



PM drives momentum on Airbus cooperation, China mega projects



HH the PM receives a delegation from Airbus, joined by the ambassadors of Germany, Spain, and France, to advance aviation cooperation and investment opportunities.

KUWAIT CITY, July 10, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired a meeting on Thursday at Bayan Palace with a delegation from Airbus, in the presence of the company's CEO, the ambassadors of Germany, Spain, France to Kuwait, as well as a number of Airbus executives.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance and develop the commercial partnership between both sides, noting that the delegation was also encouraged to establish a regional office in Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by Head of the Prime Minister Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel and Head of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah.

Separately, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah emphasized

on Thursday the need for unified efforts by relevant government entities to accelerate progress and ensure successful implementation of key developmental projects.

This came during the 18th meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed between the governments of Kuwait and China, at Bayan Palace.

The committee members reviewed the latest developments in the implementation of key developmental projects covered by the MoUs, including Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, electricity systems, renewable energy development, low-carbon green waste recycling, housing development, environmental infrastructure for wastewater treatment, free economic zones, and anti-desertification efforts.

Continued on Page 5



HH the PM chairs the 18th Ministerial Committee meeting at Bayan Palace to accelerate implementation of Kuwait-China development agreements.

Temps may hit 50°C

Kuwait faces sizzle spell over weekend

KUWAIT CITY, July 10, (KUNA): The Meteorological Department forecast extremely hot weather during the day and hot to warm conditions at night over the weekend.

The acting Director of the department Dr. Dhirar Al-Ali told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the country is currently influenced by the extension of the seasonal Indian low-pressure system, accompanied by a very hot and relatively dry air mass, with northwesterly to variable winds ranging from light to moderate speeds.

Al-Ali explained that on Friday, temperatures will be extremely hot during the daytime, with northwesterly to variable winds at light to moderate speeds between 8 and 28 kilometers per hour. Maximum temperatures are expected to range between 46 and 49 degrees Celsius. The sea conditions will be light to moderate, with waves between one and three feet.

Friday night will be hot to warm, with variable to northwesterly winds of light to moderate speeds ranging between 6 and 26 kilometers per hour. Minimum temperatures are expected

Continued on Page 5

Al-Roumi confident in oil market's resilience

VIENNA, July 10, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Oil Tariq Al-Roumi said on Thursday that the global oil market is witnessing remarkable stability, with relatively stable prices and increasing demand.

In a statement to KUNA, during the Ninth OPEC International Seminar currently held in Vienna, Al-Roumi expressed his optimism about the market's future in the near and medium term, noting the market's ability to absorb any potential increases in demand.

The minister said the market is currently experiencing a period of relative balance, explaining that prices are stable and demand is on the rise, noting that this impression was also shared by the majority of participants in the discussions held at the seminar.

On the recent increase in supplies by some OPEC+ countries, Al-Roumi said that the move came as a result of concerns about price levels, but it contributed to maintaining price stability and there was no real need to pump additional quantities.

He emphasized that the current market fundamentals, in terms of the balance between supply and demand, are reassuring, despite the difficulty of accurately predicting price levels.

Al-Roumi said that the seminar provided an opportunity for in-depth dialogue and bilateral meetings with leaders and influential figures in the energy sector.

The State of Kuwait has reiterated its obligation to guarantee energy security in the world.

This was announced in a speech delivered earlier by Minister of Oil and Chairman of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Tariq Al-Roumi on Wednesday before the Ninth OPEC International Seminar in the Austrian capital, Vienna.

Kuwait called for boosting investments in future energy

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait advances global digital cooperation as DCO president

GENEVA, July 10, (KUNA): Kuwait is currently moving with steady steps towards a comprehensive and creative future as part of its new vision 2035, Minister of State for Communications Affairs Omar Al-Omar said on Wednesday.

Al-Omar made the statement during a session as part of the high-level forum of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva.

He added that building digital economy in Kuwait is not only based on

Continued on Page 5



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Minister of State for Communications Affairs Omar Al-Omar stands with fellow ministers and senior officials during a group photo session at WSIS 2025.

LOST CITIZENSHIP ... NOT RIGHTS

Kuwait sets grace periods for 'Noble Deeds' holders

Rules protect key privileges

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Ministry of Interior on Thursday announced a set of regulations governing the legal and civil status of individuals whose Kuwaiti citizenship, which was granted under the 'Noble Deeds' clause, was revoked.

The new regulations — aimed at ensuring a smooth transition for affected individuals — stipulate measures concerning travel, residency, employment, education and property rights.

Effective July 20, individuals whose citizenship was revoked by decree prior to that date will be allowed to travel using a Kuwaiti passport for a period of four months. For new revocation cases, this four-month period will begin from the date the decree is issued.

In addition, affected individuals are granted a one-year grace period to amend their legal status by coordinating with their respective embassies to obtain either the passport of their original nationality or any valid official document for residency in Kuwait.

According to the ministry, individuals under this category can continue to work in the government sector, study at all levels of education, and own private housing. A five-year grace period is given to those under this category. Those benefiting from public State properties; such as chalets, barns, agricultural, industrial and commercial plots, and other properties, should settle their status by relinquishing these properties without any prescribed fees to their first-degree relatives, provided the latter are Kuwaiti citizens.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait warns public

One OTP away from fraud

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Cybercrime Department at the Ministry of Interior has warned citizens and expatriates against sharing their personal data with unofficial entities.

The department stressed the need to refrain from sharing sensitive data — such as the civil identification number or the One-Time-Password (OTP) issued by banks, or any banking or personal information — with any unofficial entity to avoid being exposed to fraud.



KISR photo
Locally farmed shrimp being gathered during the harvest at KISR's sustainable aquaculture facility.

Locally grown shrimp hits Kuwaiti market in food security milestone

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) announced its success for the fourth consecutive year in producing and marketing locally farmed shrimp using advanced, environmentally friendly technologies. This marks a strategic step toward enhancing food security and achieving self-sufficiency, in line with the objec-

tives of the 'New Kuwait 2035' vision.

The announcement was made during the "Shrimp Harvest" event, organized by KISR on Thursday at the Kabd Research and Innovation Station, under the patronage of Acting Director General of KISR Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan.

Head of the Sustainable Economic Shrimp Farm Project and Scientist Dr. Shireen Al-Subaie explained that KISR has achieved significant production growth

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

GENEVA: GCC member states have been eager to continue their approach to back international collaboration and boost human rights, said Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN and Other International Organizations in Geneva on Wednesday.

Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen made the statement to KUNA at the end of the 59th session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

He stressed the GCC states' key role played in formulating and backing some of the paramount resolutions adopted by the UNHRC in a way that shows their unwavering commitment to enhancing human rights and protecting human dignity in all fields.

GCC member states are keen on boosting human rights in a manner that ensures the respect of countries' sovereignty and achieves sustainable development of all peoples, he stated.

The UNHRC adopted a key Gulf resolution proposed by Saudi Arabia and other countries, themed on boosting international collaboration and technical support, and building capabilities to enhance national frameworks to protect children in digital space.

The move embodies GCC member states' obligation to support international efforts on child protection, Al-Hayen noted. (KUNA)

Program begins with KD 5,000 threshold beneficiaries

Kuwait debt relief restores hope for 411

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Chairman of the Indebted Citizens Committee Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi has announced the approval of the settlement of the first batch of debts for citizens whose debts do not exceed KD5,000.

Al-Ajmi confirmed that the names of 411 citizens, who met the conditions, have been submitted to the General Department of Implementation

at the Ministry of Justice to begin the debt settlement in accordance with established procedures.

This is part of the third national campaign to settle the debts of citizens, which was launched with a humanitarian vision and in accordance with the standards of transparency and justice.

In a press statement, Al-Ajmi disclosed that the decision is the result of the solidarity and cooperation of the six technical and legal committees emanating from the Supreme Committee; which consist of representatives from the ministries of Interior, Justice

(Civil Execution Department), Islamic Affairs and Social Affairs, in addition to the Secretariat General of Endowments and Zakat House. He pointed out that these committees have completed the study of a number of cases that meet the conditions as follows: that the beneficiary is of Kuwaiti nationality, has not previously benefited from the two previous campaigns for the years 2023 and 2024, the debt is due for execution, and that he has an existing execution file.

He affirmed that the committee is

Continued on Page 5



5 To government employees a signature can haunt you



8 KFH unveils new visual identity of Ahli United Bank under KFH – Bahrain

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:22	Asr	15:27
Sunrise ..	04:56	Maghrib ..	18:51
Zohr	11:53	Isha	20:21

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.
By Night: Hot to rather hot with

Weather			
light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	48	36	
Kuwait Airport	47	28	

Abdaly	47	30
Jahra	48	32
Salmiyah	44	37
Ahmadi	43	32
Nuwaisib	44	31
Wafra	47	30
Salmiyah	46	29



Deputy Governor cleaning the Holy Ka'aba walls with a cloth.



Deputy Governor kissing the 'Hajr-e-Aswad' or 'Black Stone' embedded in the Holy Ka'aba corner.



Deputy Governor coming out of the Al-Ka'aba.



KUNA photos
Kuwaiti ambassador witnessed the washing of Holy Ka'aba.

Deputy governor Makkah oversees Al-Ka'aba washing in diplomats' presence

JEDDAH, July 10, (KUNA): Deputy Governor of Makkah Prince Saud bin Mishaal Al-Saud oversaw on Thursday the Holy Ka'aba washing ceremony, which witnessed the participation of

several diplomats including Kuwaiti Ambassador Sheikh Sabah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Prince Saud -- representing King Salman

bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud -- and the gathering used Zamzam water and several materials to clean the Holy Ka'aba.

The ceremony is a Sunnah (practice) that dates

back to the era of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) when he conquered Makkah and ordered the cleansing of Al-Ka'aba from idol worship.



KUNA photo
Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya.

Kuwaiti, Egyptian FM's discuss regional scene

KUWAIT CITY, July 10, (KUNA): Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya on Wednesday received a call from his Egyptian counterpart Bader Abdelatty.

During the conversation, they discussed the bilateral relations and ways of strengthening cooperation in a number of fields, according to a statement from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The discussions also covered the latest developments in the Middle East region and the rest of the world.

'Kuwait keen to serve disabled people'

KUWAIT CITY, July 10, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah affirmed on Wednesday the ministry's keenness on supporting initiatives and programs aimed at serving persons with disabilities and ensuring a decent life for them.

This came in a statement by Minister Al-Huwailah to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) following her meeting with the United Nations Secretary-General's Representative and Resident Coordinator in Kuwait Ghada Al-Taheer, and the President of Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST) Dr. Khalid Al-Begain.

She noted that the meeting discussed enhancing joint cooperation and the ministry's sponsorship of the second International Conference on Technology for Persons with Disabilities.

Al-Huwailah added that the discussions also covered strength-



KUNA photo
Dr Al-Huwailah with Ghada Al-Taheer and Dr Khalid Al-Begain.

ening partnerships and coordination among the ministry, KCST and the United Nations office in social development and joint projects, as well as exploring participation in the activities ac-

companying the 11th Conference of Ministers of Social Affairs and Social Development of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, scheduled to be held in Kuwait next September.

Other Voices

BIS – the Forum of Central Banks

By Ahmad alsarraf

THE global financial system is a network of financial institutions that directly influence the world economy, with the support of major national central banks. Among these is the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), known as the "Forum of Central Banks," which sets standards for financial stability. Alongside the BIS and the World Bank, which focuses on financing development projects and poverty reduction, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stands as another major player in this global system.

The IMF monitors the global economy of its 190 member countries and provides financial assistance to nations facing balance of payments crises, conditional on implementing strict economic reforms.

Acting as the global financial "traffic policeman," the IMF aims to prevent financial crises and maintain the stability of the international monetary system.

In addition, the US Federal Reserve is the world's most influential central bank, as changes in US interest rates directly impact global borrowing costs, capital flows, and exchange rates.

Less influential are the European Central Bank, the People's Bank of China, the Bank of Japan, and the Bank of England, which was once the most prominent of the central banks.

The BIS is the world's oldest international financial institution, with a rich and complex history. Based in Switzerland, it was founded in 1930 in the aftermath of World War I. The BIS played a controversial role in managing German war reparations imposed on the defeated countries under the Treaty of Versailles.

This role became essential after the reparations schemes proved unworkable without an

institution to oversee the restructuring of German payments. Initially, the BIS's purpose was very specific: to collect, administer, and distribute German war reparations.

Following its initial success, the bank was assigned broader, more forward-looking responsibilities and became a trustee of international loans, along with its primary role of promoting cooperation among global central banks.

This sub-goal eventually became the BIS's permanent mission, supported by its commitment to neutrality, unique position, and ability to continue operating despite conflicts among global powers, and despite scandals involving its facilitation of laundering gold looted by the Nazis from central banks of occupied countries, most notably Czechoslovakia.

During the Bretton Woods era, the BIS served as a tool for European monetary cooperation. Its role became more defined following the collapse of that system in the early 1970s and the subsequent rise of cross-border global banking.

In 1974, the Basel Committee was established to develop prudential standards for banks, introducing comprehensive regulations primarily aimed at ensuring that banks maintain sufficient capital to absorb unexpected losses, thereby strengthening the stability of the global financial system.

The BIS is now widely recognized as the "Forum of Central Banks." Its historical evolution is reflected in its core functions - serving as a platform for cooperation among central bank governors and financial regulators worldwide. It is also a leading hub for research in global finance, banking, and monetary policy.

It offers financial services to central banks, including the management of foreign exchange reserves and other essential functions.



email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan on Thursday presided over a coordination meeting to follow up the implementation of passenger terminal project at Kuwait International Airport.

Chairman of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Eng. Hamoud Fahad Al-Sabah attended the meeting, during which they discussed the latest developments in the new passenger terminal project.

This is part of the ongoing cooperation and coordination between government agencies to monitor the progress of development projects.

They reviewed the completion rates of the three main packages of the project; in addition to discussing



Dr. Al-Mashaan

a number of outstanding technical and administrative issues between the two parties in order to remove obstacles that could affect the progress of work and to unify efforts to ensure the highest level of efficiency in implementation.

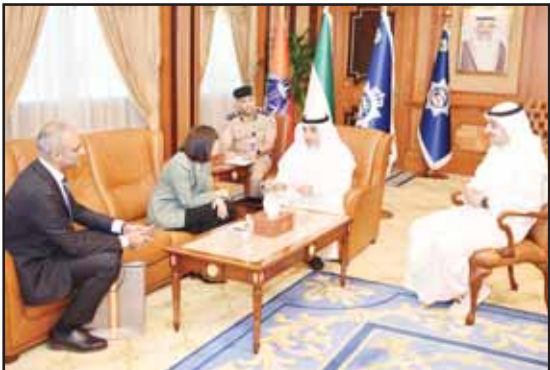
The meeting is in accordance with the principle of shared commitment to accelerate the pace of work and complete the project according to the approved schedule, which will contribute to strengthening the infrastructure of the air transport sector and improve the services provided at the airport.



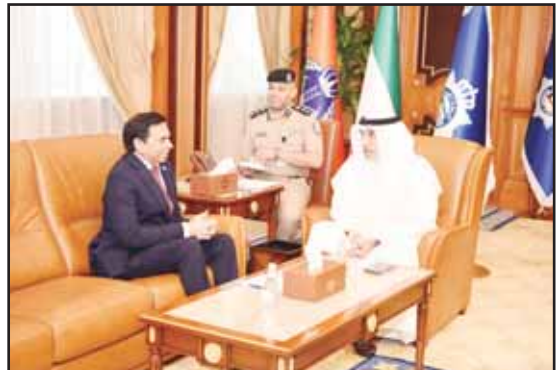
Empowering learners: The Deanship of Community Service and Continuing Education at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) announced a workshop titled "Transforming Education from Indoctination to Empowerment" for faculty and training staff, in cooperation with the Center for Measurement and Evaluation.

Dr. Safia Malallah, a visiting Professor from Kansas State University, will present the workshop on July 14 at the Deanship's building in Adailiya.

The workshop aims to showcase modern teaching methods that empower learners, stimulate critical thinking, and encourage active participation in the educational process, in line with current global educational trends.



KUNA photos
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah in talks with the US Ambassador Karen Sasahara.



KUNA photos
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah in talks with the Pakistani Ambassador Zafar Iqbal.

First Deputy PM, envoys in talks to enhance ties in security fields

KUWAIT CITY, July 10, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah discussed ways to enhance joint cooperation, especially in the security fields, with the ambassadors of the United States, India, and Pakistan to Kuwait - each separately, Thursday.

Sheikh Fahad received the US Ambassador Karen Sasahara, the Indian Ambassador Adarsh Swaika, and the Pakistani Ambassador Zafar Iqbal, where views were exchanged on several mutual regional and international issues, said the Ministry of Interior.

The Deputy Prime Minister reviewed with Ambassador Sasahara several joint security files, in addition to discussing ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of

training and information exchange.

The meeting featured an honoring of Brigadier Saud Mohammad Yusuf Al-Sabah on his efforts in supporting security cooperation between Kuwait and the US, as well as his contributions to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

During the meeting between Sheikh Fahad and the Indian Ambassador ways to develop the bilateral ties especially in the areas of security, crime, and exchanging expertise.

Similarly, Sheikh Fahad discussed with Ambassador Iqbal ways to enhance security cooperation, as well as exchanging views on regional challenges and ways to confront them.

The ambassadors all expressed their willingness to increase cooperation in the fields of security with Kuwait.

Deserving beneficiaries only: PADA

Prosthetic devices after 5-year hiatus

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah confirmed that the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) has officially begun distributing prosthetic devices to eligible beneficiaries.

In a press statement issued today on the sidelines of a ceremony honoring high-achieving students with disabilities, the minister indicated that hearing aids (ALDS) will be distributed next week as part of a comprehensive plan to provide all necessary equipment for persons with disabilities.

Dr. Al-Huwailah revealed that prosthetic devices had not been distributed for five years.

While she chose not to elaborate on the causes of this delay, the minister stressed that PADA bears full responsibility and that the ministry is working diligently to rectify the issue.

Dr. Al-Huwailah said PADA currently has a dedicated budget for the disbursement of prosthetic devices, noting that wheelchairs will be provided once appropriate sizes become available, as PADA continues to implement the necessary tenders.

She affirmed her personal commitment to completing the distribution of all prosthetic devices to beneficiaries by the end of 2025.

Dr. Al-Huwailah expressed her gratitude to the political leadership for its support in expediting and facilitating the process, particularly through coordination with relevant entities such as the Ministry of Finance.

Crying over Khor Abdullah from the preacher’s pulpit

“A STUDY conducted in a European country on politicians worldwide ranked Iraqis last. This brings to mind the politicians of the royal era, from the “Qasr al-Zahour” massacre and the fall of the Hashemite monarchy to the present day. Iraqis have neither enjoyed good governance nor experienced politicians who fear God and the people. Their politicians neither fear the people nor fulfill their political and national duties to satisfy their citizens or their own consciences”, Kuwaiti journalist **Hassan Ali Karam** wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“During the royal era, people from all over the world came to Iraq to work, study, or seek refuge because it was a civilized country that provided all the necessities of life, much like European nations.

“City dwellers wore European suits, and women did not veil themselves and abandoned traditional attire.



Hassan Ali Karam

“Cars filled the paved streets of Baghdad, and Iraqi Radio, broadcasting from the capital, featured the most beautiful and sophisticated Iraqi and Arab music.

“Here in Kuwait, we listened to Radio Baghdad and enjoyed the songs of Iraqi artists, Iraqi maqam concerts, and traditional folk music.

“What interests me in this narrative is the comparison between royal and republican Iraq, and the catastrophes that followed - successive coups, assassinations, illiterate individuals rising to power, and the spread of corruption, injustice, mass killings, and imprisonment. As a result, Iraqis began migrating in large numbers to neighboring countries, Europe, and beyond.

“What we see and experience in Iraq’s past and present, since the Qasr al-Zahour massacre and the killing of the Hashemite royal family, is ‘the land of the two rivers’ in constant turmoil. Every time Iraqis recover from one setback, they fall into even greater ones. Perhaps the greatest catastrophe that befell Iraq and its people was the era of the tyrannical dictator Saddam Hussein, whose reckless wars and ventures brought nothing but calamity, leaving the people in a state of endless suffering long after his downfall.

“Many of Iraq’s finest scholars, university professors, intellectuals, doctors, and engineers have fled the country to join the diaspora. Today, around four million Iraqis live abroad, having no intention to return, and have become citizens of their new countries through long-term residence and naturalization. Some Iraqis now hold senior political positions in these countries, particularly in the United States, Britain, and Germany.

“Iraq will hold parliamentary elections for the new session in the first half of November, leading to a fierce electoral battle among political parties and blocs. Some candidates have chosen to spread their propaganda, promote their candidacies, and drag Kuwait into their disputes even though Kuwait has no part in them. They claim that Kuwait has plundered Iraqi oil fields and assert that Khor Abdullah is solely Iraqi territory, denying Kuwait any share in it.

“These candidates have exploited the ‘Ashura season’, especially in southern regions like Basra, by urging preachers from the Hussein pulpit to involve Kuwait in Iraq’s problems and launch attacks against it.

“I am well aware that many of these preachers do not even know where Khor Abdullah is or the exact border between Kuwait and Iraq. Yet, the candidates and their parties have successfully influenced these turbaned clerics to bring deeply politicized and inaccurate issues onto the Hussein pulpit.

“There is no official dispute between Kuwait and Iraq over the Khor Abdullah corridor, nor are there any ongoing discussions between the governments of either country regarding the Khor or any other issue.

