Mazidi expressed pride in this medical achievement, describing it as a milestone in the field of oncology surgery.

He also thanked the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi and the ministry’s Undersecretary Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi for their support.

KuADR participates in IADR meet

Kuwaiti dental researchers shine at global conference

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: The Kuwait Chapter of the International Association for Dental Research (KuADR) participated in the recently concluded IADR Annual Conference held in Barcelona, Spain.

Assistant Professor in the Department of General Dental Practice at the College of Dentistry at Kuwait University Dr. Fatima Al-Kazemi represented the Kuwait Chapter. She affirmed that the conference witnessed significant participation from faculty members through scientific discussions on the latest developments in dental and oral and maxillofacial research, strategic initiatives, global research trends, and collaborative efforts to enhance the impact of scientific discovery in the dental research community.

A number of graduates from the 2023/2024 academic year participated in the conference, including Dr. Maryam Safar, Dr. Maha Al-Sanea, Dr. Yousef Al-Hassan and Dr. Abdulaziz

Al-Osaimi who won the Hatton Award for Student Research in Dentistry and Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine last year. They represented the State of Kuwait at this year’s annual conference by presenting their scientific papers and research projects to researchers and dentists from around the world. Their participation highlighted the high level of student research in the State of Kuwait and its year-on-year development.

Furthermore, the conference witnessed the presence of Kuwait University on the Research Review and Awards Committee for Postgraduate Students in Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Surgery Research, represented by Associate Professor in the Department of General Dental Practice at the College of Dentistry Dr. Fawaz Al-Zoubi, as the first member from the Middle East and North Africa region on this committee for the period 2022-2025; complementing the distinguished presence of faculty members from the College of Dentistry in international scientific forums.

Experts warn

Gaza hit by meningitis

GAZA, July 9, (Xinhua): The health authorities in Gaza warned on Tuesday of a “worrying increase” in the number of cases of meningitis, especially among children, in the Gaza Strip amid “an unprecedented health, humanitarian, and environmental crisis.”

The authorities said in a press statement that it had recorded a “clear” increase in the number of suspected and confirmed meningitis cases, especially among children under five, who are the group most vulnerable to the disease and its serious complications.

It added that the deteriorating level of healthcare, with hospitals closed or destroyed, the significant deterioration in drug stocks, and the shortage of childhood vaccinations, have limited emergency response efforts.

Whooping cough: Whooping cough cases in Japan hit a new weekly record of 3,353 cases, the highest since the current survey method began in 2018, according to the Japan Institute for Health Security.

Preliminary data from the national health research institute showed that the latest figure reported by medical institutions across the country in the week through June 29 went up 142 from the previous week.

Gaza hospitals struggle as key doctors killed

Israel’s killing of a prominent doctor leaves a hard-to-fill void: Gaza docs

JERUSALEM, July 9, (AP): When the onetime director of a Gaza Strip hospital was killed by an Israeli airstrike last week, he joined a growing list of prominent Palestinian doctors who have died during 21 months of war that has devastated the territory’s health system.

The death of Dr. Marwan al-Sultan, a 49-year-old cardiologist, was described by colleagues as a major blow personally and professionally, leaving another void in Gaza’s medical establishment that will not be easily replaced.

“He was one of two cardiologists, so by losing Dr. Marwan, thousands of people will lose and suffer,” said Mohammed Abu Selmia, a close friend of his for 15 years, and the director of Shifa Hospital, Gaza’s largest medical facility.

A photograph from 2022 shows Abu Selmia, al-Sultan and 30 other leading doctors and medical experts in Gaza, all faculty smiling after the graduation of medical school students from Islamic University in Gaza City. At least five of those veteran doctors, mentors to the next generation, are now dead - each killed by Israeli airstrikes, except for one who died while in captivity in Israel.

Al-Sultan and three other specialists in the 2022 photo who were killed in airstrikes died during off-duty hours, though it is not clear if these were targeted killings.

When asked why al-Sultan’s building was attacked last Wednesday, the Israeli military said it had struck a “key terrorist” from Hamas, without elaborating. The military said it “regrets any



Palestinians gather around the bodies of Dr. Marwan al-Sultan, the director of the Indonesian Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip, his wife, his daughter, and his son-in-law, after they were killed in an Israeli airstrike, at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, on July 2. (AP)

harm to uninvolved individuals” and that the “the incident is under review.”

It will take years to educate a new generation of surgeons and other specialists to replace the ones killed during the war between Hamas and Israel, Abu Selmia said. For now, hospitals have too few experts to provide urgent care at a time of extraordinary need, he said.

Hospitals across Gaza also face supply shortages amid steady Israeli bombardment that is resulting in a high number of wounded people seeking treatment on a near-daily basis.

More than 1,400 Palestinian health workers have been killed in Gaza since

the war began in October 2023, according to the United Nations.

The Israeli military has raided or laid siege to hospitals throughout the war, accusing Hamas of using them as command centers and to hide fighters, though it has only provided evidence for some of its claims. The World Health Organization has documented nearly 700 attacks on health care facilities during the war.

Al-Sultan gained respect and notoriety within Gaza’s medical community because he refused to leave his hospital in the northern Gaza city of Beit Lahia, even when it came under attack.