“These conflicts are fabricated by fringe candidates and politicians, milking a nonexistent cause for their own gain.

“The Iraqi voters deserve better than to be deceived by such trivial claims and empty promises in exchange for a few worthless dirhams.”

Also:

“T0 be frank, God has placed us in a hot, dry region. Our country is located in one of the hottest spots on earth. However, He has blessed us with oil, which has significantly contributed to the prosperity of the nation and its people. Our country has developed, and we now enjoy a comfortable lifestyle”, columnist **Hamad Salem Al Marri** wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“This intense heat has led to soaring electricity demands as we rely heavily on air conditioning in all enclosed spaces. The extreme temperatures make it challenging to carry out our daily activities.

“Because our climate is hot and dry, dust naturally rises whenever the wind blows from any direction. During the summer, we endure hot, dry, and dusty conditions, which have led to an increase in asthma and respiratory allergies.

“Some countries have started implementing solutions to reduce temperatures and minimize dust storms. These measures include establishing green belts around cities and creating green oases in desert areas, particularly those near the sea.

“The creation of green oases involves digging channels to bring in seawater, which is desalinated before reaching the oasis. The oasis consists of a large plot of land planted with palm trees, as they are well-suited to withstand the country’s climate. Each palm tree is spaced about three meters apart. Beneath the closely spaced canopies, vegetables and some shade-loving fruit trees are cultivated.

“At the center of the oasis, a lake of treated water is established. The desalinated seawater flows through the channels, irrigating the palm trees and crops. As the treated lake water evaporates due to the heat, it increases humidity within the oasis.

“This oasis will help mitigate heat, reduce dust, and purify the air by releasing oxygen during the day. The fruits and vegetables grown around the palm trees also provide additional benefits.

“Green belts are planted with trees that can withstand hot weather, with the palm tree being the most resilient. This is why palm oases are commonly found throughout the coastal areas of the Arabian Gulf.

“The palm tree is a blessed tree. Its roots help hold the soil together, and its fruits provide nourishment for both humans and animals.

“Another effective way to mitigate heat and reduce dust is the establishment of nature reserves under government supervision to revive wildlife. Some individuals have successfully restored wildlife by creating reserves through their own efforts. Also, several Gulf states have made significant progress in this area, revitalizing wildlife in their deserts, which had become barren and desolate due to human mismanagement and overgrazing.”

□ □ □

“Here are several observations I respectfully present to the relevant authorities and the public as a contribution to improving the quality and advancement of public life in Kuwait”, columnist Major General **Faisal Musaed Al-Jazzaf** wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“First, the project to operate health insurance hospitals has been stalled, despite its potential to improve healthcare services for our expatriate brothers and enhance Kuwait’s reputation as a humanitarian center that values laborers and protects their health and social rights. This delay is not only a waste of time but also a loss of significant developmental and investment opportunities, as evidenced by the closure of four major hospitals.

“Second, trees blocking traffic signs is a problematic issue that reduces visibility and increases the risk of accidents. Regulations and guidelines should be revised, and the role of oversight bodies activated to eliminate this hazard.

“Third, the project to utilize school facilities during the summer, vacations, and evenings is a valuable opportunity that deserves strong support. This idea allows halls and stadiums to serve as venues for various sports, social, cultural, and artistic activities and events.

“Fourth, it is unfortunate that some of our public libraries, youth centers, and community development sites are underutilized, despite promising development initiatives such as smart libraries and youth center enhancement programs. We hope for greater coordination among institutions to fully activate these facilities and restore their cultural and social significance.

“On behalf of the officers of the sixth batch of the Police College, I extend my sincere condolences on the passing of the late Ghazi Ghazi Al-Mutairi, one of the finest military trainers at the Police College. May God have mercy on him, forgive him, and grant his family patience and comfort.”

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

‘Serve nation with dedication, defend its security’



KUNA photos
Kuwait's Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Sabah promoted a group of newly commissioned Kuwaiti officers, graduates of the King Fahd Naval College in Saudi Arabia.

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: In a ceremony held Wednesday morning at the Ministry of Defense headquarters, Kuwait’s Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Sabah promoted a group of newly commissioned Kuwaiti officers, graduates of the King Fahd Naval College in Saudi Arabia. This follows the issuance of an Amiri decree officially appointing them to the Kuwaiti Army, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The induction ceremony began with the reading of the Amiri decree, after which the new officers took the legal oath of service.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Defense said Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali congratulated the officers and expressed appreciation

for the confidence placed in them by His Highness the Amir and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The minister urged the officers to remain committed to ongoing personal and professional development and to serve their nation with loyalty and dedication. He emphasized the vital responsibility they now bear in safeguarding Kuwait’s security and stability.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali concluded by praying to Almighty God to grant the new officers success in supporting the advancement, development, and prosperity of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces. He also prayed for



Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Sabah decorates an officer.

continued security, dignity, and prosperity for Kuwait under the leadership of its wise rulers.

Judiciary towards Kuwaitization

Women appointed in Public Prosecution

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Attorney General Counselor Saad Al-Safran on Thursday issued a decision appointing First Attorney General and Head of the Technical Office Counselor Bader Al-Masoud as Director of the Public Prosecution.

This is in compliance with the directive that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah issued when he visited the Supreme Judicial Council in March. It is also a reformative step aimed at empowering national manpower and boosting confidence in Kuwaiti competencies.

The decision includes the transfer of a group of Kuwaiti personnel in the partial and specialized prosecution offices to the Public Prosecution, as part of a comprehensive strategy to Kuwaitize the Public Prosecution and assign sensitive judicial positions to qualified nationals.

The decision sets a remarkable precedent, as it is the first time that a number of Kuwaiti

women were appointed to the Public Prosecution. It affirms their merit and deserving of trust; highlighting their vital role in supporting the justice system. This is in line with the directives of His Highness the Amir to promote national participation and advance equality within the judiciary.

□ □ □

Acquittal in peddling case: In a significant judicial development, a competent court issued a final ruling acquitting a citizen of all charges related to the possession and intended distribution of 96 bottles of imported alcoholic beverages and hashish allegedly intended for trafficking.

The ruling marks the conclusion of one of the most closely watched legal cases in recent months. The defense was led by Attorney Jarrah Al-Sharika, whose meticulous legal arguments were vital in securing the acquittal.

The case has drawn attention due to the volume of contraband seized and the complexity of the legal procedures surrounding the arrest and investigation. However, Al-Sharika and his team successfully cited the procedural and evidentiary flaws in the case.

While the defense team chose not to disclose

specific technical arguments -- preserving them as part of the firm’s professional legal strategy, they emphasized that their arguments rested on solid legal foundations. Central to their case was the assertion that the evidence presented failed to meet the burden of proof required for a criminal conviction, particularly in cases involving serious charges such as drug and alcohol trafficking.

Commenting on the decision of the court, Al-Sharika asserted that “this ruling confirms the strength and prestige of the law when applied within its proper framework. It reinforces the fundamental legal principle that an accused person is innocent until proven guilty and reflects the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary when cases are approached with rational, methodical defenses. This outcome is another milestone in our firm’s ongoing efforts to uphold justice, protect individual rights, and strengthen the rule of law through unwavering professionalism.”

The court’s decision to fully dismiss the charges and close the case was hailed by legal observers as a testament to the rigorous standards required for criminal convictions and the essential role of competent defense in maintaining the balance of justice.

Selling youths drugs

Victim faces charges of insult and slander

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: An investigation into an alleged assault case has taken an unexpected turn, with the reported victim now facing charges of insult and slander, reports Al-Anba daily quoting security sources.

Sources said a 25-year-old Kuwaiti citizen filed a complaint at the Maidan Hawally Police Station, claiming he was physically attacked by an unknown individual inside a well-known shopping mall in Hawally. He submitted a medical report showing bruises and other injuries purportedly sustained during the incident.

The case was referred to the Investigations Department. Authorities were able to identify the suspect through surveillance footage, tracking his vehicle and using his mobile number with assistance from the General Traffic Department.

The suspect was contacted and he voluntarily appeared for questioning. During the interrogation, he admitted to the altercation, but claimed he was provoked after the complainant allegedly used offensive and indecent language toward him.

As a result, the investigation was expanded to include the complainant, who is now facing legal action for insult and slander.

□ □ □

Selling drugs to youths: Ahmadi security patrol officers arrested two expatriates who were selling drugs to youths in Mahboula. The suspects were found in possession of narcotic substances and drug paraphernalia, reports Al-Anba daily.

Ahmadi security patrols were conducting rounds in Mahboula at night recently when they became suspicious of a vehicle whose driver attempted to flee upon seeing the police. After forcing the vehicle to stop, it was revealed that both the driver and his companion were expatriates, one of whom was wanted in connection with financial cases.

Upon searching the vehicle, officers found a bag containing a narcotic substance and drug paraphernalia.

During interrogation, the suspects confessed to promoting drugs among young people.

The narcotics were confiscated, and the suspects were referred to the relevant authorities.

□ □ □

2 pulled from manhole: Firefighting teams rescued two workers who fell into a manhole in Sabah Al-Ahmad Coastal Area, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) confirmed that teams from Khairan Fire Station, Search and Rescue Center, and Shadadiya Hazardous Materials Center responded quickly.

Both workers were safely taken out of the manhole and immediately handed over to the emergency medical personnel.

افتح عروض الذكرى السنوية المميزة - امسح هنا

UNLOCK SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY DEALS - JUST SCAN!

Dine-in & Delivery

الطعام داخل المطعم والتوصيل

1800 188 / 5501 1985

www.mughalmahal.com

Municipality introduces new app for easy complaint filing

Stadium expansion, market link approved

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Kuwait Municipality announced the launch of a new electronic application that provides information on the complaint submission process. This aims to facilitate services, enhance communication with the public, and support digital transformation.

In a brief statement, Kuwait Municipality explained that the app offers a detailed guide on the mechanism for submitting complaints electronically through the municipality's official platform, as well as having direct access to emergency teams via the 24/7 hotline No. 139.

Meanwhile, the Capital Governorate Committee at the Municipal Council, chaired by Dr. **Hassan Kamal**, held its second meeting in the fourth term on Wednesday.

The committee approved two items on its agenda as follows:

- Request of the Ministry of Social Affairs to allo-



Dr. Kamal

cate a ground-level passageway connecting the central market building of Qadsiya Cooperative Society and the vegetable branch and administration building;

- Request of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) to increase the height of the football stadium at the Kuwait Sports Club in Kaifan to 34 meters; thereby, increasing the stadium's capacity from 12,000 to 15,000 spectators.

The committee concluded its discussion of this item after a visual presentation by PAS about the stadium, recommending that the privacy of residents in Kaifan residential area be respected and that they should not be affected by the new lighting and sound technologies that will be added once the stadium's height is increased. It also recommended conducting a traffic study to avoid congestion on the streets surrounding the club.

On the other hand, the Technical Committee, headed by Munira Al-Amir, held its fourth meeting in the fourth term on Tuesday.

The committee approved the request of the Public Authority for Youth regarding the location of Kuwait Technical Entrepreneurship Complex (formerly the Technology Business City) and the modification of some of the project's components in Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber (Block Four).

It also approved the proposal of member Alia Al-Farsi regarding parking spaces for investment housing.

A role model in education

Al-Nasrallah retires after 34 years of service

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Supervisor of Educational Affairs for Kindergarten and Primary Schools at the Coordination and Follow-up Department in the Public Education Sector in the Education Ministry Hanadi Al-Nasrallah submitted her retirement request effective Thursday, marking the end of a distinguished 34-year career dedicated to advancing education.

Throughout her years of dedicated

service, Al-Nasrallah was widely recognized for her exceptional efficiency and unwavering commitment to advancing early childhood and primary education. She played a vital role in strengthening coordination between educational districts and schools, actively contributing to the implementation of educational policies and driving improvements in overall performance within the sector.

Al-Nasrallah held several positions in the department, where she steadily built a wealth of experience that estab-

lished her as a trusted reference in educational and administrative matters. Her contributions were instrumental in developing operational frameworks, organizing annual plans, and overseeing effective follow-up programs.

Her colleagues -- particularly those in the department -- expressed deep appreciation for her efforts; affirming that her legacy will remain in the memory of the educational community. She is regarded as a role model of sincerity, dedication, and thoughtful and composed leadership.

Advancing Arab scientific excellence

KFAS unveils 2024 Kuwait Prize laureates

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) has announced the winners of the 43rd Kuwait Prize for 2024.

Awarded annually, the Kuwait Prize honors distinguished Kuwaiti and Arab scientists whose research careers have significantly advanced scientific and intellectual fields.

In a press statement, KFAS confirmed that the winners were selected following the endorsement of its Board of Directors and the Awards Council, based on the recommendations of the panel of judges and the selection committees.

Following are the winners per category:

Basic Sciences-Biological Sciences: Professor Ashraf Samir Ibrahim (Jordan) who serves as Director of the PhD Program in Translational Medicine at the Lundquist Institute, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, USA. He was recognized for his pioneering research on developing innovative diagnostic and therapeutic solutions for chronic and complex diseases.

Applied Sciences-Engineering Sciences Joint Winners

- Professor Charbel Farhat (Lebanon) - Professor of Aircraft Structures and Aerospace at Stanford University School of Engineering, USA
- Professor Khaled Kacem Latif (Tunisia) - Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Hong Kong

KFAS highlighted their groundbreaking contributions to systems engineering, communications and intelligent design, which have impacted the advancement of global engineering industries.

Economics and Social Sciences-Management Sciences Joint Winners

- Professor Dima Mohammed Rashid Al-Jamali (Lebanon) - Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Victoria, Canada
- Professor Shawkat Mohammed Abdul Ghani Hamoudeh (Jordan) - Professor of Economics and International Business at Drexel University, USA

Both scholars were honored for their influential research in governance, sustainability and global markets; particularly in the development and practical application of modern management theories.

Humanities, Arts, and Literature-



Prof. Dr. Shawkat Mohammad Abdul Ghani Hamoudeh



Prof. Dr. Charbel Hanna Farhat



Prof. Dr. Ashraf Samir Ibrahim



Prof. Dr. Khaled Kacem Latif



Prof. Dr. Zaidan Abdul Kafi Kafafi



Prof. Dr. Dima Mohammad Al-Jamali

History of Civilizations and Human Thought: Professor Zeidan Abdul Kafi Kafi (Jordan) - Professor of Archaeology at Yarmouk University, Jordan

Kafi was recognized for his substantial scholarly contributions to archaeology and the cultural history of the Arab world, which have enriched academic understanding of societal development in the region.

Established in 1979, the Kuwait Prize is in line with the mission of KFAS to support scientific research and

promote excellence among Arab scholars worldwide. The Prize is awarded in five categories: Basic Sciences, Applied Sciences, Economics and Social Sciences, and Arts and Literature, which are awarded annually; in addition to the fifth category -- Emerging Specialized Sciences -- that is granted biennially. The Prize continues to attract growing interest from researchers throughout the Arab world, reinforcing its status as one of the most prestigious scientific awards in the region.

Kuwaiti envoy & UK's House Speaker discuss strategic and regional issues

LONDON, July 10, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to the United Kingdom Bader Al-Munaikh discussed with the House of Commons Speaker, Lindsay Hoyle, bolstering bilateral cooperation across various fields, and exchanged perspectives on regional issues of common interest.

In a statement received by KUNA, the Ambassador stated that this meeting reflects Kuwait's commitment to cementing relations with the UK.

The talks also handled developments of a number of regional issues in light of Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, David Lammy's, recent visit to Kuwait in which discussions were held on finding political solutions to regional issues.



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Ambassador to the United Kingdom Bader Al-Munaikh with House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle.

Ministry honors distinguished trainers for advancing workforce development

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy on Wednesday held a ceremony to honor a group of distinguished trainers and training course coordinators with the slogan, "We appreciate your contributions ... and celebrate your achievements."

The ceremony was held under the patronage and in the presence of Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem.

Also present at the event were Undersecretary of the ministry Dr. Adel Al-Zamil; Assistant Undersecretary for Planning, Training and Information Systems Eng. Ali Shaaban; Director of the Administra-

tive Development and Training Department Eng. Abdullah Al-Khashem; along with a number of other officials and employees.

In his speech at the event, Al-Mukhaizeem affirmed that human resources development is a top priority for the ministry. He praised the efforts of the trainers and coordinators who played a vital role in the success of the training programs and in achieving their objectives.

In a press statement, the ministry explained that the ceremony was held following its success in conducting 23 training courses and programs for the benefit of more than 1,200 employees.

The ministry disclosed this initiative is included in its strategic plan to qualify national employees and enhance their professional competence.



MEW photo
Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem honors distinguished trainer.

CSC denies new salary scale rumors

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has clarified that rumors about the new salary schedule are baseless, reports Al-Anba daily.

The CSC explained that the circulating survey is based on a comprehensive guide issued in 2022, intended to serve as a clear reference for the salaries due to Kuwaiti employees at various job levels in

government agencies. It pointed out that this guide has undergone several amendments and updates since its preparation, including the data and job titles contained therein.

It then stressed the need for everyone to verify information and not be swayed by rumors, urging everyone to rely on official channels for news and information.

albander
Hotel & resort

JULY

Room Promotion

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

Promo period from 1st July to 31st July 2025

Terms & conditions apply*

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351

Email: reservation@albander.com

www.albander.com

@albanderhotelandresort

Other Voices

To government employees
a signature can haunt you

By Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri

In public service, the most dangerous act is often the simplest. A quick signature on a document may seem harmless at the time but can carry consequences that appear years later.

This article is not about decrees or laws protected by the constitution. It is about everyday administrative decisions made by government employees who sometimes act on verbal instructions from figures with no legal standing. These decisions may violate clear regulations, especially when made under pressure, fear, ignorance, or loyalty.

In Kuwait, most legal claims are bound by a ten-year limitation period. Procedural challenges and administrative appeals must be filed within that timeframe. However, when it comes to crimes involving the misuse or embezzlement of public money, there is no statute of limitations. This legal distinction means that a government employee may be exposed to prosecution even ten years or more after signing a document that negatively affected individuals or private entities without proper legal basis. It is a detail



Al-Anjeri

few consider in the moment, but one that matters deeply when records resurface.

Saying “I was told to sign” or “I received a phone call” is not a legal defense. The law evaluates the action itself. Was it within your authority? Did it cause harm? Was it consistent with established procedures? The answers to these questions determine responsibility and may ultimately decide whether you return home or end up in prison.

This is why officials must act carefully. Exercising caution is not a weakness. It is a form of integrity. At the same time, public servants should not be afraid to act when decisions are necessary and lawful. There is a difference between responsible hesitation and fearful paralysis.

Leaving a position does not end accountability. In many cases, review begins only after someone has stepped down. What remains in the file is the signature, the date, and the legal basis for the decision.

Memory fades. Authorities change. Powerful umbrellas wither. And when you stand legally exposed, no one will shield you, no one will protect you, and no one will even shed a tear for you.

In Arabic we say “dir balak.” It means be careful or watch out or simply pay attention. It is not a threat. It is advice I offer out of concern. Because in government, a pen stroke can follow you for the rest of your life.

Yousef Al-Mutairi appointed as
official spokesperson of MoSA

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal



Al-Seyassah photo
Yousef Saif Al-Mutairi, official
spokesperson of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Al-Huwailah issued a decision appointing Yousef Saif Al-Mutairi as the official spokesperson of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The decision stipulates that Al-Mutairi will monitor all information published and broadcasted on mainstream and social media regarding the ministry, and coordinate with the relevant authorities in the ministry to respond to any matters requiring clarification or correction.

It contributes to providing an accurate image of the efforts and initiatives of the ministry to the public.

This is within the framework of developing media communication and ensuring the clarity of official messages in line with the nature of the current; including more openness and transparency in presenting policies, decisions and measures taken.



Governor presents shields, certificates of appreciation and gifts to the top-performing students.

Farwaniya Governor, CBK honor
high school graduates of Farwaniya schools

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah on Thursday honored the outstanding high school graduates in the arts and sciences streams of Farwaniya schools, in cooperation with the Commercial Bank of Kuwait.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the ceremony was held in the presence of the acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Mansour Al-Dhafiri, the acting Director of the Farwaniya Educational District Jassim Bu Hamad, Assistant Director of Public Re-

lations at the Commercial Bank Faisal Al-Saleh, Maintenance Supervisor at the Farwaniya Governorate Administration and Council Member Eng. Jamal Al-Aiban, along with several officials, educators, and parents.

The governor expressed pride in the students’ achievements, stressing that they represent the foundation of Kuwait’s future, the cornerstone of national progress, and a source of hope.

He also praised the efforts of parents, teachers, and educational staff in supporting the students, and wished the graduates continued success in raising

Kuwait’s name high.

Meanwhile, the acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Mansour Al-Dhafiri affirmed the ministry’s commitment to supporting and nurturing outstanding students, describing them as a national asset.

He also praised the cooperation of the Farwaniya Governorate and the Commercial Bank of Kuwait in organizing this commendable initiative.

At the end of the ceremony, the governor presented shields, certificates of appreciation, and gifts to the top-performing students.

Continued from Page 1

PM drives

His Highness the Prime Minister directed the committee to closely monitor every detail of the execution process of these major projects and to provide daily support and supervision to overcome any challenges.

Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs and Rapporteur of the Committee Ambassador Sameeh Johar Hayat presented a briefing on the latest reports and steps taken regarding the agreements with China.

Hayat highlighted ongoing coordination with the Chinese side regarding efforts to combat desertification, noting that a high-level Chinese government delegation will visit the country mid-July to discuss collaborative environmental initiatives.