Cancer drug side effects

Australia prevents over 230K cancer deaths since 1980s

SYDNEY, July 9, (Xinhua): More than 230,000 cancer deaths have been prevented in Australia since the mid-1980s thanks to decades of investment in cancer prevention, screening and treatment, a new study revealed.

The study, published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health on Tuesday, found that anti-smoking campaigns have driven a sharp decline in lung cancer deaths, while improved screening and treatments have reduced mortality from breast, cervical, and stomach cancers, said the study’s lead researcher Brigid Lynch, deputy head of Cancer Epidemiology at Cancer Council Victoria.

“What we’re seeing is a snowball effect, we’re now seeing the result of investments made in cancer control over the many decades,” Lynch said.

Since the 1980s, the risk of dying from cancer has dropped by 20 percent for men and 11 percent for women, said the study.

However, the study warns that deaths from liver and brain cancers are still rising, largely due to lifestyle factors and chronic infections.

Experts call for continued investment in prevention and early detection, especially as cancer incidence is

expected to rise by 50 percent by 2044 due to Australia’s ageing population.

Cancer treatments: Research is shedding new light on the causes of serious side effects linked to some promising cancer treatments.

Scientists have discovered that the protein MCL-1, a key target in cancer drug development, plays not only a role in preventing cell death in cancer cells but also supplying energy to normal cells, according to a statement released Tuesday by Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) in Melbourne.

As a result, drugs that inhibit MCL-1 can inadvertently damage healthy tissues that rely on this protein for energy, especially in organs with high energy demand like the heart and liver, leading to the severe side effects observed in clinical trials, WEHI said.

The new findings clarify that these side effects may be linked to the protein’s critical role in cellular energy production, which enables the development of safer, more targeted cancer therapies that reduce harm to healthy tissues while staying effective against cancer.

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Sweden, Germany march into Euros quarterfinals



Poland’s Emilia Urszula Szymczak, left, and Sweden’s Kosovare Asllani, right, challenge for the ball during the Euro 2025, group C, soccer match between Sweden and Poland in Lucerne, Switzerland. (AP)



Denmark’s Pernille Harder, left, and Germany’s ElisaSENS, right, challenge for the ball during the Euro 2025, group C, soccer match between Germany and Denmark in Basel, Switzerland. (AP)

Poland has two losses and no goals scored on major tournament debut

LUCERNE, Switzerland, July 9, (AP): Sweden advanced to the quarterfinals at the Women’s European Championship by beating Poland 3-0 , a result that also sent Germany through to the knockout rounds from their group.

A hat trick of headed goals by three different players was fair reward for relentless attacking down Sweden’s right flank that left the overmatched Poland defense exposed.

Sweden had already struck the crossbar with two headers before center forward Stina Blackstenius opened the scoring in the 28th. Captain Kosovare Asllani padded the lead in the 52nd and substitute Lina Hurtig got a key third in the 77th.

That goal sent Sweden top of the standings on goal difference ahead of Germany, ensuring it only needs a draw to win the group when the teams meet Saturday. Germany also got its second win earlier, beating Denmark 2-1 after trailing at halftime.

Poland almost scored a consolation goal in stoppage time that would have dropped Sweden below Germany, but Milena Kokosz’s long-range shot struck the inside of the post and went to safety.

The winner of Group C will likely avoid Euro 2025 favorite Spain’s half of the knockout bracket. The group runner-up between Sweden and Germany

would be on a path to meet Spain in the semifinals.

Sweden has now advanced from the group stage in all eight editions of the Women’s Euros tournament format.

Poland now has two losses and no goals scored on its major tournament debut, after losing 2-0 to Germany. Captain and star forward Ewa Pajor was kept isolated by the Sweden defense, which cut off most passes seeking her out.

The only eastern European nation in the 16-nation lineup at Euro 2025, Poland had arrived on an 11-game unbeaten run, including 10 wins.

Germany through to Euro 2025 quarterfinals after coming from behind to beat Denmark 2-1

Lea Schüller scored again as Germany beat Denmark 2-1 which secured a place in the knockout stage .

Sweden’s subsequent 3-0 win over Poland means Sweden and Germany are assured of the top two places after their winning starts to Group C, leaving Poland and Denmark with no chance of making the quarterfinals.

Germany, the eight-time winner, needed to come from behind after Amalie Vangsgaard scored against the run of play for Denmark in the 26th.

VAR calls had gone against the favorites until referee Catarina Ferreira Campos awarded a penalty for Katrine Veje’s 53rd-minute foul on Linda Dallmann.

Sjoeke Nüsken stayed cool to equalize from the spot, and Jule Brandt set up

Schüller to sweep in the winner in the 66th. Brandt had scored and set up Schüller for the other goal in Germany’s opening 2-0 win over Poland.

Schüller had endured a difficult game until she scored.

There was a brief hold-up later while the referee received treatment for an apparent right leg injury, shortly after Denmark’s Emma Snerle had to go off after being hit in the face by a powerful shot.

The win moved Germany to six points from two games in Group C, behind Sweden on goal difference. They meet in Zurich on Saturday to determine the group winner, which would likely not need to face tournament favorite Spain until the final.

Germany’s forwards attacked from the off but ultimately failed to trouble Denmark goalkeeper Maja Bay Østergaard as mistakes and a lack of precision undermined their efforts. Then the VAR calls added to their frustrations.

Klara Bühl thought she’d broken the deadlock but the goal was chalked off after a VAR review found Nüsken had blocked Østergaard’s view from an offside position.

Vangsgaard then scored with a low shot inside the right post after Germany’s defenders failed to deal with Janni Thomsen’s run.

Germany was awarded a penalty after Bühl’s cross struck Frederikke Thøgersen’s arm, but a VAR check found the Roma midfielder was just outside the penalty area. The free kick came to nothing.

The next VAR call went Germany’s way.

Player’s status in Denver in the short term not affected

Jokic puts Nuggets contract extension on hold

DENVER, July 9, (AP): Three-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic has decided to delay a contract extension with the Denver Nuggets this summer, a person with knowledge of the matter told The Associated Press on Tuesday night.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because neither Jokic nor the Nuggets have addressed the matter publicly. It doesn’t affect Jokic’s status in Denver in the short term: He has at least two years remaining on his deal - \$55.2 million this season and \$59 million in 2026-27, along with a player option in 2027-28 worth nearly \$63 million.

Jokic became eligible Tuesday to sign an extension that could have added three years and around \$212 million to his contract. By waiting until next summer to sign, Jokic would be eligible to add four years to his deal at even more money than this summer’s extension would have guaranteed.

The Denver Post first reported the decision from Jokic.

Josh Kroenke, the vice chairman of Kroenke Sports and Entertainment, explained earlier this offseason the team was going to present both options to Jokic - and respect his decision.

“I’m not sure if he’s going to accept it or not, because we’re also going to explain every financial parameter around him signing now versus signing later,” Kroenke said.

The 30-year-old from Serbia is



In this file photo, Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) and Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2) in the second half of Game 6 in the Western Conference semifinals of the NBA basketball playoffs in Denver. (AP)

coming off a historic season in which he became the first NBA center to average a triple-double - 29.6 points, 12.7 rebounds, 10.2 assists - and finished runner-up to Oklahoma City’s Shai Gilgeous-Alexander in the MVP voting. The only other players who averaged a triple-double are Russell Westbrook and Oscar Robertson.

It was a trying season for Jokic and the Nuggets in which coach Michael Malone and general manager Calvin Booth were fired with three games remaining in the regular season.

Jokic and the Nuggets went 3-0 to close out the season, beat the Los An-

geles Clippers in seven games during the first round of the playoffs and took the eventual NBA champion Thunder to seven games in Western Conference semifinals before being eliminated. Jokic averaged 26.2 points and 12.7 rebounds in the post-season run.

Once again, Jokic was his usual contribute-in-any-way facilitator. He finished with a franchise-record 34 triple-doubles in the regular season, including a 61-point triple-double.

In addition, he became the fastest player in NBA history (739 games) to notch 16,000 points, 8,000 re-

bounds and 5,000 assists. The previous mark was held by Hall of Famer Larry Bird, who reached those numbers in 799 games.

A second-round pick by Denver in 2014, Jokic has blossomed into a five-time All-NBA first-team player. He led the Nuggets to their first title in 2023 and earned the Finals MVP award.

This season, he will have a new coach in David Adelman, who was hired on an interim basis when the Nuggets fired Malone and was promoted to the permanent job. There’s a new front-office structure, too, led by executive vice presidents Ben Tenzler and Jonathan Wallace. They’ve vowed to be aggressive in building another title contender around Jokic in his championship window.

The executive tandem made a splash by breaking up the core of Jokic, Aaron Gordon, Jamal Murray and Michael Porter Jr. by trading Porter and a first-round pick to Brooklyn for Cam Johnson. The team has also brought back Bruce Brown - an integral piece in their championship run - and added sharpshooting wing Tim Hardaway Jr.

ESPN reported earlier this month the Nuggets sent Dario Saric to the Sacramento Kings for Jonas Valanciunas, a center who can back up Jokic. The deal hasn’t been announced yet.

Jokic is spending his offseason back in Serbia, where recently he was seen cheering one of his prized racehorses to a victory.

Italian soccer legend Chiellini joins LAFC ownership group

LOS ANGELES, July 9, (AP): Italian soccer great Giorgio Chiellini will be returning to Los Angeles FC as part of the club’s ownership group, the team said.

The 40-year-old Chiellini, who spent nearly two decades playing for Italian club Juventus before joining LAFC in 2022, also spent time as a player development coach with the MLS team in 2024.

“Joining the LAFC ownership group is a great honor for me,” Chiellini said in a statement released by the team. “When I arrived here three years ago as a player, I immediately felt that there was something special about this club. It is an ambitious organization, built by extraordinary people and supported by a community that truly makes you feel at home.

That is why, last year, I expressed my desire to become an owner, and now I’m proud to continue this journey and give my support to a project I deeply believe in.”

Chiellini, one of the best defenders in the world during his 23-year professional career, retired in 2023. He won nine consecutive Serie A championships with Juventus and



In this file photo, Los Angeles FC defender Giorgio Chiellini waves prior to the team’s MLS soccer match against FC Dallas in Los Angeles. (AP)

the Euro 2020 title with the Italian national team. His final two seasons were spent with LAFC, where he appeared in 45 matches, including seven in the MLS Cup Playoffs and three in the 2023 Leagues Cup.

During his many years with Juventus, Chiellini earned Serie A Defensive Player of the Year honors three times in addition to being named to the Italian league’s Team of the Year five times.