The visit aims to explore joint projects focused on ecosystem rehabilitation, afforestation programs, and sand encroachment control, in line with the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The meeting was attended by Head of the Prime Minister Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Minister of Public Works, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdulatif Al-Meshari, Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Noura Al-Fasam, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem and Head of the Fatwa and Legislation Department Counsellor Salah Al-Majed.

Kuwait sets

The regulations also set a grace period not exceeding five years for privately owned commercial, investment, and industrial properties and vacant land. Benefits granted will be suspended in the event of court rulings affecting honor and integrity, State security cases, or failure to comply with the conditions for amending status by not regaining their original citizenship or obtaining an official document valid for residency in the State of Kuwait within one year from the date of publication of the citizenship withdrawal decree in the Official Gazette, whichever is sooner.

The ministry specified the procedures as follows:

1. The person concerned and their dependents shall amend their legal status by coordinating with their embassy to receive the original passport of the previous nationality they held

before obtaining Kuwaiti citizenship, based on noble deeds, or any official passport granted through it.

2. Adherence to the one-year grace period for amending status, starting from the date of issuance of the decree and its publication in the Official Gazette, to ensure continued access to the benefits provided. After the grace period, those who have not amended their legal status in the country will no longer be eligible for benefits. They must take all necessary measures by visiting their embassy to obtain a passport.

3. The concerned party must initiate the process within the first three months from the start of that grace period and must provide proof of this. If it is proven that they are not serious about taking action to amend their status within the first three months, their benefits will be revoked.

The ministry affirmed its commitment to implement the laws in a fair and transparent manner, taking into account the humanitarian aspects when dealing with cases covered by the ‘Noble Deeds’ Clause and the necessary measures must be taken to ensure the stability of their legal status in the country.

Following are the benefits granted:

1. Continue to work in the government sector or government companies according to contracts issued by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to government agencies and special contracts from government companies, without the right to hold a position -- leadership or supervisory positions.

2. A person whose citizenship has been revoked has the right to the education provided by the State prior to the revocation of citizenship as follows:

a) Continue their studies at all levels (elementary, intermediate and secondary).

b) Continue their studies for the diploma, university or postgraduate degree that they started before their citizenship was revoked.

c) Continue their studies on internal or external scholarships granted prior to the revocation of citizenship.

3. Continue to own one private residence within the State of Kuwait. Exceptions apply to those who own more than one private residence prior to the revocation of citizenship due to polygamy. For example, if they have more than one family due to polygamy, they may retain more than one residence and use it for private housing.

4. Retain the housing support granted prior to the revocation of citizenship, subject to the following frameworks and conditions:

a) Anyone who has completed construction of a housing unit and received

all payments from Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) shall retain the residence, provided that they are committed to repaying all amounts received from KCB within a period not exceeding one year from the date of publication of the decree on withdrawing their citizenship in the Official Gazette.

b) Whoever received a building permit and commenced construction is obligated to complete the construction at their own expense, and to pay the value of what was received from KCB within two years from the date of publication of the decree on withdrawing their citizenship in the Official Gazette.

d) Whoever obtained a building permit but does not commence construction shall retain the land granted to him and undertake to build on it at his own expense. He shall be granted private housing for himself and his family within a period not exceeding two years from the date of publication of the decree on withdrawing citizenship in the Official Gazette.

5. Continue to sponsor domestic workers and own private vehicles in accordance with applicable regulations.

Those covered by the above provisions shall not be treated as Kuwaitis in terms of the following rights:

1. Usufruct rights over public State properties; such as chalets, barns, agricultural, industrial and commercial plots, and others. The beneficiary shall be granted a period of five years to settle his status by relinquishing it without any prescribed fees to his first-degree relatives (provided the relatives are Kuwaiti citizens).

2. For commercial, investment and industrial real estate and vacant land privately owned by the person whose citizenship has been revoked, he shall be granted a period not exceeding five years to transfer ownership through sale, gift or transfer and settle his status.

Benefits shall be suspended in the following cases:

1. Issuance of a final judgment in a felony, a crime involving dishonor or dishonesty, a State security crime; or a crime involving harm to the Divine, the Prophets or HH the Amir.

2. Failure to comply with the conditions for amending one’s status by failing to restore one’s original citizenship or obtaining an official document valid for residency in the State of Kuwait within one year from the date of publication of the citizenship withdrawal decree in the Official Gazette, whichever is sooner.

Adjusting one’s status does not prevent one from submitting a grievance to the Grievance Committee for Withdrawal, Forfeiture and Loss of Kuwaiti Citizenship -- established through Cabinet Resolution No.

207/2025 and amended by Resolution No. 493/2025.

The ministry emphasized the need for all affected individuals to adhere to the deadlines, consult relevant authorities, and complete necessary procedures to ensure their legal status is settled in accordance with national regulations.

Kuwait faces

to range between 29 and 31 degrees Celsius. Sea conditions will be light to moderate, with waves between one and three feet.

As for Saturday, the weather will remain extremely hot during the day, with northwesterly to variable winds at light to moderate speeds between 8 and 30 kilometers per hour. Maximum temperatures are expected to range between 47 and 50 degrees Celsius. The sea will be light to moderate, with waves between one and four feet.

Saturday night will be hot to warm and relatively humid in coastal areas, with variable to northwesterly winds at light to moderate speeds between 8 and 28 kilometers per hour. Some scattered clouds are expected. Minimum temperatures will range between 30 and 32 degrees Celsius, and sea conditions will be light to moderate, with waves between one and three feet.

Al-Roumi confident

projects and adopting solutions to reduce emissions and push for an efficient system of energy, the minister said.

Holding this international event comes at a critical phase, which witnesses accelerating challenges in energy sector, mainly in light of regional and international changes, he noted.

OPEC continues efforts for markets stability through achieving balance between demand and supply, and boosting partnership with non-OPEC producers through OPEC+ alliance, he pointed out.

During the first ministerial session, the minister underlined the significance of keeping market stability to achieve energy security and support global economic growth.

Meanwhile, KPC deputy chairman and CEO Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah stressed commitment to ensuring reliable and stable supplies of crude oil and friendly environment products.

The Corporation is able to adapt to market changes through a flexible and innovative approach to show its accomplishments, development and expansion in petrochemicals, he

pointed out.

The KPC is partaking in an exhibition, during the seminar, through an integrated pavilion on the most outstanding features of its 2040 strategy.

OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais reaffirmed the organization’s aspiration for global oil demand, noting a 24 percent increase in overall energy consumption by 2050, driven by population growth and expanding economies.

In a statement to KUNA ahead of day two of the OPEC9 International Seminar in Vienna, Al-Ghais stated that short-term projections points to a 1.3 million barrels per day rise in oil demand this year compared to last year’s, supported by a forecasted global growth of 2.9 percent.

Most of this demand increase, he explained, will stem from developing countries due to demographic and economic expansion, stressing that OPEC’s forecast are real data and facts.

Locally grown

this year. The weight of farmed shrimp reached 20 grams, with average production exceeding two kilograms per square meter, due to closed, intensive farming systems developed to withstand Kuwait’s harsh environmental conditions and low-salinity groundwater.

This success was made possible through biofloc technology, which recycles water without the need for antibiotics or chemicals, ensuring a safe and environmentally friendly product.

KISR successfully adapted this technology to suit the unique characteristics of Kuwaiti groundwater, despite challenges posed by its unbalanced ionic composition.

This year, the project experienced a significant milestone with the introduction of locally farmed shrimp to the Kuwaiti market for the first time.

Dr. Al-Subaie described this as an encouraging step for the private sector to help reduce Kuwait’s heavy reliance on imported shrimp, which currently accounts for over 70 percent of the country’s shrimp consumption.

She stressed that these promising results open the door to new investment opportunities and create jobs for Kuwaitis in aquaculture for supporting sustainable development goals and strengthening local food security.

Dr. Al-Subaie also revealed that KISR has submitted a proposal to the government to establish an “economic fish farming complex” at the

Ghadi Desert site, spanning 100,000 square meters, with an estimated annual production capacity of 1,200 tons of various fish species including sea bream, grouper, mullet, and shrimp, along with the production of feed and fish products.

Kuwait debt

keen on activating communication channels and respond to all inquiries related to the campaign through the Sahel application in order to enhance the principle of transparency and ease procedures for citizens. He indicated that debtors, who have obtained approval to pay their debts, will receive official notifications through Sahel; informing them of the completion of the payment and enable them to follow up their cases with ease and accuracy.

He added the committees are still studying the files of the second batch of citizens whose debts do not exceed KD10,000; in preparation for moving to the third phase, which includes those whose debts do not exceed KD15,000 until all outstanding debts are paid depending on the available amount.

At the end of his statement, Al-Ajmi pointed out that the third national campaign is an important milestone in embodying the commitment of Kuwait to continue its humanitarian approach and its established values in preserving human dignity and promoting social solidarity.

Kuwait advances

adopting new modern techniques, but aims also to stimulate innovation and cement inclusion in all fields.

Kuwait’s national digital strategy is based on three main pillars: boosting infrastructure, developing skills of all segments and cementing confidence through a transparent, safe and digital environment, the minister noted.

He pointed to great successes made by Kuwait in government service digitization through several accomplishments like “Sahl” App that offers more than 450 services for over 3 million users.

Kuwait is committed to international collaboration to build a more just, inclusive and safe information society, he stated.

Being the current president of Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) for 2025, Kuwait materialized its national experiment into global initiatives topped with forming a multilateral ministerial committee of DCO states, he said.

‘Sometimes I like frames more than I like the pictures’

Trump on past presidents: Ike ‘underrated,’ FDR ‘amazing,’ Polk ‘sort of real-estate guy’

WASHINGTON, July 10, (AP): Turns out Donald Trump gauges his esteem for presidential predecessors by how well their portraits fit into his White House redecorating scheme. Or sometimes how well the frames around those portraits do.

“I’m a frame person,” Trump said during a meeting with his Cabinet. “Sometimes I like frames more than I like the pictures.”

Trump wrapped up a 90-plus-minute session by explaining how he personally worked to redecorate the Cabinet Room, seeming to take real joy in choosing which portraits were hung. The president also said he helped choose the room’s drapes and polled those present about whether he should repaint the room in gold leaf. (Cabinet members think he should.)

“I actually spent time in the vaults. The vaults are where we have a lot of great pictures and artwork. And I picked it all myself,” Trump said. “I’m very proud of it.”

The president said that meant “a lot

of time, effort” and “very little money.” He even recounted having gone to Secretary of State Marco Rubio’s office and directing that a grandfather clock there be moved to the White House.

“As president, you have the power - if I go into the State Department, or Department of Commerce or Treasury - if I see anything that I like, I’m allowed to take it,” Trump said, drawing laughs. He offered the anecdote despite there not being any record of Trump having paid a public visit to the State Department during Rubio’s tenure.

Trump also pointed out each portrait and shared what he thought of each ex-president depicted. He started by indicating “the great Andrew Jackson” and went from there - renewing his frequent praise for William McKinley and getting in a dig about how Bill Clinton once offered donors overnight stays in the Lincoln bedroom in exchange for campaign contributions.

Here’s what Trump said about some past presidents:



From left: US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Sen Kevin Cramer and Sen Dan Sullivan look at portraits of former presidents as President Donald Trump speaks in the Oval Office of the White House, in Washington, May 20. (AP)

“That’s a gentleman named - and we call him - President Polk. He was sort of a real-estate guy. He was - people

don’t realize - he was a one-termer. But he was a very good president. But, and I’m not sure I should be doing this,

he actually gave us the state of California.”

Then Trump revealed that his choice of Polk’s picture might have had more to do with the portrait’s frame being almost the same size as the frame surrounding Jackson’s portrait, which he suggested was especially aesthetically pleasing: “Polk is actually a very good president who’s got the same frame that I needed, OK.”

“A very underrated president. Built the Interstate (Highway) System. And he was the toughest president, I guess, until we came along. But I don’t mind giving up that crown, because, I don’t want to be too tough on it. But we want to be humane. But he was the toughest president on immigration. He was very strong at the borders. Very, very strong. And, sometimes you can be too strong. He was strong at the borders and, during a certain period of time, there was so strong that almost every farmer in California went bankrupt. And we have to remember that. We have to work together. We have to remember that. But he was a very good

president, and a very good general and a very good president and I thought he deserved a position somewhere on this floor.”

“He was not a Republican, to put it mildly. But he was, you know, a four-termer. He was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. And, if you notice, we have a lot of ramps outside. You have a ramp. People say, ‘It’s an unusual place for a ramp.’ It was because of him. He was wheelchair bound. But he was an amazing man.”

“Over there is ‘Honest’ Abe Lincoln. And that picture was in his, ugh, in his bedroom. And we thought this would be a very important place because this is where wars are ended. I’m not going to say wars are declared. I’m going to say wars are ended. OK? We’ll be positive. And, that’s the picture of Abe Lincoln from his bedroom, sat in the bedroom for many, many years. That was his favorite picture of himself. And the Lincoln Bedroom’s very famous. You remember when Bill Clinton had it and he rented it out to people. We don’t do that.”



This image taken from footage provided by KABC/ABC7 Los Angeles shows first responders and workers after being lifted after a tunnel collapsed on July 9 in Los Angeles. (AP)

31 workers rescued in tunnel collapse

Thirty-one construction workers inside a huge industrial tunnel in Los Angeles made it to safety after a portion of it collapsed Wednesday evening, an outcome officials called a blessing after they initially feared much worse.

The cave-in appears to have occurred between the tunnel boring machine 5 miles (8 kilometers) in from the sole entrance and the construction workers who were working 6 miles (9.6 kilometers) in, said Michael Chee, spokesperson for the Los Angeles County Sanitation

Districts, which is in charge of the nearly \$700 million project. The workers were about 400 feet (121 meters) underground.

Authorities were still investigating the cause, Chee said.

The workers scrambled over loose soil more than 12 feet (19.3 meters) high to reach the tunnel boring machine and then were transported back to the opening. Aerial footage showed workers being brought out of the tunnel in a yellow cage hoisted up by a crane. (AP)

Hundreds gather in Kerrville to honor Texas flood victims

KERRVILLE, Texas, July 10, (AP): Several hundred people gathered for a ceremony at a high school stadium in Texas on Wednesday evening to remember the at least 120 people who died in the catastrophic flash floods over the July Fourth holiday, as well the many still missing.

“Our communities were struck with tragedy literally in the darkness,” Wyatt Wentreck, a local youth minister, told the crowd in the bleachers of Tivy Antler Stadium in Kerrville. “Middle of the night.”



Abbott

During a series of prayers for the victims and the more than 160 people still believed to be missing in hard-hit Kerr County, which includes Kerrville, people in the crowd clutched one another and brushed away tears.

Many attendees wore blue shirts with the school’s slogan, “Tivy Fight Never Die,” or green ribbons for Camp Mystic, the century-old

all-girls Christian summer camp in Kerr County where at least 27 campers and counselors died. Officials said five campers and one counselor have still not been found.

Ricky Pruitt, with the Kerrville Church of Christ, told the crowd that they gathered intentionally at a place where they had celebrated victories and experienced losses on the field.

“Tonight is very different than all of those nights,” he said.

The event was held as search crews and volunteers continued to scour miles along the Guadalupe River for the people still missing.

In air boats, helicopters and on horseback, crews looked in trees and mounds below their feet, while search dogs sniffed for any sign of buried bodies. With almost no hope of finding anyone alive, searchers said they were focused on bringing the families of the missing people some closure.

Officials have been seeking more information about those who were in the Hill Country, a popular tourist destination, during the holiday weekend but did not register at a camp or a hotel and may have been in the area without many people knowing, Gov **Greg Abbott** has said.



US Rep Jamie Comer, chairman of the House Oversight and Accountability Committee, talks to reporters briefly before hearing testimony from former president Joe Biden’s physician, Dr. Kevin O’Connor, part of a broad inquiry by House Republicans looking into Biden’s mental state during his time in office, at the Capitol in Washington, on July 9. (AP)

Biden ex-doc invokes 5th amendment

US President Joe Biden’s former White House physician is refusing to answer questions as part of the House Republican investigation into Biden’s health in office.

D. Kevin O’Connor invoked doctor-client privilege and his rights under the Fifth Amendment during an appearance Wednesday before the House Oversight Committee, his attorneys said.

Republicans are conducting a sweeping investigation into Biden’s

actions in office and questioning whether the Democrat’s use of an autopen in office may have been invalid. They have also claimed that some policies carried out by the White House autopen may be invalid if it is proven that Biden was mentally incapacitated for some part of his term.

Biden has strongly denied that he was not in a right state of mind at any point while in office, calling the claims “ridiculous and false.” (AP)



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, (center left), and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, (center right), pose with delegates including European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, (eighth from left), Olena Zelenska, (seventh from left), Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, twelfth from right, and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, eleventh from right, for a family photo on the occasion of the Ukraine Recovery Conference at La Nuvola convention center in Rome on July 10. (AP)

European leaders urge investment in Ukraine even as war accelerates

ROME, July 10, (AP): European leaders urged private business and equity on Thursday to invest in rebuilding Ukraine now, even as Russia accelerates its war, as they opened an annual recovery conference with announcements of a new equity fund and public-private partnerships amid uncertainties of the US commitment to Kyiv’s defense.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy kicked off the proceedings in Rome as Russia pounded Ukraine’s capital with another major missile and drone attack overnight in some of the heaviest attacks on Kyiv in the more than three-year war.

The conference is expected to finalize individual deals of guarantees and grants to unlock more than 10 billion euros (around \$12 billion) in investments, Meloni said. The European Commission, for its part, announced the creation of the largest equity fund to date to support Ukraine, the Europe-

an Flagship Fund for the Reconstruction of Ukraine.

“The message we want to send today to businesses is: Don’t be afraid to invest to build and rebuild Ukraine,” Meloni told the gathering of business, political and development representatives. “The reconstruction of Ukraine is not a risk. It’s an investment in a nation that has shown more resilience than any other.”

Zelenskyy, for his part, thanked those countries and companies that have already invested and warned that only friends would be welcome to rebuild: “We will only welcome true partners, those who are not helping Russia continue this war,” he said, without naming specific nations.

He repeated his call for Russia’s frozen assets, and not just the interest, to be used, and called again for a Marshall Plan-style coordinated reconstruction effort.

Italian organizers said 100 official delegations were attending and 40 in-

ternational organizations and development banks. But there were also 2,000 businesses, civil society and local Ukrainian governments sending representatives. They are participating in a trade fair, complete with booths, on the grounds of the ministerial-level meeting at Rome’s funky new “Cloud” conference center in the Fascist-era EUR neighborhood.

It’s the fourth such conference on Ukraine’s recovery, with earlier editions in Lugano, Switzerland in 2022, London in 2023 and Berlin last year.

“It’s basically a platform where a lot of businesses, European businesses and Ukrainian businesses, meet up and network, where you can actually see this public-private partnership in action, because obviously public money is not enough to undertake this gigantic effort of restructuring a country,” said Eleonora Tafuro Ambrosetti, senior research fellow at the Rome-based Institute for Studies of International Politics, or ISPI.

Britain, France try again to tackle English Channel migrant crossings

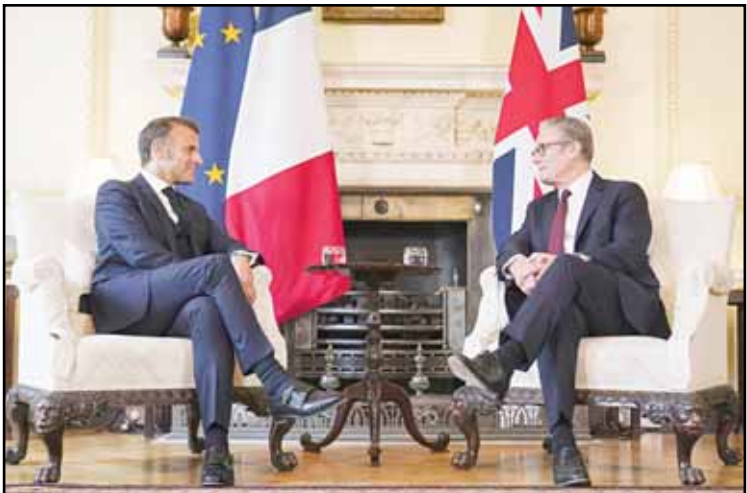
LONDON, July 10, (AP): After the bonhomie and banquets of a formal state visit, Prime Minister Keir Starmer and President Emmanuel Macron are turning to a topic that has stymied successive British and French governments: how to stop migrants from crossing the English Channel in small boats.

At a UK-France summit on Thursday that caps Macron’s three-day stay, senior officials from the two countries will try to seal deals on economic growth, defense cooperation and - perhaps trickiest of all - unauthorized migration.

Macron and Starmer also will visit a military base and dial in to a planning meeting of the “coalition of the willing,” a U.K.- and France-backed plan for an international force to guarantee a future ceasefire in Ukraine.

During a meeting inside 10 Downing St. on Wednesday, the two leaders agreed that tackling small boat crossings “is a shared priority that requires shared solutions, including a new deterrent to break the business model” of people-smuggling gangs, Starmer’s office said.

It said they would aim for “concrete progress” on Thursday.



Britain’s Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron sit down for bilateral talks at 10 Downing Street in London on July 9. (AP)

Britain receives fewer asylum-seekers than Mediterranean European countries, but sees thousands of very visible arrivals each year as migrants cross the 20-mile (32 kilometer) channel from northern France in small, overcrowded boats.