Best of the Rest

Ancelotti takes charge of Botafogo: Davide Ancelotti, son of Brazil head coach Carlo Ancelotti, has been appointed manager of Botafogo, the Brazilian Serie A club said.

The 35-year-old agreed to a contract that runs until December 2026, according to a statement on Botafogo’s official website.

“The hiring of Davide Ancelotti represents another strategic step in strengthening our sports project, based on innovation, ambition and international prominence,” the statement read.

He will be joined by assistant coaches Luis Tevenet and Andrew Mangano, it added.

It will be Ancelotti’s first job as a manager in his own right. Until now, he has served as an assistant to his father at Napoli, Everton, Bayern Munich, Real Madrid and currently with the Brazil national team - a position he is expected to retain.

Botafogo, which won last year’s Brazilian Serie A and Copa Libertadores titles, sacked previous manager Renato Paiva last week after its FIFA Club World Cup exit.

The Rio de Janeiro side is currently eighth in Brazil’s 20-team top flight and will meet Ecuador’s LDU Quito in the Copa Libertadores round of 16 in August. (Xinhua)

Egiluz signs new deal with Bilbao: Athletic Bilbao has agreed a three-year contract extension with central defender Unai Egiluz.

The 23-year-old has signed a new contract until the end of June 2028 after impressing last season on loan with second-division Mirandes, where he played over 2,300 minutes first-team football.

The new contract means he will form part of Athletic’s first-team squad, as the players return to training on Wednesday to prepare for the club’s return to the UEFA Champions League after finishing fourth in La Liga last season.

Egiluz joins striker Urko Izeta and right-back Hugo Rincon in the squad, with Izeta also penning a new deal after impressing at Mirandes, scoring 15 goals as the club just missed out on promotion to the elite, while Rincon was almost ever-present on the right of the Mirandes defense.

All three will be looking to impress Athletic coach Ernesto Valverde, although Egiluz’s long-term place could depend on whether the club is able to complete a deal to sign Spain defender Aymeric Laporte from Al-Nassr.

Laporte is apparently keen to return to Athletic after two years in Saudi Arabia, viewing the move as a chance to book a place in the Spain squad for next summer’s FIFA World Cup.

After assuring the future of international winger Nico Williams last week, Athletic is also keen on Osasuna right-back Jesus Areso. (Xinhua)

Injury-hit pace bowler Archer returns to England test team for 1st time since '21

LONDON, July 9, (AP): Injury-hit pace bowler Jofra Archer will play his first cricket test for England in 4 1/2 years after being selected for the third match of the series against India starting Thursday at Lord’s.

It was at the home of

Change Name

I, Mohammad Rahul
Current name is passport holder of Indian passport No.N9590270 Vill,Fulachodh, Post- Chodhadaragah, Ps-Mahuli, Dist,Sheikhpura. Having permanent Address, State (Bihar), Country,(India) and Pin-811304. Residing in kuwait at present, hereby declare that Henceforth my name will be read as under Given Name Mohammad Ruhul

cricket where Archer exploded onto the international scene, playing a starring role in England’s victory over New Zealand in the 50-over Cricket World Cup final in 2019 - soon after switching nationality.

The Barbados-born quick has been blighted by a succession of injuries since, chiefly because of nagging issues with his right elbow for which he has undergone two operations. His most recent test appearance for his adopted country was against India in Ahmedabad in February 2021.

Archer will make his test return against the same opponent, having missed the first two tests which were shared by England and In-

dia. He will replace Josh Tongue in the only change from the second test at Edgbaston, which India won by 336 runs. England captain Ben Stokes said Archer’s return “has been a long time coming.”

“The way in which he has handled the injury setbacks over that period has been very commendable,” Stokes said.

“It was exciting to have him back in the squad but now to say he is in the playing XI, it’s very exciting for the group but a great day for Jof and he is going to be pretty proud of himself that he has managed to get back here.”

It will be just his 14th test for England since making a devastating debut in

the longest format – also at Lord’s – during the Ashes series against Australia in August 2019, when he shook up Steve Smith in a memorably hostile spell.

“I think it’s obvious whenever he does get the ball in his hand, there is that change in the game,” Stokes said. “I think the opposition feel it because they know what he can do in a spell.

“I don’t think there’s any reason why we can’t see Jofra operating at a level like we have seen him here at Lord’s on his debut.”

Archer’s injury woes appear to have cleared up somewhat and he has played regularly for England’s ODI and T20 teams over the past year, as well as for teams in the IPL and

England. He most recently came through a red-ball County Championship match for Sussex, his only first-class game in which he has proved his fitness.

Asked if that was enough to show Archer’s readiness to play India, Stokes said: “Stop having as a default going to the worst (scenario). We are a very good nation at doing that.

“If we didn’t think he’s in a position to get through a test match as a bowler, then we wouldn’t be considering him for selection.”

England team: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (captain), Jamie Smith, Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse, Jofra Archer, Shoaib Bashir.

Gulf Club Champs League draw scheduled for August 15 in Doha

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: The Arabian Gulf Cup Federation has announced that the draw for the upcoming edition of the Gulf Club Champions League (2025–2026) will take place on August 15 in Doha, Qatar. The tournament is scheduled to kick off in September 2025.

Eight clubs from across the region will take part in the competition:

Al-Qadsiya (Kuwait), Al-Rayyan (Qatar), Al-Ain (UAE), Al-Shabab (Saudi Arabia), Sara (Bahrain) Al-Nahda (Oman), Al-Zawraa (Iraq), Al-Ahli Sana’a (Yemen)

This edition is expected to be more competitive than the previous one, thanks to the presence of historically successful Gulf clubs. The last tournament

featured more modest performances.

The format will see the eight teams split into two groups of four, with the top two teams from each group advancing to the semi-finals. All matches will be played home and away.

Al-Qadsiya, returning to the competition last season after a nine-year absence, made an impressive run to the final. They drew 1-1 in the first leg against Duhok SC of Iraq but fell 2-1 in the second leg.

The Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation continues to prioritize the tournament, especially in terms of financial rewards. The champion will receive \$3 million, while the runner-up earns \$1 million. Awards of \$50,000 each will go to the tournament’s best player, top scorer, and best goalkeeper.

In addition, \$300,000 is allocated to participating clubs, with an extra \$100,000 awarded to each team that qualifies for the semi-finals.



In this file photo, Al-Qadsiya player controls the ball as Dohuk players defend during the final match.

Kuwait stumbles against Bahrain



Players fight for the rebound during Kuwait-Bahrain match.

Blues must beat Saudis to reach Asian finals

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

MANAMA, July 9: The Kuwait junior basketball team suffered a heavy 93-52 defeat against host nation Bahrain in the second round of the Gulf Cup, currently taking place in Manama and set to conclude this Saturday. In the same round, Saudi Arabia recorded a dominant 73-30 victory over the UAE.

This loss pushed Kuwait to second place in

the standings with three points, trailing Bahrain, who lead with four. Saudi Arabia and the UAE follow with two points each, while Oman sits at the bottom with one point.

Despite a promising start to the tournament — which serves as a qualifier for the Asian Cup finals — with a 63-44 win over the UAE, the Blues failed to maintain momentum in their second outing, falling short of the expectations placed upon them as title contenders.

Kuwait began the game strongly, keeping pace with Bahrain and trailing narrowly 25-22 at the end of the first quarter. However, a dramatic decline in performance in the second quarter saw the host take full control, outscor-

ing the Blues 33-9 to head into halftime with a commanding 58-31 lead.

Bahrain’s dominance continued in the second half as it widened the gap further, ending the third quarter 80-43 and wrapping up the match with a convincing 93-52 win — a 41-point margin.

All teams are scheduled to rest today before action resumes tomorrow with two matchups: Saudi Arabia vs. Oman, and UAE vs. Bahrain. Kuwait will close its campaign the following day with a critical clash against Saudi Arabia — a match expected to decide the second team to qualify for the Asian Finals alongside the Gulf Cup champion.

Zizo demands EGP 82 million in unpaid dues from Zamalek

CAIRO, July 9: Ahmed Mostafa ‘Zizo,’ currently an Al Ahly midfielder, has filed an official complaint through his lawyer, Ashraf Abdel Aziz, to the Players’ Affairs Committee, demanding that his former club Zamalek settle outstanding financial obligations.

According to the complaint, Zizo is owed a total of EGP 82.5 million, which includes unpaid contract dues and bonuses for winning the Egypt Cup during his time at Zamalek.

Zizo’s lawyer detailed that the player’s contract with Zamalek officially ended with the 2024–2025 season, and that the value of his third and final season was EGP 30.8 million, to be paid in ten monthly installments of EGP 3 million each. However, Zamalek has reportedly only paid EGP 1.8 million so far.

The complaint states that the remaining EGP 23.9 million of this season’s salary, along with other pending installments, remains un-



Ahmed Mostafa ‘Zizo’

paid — a clear breach of contract terms. The legal team is demanding full settlement in line with the signed agreement.

The dispute marks another chapter in Zamalek’s ongoing financial and administrative challenges, especially regarding player dues and contractual commitments.

Best of the Rest

Wang powers into last 16: Reigning world champion Wang Chuqin advanced to the men’s singles last 16 with a 3-1 win over Kao Cheng-jui of Chinese Taipei, while women’s world No. 1 Sun Yingsha endured another full-game battle at the World Table Tennis (WTT) United States Smash .

As Team China’s only remaining player in the bottom half, Wang started strong with an 11-2 opening game. Kao leveled with an 11-9 win, but Wang responded confidently, taking the next two games 11-6, 11-3 to close out the match.

French qualifier Lilian Bardet, who upset China’s Liang Jingkun in the previous round, continued his surprise run with a 3-1 victory over Germany’s Ricardo Walther.

Sixth seed Felix Lebrun won 3-1 in an all-French clash with Simon Gauzy. German seeds Benedikt Duda and Qiu Dang also progressed to the third round.

Sun Yingsha, who was pushed to five games by Australia’s Liu Yangzi in the opening round, faced another test against 17-year-old Hana Goda. The Egyptian teenager led two-one before Sun rallied with back-to-back 11-7 wins to complete the comeback.

Sun was joined in the women’s last 16 by teammates Chen Xingtong, Kuai Man and Chen Yi, as well as Japan’s Miwa Harimoto and Hina Hayata.