About 37,000 people were detected crossing the channel in 2024, and more than 20,000 made the crossing in the first six months of 2025, up by about 50% from the same period last year. Dozens of people have died trying to reach the English coast.

Rubio hold talks with Russian FM

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, July 10, (AP): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Thursday that the US and Russia have exchanged new ideas for Ukraine peace talks after he met with his Russian counterpart in Malaysia Thursday.



Lavrov

after talks with Russian Foreign Minister **Sergey Lavrov**. “I wouldn’t characterize it as something that guarantees a peace, but it’s a concept that, you know, that I’ll take back to the president.” He didn’t elaborate.

Rubio added that President Donald Trump has been “disappointed and frustrated that there’s not been more flexibility on the Russian side” to bring about an end to the conflict.

“We need to see a roadmap moving forward about how this conflict can conclude. And then we shared some ideas about what that might look like,” he said of the 50-minute meeting. “We’re going to continue to stay involved where we see opportunities to make a difference.”



Migrants rescued south of Crete are transferred on a vessel to the port of Lavrio, Greece, on July 10. (AP)

Hundreds of migrants moved from Crete to Greek mainland

LAVRIO, Greece, July 10, (AP): More than 500 migrants arrived at the port of Lavrio near Athens on Thursday after being intercepted south of the island of Crete, as Greece implements emergency measures to address a surge in Mediterranean crossings from Libya.

The migrants, consisting mostly of young men, were transferred overnight aboard a bulk carrier after their fishing trawler was intercepted by Greek authorities. Service vessels helped bring them ashore at the mainland port. They will be sent to detention facilities near the capital.

More than 200 migrants were brought to the port of Piraeus, also near Athens, in separate transfers from Crete. The transfers to the mainland were ordered because makeshift reception centers on Crete have reached capacity, with around 500 new arrivals per day on the Mediterranean island since the weekend.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced Wednesday that Greece would suspend asylum processing for migrants arriving by sea from North Africa for three months. The new measures are due to be voted on in parliament on Thursday as an emergency amendment.

EU official Von der Leyen survives confidence vote

BRUSSELS, July 10, (AP): European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** comfortably survived a vote of no confidence on Thursday, as an overwhelming number of European Union lawmakers rejected a censure motion against her.

The motion contained a mix of allegations against von der Leyen, including text messaging privately with the chief executive of vaccine maker Pfizer during the COVID-19 pandemic, misuse of EU funds and interference in elections in Germany and Romania.



Von der Leyen

The motion was defeated in a 360-175 vote against it, with 18 lawmakers choosing to abstain during a plenary session at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.

Von der Leyen wasn’t present for

the vote.

The vote has been a lightning rod for criticism of Von der Leyen - who led the EU drive to find vaccines for around 450 million citizens during the pandemic - and her European People’s Party, or EPP, which is the largest political family in the assembly.

They’re accused of cozying up to the hard right to push through their agenda. The EU parliament shifted perceptibly to the political right after Europe-wide elections a year ago.



In this May 9, 2019 photo, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, speaks during a press conference in Putrajaya, Malaysia. (AP)

Malaysia’s former PM Mahathir turns 100 without slowing down

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, July 10, (AP): Former Malaysian prime pinister Mahathir Mohamad marked a historic milestone as he turned 100 on Thursday, calling the moment “quite frightening” without showing signs of slowing down. A towering figure in Malaysian politics, Mahathir is known for his transformative and at times controversial leadership. First serving as the nation’s fourth prime minister from 1981 to 2003, and then returning as its seventh from 2018 to 2020, Mahathir has

been the country’s longest-serving and oldest-serving prime minister. Despite the weight of the century mark, Mahathir remains remarkably active. After birthday wishes from his family, he turned up early for work at his Putrajaya office in his signature safari suit. “I’d like to thank all those who sent cakes, flowers, letters and for turning up to wish me a happy 100th birthday. To be 100 is quite frightening,” he said in a special live podcast to mark the occasion.

S.Korean court OKs Yoon arrest

SEOUL, South Korea, July 10, (AP): A South Korean court early Thursday approved the new arrest of former president **Yoon Suk Yeol** on charges related to his brief imposition of martial law in December, accepting a special prosecutor’s claim that he poses a risk of destroying evidence.



Yoon

The arrest warrant issued by the Seoul Central District Court sent Yoon back to a detention center near the capital, four months after his release in March, when the same court overturned his January arrest and allowed him to stand trial for rebellion without being held in custody. His criminal case is being handled by a team of investigators under special prosecutor Cho Eun-suk who are pursuing additional charges over Yoon’s authoritarian push, including obstructing official duties, abuse of power and falsifying official documents.



Vessels moor at a port to shelter from an approaching typhoon in Xiamen, southeast China’s Fujian Province on July 6. (Xinhua)

AI-powered flash flood alert mini-program launched in SW China province

An AI-powered precision early warning system for flash floods and debris flows in the mountainous Sichuan Province in southwest China has been officially launched to the public via a WeChat mini-program, offering real-time risk monitoring and alerts. Developed by the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE) under the Chinese

Academy of Sciences, based in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan, the system integrates multi-departmental real-time data, including geological surveys and meteorological observations, across all flood-prone ravines in the province, Science and Technology Daily reported on Thursday. It employs high-precision rainfall forecasting models to provide dy-

namic short-term predictions covering the past hour and the following two hours, significantly improving forecast accuracy ahead of the flood season from late July to early August, according to the report. The mini-program generates 24-hour, 12-hour and 2-hour risk maps, delivering warnings via SMS, WeChat and the emergency response systems. (Xinhua)

‘Frequency, intensity of extreme rainfall events increasing’

Climate change makes South Asia’s monsoon season more prone to floods, heavy rains

BENGALURU, India, July 10, (AP): Each year from June to September, a series of heavy rains known as monsoons sweep through the Indian subcontinent, providing relief from heat, irrigating the country’s farms and replenishing its rivers. However, as global heat increases, the rain is becoming more erratic and intense, creating the conditions for deadly floods. Nearly 1,300 people died in India throughout 2024 due to heavy rain and floods. Hundreds of rain-related deaths have already occurred this year in the South Asian region, which includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Maldives and Nepal.

Climate experts say the high temperatures and heavy rain are also contributing to the melting of glaciers in the mountainous Himalayan region, causing catastrophic flooding and landslides.

The South Asian region has traditionally had two monsoon seasons. One typically lasts from June to September, with rains moving southwest to northeast. The other, from roughly October to December, moves in the opposite direction.

But with more planet-warming gases in the air, the rain now only loosely follows this pattern. This is because the warmer air can hold more moisture from the Indian Ocean, and that rain then tends to get dumped all at once. It means the monsoon is punctuated with intense flooding and dry spells, rather than sustained rain throughout.

“We are witnessing a clear climatic shift in monsoon patterns across South Asia,” said Roxy Mathew Koll, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune and author of several United Nations climate reports.

Traditionally, people in India and neighboring countries excitedly awaited the monsoon rains, which would finally mean the end of summer heat. But attitudes are changing as disasters increase during the rainy seasons.

“The frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events are increasing, often overwhelming drainage infrastructure in urban areas and triggering flash floods,” Koll said.



Army soldiers and rescuers evacuate patients and medical staff from a flooded hospital following landslides and flash flooding amid monsoon season in Imphal, India, on June 1. (AP)

Higher temperatures and longer periods of drought are also making farming harder in South Asia, climate experts said. “More than 60% of the people in South Asia are dependent on agriculture, and almost all of them are dependent on monsoon rainfall,” said Finu Shrestha, a climate scientist at Kathmandu, Nepal-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. A 2023 report by Shrestha’s organization found that glaciers are melting at unprecedented rates across the Hindu Kush and Himalayan mountain ranges. The study found that at least 200 of the more than 2,000 glacial lakes in the

region are at risk of overflowing, which can cause catastrophic damage downstream. Heavy monsoon rains can exacerbate the problem.

“A lot of the mountain areas tend to have more warming than the global average, resulting in more glaciers melting,” said Miriam Jackson, glaciologist at the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative.

An October 2023 glacial lake overflow in the Indian state of Sikkim triggered flooding that killed 55 people and damaged bridges, buildings and a hydropower dam that was under construction.

Heavy rainfall and increasing heat are leading to snow and ice avalanches, rockfalls and other events that can trigger the lakes to breach or overflow, Shrestha said.

“Even small glacial lakes are now breaching and causing damage,” she said. Installing early warning systems and building in less risky areas can help reduce damage from heavy rains, climate experts say.

“If you know a flood is coming, then people can get to higher ground and there could be a sort of standard early warning system along a river that sends out a siren,” Jackson said, adding that social media and messaging applications can help people spread warnings to those downstream.

Koll, the Pune-based scientist, said that rapid urbanization, shrinking floodplains and loss of natural drainage also exacerbate damage from heavy rains. Koll said that most government response currently comes after disasters, and there is a lack of long-term planning.

“In the future monsoon, extreme rains are projected to intensify further, in addition to sporadic water shortages. Hence, we need proactive, long-term strategies that combine science, policy, and community engagement,” he said.

Jackson said the biggest issue, however, is to try to reduce emissions of planet-heating gases because there are limits to adapting to extreme weather.

“If we continue with, you know, business as usual, and we have the same kind of emissions, then the world is going to keep on getting warmer and there will be more intense rain and floods. At some point, we could go beyond the limits of adaptation,” she said.

Bangladesh tribunal indicts ousted prime minister Hasina over deaths of protesters

DHAKA, Bangladesh, July 10, (AP): A special tribunal indicted Bangladesh’s ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday by accepting charges of crimes against humanity filed against her in connection with a mass uprising in which hundreds of students were killed last year.

A three-member panel, headed by Justice Golam Mortuza Mozumder, indicted Hasina, former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun on five charges. Hasina and Khan are being tried in absentia.

The tribunal opened the trial June 5 and asked Hasina to appear. Authorities published newspaper advertisements asking Hasina, who has been in exile in India, and Khan to appear before the tribunal.

Hasina has been in exile since Aug. 5. Bangladesh’s interim government, headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, sent a formal request to India for Hasina’s extradition but India has not responded. Khan is possibly also in India.

Al-Mamun was arrested and was in the dock Thursday while the judges indicted them. Al-Mamun pleaded guilty and told the tribunal that he would make a statement in favor of the prosecution at a later stage.

The prosecution offered a leaked audio of Hasina and other documents as



Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam, center, speaks to the media after a special tribunal indicted Bangladesh’s ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by accepting charges of crimes against humanity filed against her at the International Crimes Tribunal in Dhaka, Bangladesh on July 10. (AP)

evidence to the tribunal.

Amir Hossain, a lawyer appointed by the state for Hasina and Khan, appeared at Thursday’s hearing and filed a petition to drop their names from the case but the tribunal rejected the plea.

The tribunal later fixed Aug. 3 for the opening statement by the prosecution and Aug. 4 for recording witness statements.

Hasina and her Awami League party previously criticized the tribunal and

its prosecution team for connections to political parties, especially the Jamaat-e-Islami party.

Filing five charges, the prosecution argued Hasina was directly responsible for ordering all state forces, her Awami League party and its associates to carry out actions leading to mass killings, injuries, targeted violence against women and children, the incineration of bodies and denial of medical treatment to the wounded.

Subcontinent

Pakistan’s registered voters surpass 134m: The number of registered voters across Pakistan has reached 134.43 million, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said on Wednesday.

The male voters account for 72.12 million, while female voters stand at 62.30 million, the ECP figures showed.

Provincial data indicates that eastern Punjab province holds the largest share of the electorate, with over 76.50 million registered voters.

Southern Sindh province follows with 28.17 million, while northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has recorded 22.87 million voters. Pakistan’s prime minister is **Shehbaz Sharif**.

The least populous southwestern Balochistan province accounts for 5.61 million registered voters, the ECP figures revealed. (Xinhua)



Sharif

Death toll from bridge collapse rises to 15: The death toll in Wednesday’s bridge collapse in India’s western state of Gujarat rose to 15 on Thursday, even as relief and rescue works continued overnight, confirmed a local official.

He said that at least three people were still missing. Nine people were rescued from the spot of the incident and admitted to a local hospital. A portion of the four-decade-old Gambhira bridge had

collapsed in Gujarat’s Vadodara district, resulting in several vehicles plying on it falling into the Mahisagar river.

The bridge connected Vadodara with the neighboring city of Anand. Vehicular movement was adversely affected in the area following the incident. (Xinhua)

Afghan police apprehend 16 criminals: Afghan police have apprehended 16 criminal elements from across Afghanistan during a series of operations over the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Interior Affairs said Thursday.

The arrested individuals, who were involved in theft, immoral activities, and forgery, were detained in Herat, Badghis, Ghazni, Sari Pul, Nimroz, and Khost provinces, a statement from the ministry posted on its X account said.

Police won’t allow anyone to create law and order problems for the citizens, the statement went on to say.

In similar operations against outlaws, police arrested 25 alleged criminals from different provinces of the country a week ago. (Xinhua)

illegal drug discovered in Afghanistan: Police have discovered 354 kg of illegal drugs, including opium poppy and hashish, in northern Afghanistan’s Badakhshan province and taken into custody four people on charges of involvement in the drug business, provincial police spokesman Ehsanullah Kamgar said Thursday.

The arrested individuals, all Afghan nationals according to the official, were attempting to take the contraband out of the province.

Police have begun an investigation of the arrested individuals, the official further said.

In the efforts against illegal drugs, police have destroyed dozens of acres of poppy and hashish farms in several districts of Badakhshan province over the past couple of weeks. (Xinhua)

El Salvador recalls ambassador from Mexico, disputes origin of drug flight

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, (AP): El Salvador President Nayib Bukele recalled his ambassador to Mexico and demanded the country clarify its security chief’s comments that an intercepted plane carrying cocaine had originated in El Salvador.

Bukele labeled the information from Mexico Security Secretary Omar García Harfuch as “FALSE” in a post on X, that went on to detail the plane’s alleged flight path. Bukele also pointed out that the three men arrested with the plane were Mexican citizens.

“El Salvador does not provide cover for criminals nor does it tolerate drug trafficking,” Bukele wrote. “We didn’t do it before, we will not do it now.”

It wasn’t clear late Wednesday if Ambassador Rosa Delmy Cañas had left Mexico yet.

On Tuesday, García Harfuch was summarizing drug seizures during the president’s daily news briefing when he spoke of a flight detected in the Pacific coast state of Colima that he said had come from El Salvador. He said 943 pounds (428 kilograms) of cocaine had been seized and three men arrested without providing more detail.

Bukele answered Wednesday that he had flight tracking data that showed



Police stand guard outside the entrance of the Izaguirre Ranch where skeletal remains were discovered in Teuchitlan, Jalisco state, Mexico on March 13. (AP)

the plane never entered Salvadoran air space. He demanded Mexico address García Harfuch’s comments.

Mexico’s Foreign Affairs ministry said it was reviewing the case when asked for comment.

Also:

MEXICO CITY: A Mexican court sentenced 10 men to 141-year prison

terms each for their involvement in a ranch in the western Mexican state of Jalisco that was used by a feared cartel to recruit members, kill and disappear victims.

The discovery earlier this year of the Izaguirre ranch, used by the Jalisco New Generation Cartel for recruitment and training since 2021, had sparked alarm and fear across the region.

Africa

Tunisia opp’n leader gets 14 yrs: A Tunisian court sentenced one of the country’s most prominent opposition leaders to 14 years in prison, adding to a string of convictions that he received in other cases.

Rached Ghannouchi, the leader of Tunisia’s Ennahda movement, was among those sentenced as part of a sweeping case in which politicians were charged with conspiring against state security. Several other detained members of his party were sentenced to 12 years.

Ghannouchi’s party rose to power after Tunisia became the first country in the region to oust a longtime dictator as part of the Arab Spring. He later served as speaker of the country’s assembly and is among the opposition figures that have faced prosecution since President Kais Saied took power six years ago.

His defense team denied the charges and said in a statement that proceedings didn’t meet the standards of a fair trial. “All accusations were based on a false and contradictory testimony by a secret, anonymous witness who failed to present any evidence for his baseless and contradictory allegations, and who ultimately retracted most of them,” at-



Ghannouchi

torneys said in a statement. The judge overseeing the case issued arrest warrants for several party members tried in absentia, including Ghannouchi’s son and a former foreign minister.

The defendants faced charges including participating in an organization linked to terrorist acts, inciting violence, attempting to overthrow the government, and recruiting and training individuals for terrorist purposes both within Tunisia and abroad. (AP)

Nigerian forces kill 30 gunmen: Nigerian security forces have killed at least 30 gunmen after armed attacks in the country’s troubled northwest, authorities said Thursday.

The joint police and military operation occurred Wednesday after hundreds of armed men attacked several villages, State Commissioner for Home Affairs Nasir Mui’a’zu said in a statement.

Mui’a’zu said three police officers and two soldiers died during the counter-attack which was launched against the gunmen who attacked the villages Tuesday evening.

“We are working tirelessly with federal security agencies to ensure the safety of all citizens,” he said.

In recent months, the northwestern and north-central regions of Nigeria have recorded an uptick in attacks by armed gangs on communities in these regions. Hundreds have been killed and injured in the attacks.

Bandit groups are known for mass killings and kidnappings for ransom in the country’s conflict-battered north. Most of the groups are made up of former herders in conflict with settled communities. (AP)

Kuwait oil price up to USD 72.39 pb

KUWAIT CITY, July 10, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil rose by USD 1.31 pb to reach USD 72.39 per barrel on Wednesday, compared to Tuesday's USD 71.08 pb, as reported by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on

Thursday. In global markets, Brent Crude increased 4 cents to reach USD 70.19 pb, and West Texas Intermediate increased 5 cents to reach USD 68.38 pb.

Business



A group photo of the participants at the launch of the new identity.



Hamad Al-Marzouq, Chairman of KFH Group poses for a group photo with bank officials.



Bahraini Minister of Finance, Kuwaiti Ambassador and Hamad Al-Marzouq, with the bank officials.

A historic achievement in the banking sector

KFH unveils new visual identity of Ahli United Bank under KFH – Bahrain

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: In a historic and strategic move, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Group announced the launch of Ahli United Bank (Bahrain)'s new visual identity and the official change of its name to "Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain," under the umbrella of the Kuwait Finance House Group.

The announcement was made during a grand ceremony held in the Kingdom of Bahrain, attended by senior representatives from KFH Group, headed by the Chairman, Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq; the Group Chief Executive Officer, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan; and the Group Chief Executive Officer of KFH - Bahrain, Shadi Zahran. The event also saw the presence of His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Ambassador of Kuwait to Bahrain alongside members of the Group's Board of Directors, and representatives from the Central Bank of Bahrain.

Chairman of KFH Group, Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq conveyed his delight at being in the Kingdom of Bahrain, underscoring the strong historical ties between the two nations. He highlighted that the rebranding of Ahli United Bank - Bahrain to "Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain" signifies a pivotal strategic transformation, solidifying the Bank's position as a significant banking group with total consolidated assets of USD 126 bn, and reflecting its prominent role in Islamic banking.

Al-Marzouq underscored the symbolic importance of the Group's presence in Bahrain, affirming its status as a pivotal business hub and crucial starting point for their regional expansion strategy. He explained that this move, which represents a shift from conventional to Sharia-compliant banking, culminates the monumental merger of KFH Group and the formerly AUB Group. This merger was the largest in Kuwait's banking sector and a prominent deal regionally.

This project further strengthens the Bank's position as the largest private sector company listed on both Boursa Kuwait and Bahrain Bourse, boasting a market capitalization exceeding USD 45 billion, and as the world's second-largest Islamic bank.

Al-Marzouq praised the diligent efforts of both institutional teams, highlighting their success in executing this strategic project. This initiative, he noted, has established a prominent banking entity, boasting a robust financial foundation and an expansive international footprint spanning ten countries, including key markets such as Kuwait, Bahrain, Turkey, Egypt, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

He elaborated that the new visual identity, featuring the slogan "Beyond Horizons" transcends mere rebranding; it rather represents an ambitious vision aimed at establishing KFH among the top 100 global banks within the next five years, bolstering its ability to offer



Hamad Al Marzouq

Al-Marzouq: A Strategic Transformation that Strengthens KFH's Global Standing



Khaled Al-Shamlan

AlShamlan: Integration and Excellence in Banking Services with a Sustainable and Innovative Vision



Shadi Zahran

Zahran: A Culmination of a Journey Full of Achievements and a Reinforcement of Bahrain's Position as a Financial Center



Bahraini Minister of Finance, Kuwaiti Ambassador, Hamad Al-Marzouq, with the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain.

innovative services meeting customer needs, and adapting to international trends in Islamic finance.

Al-Marzouq concluded: "We affirm KFH's steadfast commitment to its leadership in fostering economic development and delivering substantial value to the local banking sector. KFH also remains committed to fulfilling its social responsibilities toward Bahrain, which has played a significant role in supporting the Group's vision of global leadership." He expressed gratitude to all who facilitated this pivotal transformation.

Integration and Excellence
During the ceremony, KFH Group

CEO, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, emphasized that the unveiling of Ahli United Bank's new visual identity and its rebranding to 'Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain' complements the achievements realized under the new brand slogan "Beyond Horizons".

AlShamlan explained that these achievements began in Kuwait, subsequently extending to the United Kingdom, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and now the Kingdom of Bahrain. These steps form part of KFH's broader strategy to expand and solidify its presence as a leading global Islamic banking group.

He emphasized that the launch of the

new brand reflects a profound shift in vision and concept, through which KFH aims to usher in a new phase of integration and excellence in banking services, firmly supported by its strategic approach rooted in sustainability, innovation, and digital excellence.

AlShamlan articulated his pride in the bank's significant achievements and successes, pointing to its global standing, financial strength, and expansive geographical reach across eight countries, underpinned by an international network exceeding 600 branches. He further commended the bank's diversified financial solutions, sustainable profitability, strategic fore-

sight, human talent, digital excellence, and all strong key performance indicators.

He underscored KFH's solidified standing as Kuwait's largest bank by market capitalization. AlShamlan further detailed that KFH holds the distinction of being the largest Kuwaiti private sector company listed on Boursa Kuwait, with its market capitalization exceeding USD 45 billion. He also confirmed KFH's global rank as the world's second-largest Islamic bank.

In closing, AlShamlan conveyed his appreciation for the unwavering support of KFH's Board of Directors, extending his gratitude to all colleagues

whose contributions were instrumental in realizing this achievement.

A journey of achievements
In his speech, GCEO of KFH - Bahrain, Shadi Zahran, expressed his happiness at this historic and pivotal moment in the journey of Ahli United Bank Group, announcing the launch of a new phase under the name of KFH Group, following the successful completion of the acquisition. He noted that this step represents "the culmination of a journey full of achievements spanning more than twenty-five years."

Zahran drew attention to the substantial qualitative development and key achievements of recent years. These include a range of successful banking operations that have reinforced the Group's position as a leading regional banking entity.

He elaborated that the impact of these successes reached beyond the Group, contributing significantly to the national economy by stimulating growth, creating employment opportunities, and boosting local investments, thus enhancing Bahrain's role as a financial center.

He also emphasized the Group's consistent strong financial performance and sustainable growth, which has benefited shareholders and customers alike.

Zahran identified the comprehensive transition to Islamic banking services as a key milestone for the Group, enabling the provision of Sharia-compliant solutions with unparalleled quality and innovation.

He further affirmed the Group's resolute commitment to supporting national talent, stating that "Bahrainization is, and will remain, a strategic imperative rooted in our belief in investing in and empowering the nation's sons and daughters to drive development and success."

Zahran concluded by stressing that Bahrain's strong financial standing is mirrored in its robust banking sector and the confidence of both investors and international institutions. He added that the bank's current transformation will strengthen this position by "adding value to Islamic Sharia-compliant banking services, expanding operations, and boosting the Kingdom's competitiveness regionally and globally". He also pointed out that the Group has consistently drawn inspiration from Vision 2030, striving to enhance its performance and innovate banking solutions to contribute to the Kingdom's ambitious development goals."

It serves to note that the launch of the new 'Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain' visual identity is a pivotal moment for KFH Group, strengthening its position as a global Islamic banking leader. It reflects an ambitious strategic vision to provide innovative, Sharia-compliant banking solutions that meet customer needs and align with global trends. With KFH Group's ongoing commitment to economic development in Bahrain and its other markets, this step promises new opportunities for growth and innovation in Islamic banking.

Other Voices

Egypt and China – A decade of strategic partnership with bright prospects

By Assem Hanafi

Over the past decade, relations between Egypt and China -- officially established in May 1956 -- have gained unprecedented momentum, marked by deepening political co-operation and robust economic engagement.

The shared vision of Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi and Chinese President Xi Jinping was crucial in establishing the comprehensive strategic partnership, officially announced in December 2014.

The past 10 years have seen an increase in high-level visits. Head-of-state diplomacy has greatly strengthened bilateral ties, with the two presidents meeting several times in the last decade, through bilateral visits or at multilateral forums like BRICS and the G20.

President El-Sisi's visit to Beijing in May 2024 was particularly important. During this visit, the two heads of state agreed to enhance relations, with a focus on industrial localization and technology transfer as key priorities for future cooperation.

This includes expanding Chinese industrial investments in Egypt in areas such as electric vehicle manufacturing, electronics, solar panel production, chemical industries, building materials and modern agricultural technology. They also agreed to enhance cooperation in media, culture, science,

artificial intelligence and academia.

Recent years have also seen robust ministerial and high-level bilateral visits. Besides President El-Sisi, Speaker of the House of Representatives Hanafy Ali Gebaly visited China in August 2024, and Prime Minister Mostafa Kamal Madbouly in October 2023 and September 2024.

Various ministers from both sides, including foreign affairs, trade and other ministers, have also exchanged visits. The foreign ministers held their latest strategic dialogue in December 2024, strengthening political and economic cooperation and fostering understanding on the Middle East and development issues.

Economically, China is a major trade and investment partner for Egypt. Bilateral trade exceeded 17 billion U.S. dollars in 2024, and Chinese investments in Egypt have surged, especially in the Suez Canal Economic Zone.

The China-Egypt TEDA Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone, hosting 185 companies, has become a model for industrial cooperation.

Major Chinese firms have also contributed to mega infrastructure projects like the Central Business District in the new administrative capital and New Alamein City, as well as in port development, renewable energy, electric railways and the telecommunications sector.

Egypt plays a pivotal role in the Belt and Road Initiative, serving as a gateway between Asia and Africa. Its geopolitical position strengthens its ability to connect major trade corridors, boosting development in Egypt and participating countries.

Egypt's accession to BRICS in 2024 is a significant economic and diplomatic step, adding a multilateral dimension to its relationship with China.

In a changing international landscape, BRICS provides a platform for developing countries to coordinate efforts in finance, technology and local currency trade.

This opens new avenues for Egyptian-Chinese cooperation within a framework that supports financial and economic multilateralism and greater inclusion of Global South countries in global economic mechanisms.

Cultural exchanges have always been integral to bilateral relations, reflecting the rich heritage of both nations.

More Egyptian students are pursuing higher education in China, while the number of Confucius Institutes in Egypt has also increased.

Artistic, cinematic and heritage initiatives, alongside a growing number of Chinese tourists to Egyptian historical sites, underscore the vitality of this cultural bond.

Cairo and Beijing share a vision of respecting national

sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, and viewing development as essential for security.

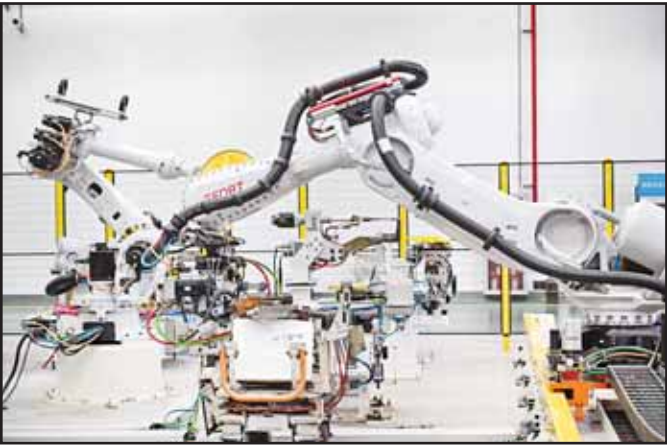
Egypt has consistently supported the one-China principle and Chinese territorial integrity. China, in turn, has backed Egypt's right to development and efforts on regional issues, particularly the Palestinian issue.

They have enhanced coordination in counter-terrorism efforts and cooperation within the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation to support African development.

In conclusion, Egyptian-Chinese relations in the last 10 years have become a model for a comprehensive partnership built on respect, trust, understanding and shared interests.

As global challenges accelerate, there's a growing need for partnerships based on respect for sovereignty, balance and reliability, principles clearly embodied by the Egyptian-Chinese relationship.

Editor's note: Assem Hanafi is a former Egyptian ambassador to China (2022-2025). The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the positions of Xinhua News Agency.



This photo taken on July 3, 2025 shows a welding robot at Anhui Efort Intelligent Equipment Co., Ltd. in Wuhu, east China's Anhui Province. (Xinhua)

Chinese tech reshapes supply chains worldwide

GUANGZHOU, July 10, (Xinhua): As global industries accelerate their transition toward intelligence and sustainability, China's innovative solutions form vital components of international supply chains, driving cross-sector transformation.

Smarter factories

At Guangdong Lyric Robot Automation's Huizhou facility in south China, an automated warehouse operates efficiently with only two staff members. Materials glide autonomously through storage systems, arriving precisely at workstations as needed. A central control screen displays real-time inventory levels, material usage frequency, and shelf capacity.

"This system cuts operational costs by over 30 percent while boosting productivity by 40 percent," said Duan Yajie, general manager of Lyric subsidiary Shunchu Intelligence. Overseas orders for such integrated solutions now constitute over 40 percent of the subsidiary's total business.

Lyric's intelligent factories serve industry leaders across six countries. From battery plants in North America to a comprehensive automotive logistics center in Hungary, as well as sectors like renewable energy and AI computing, Lyric has supported clients in establishing digital factories using technologies such as intelligent sensing, precision control and execution systems.

With subsidiaries in 14 countries, including the United Kingdom, Poland, France, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, and the United States, Lyric has navigated cross-cultural challenges through co-developed standards. "Building consensus during the design phase helps prevent conflicts during im-

plementation," Lyric's co-founder Lu Jiahong said.

"Once rare on European streets, electric vehicles are now increasingly common, reflecting the combined efforts of Chinese equipment, battery and auto manufacturers," she added.

Powering energy revolution

EVE Energy Co., Ltd., a leading Chinese lithium battery company headquartered in Huizhou, Guangdong Province, is advancing its global manufacturing strategy with a new battery production base in Hungary's Debrecen.

The facility represents a transformative industrial upgrade for the region, introducing advanced manufacturing systems where agricultural production once dominated the local economy.

"We're bringing advanced industrial production to this region, creating employment while accelerating the energy transition," stated EVE vice president Jiang Min. He added that the Debrecen base is scheduled to begin production in late 2026, while their overseas facility in Malaysia is already operational.

Ranked fourth globally in cylindrical battery shipments and second in energy storage capacity for 2024, EVE Energy operates 12 production bases across Asia, Europe and North America. Its power batteries supply premier global automakers including Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Jaguar Land Rover.

According to Jiang, the company continues to expand investments in carbon-reduction technologies. It has recently established a comprehensive resource recovery ecosystem with over 10 partners. "Collaborative expansion across the industrial chain creates mutual benefits," Jiang said.

China eyes deeper Belt and Road cooperation with Egypt

Beijing, Cairo strengthen industrial and market links

CAIRO, July 10, (Xinhua): Chinese Premier Li Qiang said here on Thursday that China is willing to strengthen Belt and Road cooperation with Egypt in such areas as economy, trade, finance, manufacturing, new energy, science and technology, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

During his meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Li also said that China is willing to encourage more capable Chinese enterprises to invest in Egypt.

Li conveyed to President El-Sisi cordial greetings from Chinese President Xi Jinping, saying that China-Egypt relations have flourished in recent years under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state.

The Chinese side, Li said, is ready to work with Egypt to take the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries next year as an opportunity to carry forward the traditional friendship, consolidate political mutual trust, and continue to firmly support each other on issues concerning each other's core interests.

China is also willing to join Egypt to continue to enrich the China-Egypt comprehensive strategic partnership, push for more achievements in cooperation in various fields between the two nations, and keep moving forward to the goal of building a China-Egypt community with a shared future in the new era.

The international landscape is marked by mounting turbulence and escalating disorder, with prolonged and unresolved conflicts particularly afflicting the West Asian and North African regions, Li said.

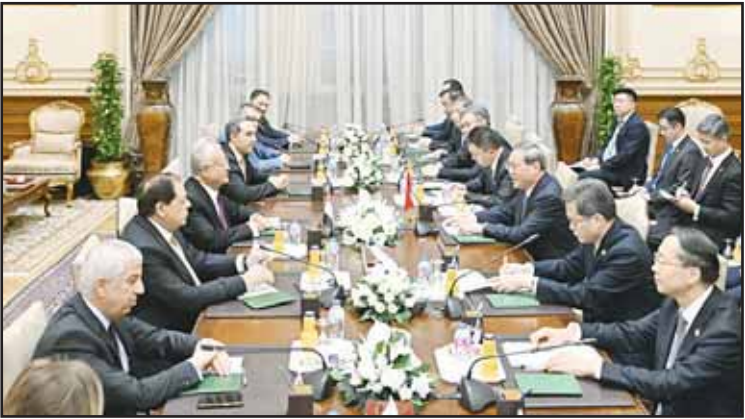
China stands ready to maintain close communication with Egypt and promote an early ceasefire in Gaza, Li said.

The Chinese side is also ready to join Egypt in alleviating the humanitarian crisis, preventing the spillover and escalation of the conflict, and making unremitting efforts for a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian issue, said the Chinese premier.

He said China is willing to work



Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in Cairo, Egypt, July 10, 2025. (Xinhua)



Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets with Speaker of the Egyptian House of Representatives Hanafy Ali Gebaly in Cairo, Egypt, July 9, 2025. (Xinhua)

with Egypt to enhance communication and coordination within multilateral platforms including the United Nations, BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and practice true multilateralism.

Li added that China will work with Egypt to promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and push for the steady and long-term development of China-Arab and China-Africa cooperation.

China and Egypt should consistently facilitate two-way trade and investment, strengthen industrial alignment and market connectivity, and push for a higher level of win-win cooperation, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said here on Wednesday.

Li made the remarks when meeting with Speaker of the Egyptian House of Representatives Hanafy Ali Gebaly. Li is on an official visit to the Middle East country at the invitation of Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Kamal Madbouly.

Although China and Egypt are geographically distant, the friendship between the two countries has a long-standing history, Li said.

Since the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations, no matter how the international situation changes, China-Egypt traditional friendship remains unchanged, and the momentum of bilateral relations and cooperation continues to grow, demonstrating strong internal dynamism, he said.

China is willing to further promote

traditional friendship with Egypt, enhance political mutual trust, firmly support each other's core interests and major concerns, and continuously elevate bilateral relations to new heights and achieve more new results in bilateral cooperation, so as to better benefit the people of both countries, Li said.

He also called on both sides to maintain friendly exchanges between legislative bodies, strengthen policy communication and share experiences on state governance, and continuously improve mutual understanding.

Noting that China is willing to enhance development alignment with Egypt, Li said both sides should undertake high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and make use of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation to improve bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

The two sides should cooperate in the sustainable operation of bilateral landmark projects, continuously improve the level of two-way trade and investment facilitation, strengthen industrial docking and market connectivity, expand cooperation in emerging fields such as digital economy and green development, and promote a higher level of mutual benefit and win-win results, he said.

China is willing to maintain close communication and coordination with Egypt within mechanisms including the United Nations, BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, promote all parties to jointly safeguard the basic norms governing international relations and the multilateral trading system, and inject more positive energy into the cause of global peace and development, Li said.

For his part, Gebaly said that Egypt and China, as two great ancient civilizations, share a long history of exchanges and profound friendship between their peoples.

Egypt admires the remarkable achievements China has made in its economic and social development, and firmly believes that under the leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping, China will successfully realize Chinese modernization, bringing new opportunities for cooperation between China and other developing countries, Gebaly said.

Fast fashion hits a slowdown after tariff twist

Goodbye \$20 dress as US rolls back \$800 import exemption

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

By Vivek Astvansh
McGill University

Fast fashion got a lot pricier for Americans this spring - and it'll likely get even more expensive in 2027.

That's because the Trump administration has been rolling back a little-known feature of U.S. customs law that for years had allowed retailers to ship packages duty-free to U.S. shoppers - as long as each shipment was valued under US\$800. Known as the "de minimis" exception, this rule had helped keep prices low on Chinese e-commerce platforms such as Shein and Temu, boosting their popularity with American shoppers.

But as of May 2, 2025, that advantage disappeared - at least for China and Hong Kong. That's when the U.S. officially eliminated the exemption for low-priced imports from those places. Suddenly, cheap fashion wasn't so cheap anymore - and demand for Shein and Temu plummeted.

But while bargain hunters might hope for workarounds by ordering from platforms based in Vietnam or elsewhere, that's a temporary fix. The

exemption is set to be eliminated for all countries in 2027, thanks to language in the tax and spending bill just signed into law.

But hold up - what's "de minimis," anyway?

I'm a professor of marketing who's long been interested in this loophole. De minimis is short for de minimis non curat lex, which means, "The law does not concern itself with petty matters." In trade terms, the de minimis exemption refers to a value threshold below which imports can enter a country

without duties. Imagine the government saying, "It's so cheap we won't even bother with it."

The de minimis exemption was introduced as part of the Tariff Act of 1930 and was initially set at \$200. It stayed at that level until 2016, when the U.S. bumped it up to \$800. Raising the limit helped small companies as well as individual shoppers, and from 2016 to 2023 de minimis shipments skyrocketed - rising sixfold to more than 1 billion annually.

But it left large companies, which import items in bulk, at a disadvantage. That's one reason why, historically, the same dress might cost more money in a U.S. retail store than it would if you bought it online from an e-commerce company.

Imagine it's January 2025. You're scrolling Shein, and you spot a trendy dress priced at \$20. You order the dress to be delivered to your home. The seller packs your dress and exports it to your home address. The package arrives at the U.S. border. Be-

cause the package's "value" - specifically, the price you paid - is below the U.S. "de minimis" threshold of \$800, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection exempts the importer - that is, you - from paying any import duty. You pay just \$20.

Now imagine you're trying to order the same dress in mid-July.

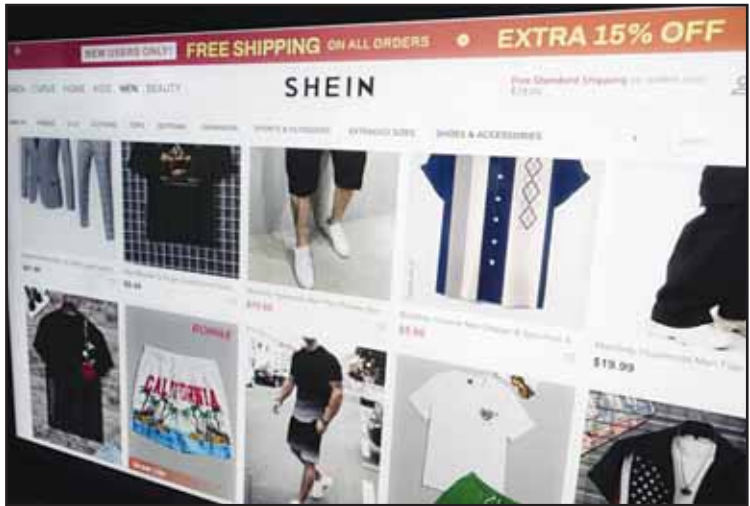
Executive Order 14256, issued on April 2, states that such an item, if shipped via international mail from China or Hong Kong, could be subject to an ad valorem duty of up to 20% of

the item's value, or a specific dollar amount per package, which could be \$100 or more. This was increased to 30% on April 8 and 84% the following day. In the most recent modification, dated May 12, the percentage has been revised to 54%.

So, using the 54% ad valorem duty as an example, the import tariff on your \$20 dress would be \$10.80 - costing you \$30.80 in all. Of course, the May 12 modification comes with the usual disclaimer: It will stay in effect "unless and until otherwise modified by a subsequent executive action."

For millions of American shoppers, this is a wake-up call: Formerly tax-free fast fashion is now significantly more expensive. Thrifty shoppers might be tempted to buy from sellers in India or Mexico, where the de minimis exemption is still in effect - at least for now. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act ends the de minimis exemption globally starting July 1, 2027.

Trade policy has been unpredictable under President Donald Trump, and the de minimis rule has been no exception. But with the global end of the exemption now written into law, its future seems a little more certain. Although it's always wise to watch for new developments from the White House, I suspect the U.S. de minimis exemption may soon be a thing of the past. (AP)



Left: A page from the Shein website is shown in this photo, in New York on June 23, 2023. Right: A shopper looks at clothes at a Walmart store. A new report said imported clothing from Asia and in particular, China could jump in price because of tariffs. (AP)





Artists honored as NCCAL opens Summer Festival in song.



Artists Mohammed Fadel Chaker and Raneen Al-Shaar performed under the direction of maestro Michael Ibrahim.



Enthusiastic audiences filled the hall as music and recognition marked the festival's vibrant opening night.

Artists, families and creators shine

NCCAL holds 17th Summer Cultural Festival with songs of Fadel Chaker

KUWAIT CITY, July 10, (KUNA): The National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) launched the 17th edition of the "Summer Cultural Festival" on Wednesday with a musical concert at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, featuring a selection of songs by artist Fadel Chaker.

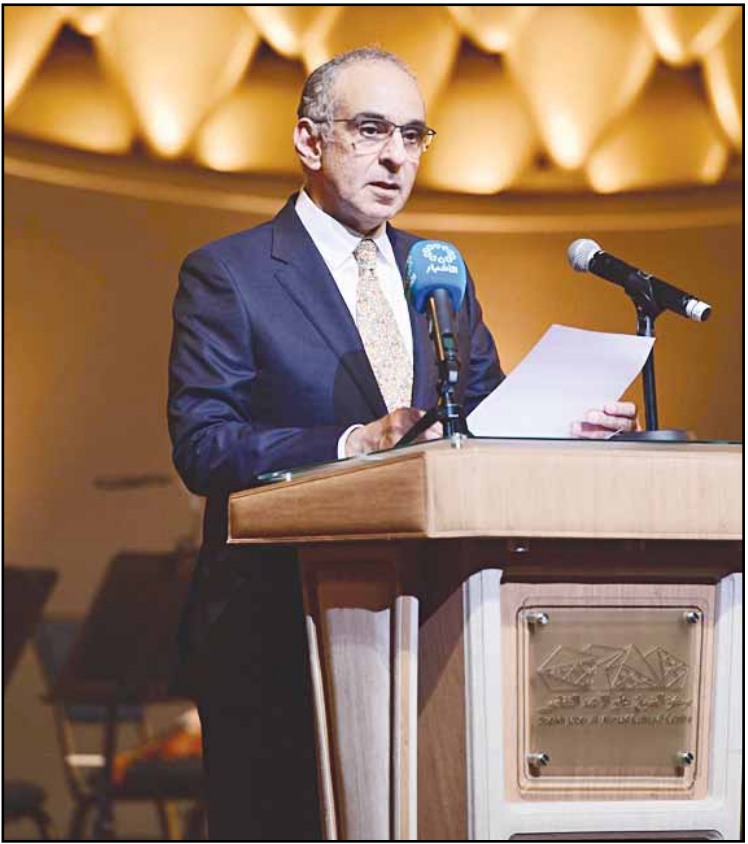
During the opening at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ali Hall, Secretary-General of NCCAL Dr. Mohammed Al-Jassar said this edition reflects NCCAL's commitment to supporting endeavors that uplift the mind, enrich the soul, and enhance culture's role in everyday life.