Kuai also advanced to the mixed doubles quarterfinals with Lin Shidong after the top seeds swept Austria’s Robert Gardos and Sofia Polcanova in straight games. (Xinhua)

Kenya eliminates host Uganda: Kenya defeated Uganda 32-24 in the quarterfinals of the Rugby Africa Cup, which also serves as a qualifier for the 2027 Rugby World Cup, in Kampala.

Kenya took a 12-7 lead into halftime with tries from Griffin Chao and Barry Young.

Uganda narrowed the gap with a penalty conversion 10 minutes into the second half, but Kenyan captain George Nyambua and Chao added two more tries. Young sealed the result with a late drop kick that silenced the home crowd.

Uganda’s Philip Wokorach scored two quick tries in the closing stages, but it wasn’t enough to overturn the deficit.

“We are happy with the win against Uganda because playing against them is always very tricky,” Kenyan captain Nyambua told Xinhua after the match.

Wokorach said they failed to get their act together early enough and paid for their mistakes. “It was a very tough match, and we tried our best,” he said. Earlier in the day, Namibia defeated Senegal 55-17 in another quarterfinal.

Kenya will face reigning champions Zimbabwe in the semifinals, while Namibia takes on Algeria. Both matches are set for Sunday. (Xinhua)

Coates strikes again

Queensland wins State of Origin rugby league series

SYDNEY, July 9, (AP): Queensland scored 20 unanswered points in the first half and went on to beat New South Wales 24-12 Wednesday in the third and deciding State of Origin rugby league match, one of the most anticipated sporting events in Australia each year.

Before a sellout crowd at the Olympic stadium in Sydney, winger Xavier Coates scored his sixth try in seven Origin appearances to help give Queensland an 8-0 lead in the 18th minute.

Halfback Tom Dearden scored Queensland’s second try in the 27th minute and the Maroons led 14-0 after Valentine Holmes again kicked a conversion. Harry Grant muscled his way past three New South Wales defenders to score Queensland’s third try in the final minute of the half and send the Maroons to the



Xavier Coates of the Maroons scores a try during the final State of Origin rugby league match in Sydney, Australia. (AP)

break with a 20-0 lead. South Wales on the board with a Center Stephen Crichton got New try in the 56th minute. But Dearden

scored his second try of the match with seven minutes remaining to put the match away for the Maroons.

It was the first points Queensland scored in the second half of any of the three Origin matches this year.

Queensland captain Cameron Munster played in the match just days after the sudden death of his father, Steven, last weekend at the age of 58.

New South Wales took a 1-0 lead in the series with an 18-6 win at Brisbane on May 28. Queensland leveled it with a 26-24 victory at Perth on June 18, hanging on after also leading by 20 points at halftime, 26-6.

New South Wales won last year’s series after beating Queensland 14-4 in the deciding match at Brisbane.

The State of Origin series was first played in 1982 and Queensland has won it 25 times, including eight years in a row from 2006 to 2013.

British and Irish Lions fend off Brumbies in a key tuneup

CANBERRA, Australia, July 9, (AP): The British and Irish Lions avoided an upset loss to the Brumbies this time, holding on for a 36-24 win over the Canberra-based Super Rugby team in a key tuneup for the three-test series against Australia.

The Lions are now 4-0 since a 28-24 loss to Argentina in a warmup in Dublin before the traveling Down Under for a nine-game tour that has kicked off with wins over all of Australia’s Super Rugby franchises.

The Brumbies edged the Lions on their last tour

to Australia in 2013 and were a handful again, but lacked the size and depth this time to repeat that upset.

Big blindside flanker Ollie Chessum scored the first try for the Lions and had one disallowed after full time. Flyhalf Finn Russell had a successful night with the boot and combined solidly with Jamison Gibson-Park in what will be a likely Lions halves combination in the test series starting July 19.

Again, it was a grafting first half. The Lions had more than two-thirds of field position and 60% of the ball but struggled to get away from

the Brumbies until a try to Marcus Smith after the halftime siren gave them a 19-10 lead at the break.

The Lions scored three tries and conceded two in the first half, and had one held up over the line, and looked good spreading the ball to the edges, but lacked some cohesion at crucial times.

Center Garry Ringrose played a vital role in the first try of the second half, running into a gap in the midfield and then chasing through to pounce on Marcus Smith’s downfield kick as it went into the in-goal to extend the Lions’ lead.

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NEWS



Chelsea's Joao Pedro, front, is challenged by Fluminense's Ignacio during the Club World Cup semifinal soccer match between Fluminense and Chelsea in East Rutherford, N.J. (AP)

Sports

Marco Alves named Al-Arabi coach as club prepares for the new season

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Al-Arabi Club has officially appointed Portuguese coach Marco Cesar Pereira Alves to lead the club's first football team as preparations begin for the upcoming 2025-2026 season.

Alves replaces Nasser Al-Shatti, the Kuwaiti coach who led Al-Arabi for two consecutive seasons. Despite notable achievements — including finishing as runner-up in the Zain Premier League and the Crown Prince Cup, as well as reaching the Amir's Cup final (postponed due to regional circumstances) — both sides reached a mutual decision to part ways.

While Alves may not have an extensive head coaching résumé, he brings considerable experience as an assistant coach. His past roles include stints with Sharjah (UAE) and Al-Taawoun (Saudi Arabia), as well as several Portuguese clubs, including Vitória Guimarães, Trofense, Chaves, Moreirense, and Gil Vicente. He has also obtained the prestigious



Al-Arabi's new coach Marco Cesar Pereira Alves

UEFA Pro License, qualifying him to manage both top-tier European clubs and national teams.