He affirmed that the festival has become a prominent milestone on Kuwait's cultural map, bringing together a distinguished group of artists, creators, and lovers of beauty and art.

Dr. Al-Jassar stressed that NCCAL views culture as a shared responsibility and appreciates constructive cooperation with the private sector, which plays a vital role in enriching the intellectual scene and ensuring seamless implementation of the festival's programs.

He said NCCAL's partnerships with institutions and individuals have expanded cultural engagement and brought artistic activities closer to the public, highlighting that this collaboration between the public and private sectors represents a strategic approach to building a dynamic, evolving cultural community rooted in its heritage and open to future horizons.

Dr. Al-Jassar highlighted that this year's festival includes many activities that reflect Arab identity and celebrate Kuwait's artistic heritage through a variety of events involving children and families, as well as specialized literary and



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Secretary-General of NCCAL Dr. Mohammed Al-Jassar In his opening remarks.

artistic workshops spanning seven weeks.

He noted that all cultural sites, centers, and museums will be dedicated to supporting the festival's programs.

Dr. Al-Jassar emphasized that the festival is more than just a seasonal cultural event; it is a living expression of the council's commitment to the belief that "culture is a field for all, a bridge for intergenerational connection, and a window into the realms of human creativity."

He expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this edition and to the esteemed audience, who embody the festival's purpose and message.

During the concert, hosted by media personality Hashem Asad, artists Mohammed Fadel Chaker and Raneen Al-Shaar performed under the direction of maestro Michael Ibrahim, presenting a selection of Fadel Chaker's songs. NCCAL honored the band and participating artists.

First batch of FAIPS students complete IIT Madras School Connect Programme

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: FAIPS (DPS) consistently goes beyond traditional schooling by providing students with opportunities aligned with the latest educational advancements, equipping them to adapt successfully to future life situations. In one of such initiatives, five students from FAIPS successfully participated in the prestigious School Connect Programme conducted by IIT Madras. This eight-week certification initiative is designed to introduce senior school students to key concepts in emerging technologies, with a focus on Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Electronic Systems, and Architecture & Design.

The program included recorded lectures, live sessions and assignments, providing practical learning experiences that supplement the traditional school curriculum. It offered students a unique opportunity to gain early exposure to high-demand fields while developing critical thinking and analytical skills.

The School Connect Programme offered three specialized courses tailored for students of Classes X, XI and XII:

- Introduction to Data Science and Artificial Intelligence
- Introduction to Electronic Systems
- Introduction to Architecture and Design

Topics covered ranged from AI algorithms and image classification to electronics miniaturization, energy systems and design aesthetics. Our students showed exceptional enthusiasm and commitment, actively engaging in all aspects of the course.

On behalf of the management, the Principal Mr. Ravi Ayanoli congratulated the students for this notable accomplishment and expressed gratitude to IIT Madras for creating an enriching academic platform that inspires the next generation of innovators and thinkers.



Shrija Vipin Kumar Rai



Avaniika Vishwajeet Dubal



Neha Modem



Gargi Vivek Dabare



Shlok Prakashkumar Patel



Photo during the Kuwait, Bahrain-based Bangladeshi entrepreneurs meeting.

Kuwait, Bahrain-based Bangladeshi entrepreneurs boost regional trade

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: A delegation of 11 members of the Bangladesh Business Forum Bahrain organization, an organization of expatriate Bangladeshi businessmen in Bahrain, visited Kuwait on Thursday, July 3. On the occasion of their arrival, the Bangladesh Business Council, Kuwait, an organization of expatriate Bangladeshi businessmen in Kuwait, organized a congratulatory and view-exchange meeting. On Sunday night, July 6, the event was held at the ballroom of the Bhojan Bari, Old Souk, Salmiya, under the chairmanship of Lutfar Rahman Mukhai Ali, President of Bangladesh Business Council, Kuwait, and moderated by General Secretary Mohammad Emadul Islam. The chief guest was Ainul

Haque Sarkar, President of Bangladesh Business Forum, Bahrain. The special guest was Mohammad Jasim Uddin, General Secretary of Bangladesh Business Forum, Bahrain. The businessmen of the two countries discussed ways to expand their business in Middle Eastern countries including Kuwait and Bahrain and to promote Bangladeshi products in these countries. At that time, senior journalist Moin Uddin Sarkar Sumon, president of Bangladesh Press Club Kuwait, along with leaders of expatriate Bangladeshi business organizations in Kuwait and Bahrain, journalists and organizers were present. After the four-day visit, the expatriate Bangladeshi businessmen in Bahrain left Kuwait for Bahrain.

IMA Kuwait launches 'Save Power, Save Energy and Support Kuwait' month-long awareness campaign

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Kuwait, in collaboration with Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity & Water and the National Energy Efficiency Initiative 'Wafer', is proud to announce the launch of a comprehensive Public Awareness Campaign titled "Save Power, Save Energy, Support Kuwait".

This Month-Long Campaign, running from July 1 to July 30, is part of a coordinated National Effort to

encourage Responsible Energy Consumption, particularly during the Peak Summer Period. Primarily focusing at the Expatriate Community in Kuwait, the Campaign emphasizes practical steps Individuals can take to reduce Electricity usage and contribute to Nation's Sustainability Goals.

Key components of the campaign include:

- Targeted Social Media Outreach through Informative Posts,

Flyers&Videos

- Community Awareness Gatherings to foster Dialogue and Education

- Friday Sermons incorporating messages on Environmental Responsibility

- Distribution of Awareness Stickers across Residential and Public spaces

Speaking on the initiative, IMA Kuwait emphasized its commitment to Community

Service and Environmental Responsibility following Quranic Teaching&Principles. The Campaign highlights that small acts, such as turning off Unused Lights, can significantly contribute to National Sustainability Goals and reduce Energy Waste.

The Ministry of Electricity & Water has welcomed this Collaboration, Recognizing the Critical Role Social Awareness plays in shaping Behavior and fostering

Energy Efficiency across all Segments of Society. IMA extends its sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Electricity & Water for its support and partnership in this initiative.

IMA Kuwait invites everyone to participate actively in this Campaign and be a part of the Collective Effort to protect Resources, promote Sustainability, and support Kuwait in achieving its Energy Goals.

For campaign updates and re-

sources, visit

www.imakuwait.org

Facebook: ima.kuwait | YouTube: imakuwaittv | Instagram: @imakuwait

For more info, contact: 66912662

Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Kuwait

Email: pr@imakuwait.org

Phone: 9969 7642 / 6000 1424

Website: www.imakuwait.org

English post-punks deliver terrific soundtrack for summer

Wet Leg level up on sophomore album, ‘Moisturizer’

LOS ANGELES, July 10, (AP): A few songs into the second studio album from buzzy English post-punks Wet Leg, singer Rhian Teasdale yells “level up!” And level up they have. The alt-rock duo-turned-group took their time to complete their sophomore release, titled “Moisturizer.” It was worth the wait. The album is a terrific soundtrack for a long, hot summer.

The Grammy Award-winning Wet Leg emerged from England’s Isle of Wight in 2021 with the quirky viral hit, “Chaise Lounge,” which released before they had ever performed live. The song immediately charmed audiences, a cheeky track centered on Teasdale’s deadpan delivery and guitarist Heather Chambers’ chunky, jagged bursts. They grew from there, releasing a self-titled debut album in 2022 that rose to the top of the UK charts.

On “Moisturizer,” the two have greatly expanded their skills and range. But they’ve also retained the raunchy, goofy energy that gained them an adoring audience.

The new version of Wet Leg is no longer just a duo. Their touring band, bassist Ellis Durand, drummer Henry Holmes and guitarist/synth-player Joshua Mobaraki have formally joined the project and share writing credit on several songs. The expanded band complements Chambers’ oddball



This album cover image released by Domino Records shows ‘Moisturizer’ by Wet Leg. (AP)

progressions and facilitates a bigger, more layered sound.

The opening track, “CPR,” opens with Holmes’ drums and Durand’s funky bassline before the gui-

tars come in. The band can now groove as well as grind. The lyrics capture the silliness and dead seriousness of a bruising crush. Playing the dispatcher, Chambers asks, “Hello? 999. What’s your emergency?” Teasdale answers, “Well... the thing is... / I... I... I... I... I... / I’m In Love.”

Across the album, there are plenty of tracks that work to rattle car speakers and dominate summer festival mainstages. On the belligerent single “Catch These Fists,” Teasdale declares, “I don’t want your love / I just wanna fight.” On “Pillow Talk,” Teasdale coos over an industrial metal drone and delivers some of the most infatuated lyrics in the band’s notably graphic catalog.

The slower songs show off the band’s new tools. “Davina McCall,” named after the English television presenter, begins bendy with some oddball chord changes and surprisingly delicate vocals. The slow jam “11:21” could sit next to the soft singer-songwriter Weyes Blood on a playlist. “Don’t speak,” written and sung by Chambers, channels the bluesy energy and corny-sweet lyrics of late Replacements.

In total, Wet Leg - now a full band - has a fuller sound. Fans will be wise to join them on the journey.

Film



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

Gunn brings humanity to superhero’s world

A weird ‘Superman’ beats a dull one

LOS ANGELES, July 10, (AP): It’s a bird, it’s a plane, it’s a ... a purple and orange shape-shifting chemical compound?

Writer-director James Gunn’s “Superman” was always going to be a strange chemistry of filmmaker and material. Gunn, the mind behind “Guardians of the Galaxy” and “The Suicide Squad,” has reliably drifted toward a B-movie superhero realm populated (usually over-populated) with the lesser-known freaks, oddities and grotesquerie of back-issue comics.

But you don’t get more mainstream than Superman. And let’s face it, unless Christopher Reeve is in the suit, the rock-jawed Man of Steel can be a bit of a bore. Much of the fun and frustration of Gunn’s movie is seeing how he stretches and strains to make Superman, you know, interesting.

In the latest revamp for the archetypal superhero, Gunn does a lot to give Superman a lift. He scraps the origin story. He gives Superman a dog. And he ropes in not just expected regulars like Lois Lane (Rachel Brosnahan) and Lex Luthor (Nicholas Hoult) but some less conventional choices - none more so than that colorful jumble of elements, Metamorpho (Anthony Carrigan).

Metamorpho, a melancholy, mutilated man whose powers were born out of tragedy, is just one of many side shows in “Superman.” But he’s the most representative of what Gunn is going for. Gunn might favor a traditional-looking hero at the center, like Chris Pratt’s Star-Lord in “Guardians of the Galaxy.” And Corenswet, complete with hair curl, looks the part, too. But Gunn’s heart is with the weirdos who soldier on.

The heavy lift of “Superman” is making the case that the perfect superhero being with “S” on his chest is strange, too. He’s a do-gooder at a time when no one does good anymore.

Not everything works in “Superman.” For those who like their Superman classically drawn, Gunn’s film will probably seem too irreverent and

messy. But for anyone who found Zack Snyder’s previous administration painfully ponderous, this “Superman,” at least, has a pulse.

It would be hard to find a more drastic 180 in franchise stewardship. Where Snyder’s films were super-serious mythical clashes of colossuses, Gunn’s “Superman” is lightly earthbound, quirky and sentimental. When this Superman flies, he even keeps his arms back, like an Olympic skeleton rider.

We begin not on Krypton or Kansas but in Antarctica, near the Fortress of Solitude. The opening titles set-up the medias res beginning. Three centuries ago, metahumans first appeared on Earth. Three minutes ago, Superman lost a battle for the first time. Lying bloodied in the snow, he whistles and his faithful super dog, Krypto, comes running.

Like some of Gunn’s other novelty gags (I’m looking at you Groot), Krypto is both a highlight and overused gag throughout. Superman is in the midst of a battle by proxy with Luthor. From atop his Luthor Corp. skyscraper headquarters, Luthor gives instructions to a team sitting before computer screens while, on a headset, barking out coded battle directions to drone-assisted henchmen. “13-B!” he shouts, like a Bingo caller.

Whether this is an ideal localizing of main characters in conflict is a debate that recedes a bit when, back in Metropolis, Clark Kent returns to the Daily Planet. There’s the Wendell Pierce as the editor-in-chief, Perry White, and Skyler Gisondo as Jimmy Olsen. But the character of real interest here is, of course, Lois.

She and Kent are already an item in “Superman.” When alone, Lois chides him over the journalistic ethics of interviewing himself after some derring-do, and questions his flying into countries without their leaders’ approval. Brosnahan slides so comfortably into the role that I wonder if “Superman” ought to have been “Lois,” instead. Her scenes with Corenswet are the best in the film, and

the movie loses its snap when she’s not around.

That’s unfortunately for a substantial amount of time. Luthor traps Superman in a pocket universe (enter Metamorpho, among others) and the eccentric members of the Justice Gang - Nathan Fillion’s Green Lantern, Edi Gathegi’s Mister Ter-rific and Isabela Merced’s Hawkgirl - are called upon to lend a hand. They come begrudgingly. But if there’s anyone else that comes close to stealing the movie, it’s Gathegi, who meets increasingly absurd cataclysm with wry deadpan.

The fate of the world, naturally, again turns iffy. There’s a rift in the universe, not to mention some vaguely defined trouble in Boravia and Jarhanpur. In such scenes, Gunn’s juggling act is especially uneasy and you can feel the movie lurching from one thing to another. Usually, that’s Krypto’s cue to fly back into the movie and run amok.

Gunn, who now presides over DC Studios with producer Peter Safran, is better with internal strife than he is international politics. Superman is often called “the Kryptonian” or “the alien” by humans, and Gunn leans into his outsider status. Not for the first time, Superman’s opponents try to paint him as an untrustworthy foreigner. With a modicum of timeliness, “Superman” is an immigrant story.

Mileage will inevitably vary when it comes to Gunn’s idiosyncratic touch. He can be outlandish and sweet, often at once. In a conversation between metahumans, he will insert a donut into the scene for no real reason, and cut from a body falling through the air to an Alka-Seltzer tablet dropping into a glass. Some might call such moments glib, a not-unfair label for Gunn. But I’d say they make this pleasantly imperfect “Superman” something quite rare in the assembly line-style of superhero moviemaking today: human.

“Superman,” a Warner Bros. release is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association for violence, action and language. Running time: 129 minutes. Three stars out of four.



Rick Springfield performs at Live Aid, a famine relief concert at JFK Stadium in Philadelphia Pa., on July 13, 1985. (AP)



Led Zeppelin bandmates, singer Robert Plant, left, and guitarist Jimmy Page, perform for the Live Aid famine relief concert at JFK Stadium in Philadelphia on July 13, 1985. (AP)

Live Aid turns 40

Artists reflect on the iconic ‘1985 concert’

NEW YORK, July 10, (AP): Forty years ago, the legendary Live Aid concerts aimed to do a lot of good - helping to raise over \$100 million for famine relief in Ethiopia and inspiring worldwide awareness for a cause it might otherwise have ignored.

Simulcast from Philadelphia and London on July 13, 1985, Live Aid was the most ambitious global television event of its time: 16 hours of live music in two different continents featuring Queen, The Who, a Led Zep-elin reunion and more.

A lot has changed in the years since. “Live Aid, ‘85 to now, is the same distance as the Second World War from Live Aid,” notes Rick Springfield, laughingly. “That’s how long ago it was.”

Artists who performed at Live Aid - Springfield, organizer Bob Geldof, Hall and Oates’ John Oates and Judas Priest’s Rob Halford - reflected on the event and its impact in interviews with The Associated Press ahead of the 40th anniversary on Sunday.

Here’s what they had to say:

At John F. Kennedy Stadium in Philadelphia, Springfield performed between Run-DMC and REO Speedwagon - just a taste of the diversity of performers featured on the transnational lineup. “Run-DMC, I remember thinking, ‘What is this? Three guys talking over a record player. What is that? Little did I know that it was about to change the whole game,” he says, laughing. He remembers playing an electric set - no “Jessie’s Girl,” because “back then, it was just my first hit. ... It hadn’t gone on to become this cultural thing.”

Hall and Oates’ John Oates had a different experience. His band also played in Philly - their hometown - and in 1985, his band was one of the biggest on the planet. They played near the end of the night, joined by the Temptations’ Eddie Kendricks and David Ruffin and remained on stage to back the Rolling Stones’ dynamic frontman Mick Jagger. The British rockstar had a trick up his sleeve.

“He didn’t tell us that he was bringing Tina Turner out,” Oates says. “We had rehearsed a certain amount of songs with him. But then when he brought her out, it just jacked up the level of energy like you can’t believe.”

Judas Priest singer Rob Halford counts “Mike and Tina, of course,” as one of his Philly Live Aid highlights. “Led Zeppelin, too.”

But most exciting of all for the heavy metal frontman? Meeting folk hero Joan Baez. The band had previously covered her classic “Diamonds and Rust.”

Kindness

“I thought, ‘Oh my God, she’s gonna come and kick me ... for wrecking her beautiful song,’” he recalls. “She gives me a quick hug and goes, ‘The reason I’m here is because my son said to me, if you see Rob Halford from Judas Priest at the Live Aid Show in Philadelphia, will you tell him from me that I prefer Judas Priest’s version to my mom’s version?’ ... It was a display of such kindness.”

Twenty years after Live Aid, Geldof organized Live 8 - an even larger undertaking in the new internet era, with 10 concerts happening simultaneously and across the globe.

If the trend were to continue, there should be another event taking place this year. Notably, there isn’t.

Geldof says that’s because there couldn’t be a Live Aid-type event in 2025. He cites social media as a cause. In his view, algorithmic fracturing has made it impossible to create monolithic musical and activistic moments. Instead, he views the current media landscape as bolstering “an echo chamber of your own prejudices.”

For something like Live Aid to work, “You need rock ‘n’ roll as a creature of a social, economic and technological movement,” he says. “And I think the rock ‘n’ roll age is over. ... It did determine how young people articulated change and the desire for it. ... That isn’t the case anymore.”

Springfield agrees. “I think we are too divided,” he says. He believes the world wouldn’t be able to agree on a single cause to support, or even which musicians to back. “You could never do a thing with the size of Live Aid unless it was some kind of universal thing of, ‘Let’s bring everybody together.’”

“Never say never, but I highly doubt it,” says Oates. “The landscape of music and entertainment in general has changed so drastically.”

He points to “We Are The World,” the 1985 charity single for African famine relief that included the voices of Michael Jackson, Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan, Ray Charles, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Paul Simon and many more, as an example. “The idea of that happening with the stars of today all in one place, I can’t even imagine that. And plus, who would they be? ... How many songs are released every day?”

Halford echoes the other’s sentiments. There’s an undeniable “extremism in the world right now,” he says, that would make a Live Aid event challenging to pull off in 2025. But he doesn’t think it’s impossible. He uses January’s Fire Aid - the LA wildfire benefit concert featuring Billie Eilish, Stevie Wonder and a Nirvana reunion - as a recent example.

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Former “Love Island USA” contestant **Ciera Ortega** apologized Wednesday for resurfaced posts where she used a racial slur against Asian people.

Ortega, who was half of one of the season’s strongest couples, left the villa just a week before the popular reality show’s finale after old posts resurfaced that contained the slur.

Ortega addressed the entire Asian community in her nearly five minute TikTok video and said she is “deeply, truly, honestly so sorry.”

“This is not an apology video. This is an accountability video,” Ortega said.

“I had no idea that the word held as much pain, as much harm, and came with the history that it did, or I never would have used it,” Ortega said. “I had no ill intention when I was

using it, but that’s absolutely no excuse because intent doesn’t excuse ignorance.”

Ortega, who has been back in the United States for about 48 hours, said she has struggled most with the backlash experienced by her family, who she said doesn’t feel safe in their own home, and have had immigration authorities called on them.

“There’s no need to fight hate with hate. I don’t think that that’s justice,” Ortega said. “And if you want to know that you’re heard and that I’m sorry and that I will move differently, I promise you, that’s what will happen.”

Ortega’s removal from the villa was announced early in Sunday’s episode. Host Iain Stirling said she had left “due to

a personal situation.”

“I completely agree with the network’s decision to remove me from the villa. I think that this is something that deserved punishment and the punishment has absolutely been received,” Ortega said. (AP)

CHONBURI, Thailand: Thousands of excited fans flocked to a Thai zoo on Thursday to celebrate the first birthday of Moo Deng, the adorable baby pygmy hippo that has become a social media sensation.

The Khao Kheow Open Zoo was overrun with Moo Deng’s fans on the first of four days of activities marking the hippo’s birthday. Children under 12 years old can enter the zoo, which is about a two hour drive from the capital Bangkok, for free throughout the extravaganza.

Many of Moo Deng’s fans flew miles to see her. Among them was Molly Swindall, who traveled from New

York for the celebrations. She was seen handing a tray of food to a zoo keeper for Moo Deng’s breakfast, which the baby hippo and her mother Jona quickly devoured.

“Everything I was seeing started to be Moo Deng and I just loved her so much and decided, you know what, I have three or four days off of work,” said Swindall, “I can make it work to fly to Thailand. I will only be there for about 30 hours, but that’s enough to go see Moo Deng. And that’s exactly what I did.”

By Thursday afternoon, the number of visitors reached 12,000, zoo director Narongwit Chodchay said. Despite the noise of visitors calling out for her attention, Moo Deng appeared peaceful as she took a dip in a pond in her enclosure.

Fans took pictures of the baby hippo on their cameras or cell phones and sang “Happy birthday” as her birthday cake, made of a variety of fruits and vegetables, was placed near the pond. (AP)



Ortega



This photo provided by Mattel, Inc., shows the new Barbie doll with type 1 diabetes (T1D). (AP)

Toy maker expands inclusivity among its dolls

Mattel introduces its first Barbie with Type 1 diabetes

NEW YORK, July 10, (AP): Mattel has introduced its first Barbie representing a person with Type 1 diabetes, as part of wider efforts from the toy maker to increase inclusivity among its dolls.

In an announcement Tuesday, Mattel said it had partnered with Breakthrough T1D - a Type 1 diabetes research and advocacy organization formerly known as Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, or JDRF - to ensure that the design of the doll “truly captures the community.” That includes accessories that “accurately reflect the medical equipment” people with Type 1 diabetes may need, the California-based company noted.

“Visibility matters for everyone facing Type 1 diabetes,” Emily Mazreku, director of marketing strategy at Breakthrough T1D, said in an accompanying announcement. And as a mother who lives with Type 1 diabetes, she added, “it means everything to have Barbie helping the world see T1D and the incredible people who live with it.”

The new Barbie wears continuous glucose monitor (CGM), a device that tracks blood sugar levels, on her arm - while holding a phone displaying an accompanying app. She also has an insulin pump attached to her waist. And the doll carries a blue purse that can be used to carry other essential supplies or snacks on the go.

The Barbie’s outfit is blue, too - with polka dots on a matching top and skirt set. Mattel says that this color and design are nods to symbols for diabetes awareness.

This new doll “enables more children to see themselves reflected in Barbie,” Mattel wrote Tuesday, and is part of the company’s wider Fashionistas line committed to inclusivity. The line features Barbies with various skin tones, hair colors and textures, disabilities, body types and more. Previously-introduced

Fashionistas include a Ken doll with a prosthetic leg and a Barbie with hearing aids. Mattel also introduced its first doll with Down syndrome in 2023.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 38.4 million Americans of all ages - amounting to about 11.6% of the US population - were estimated to have diabetes as of 2021, the latest year with data available. About 2 million had Type 1 diabetes, including about 304,000 children and teens younger than 20.

Barbie’s new doll with Type 1 diabetes was also introduced at Breakthrough T1D’s 2025 Children’s Congress held in Washington, D.C. this week, where the organization is advocating for continued federal research funding. This year, Breakthrough T1D has been particularly focused on the Special Diabetes Program, which is currently set to expire in September.

Fashion



Models wear creations as part of the Viktor & Rolf Fall-Winter 2025/26 Haute Couture collection presented Wednesday, July 9, in Paris. (AP)

Franck Sorbier fuses Andean splendor with Parisian pageantry

Elie Saab revives royal glamour in fall couture

PARIS, July 10, (AP): Elie Saab, the Lebanese designer long favored on the red carpet, returned to familiar territory on Wednesday, with fall haute couture - and did so unapologetically.

In Paris, fashion insiders gathered among marble columns as models descended a gilded stone staircase to the strains of harpsichord music, setting the tone for a collection steeped in historical romance.

Saab leaned into his signature codes: sumptuous velvets, gowns gathered at the back, and pearl and jewel-adorned chokers. Floral appliqués - another hallmark - blossomed, anchoring the collection in the femininity that has defined the house for decades.

This was a particularly thoughtful collection, evoking Romantic silhouettes from the turn of the 19th century in Europe. The soft draping and historical references gave the show a sense of emotional depth beyond its surface opulence.

Macaron hues - nude, rose pink, water blue, and mint - punctuated by imperial black and gold, set off bold blooms across brocade and print, infusing the collection with romantic vibrancy. Among the standout pieces were gowns with cascading trains and bejeweled details, encasing the body in a kind of luxurious cage. Among the standout pieces were gowns with cascading trains and bejeweled details, encasing the body in a kind of luxurious cage.

Elie Saab said the collection - dubbed “The New Court” -

was “a sumptuous playground for the modern queen - one who plays by her own rules.”

Though luxury and opulence may be Saab’s well-trodden path, he showed that consistency remains its own form of artistry.

Saab’s couture is less about surprise and more about control - control of silhouette, embellishment, and fantasy. Where other houses have veered into avant-garde or gender-fluid territory this season, Saab stayed rooted in his vision of archetypal femininity, shaped by heritage and craftsmanship.

If the show felt familiar at times, it was also undeniably polished - a standout collection that reminded audiences why Saab’s world of embellished escapism continues to resonate.

It’s a formula that keeps Hollywood coming back. Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow, Sarah Jessica Parker, Marion Cotillard, Penélope Cruz, Charlize Theron, Emmanuelle Béart, Sophie Marceau, Beyoncé, Maggie Cheung and Diane Kruger have all stepped onto the world’s biggest stages in Saab’s gowns - a testament to a house where fantasy and glamour are always in season.

Franck Sorbier

Franck Sorbier, the Paris couturier officially inducted into the haute couture fold in 2005, delivered a regal, Inca-inspired spectacle on Wednesday that fused theater and artistry with the cosmopolitan codes of couture.

The show’s standout image was a model crowned in gold, wielding a giant sun-topped staff-a visual exclamation point for a collection steeped in pageantry and myth.

Sorbier’s silhouettes had a historic weight, with loose, voluminous skirts swirling beneath strict, structured bodices, conjuring a sense of ceremony. Gilded chainmail and coin-like embellishments suggested a protective armor, but rendered in delicate, sleeveless forms.

A poncho, fringed in sumptuous gold, mixed Andean spirit with Parisian panache-while elsewhere, lush, unfurling coats were embroidered with organic, figurative motifs that seemed to grow across the fabric. Detail shone throughout: dense ruffles poking from the bottom of old-world shirts, rich shawls cascading with embellishment, and surfaces that rewarded a second, closer look.

Sorbier’s backdrop was equally arresting - a landscape of bubbling, volcanic fabric, amorphous and vividly alive, underscoring his ability to transform couture into a living tableau.

Known for merging cultural narratives with technical virtuosity, Sorbier proved once more that Paris couture can look backward and outward, drawing inspiration from global myth while staying rigorously hand-crafted.

Through this cross-cultural lens, Sorbier’s latest collection stood as a bold reminder that couture, at its best, is both spectacle and narrative.

Star rising

Burna rocks global stage

NEW YORK, July 10, (AP): While classmates dreamed of becoming teachers, doctors and professional athletes, **Burna Boy** was clear on his future aspirations.

“They would hand out the papers and the question would be, ‘What you wanna be?’ ... I’d write ‘rock star,’” said the Afrobeats giant. “One of my teachers asked me, ‘What do rock stars do?’ I didn’t really know what to say.”

These days, the Grammy winner’s music talks for him. Fresh off becoming the first African artist to sell out Paris’ iconic Stade de France in April, Burna Boy has been on an incredible run, and hopes it continues with his new album out Friday.

“No Sign of Weakness”

is really like a celebration of the fact that that I’m still here throughout all these years and all the trials and tribulations,” explained the Nigerian artist. “I decided to intentionally make sure everyone on this project could comfortably and genuinely say they’re a rock star.”

Following 2023’s Grammy-nominated “I Told Them...” this project includes blockbuster features, like legendary Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger, country hitmaker Shaboozey and hip-hop heavyweight Travis Scott.

Writing on all 16 tracks, Burna relied on his standard successful creation process: record constantly, choose some songs from his vault that fit his decided theme, and then craft the project around them. He’s already dropped “Bundle by Bundle,” “Update,” which features an interpolation of Soul II Soul’s classic “Back To Life,” “Sweet Love” and “TaTaTa” featuring Scott.



Burna

Revenue

Music from Africa has exploded globally in recent years. Regions in Africa and the Middle East reached double-digit gains in music revenue last year, according to the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry. In 2023, the group reported that sub-Saharan Africa was the fastest-growing music industry, with artists like Burna, Davido and Wizkid leading the way, along with Tyla, who’s spread South Africa’s Amapiano sound.

“I feel blessed. I also feel great responsibility ... I’m blamed for everything, most especially, things I couldn’t possibly be responsible for,” said Burna, alluding to demands in Nigeria. “I don’t vote, and I’ve never done it. But now, it’s to the point where even that: if I don’t vote, because I don’t say I’ll vote for this person or vote for that person, it’s a problem.”

But that weight of responsibility isn’t felt on his eighth studio album. “Dem Dey,” a tongue-in-cheek bop referencing his gossipy social media scandal with a Nigerian influencer which amused fans, is sure to crowd dance floors, while he and Jagger formed a dynamic duo on the Afrobeat-rock hybrid “Empty Chairs.”

“That’s how I see the future of our music ... music that’s supposed to last, music that you can perform forever,” said Burna, who collaborated with the 81-year-old by trading ideas through WhatsApp after being connected by supermodel Naomi Campbell. “That’s where I want to be when I’m that age.”

For his country-infused “Change Your Mind” with Shaboozey, the pair plead for second chances after souring relationships.

“Here’s an Igbo boy from the eastern part of Nigeria who comes to America as a young guy,” said Burna of the “A Bar Song (Tipsy)” singer. “He’s flourishing in the country world. If I’m not proud of that, then I don’t think I can be proud of anything in life.”

The Afrobeats superstar, currently featured on the soundtrack for the blockbuster “F1” movie starring Brad Pitt and Damson Idris, hopes the genre continues to thrive and not become a fad. But while the female artists are united, the top men have experienced friction in the past.



An auction officer carries the original Birkin bag created by Hermès for Jane Birkin in 1984, July 10, in Paris. (AP)



Jane Birkin at ‘Jane By Charlotte’ photo call, at the 74th international film festival, Cannes, July 8, 2021. (AP)



An auction officer displays the original Birkin bag. (AP)



An auction officer points to Jane Birkin’s initials on the original Birkin bag. (AP)

Luxury handbag shatters previous Sotheby’s record

Jane Birkin’s original Hermès bag sells at auction for 7 mln euros

PARIS, July 10, (AP): The unique and original Birkin bag that fashion house Hermès made for actor and singer Jane Birkin sold for 7 million euros (about \$8.2 million) at auction in Paris on Thursday.

The huge amount blew past what auctioneer Sotheby’s had said was the previous record for a handbag.

Sketched out on an air sickness bag, it became fashion’s must-have accessory.

The original Birkin bag, named after the actor, singer and fashion icon that Hermès created it for - the late Jane Birkin - is up for auction in Paris on Thursday.

The so-called Original Birkin is expected to fetch hundreds of thousands of euros (dollars) at the sale by Sotheby’s.

The Paris fashion house exclusively commissioned the bag for the London-born star in 1984 - branding it with her initials J.B on the front flap, below the lock - and delivered the finished one-of-a-kind bag to her the following year, the auction house said. The subsequent commercialized version of Birkin’s bag went on to become one of the world’s most exclusive luxury items, extravagantly priced and with a years-long waiting list.

The bag was born of a fortuitous encounter on a London-bound flight in the 1980s with the then head of Hermès, Jean-Louis Dumas. Birkin recounted in subsequent interviews that the pair got talking after she spilled some of her things on the cabin floor.

Birkin asked Dumas why Hermès didn’t make a bigger handbag and sketched out on an airplane vomit bag the sort of hold-all that she would like. He then had an example made for her and, flat-

tered, she agreed when Hermès asked whether it could commercialize the bag in her name.

“There is no doubt that the Original Birkin bag is a true one-of-a-kind - a singular piece of fashion history that has grown into a pop culture phenomenon that signals luxury in the most refined way possible. It is incredible to think that a bag initially designed by Hermès as a practical accessory for Jane Birkin has become the most desirable bag in history,” said Sotheby’s head of handbags and fashion, Morgane Halimi.

Campaign aims to educate public on climate change’s impact on health

MoH launches campaign to promote health amid climate change

KUWAIT CITY, July 10, (KUNA): Kuwait Ministry of Health launched on Thursday a summer awareness campaign titled “Enhance Your Health with Climate Change” under the patronage of Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi and in collaboration with The Promenade Mall.

The campaign aims to educate the public about the health impacts of climate change and promote environmental preservation and public health.

Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Dr. Al-Munther Al-Hasawi emphasized that climate change is now a lived reality, with rising global temperatures.

A national committee, including representatives from various state



Some of the attendees along with Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Public Health, Dr. Munther Al-Hasawi during the launch of ‘Enhance Your Health with Climate Change’ campaign.

bodies, is working on policies to adapt to climate change and reduce its health effects, he added.

Director of the Health Promotion Department Dr. Abeer Al-Baho explained that the campaign focuses on raising awareness about heat-related illnesses, air pollution, and their impact on health.

It encourages healthy behaviors and highlights the link between environmental and human health through workshops, lectures, and interactive activities, Al-Baho said.

The initiative also addresses broader health threats such as infectious and chronic diseases, and promotes eco-friendly practices and partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations to unify efforts against climate-related health issues.

Representing Abdullah Al-Othman Endowment Adnan Al-Othman, which collaborated in the campaign through Promenade, stressed the importance of such initiatives in educating the public, especially youth and parents, about the strong connection between climate and health.

He added that tackling climate change requires not just technical or environmental solutions, but also a strong focus on public education and engagement, particularly targeting youth to encourage sustainable practices and mitigate long-term health and developmental risks.



Dr. Claudette Yaméogo, Burkina Faso’s only ophthalmologist specializing in treating children, checks Isaka Diallo who has lost vision in his left eye at the Sanou Sourou University Hospital in the city of Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, Thursday, June 5, 2025. (AP)

Children risk vision loss

Child eye doctor sees the trauma of play and conflict

BOBO-DIOULASSO, Burkina Faso, July 10, (AP): Isaka Diallo was playing with friends when a stone struck his left eye. For two weeks, his parents searched hospitals in western Burkina Faso for an eye doctor. The village clinic only prescribed painkillers. Other health workers did not know what to do.

When they eventually found Dr. Claudette Yaméogo, Burkina Faso’s only pediatric ophthalmologist, the injury had become too difficult to treat.

“The trauma has become severe,” Yaméogo said of Diallo’s condition as she attended to him recently at the Sanou Sourou University Hospital in the city of Bobo-Dioulasso. “Cases like (Diallo’s) must be treated within the first six hours, but I’m seeing him two weeks later, and it’s already too late.”

It is a common problem in the country of about 23 million people, which has just 70 ophthalmologists.

Yaméogo, who started her practice late last year, said the work is daunting and often requires her to visit - at no cost - families who cannot afford care or cannot make their way to the hospital where she works.

While there is limited data available on eye defects in children in Burkina Faso or in Africa at large, an estimated 450 million children globally have a sight problem that needs treatment, according to the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness.

Late intervention can significantly alter a child’s future, the organization said, with many such cases in less developed countries.

In Burkina Faso, an estimated 70% of the population lives in rural areas. And yet ophthalmologists are concentrated in the capital, Ouagadougou, and other main cities, making them unreachable for many.

While more than 2,000 ophthalmology procedures were performed in Burkina Faso’s western Hauts-Bassins region in 2024, only 52 of those were carried out in its more rural areas, according to the Ministry of Health. Most procedures were done in the area of Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso’s second city.

Not many people are aware of Yaméogo’s work. Even when they are, traveling to reach her often requires days of planning and financial saving.

In a further challenge to accessing care, Diallo’s family is among the 2 million people displaced by violence as extremist groups seize parts of the country.

To visit Yaméogo’s hospital from the village where they are sheltering, they had to travel about 40 kilometers (21 miles) on a motorcycle to Bobo-Dioulasso, spending 7,500 francs (\$13) on transport, a high price for a small-scale farming family.

At least 70% of the trauma cases in children treated at the hospital come from rural areas where the risk of exposure - from conflict or from play - is higher, Yaméogo said.

Examining and treating a child is a delicate practice that requires a lot of time, something many families can’t afford. Many must return home to earn money for the treatment.

1,288 cases

US sees worst measles spike

NEW YORK, July 10, (AP): The US is having its worst year for measles spread in more than three decades, and the year is only half over.

The national case count reached 1,288 on Wednesday, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, though public health experts say the true figure may be higher.

The CDC’s count is 14 more than 2019, when America almost lost its status of having eliminated the vaccine-preventable illness - something that could happen this year if the virus spreads without stopping for 12 months. But the U.S. is far from 1991, when there were 9,643 confirmed cases.

In a short statement, the federal government said that the CDC “continues to recommend (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccines as the best way to protect against measles.” It also said it is “supporting community efforts” to tamp down ongoing outbreaks as requested.

Fourteen states have active outbreaks; four other states’ outbreaks have ended. The largest outbreak started five months ago in undervaccinated communities in West Texas. Three people have died - two children in Texas and an adult in New Mexico - and dozens of people have been hospitalized across the US.

But there are signs that transmission is slowing, especially in Texas. Lubbock County’s hospitals treated most of the sick - and the county hasn’t seen a new case in 50 days, public health director Katherine Wells said.

“What concerned me early on in this outbreak was it spreading to other parts of the United States, and that’s definitely what’s happening now,” she said.

In 2000, the World Health Organization and CDC said measles had been eliminated from the U.S. The closer a disease gets to eradication, the harder it can seem to stamp it out, said Dr. Jonathan Temte, a family physician in Wisconsin who helped certify that distinction 25 years ago.

It’s hard to see measles cases break records despite the widespread availability of a vaccine, he added. The measles, mumps and rubella vaccine is safe and is 97% effective at preventing measles after two doses.

‘Heat waves are silent killers’

Burning of fossil fuels caused 1,500 deaths in Europe heat wave: study

WASHINGTON, July 10, (AP): Human-caused climate change is responsible for killing about 1,500 people in last week’s European heat wave, a first-of-its-kind rapid study found.

Those 1,500 people “have only died because of climate change, so they would not have died if it would not have been for our burning of oil, coal and gas in the last century,” said study co-author Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at Imperial College in London.

Scientists at Imperial and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine used peer-reviewed techniques to calculate that about 2,300 people in 12 cities likely died from the heat in last week’s bout of high temperatures, with nearly two-thirds of them dying because of the extra degrees that climate change added to the natural summer warmth.

Past rapid attribution studies have not gone beyond evaluating climate change’s role in meteorological effects such as extra heat, flooding or drought. This study goes a step further in directly connecting coal, oil and natural gas use to people dying.

“Heat waves are silent killers and their health impact is very hard to measure,” said co-author Gary Konstantinoudis, a biostatistician at Imperial College. “People do not understand the actual mortality toll of heat waves and this is because (doctors, hospitals and governments) do not report heat as an underlying cause of death” and instead attribute it to heart or lung or other organ problems.



People walk at Trocadero plaza near the Eiffel Tower during a heat wave on July 2, in Paris. (AP)

Of the 1,500 deaths attributed to climate change, the study found more than 1,100 were people 75 or older.

“It’s summer, so it’s sometimes hot,” study lead author Ben Clarke of Imperial College said in a Tuesday news conference. “The influence of climate change has pushed it up by several degrees and what that does is it brings certain groups of people more into dangerous territory and that’s what’s important. That’s what we really want to highlight here. For some people it’s still warm fine weather but for now a huge sector of the population it’s more dangerous.”

Researchers looked at June 23 to July 2 in London; Paris; Frankfurt, Germany; Budapest, Hungary; Zagreb, Croatia; Athens, Greece; Barcelona, Spain; Madrid; Lisbon, Portugal; Rome; Milan and Sassari, Italy. They found that except in Lisbon, the extra warmth from greenhouse gases added 2 to 4 degrees Celsius (3.6 to 7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) to what would have been a more natural heat wave. London got the most at nearly 4 degrees (7.2 degrees Fahrenheit). Climate change only added about a degree to Lisbon’s peak temperature, the study calculated, mostly because of the Atlantic Ocean’s moderating effect, Otto said.

Classes transform sadness into joy

Brazil’s favelas embrace free yoga course

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 10, (AP): Dozens of Brazilian yoga aficionados saluted the sun in unison in a Rio de Janeiro favela for the inaugural class of a free course allowing residents of the low-income community to qualify as yoga teachers.

Krishna Das, a renowned American vocalist born Jeffrey Kagel and known for his performances of Hindu devotional music known as kirtan, led a spiritual practice and attendees prayed, sang, clapped and even danced.

“I felt like I was in another world,” Luciene Costa Gonzaga de Andrade said at the event Wednesday. “The mantras transcend the souls and transform sadness into joy. It was magical.”

Hairdresser Costa Gonzaga de Andrade, 54, is one of 20 people from Rocinha, Brazil’s most populous favela, or low-income neighborhood, who have signed up for the free training program offered by the Yoganaya International School

and the company Mude.

She started practicing yoga to alleviate pain in her lower back. She used a cane for three years, but the ancient practice allowed her to regain mobility. Standing on her feet all day is a struggle and she was delighted to learn how to teach yoga.