Alves and his assistant staff are expected to arrive in Kuwait within the next two days to finalize contract details, ahead of their first official duty: leading the team's preseason training session on Tuesday.

Al-Arabi will begin its competitive campaign on August 12, facing Maziya Sports of the Maldives in a critical play-off match for a spot in the group stage of an upcoming international tournament.

One of the new coaching staff's first major responsibilities will be finalizing the club's foreign player lineup. The club has renewed contracts with its two Nigerian players, Emmanuel Iwala and Christopher John, but opted not to retain Sofiane Bouchar (Algeria), Hamza Khaba (Morocco), and Kamil Al-Aswad (Bahrain).

Al-Arabi's management has been actively scouting foreign talent to strengthen the squad ahead of the Zain Premier League, which kicks off on September 12. Among the latest names linked to the club is Egyptian striker Marawan Hamdi, currently playing for Pyramids FC.

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, July 9: The Kuwait Olympic soccer team will kick off its first friendly match this evening against Egyptian side Malyet Kafr El Zayat, marking the beginning of a series of warm-up games during its training camp in Cairo, which started last Monday.

Kuwait is scheduled to play three more friendlies during the camp. It will face El Gouna on Sunday, followed by two matches against the Egyptian national team on July 17 and July 20.

This intensive training camp comes as part of preparations for the AFC U-23 Championship qualifiers, set to take place in Saudi Arabia in January. Kuwait has been drawn into Group B, alongside Japan, Afghanistan, and host nation Myanmar. The group stage will be played from September 1 to 9.

Under the leadership of Croatian head coach Dario Pesic and assistant coach Mohammed Al-Failakawi, 29 players have been selected for the squad:

Squad List:

Jassim Al-Matar, Abdullah Al-Ghaniman, Ahmed Bodi, Mohammed Al-Sharifi, Abdullah Musa, Abdulredha Shehab, Bader Al-Mutairi, Yousef



Players intensify training for the friendly match against Malyet Kafr El Zayat.

Majed, Hussein Al-Aryan, Mohammed Al-Kandari, Omar Al-Matar, Khaled Al-Kharqawi, Mohammed Al-Suraie, Saleh Al-Muhattab, Jarrah Al-Hilali, Salem Al-Khatlan, Omar Al-Saleem, Montaser Abdulsalam, Omar Al-Azmi, Hussein Shehab, Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi, Ali Jabr, Nasser Al-Enezi, Bandar Al-Barazi, Abdulrahman Al-Harbi, Jassim Al-Enezi, Adel

Al-Shammari, Dhari Al-Masri, Moaz Al-Aseema, and Munir Al-Subaie.

Coach Pesic and his staff aim to enhance the team's overall readiness and build stronger chemistry among the players, particularly as several new faces have joined the squad. The ultimate goal is to deliver strong performances and secure qualification for the U-23 Asian Cup Finals.

Pedro fires Chelsea into Club World Cup final

Fluminense departs with heads held high

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J., July 9, (AP): João Pedro scored twice against his boyhood team in his first start for Chelsea, leading the Blues over Fluminense 2-0 to assure an all-European Club World Cup final.

A 23-year-old who had been at Fluminense from about age 10 until leaving for Watford in 2020, João Pedro scored in the 18th and 56th minutes and refused to celebrate either goal in a sign of respect for his former club. He joined Chelsea from Brighton on July 2.

Seeking its second world championship, Chelsea advanced to Sunday's title match.

European teams will win their 12th straight Club World Cup title and 17th in 18 tries, the lone exception a 2012 victory by Brazil's Corinthians over Chelsea, which won in 2021.

Fluminense was initially awarded a first-half penalty kick but it was taken away in a video review.

Chelsea's Moisés Caicedo injured his left ankle in second-half stoppage time.

"We depart with our heads held high." - Fluminense coach Renato Gaúcho.

A crowd of 70,556 was 10-15% short of capacity at MetLife Stadium, where it was 93 degrees (34 Celsius) at kickoff with humidity that made it feel like 104 (40). FIFA cut ticket prices from \$473.90 to \$13.40 last week.

Chelsea went ahead after German Cano lost the ball to João Pedro, and he poked it to Pedro Neto, who dribbled down a flank and crossed. An attempted clearance went to João Pedro, who curled a 20-yard shot inside the far post. João Pedro took two steps to start to celebrate, then stopped and clasped his hands.

Chelsea doubled the lead after Facundo Bernal lost the ball just outside the Blues' penalty area to Pedro Neto, who poked the ball to Cole Palmer. He beat three challenges and dished off to Enzo Fernández, who side-footed a pass to João Pedro. He cut around Ignacio and scored off the underside of the crossbar.

Marc Cucurella cleared Hércules' shot off the line in the 27th and French referee François Letexier awarded a penalty kick in the 35th minute when René's free kick struck the left arm of defender Trevoh Chalobah. Letexier reversed his decision in a video review, concluding Chalobah's arm was in a natural position.



Chelsea's Pedro Neto (7) dribbles away from Fluminense's Guga (23) during the Club World Cup semifinal soccer match between Fluminense and Chelsea in East Rutherford, N.J. (AP)

Letexier reversing his PK decision at the recommendation of Colombian video assistant referee Nicolas Gallo.

Chelsea has earned \$88,435,000 to \$103,815,000 for reaching the final, the

amount depending on a participation fee FIFA has not disclosed.

"When I was young, I didn't have nothing, They gave everything to me." - João Pedro on Fluminense.

Pole faces Bencic next

Swiatek reaches first Wimbledon semifinal

LONDON, July 9, (AP): Iga Swiatek reached the Wimbledon semifinals for the first time with a 6-2, 7-5 victory over 19th-seeded Liudmila Samsonova that went from a stroll to a bit of a struggle in the late stages.

"Even though I'm in the middle of the tournament, I already got goosebumps after this win," said Swiatek, who will face unseeded Belinda Bencic on Thursday for a spot in the final. "I'm super happy and super proud of myself."

Bencic beat No. 7 Mirra Andreeva 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2) to reach her first Grand Slam semifinal since the 2019 U.S. Open. The other semifinal is No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka against No. 13 Amanda Anisimova; they advanced with wins Tuesday.

Bencic, who at 28 is a decade older than Andreeva, is competing in her second major tournament since returning to the tour after giving birth to a daughter in April 2024.

Swiatek is a five-time Grand Slam champion, with four of those titles on the red clay of the French Open, and the other on the hard courts of the U.S. Open.



Iga Swiatek of Poland celebrates winning the women's singles quarter final match against Liudmila Samsonova of Russia at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London. (AP)

She's also twice been a semifinalist at the hard-court Australian Open.

The grass courts of the All England Club always had given her the most trouble as a pro, even though she did claim a junior championship there in 2018. In her five appearances in the Wimbledon women's bracket before this year, she had made it as far as the quarterfinals just once, exiting in that round in 2023.

But the 24-year-old from Poland is enjoying a career-best run on the slick surface, thanks in part to being more comfortable with the footing required.

"I, for sure, feel like I really worked hard to progress here on this surface," Swiatek said. "So this year, I feel like I can just work with it and work with myself. I'll just keep doing that."

Before the start of Wimbledon, Swiatek was the runner-up

in Bad Homburg, Germany, her first final at a tournament played on grass - and her first final at any event in more than a year, a drought that resulted in her falling from the No. 1 ranking and being seeded No. 8 at the All England Club.

Her rough period included a one-month ban last season in a doping case after an investigation determined a failed out-of-competition drug test was caused by an unintentional contamination of non-prescription medication for issues with jet lag and sleeping. On the court, a semifinal loss to Sabalenka at Roland-Garros last month ended Swiatek's 26-match French Open winning streak.

Swiatek led by a set and 3-0 in the second against Samsonova, who was appearing in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Soon, though, it was 4-all, then 5-all. But Swiatek held for a 6-5 lead, then broke to end it, and a smile spread across her face.

"I'll just recover today, try not to celebrate too much, but already focus on the next one," Swiatek said. "Prepare in the evening, and I'll be ready tomorrow."

Mekies takes over Red Bull after shock Horner sacking

LONDON, July 9, (AP): Red Bull's Formula 1 team is changing team directors for the first time since it was founded 20 years ago, after Christian Horner's sacking sent shockwaves through the sport on Wednesday. But his replacement Laurent Mekies could be the calm presence the team needs amid what promises to be an intense period of scrutiny.

Mekies, who had been head of sister team Racing Bulls, brings vast experience to the role after he was hired to replace Horner as chief executive of Red Bull's F1 team.

The timing of Horner's firing at least gives him a little bit of time to prepare, as he takes charge of his first race at the Belgian GP on July 27.

Here are some things to know about Mekies:

The 48-year-old Frenchman has been in F1 since the early 2000s.

He worked as a race engineer with the Minardi team - which featured future Red Bull driver Mark Webber - and was among the Minardi staff who stayed when Red Bull took over and created the Toro Rosso team in 2005.

He brings vast experience, and F1 knowledge from both working inside teams and inside the institution of motor sport's governing body, FIA.

After leaving Toro Rosso in 2014, Mekies had a stint as the FIA's safety director during a crucial time as F1 made the "halo" protective device mandatory on cars, following the death of French F1 driver Jules Bianchi and British IndyCar driver Justin Wilson in 2015.

Mekies returned to a team role in 2018, joining Italian F1 giant Ferrari as its sporting director, working alongside then-team principal Mattia Binotto.

He was promoted to race director, and Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc once doused him with Champagne after winning the 2022 Austrian GP.

But erratic decision-making and botched pit stops by the team during races undermined Ferrari's bid to challenge at the top.

Mekies left Ferrari halfway during the 2023 season, following Binotto's departure at the end of 2022.

Mekies became team principal of the Racing Bulls team at the start of 2024.

When Yuki Tsunoda was promoted to the Red Bull team after just two rounds this season, Mekies said he was "incredibly proud" of Tsunoda's progress.

This season he also worked with rookie French driver Isack Hadjar, who has impressed in spells, and Liam Lawson after he was demoted from Red Bull to make way for Tsunoda.

Mekies will be replaced by Alan Permane at Racing Bulls, formerly the racing director.

"The last year and a half has been an absolute privilege to lead the team," Mekies said. "The spirit of the whole team is incredible, and I strongly believe that this is just the beginning. Alan is the perfect man to take over now and continue our path."