“It’s a course that would be very expensive for people who, like me, have a low income,” she said. “Who knows, maybe in the future I’ll quit the salon and just teach classes.”

The 14-month project aims to train around 180 new teachers from favelas in Rio and Sao Paulo, who will then carry out paid internships in their communities. Participants receive uniforms, yoga mats, speakers and microphones, as well as stipends and support when entering the job market.

Yoganaya International School founder Renata Mozzini said she created the project specifically for favela residents to pierce the “bubble of elitism.”

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: 69994428 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For
your
ads on
this page

Call: 69994428

E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

مركز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE

الفحاحيل FAHAHEEL

Dr. Sabitha Venkitesh
MBBS, DNB
(Ophthal)

Dr. Vivek P.S
MBBS, DO, DNB
(Ophthal)

Dr. Reshma Ravindra
MBBS, MS
(Ophthal)

Special package for family available for eye check up

HOTLINE: 65 95 95 34

- Comprehensive Eye screening
- Paediatric visual assessment
- Glaucoma screening
- Diabetic Retinopathy Screening
- Foreign Body removal

Mecca Street, Near Roundabout, Life Tower
Fahaheel.
Tel: +965 2391 9020
www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

Human Rights win doesn't lift 800m competition ban

'Olympic champion Semenya did not get fair hearing in Switzerland'

STRASBOURG, France, July 10, (AP): Two-time Olympic champion runner Caster Semenya won a partial victory at the European Court of Human Rights on Thursday in her seven-year legal fight against track and field's sex eligibility rules.

The court's 17-judge highest chamber said in a 15-2 vote that Semenya had some of her rights to a fair hearing violated at Switzerland's Supreme Court, where she had appealed against a ruling by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in favor of track and field's World Athletics.

Her case should now go back to the Swiss federal court in Lausanne.

Europe's top human rights court in Strasbourg, France, dismissed other aspects of the appeal filed by Semenya, who was in court to hear the judgment read. It awarded her 80,000 euros (\$94,000) "in respect of costs and expenses."

The European court's ruling does not overturn the World Athletics rules that effectively ended

Semenya's career running the 800 meters after she won two Olympic and three world titles.

The key legal point in Semenya's win was that the Swiss Federal Court had not carried out a "rigorous judicial review" that was required because Semenya had no choice but to pursue her case through the CAS's "mandatory and exclusive jurisdiction," the Strasbourg judges ruled.

Governing bodies of Olympic sports oblige athletes and national federations to take their disputes to the sports court in the IOC's home city, Lausanne.

"The court considered, however, that the Federal Supreme Court's review had fallen short of that requirement," it said in a statement.

In dismissing other elements of the South African runner's case, the court judged she "did not fall within Switzerland's jurisdiction in respect of those complaints."

The original case between Semenya and the track's governing body was about whether athletes

like her, who have specific medical conditions, a typical male chromosome pattern, and naturally high testosterone levels, should be allowed to compete freely in women's sports.

World Athletics, led by its president Sebastian Coe, has stated that its rules maintain fairness because Semenya has an unfair, male-like athletic advantage due to her higher testosterone levels. Semenya argues that her testosterone is a genetic gift.

Thursday followed a legal victory from the same court two years ago for Semenya.

The judgment, which stated that she had faced discrimination, opened a way for the Swiss Supreme Court to reconsider its decision to dismiss her appeal against the CAS verdict in favor of World Athletics.

At CAS in 2019, three judges ruled 2-1 that discrimination against Semenya was "necessary, reasonable and proportionate" to maintain fairness in women's track events.



South Africa's Caster Semenya leaves the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, eastern France. (AP)

Fever blown out by Valkyries in Clark disappointing return



Golden State Valkyries' Veronica Burton (22) is defended by Indiana Fever's Kelsey Mitchell (0) during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

Sun ends 10-game losing streak

INDIANAPOLIS, July 10, (AP): Veronica Burton had 21 points, eight rebounds and six assists, Kayla Thornton added 18 points and eight boards, and the Golden State Valkyries beat the Indiana Fever 80-61 to spoil Caitlin Clark's return.

The Valkyries held Clark to just 10 points on 4-of-12 shooting as the Fever scored their second-fewest points of the season.

Clark returned after missing the past five games with a left groin injury. The All-Star captain participated in practice Monday - the first time she'd done that since getting hurt on June 26.

Golden State led 41-32 at halftime and Kate Martin scored five consecutive points in the third for a 15-point lead.

After Indiana went on a 10-1 run to get within 55-50, Burton ended Golden State's drought with a 3-pointer. Burton also capped Golden State's 9-0 run on another 3-pointer with 26 seconds left in the third for a 64-50 lead.

Burton's fifth 3-pointer, setting a career high, came with 6:32 remaining for a 70-53 lead and Thornton's wide-open 3 about a minute later made it a 20-point lead. Golden State (10-9) went 12 of 32 from 3-point range, compared to 6 of 27 for Indiana.

Sun 93, Storm 83

In Uncasville, Tina Charles set season highs with 29 points and 11 rebounds to help the Connecticut Sun end a 10-game losing streak with victory over the Seattle Storm.

Connecticut (3-16) won its first game since June 6.

Charles made a baseline jumper



Phoenix Mercury forward Kathryn Westbeld, center, tries to drive to the basket against Minnesota Lynx guard Kayla McBride (21) as Lynx forward Bridget Carleton, left, looks on during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Phoenix. (AP)

with 5:36 left in the fourth quarter to give Connecticut its first lead of the game at 79-77. Charles also made two layups in eight seconds - following a steal by Saniya Rivers - for a 91-81 lead.

The Sun pulled away by scoring 11 straight points late in the fourth.

Charles finished 11 of 22 from the field for her sixth 20-point game of the season. Jaci Sheldon added 16 points and Bria Hartley had 15. Rivers scored all 11 of her points in the opening five minutes of the third.

Skylar Diggins led Seattle (13-7) with 23 points and seven assists. Gabby Williams added 21 points and Nneka Ogumike had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Mercury 79, Lynx 71

In Phoenix, Alyssa Thomas scored 12 of her career-high 29 points in the fourth quarter and the Phoenix Mercury closed on a 19-4 run to beat the

Minnesota Lynx.

Thomas, who was coming off her 16th career triple-double on Monday, was 14 of 24 from the field to top her previous high of 28 points. She also had eight rebounds and five assists.

Phoenix tied it at 69 and 71 before Thomas scored on back-to-back possessions to take a 75-71 lead. She scored 10 points during the Mercury's game-closing run.

DeWanna Bonner, Thomas' fiancée and former Connecticut Sun teammate, signed with Phoenix as a free agent on Tuesday and played her first game since June 10. Bonner, who spent the first 10 years of her career with the Mercury and helped them win titles in 2009 and 2014, finished with seven points and six rebounds in 26 minutes.

Monique Akoa Makani added 13 points and Sami Whitcomb, coming off a career-high 36 points, scored

10 for Phoenix (14-6).

Sky 87, Wings 76

In Chicago, Rebecca Allen scored a season-high 27 points including five 3-pointers and had three blocks to help the Chicago Sky beat the short-handed Dallas Wings.

Angel Reese finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds - her 13th double-double this season - and Rachel Banham had 11 points for Chicago (6-13).

Li Yueru had 18 points and 10 rebounds for Dallas (6-15). Rookie All-Star Paige Bueckers added 17 points on 5-of-20 shooting and JJ Quinerly scored 16.

The 6-foot-7 Li, who went into the game 4-of-8 shooting from 3-point range this season, hit 4 of 7 from behind the arc.

Allen hit two 3-pointers and a long jumper to cap a 13-2 run that gave Chicago the lead for good and made it 67-57 with 2:20 left in the third quarter.

Quinerly made a free throw to make it a six-point game with 3:37 remaining, but Reese made a layup, grabbed a rebound on the other end and then converted a three-point play to make it 87-76. The Sky, who beat Dallas 97-92 on May 29 and 94-83 on May 31, swept the three-game regular-season series.

Dijonai Carrington (rib), Arike Ogunbowale (thumb), Maddy Siegrist (knee) and Tyasha Harris (knee) did not play for the Wings.

The Sky retired Allie Quigley's number at halftime. Quigley grew up in nearby Joliet, Illinois, played collegiately at DePaul and spent 10 seasons with Chicago, helping the organization to its first WNBA title in 2021. The three-time WNBA All-Star's No. 14 is the first jersey retired by the Sky.

The Sky play host to Minnesota on Saturday. The Wings play the last of three consecutive road games Sunday at Indiana.

Suns sign Booker to 2-year, \$145 million max extension

PHOENIX, July 10, (AP): The Phoenix Suns have signed star guard Devin Booker to a two-year, \$145 million maximum contract extension through the 2029-30 season, two people with direct knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

The people spoke Wednesday on condition of anonymity because the deal has not been announced.

The 28-year-old Booker has been one of the NBA's best shooting guards, earning four All-Star appearances in 10 NBA seasons. The two-time all-NBA player has averaged 24.4 points since Phoenix took him out of Kentucky with the 13th overall pick in the 2015 draft.

Booker averaged 25.6 points, 7.1 assists and 4.1 rebounds while shooting 46% from the floor during a disappointing 2024-25 season for the Suns.

Phoenix failed to make the playoffs despite a roster that included Booker, Kevin Durant and Bradley Beal. The Suns fired coach Mike Budenholzer after one season with the high-priced roster, replacing him with Cleveland Cavaliers assistant Jordan Ott. Phoenix also fired general manager James



In this file photo, Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker against the Oklahoma City Thunder during the first half of an NBA basketball

Jones and promoted Brian Gregory.

The new leadership group quickly started reshaping the roster, sending Durant to Houston in a blockbuster seven-team deal that brought Jalen Green and Dillon Brooks to the desert. The Suns also could move Beal this offseason, leaving Booker as the anchor to the franchise.

Harimoto holds off Aruna

China's Lin advances on three fronts

WASHINGTON, July 10, (Xinhua): Chinese paddler Lin Shidong overcame the demands of playing three matches in one day to advance in the men's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles at the World Table Tennis (WTT) United States Smash.

Lin had little difficulty in defeating Feng Yi-hsin of Chinese Taipei 11-8, 11-4, 11-8. The world No. 1 was joined in the last 16 by teammate Xiang Peng, who beat Indian qualifier Sathiyam Gnanasekaran in four games.

Third seed Tomokazu Harimoto of Japan was pushed to the limit in a five-game battle but prevailed over Nigerian ace Quadri Aruna, winning 11-1, 8-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-5. However, Sweden's fifth seed Truls Moregard was eliminated after a full-distance loss to Japan's Yuta Tanaka.

In doubles action, Lin teamed up with Huang Youzheng to reach the men's quarterfinals by defeating American brothers Sid and Nandan Naresh in straight games. They will next face fellow Chinese duo Wang

Chugin and Liang Jingkun.

Lin also partnered with Kuai Man in mixed doubles, cruising into the semifinals with a 3-0 win over Brazil's Guilherme Teodoro and Giulia Takahashi.

In women's singles, China's Wang Manyu and Wang Yidi delivered solid performances. Second seed Wang Manyu overcame South Korea's Lee Eun-hye 11-4, 11-9, 11-9, while fourth seed Wang Yidi dispatched Portuguese veteran Fu Yu 11-8, 11-4, 8-11, 11-6.

"I kept patient and was focused on my own game when facing crucial points," said Wang Manyu.

Wildcard Xu Yi was unable to join them in the last 16, falling to German veteran Han Ying 9-11, 7-11, 9-11.

Elsewhere, Japan's Mima Ito and Satsuki Odo, along with South Korea's Shin Yu-bin, all advanced with straight-game victories.

Also, Chinese women's pairs Sun Yingsha and Wang Manyu, and Wang Yidi and Kuai Man, progressed to the quarterfinals in doubles.

Best of the Rest

Two players plead guilty to fixing: Two professional players admitted in court Thursday to engaging in betting corruption after they were paid by criminals to earn yellow cards during games in Australian soccer's A-League.

Former Macarthur Bulls captain Ulises Davila and midfielders Kearyn Baccus and Clayton Lewis were charged in May 2024 with manipulating yellow cards during games in 2023 and 2024.

Davila, 33, allegedly acted as the contact between the southwest Sydney club's players and a criminal group in Colombia, organizing for the yellow cards to occur during particular games.

Baccus, 33, and Lewis, 27, were allegedly paid up to 10,000 Australian dollars (\$6,550) by Davila to deliberately try to receive the referee-issued cautions for foul play. (AP)

Roma eyes move for Wesley: Roma is close to signing Brazil international right-back Wesley from Flamengo, according to widespread media reports.

The 21-year-old has agreed in principle to a five-year contract and is awaiting agreement between the clubs on a transfer fee, Globo Esporte reported on Wednesday.

It added that Roma is willing to pay around 25 million euros (29 million U.S. dollars) for the defender, whose Flamengo contract runs until December 2028.

Wesley has been a target of new Roma manager Gian Piero Gasperini since last year, when he tried to sign him while still in charge of Atalanta.

Roma, which does not currently have any Brazilians in its squad, finished fifth in the Italian Serie A last season, 13 points behind champions Napoli. (Xinhua)

Former Jazz coach Layden dies: Frank Layden, the sharp-witted former coach who led the Utah Jazz to the playoffs for the first time, has died. He was 93.

"Frank Layden made a lasting impact on the Jazz, the state of Utah, and the NBA," the Jazz said in a statement Wednesday. "There will never be another like him. Our thoughts go out to his family as we join in mourning his loss and celebrating his life."

Known for his humor and sideline antics, Layden coached the Jazz from 1981-89 and had 277 wins, third-most in franchise history. He's the only coach in Jazz history to be named NBA coach of the year, earning the honor in 1984, when he also was honored as executive of the year. (AP)

England midfielder Henderson leaves Ajax after asking to end contract

AMSTERDAM, July 10, (AP): England midfielder Jordan Henderson has left Ajax after the club agreed to end his contract early following a year and a half in the Netherlands.

Henderson had a year to run on his Ajax deal but the club said it "cooperated with the player's request to terminate the current employment contract."

Henderson thanked the club and the people of

Amsterdam but didn't specify why he'd asked to leave or what he plans to do next. He indicated that the death last week in a car accident of his former Liverpool teammate Diogo Jota had influenced how he communicated the decision.

"Due to the tragic events of last week, and the devastating loss of my former teammate Diogo Jota and his brother André Silva, it doesn't feel right at this moment to say

or do more than share this brief statement," Henderson said in a club statement.

"However, I am fully aware that I owe this club, my teammates, and the supporters a fuller and more personal thank you. I will, of course, do that when the time feels more appropriate."

Henderson joined Ajax in Jan. 2024 after an unsuccessful six-month stint in Saudi Arabia with Al-Ettifaq.

faq, following 12 years at Liverpool, where he won the Premier League and Champions League. The 35-year-old midfielder captained Ajax as it fell short of winning the Dutch league title this season after a late collapse saw the team overtaken by rival PSV Eindhoven.

Henderson has played 84 times for England and returned to the national team squad this year under new coach Thomas Tuchel.

Record 206 countries participating in World Championships: Al-Musallam

SINGAPORE, July 10: President of the International Aquatics Federation (FINA), Husain Al-Musallam, emphasized the vital role swimming plays in society and development, as the 22nd World Aquatics Championships prepare to launch in Singapore.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the event, Al-Musallam noted that this marks the first time the World Championships are being held in Southeast Asia. A record-breaking 206 countries are participating, represented by 2,500 elite athletes.

"In addition, we have 7,700 athletes competing in the Masters Aquatics Championships, bringing the total number of participating athletes to 10,200," he said.

He extended his gratitude to the government of Singapore and the organizing committee for their swift and dedicated work in hosting the event after its relocation from Russia.

"We're excited to witness the world's best athletes in action over the next three weeks," Al-Musallam added. "Our sincere thanks go to the volunteers and sponsors whose support makes this possible."

Reflecting on recent competitions, Al-Musallam praised the commitment of coaches, national federations, referees,



President of the International Aquatics Federation (FINA), Husain Al-Musallam.

and athletes. "Their hard work was evident at the Tokyo 2021 Olympics, followed by the FINA World Championships in Budapest (2022), Fukuoka (2023), and two major championships in 2024 – in Doha earlier this year and the Paris Olympic Games."

Kuwait U-18 handball team eyes strong showing at worlds in Cairo

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/ArabTimes Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Kuwait junior handball team is set to hold an overseas training camp in Croatia and Slovenia at the end of July, in preparation for the World Junior Championships, scheduled to take place in Cairo from August 6 to 17. The tournament will feature 32 teams divided into eight groups, with Kuwait competing in Group A alongside Sweden, Austria, and Portugal.

The team, composed of players born in 2006, continues its rigorous daily training at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex under the guidance of Danish head coach Heine and national assistant coach Saud Mufreh. Training is held in both morning and evening sessions, focusing on improving physical fitness and endurance before transitioning to tactical preparations during the European camp.

Faisal Saywan, Director of National Teams at the Handball Association, affirmed that the team's preparation plan is progressing well. He emphasized that the squad includes some of the most promising talents from the youth ranks, stating:



Faisal Saywan

"We have a strong group of young players capable of rising to the occasion on the international stage. We fully trust their ability to represent Kuwaiti handball with pride and honor."

Kuwait bounces back against Oman in U-16 Championship

Saudi Arabia decisive match looms

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/ArabTimes Staff

MANAMA, July 10: Kuwait bounced back by defeating Oman 64-55 in the third round of the Gulf Under-16 Championship held in Bahrain. The tournament, which concludes tomorrow, also serves as a qualifier for the Asian Cup Finals in Mongolia.

In another match during the same round, Bahrain maintained its strong form with a third straight win, beating Saudi Arabia 82-62.

Bahrain currently leads the standings with 6 points, followed by the



A Kuwaiti shoots the ball as Omani defends during the Gulf Under-16 Championship match in Bahrain.

Blues with 5 points, Saudi Arabia with 3 points, and both the UAE and Oman with 2 points each.

The Blues will not play in today's fourth round, where Saudi Arabia faces Oman and Bahrain takes on the UAE. Having already secured qualification for the Asian Cup Finals, Bahrain is expected to clinch the tournament title with a likely victory over the UAE.

Tomorrow's decisive match between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will determine which team finishes second and joins Bahrain in advancing to the Asian Cup.

Kuwait started the tournament strongly, winning 63-44 against the UAE, but suffered a heavy 93-52 loss to Bahrain. After resting for two days, the team is focused and ready to face Saudi Arabia in tomorrow's crucial game, aiming to secure a spot in the Asian finals.

Kuwait U-23 volleyball team 'sweeps' Tunisia in friendly



TUNIS, July 10: Kuwait U-23 volleyball team opened its training camp in Tunisia with a commanding 3-0 victory over Tunisia in its first friendly match, as part of preparations for the upcoming West Asia Championship, set to take place in Bahrain from July 17 to 27.

The team, will continue its 10-day training camp in Tunisia before traveling to the Bahraini capital, Manama, for the regional tournament.

Led by Argentine head coach Julián Álvarez and assistant coach Zaid Al-Kazemi, Kuwait delivered a dominant performance, winning in straight sets with scores of 25-22, 25-17, and 25-18.

According to the official tournament draw, Kuwait is placed in Group B alongside Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman. Group A includes host nation Bahrain, Jordan, the UAE, and Lebanon.

France closes in on Euro 2025 quarterfinals

England thrashes Dutch to revive title defense



England's Keira Walsh, right, vies for the ball with England's Aggie Beever-Jones during the Euro 2025, Group D, soccer match between England and the Netherlands at Stadion Letzigrund in Zurich, Switzerland. (AP)

ZURICH, July 10, (AP): A "proper" England performance saw the Lionesses get the defense of their Women's European Championship title firmly back on track with a 4-0 win over the Netherlands on Wednesday, thanks to a Lauren James double.

James showed precisely why she had been selected despite not having played for more than two months when the squad was announced in June because of injury. The Chelsea forward was at the heart of England's attacks and scored a sumptuous opener in the 22nd minute before netting her side's third on the hour mark.

James has been directly involved in 16 goals in her last 13 starts for England, with eight goals and eight assists.

Georgia Stanway doubled England's lead on the stroke of half-time and Ella Toone wrapped up the result in the 67th as the Lionesses, watched by Prince William, gave the perfect response to their 2-1 defeat to France.

It was a far more positive performance from England than against France, when it became the first titleholder to lose its opening match at a women's Euros.

The manner of that defeat was as disappointing as the result,



From left: Wales' Josephine Green, Carrie Jones and Hannah Cain fight for the ball with France's goalkeeper Camille Peyraud Magnin Pauline during the UEFA Women's EURO 2025 Group D soccer match at the Arena St. Gallen in St. Gallen, Switzerland. (AP)

which left England facing possible elimination if it lost to the Netherlands and France avoided a shock defeat against Wales later Wednesday.

France ultimately defeated Wales 4-1 to take charge of Group D with six points from two games, three more than England and the Netherlands.

England plays Wales in their final group match on Sunday, when

onship quarterfinal places with a 4-1 win over Wales.

The Paris FC forward opened the scoring, was fouled for the penalty that Kadidiatou Diani converted, and then set up Amel Majri for the third goal. France captain Grace Geyoro sealed the result in the 63rd.

It was France's 10th consecutive win this year.

France tops Group D with six points, three more than England and the Netherlands, while Wales remained bottom with zero points after two games on its tournament debut.

England revived its title defense following its opening loss to France by beating the Netherlands 4-0 earlier Wednesday. England plays Wales in their final group match on Sunday.

France will win the group if it avoids defeat against the Dutch at the same time.

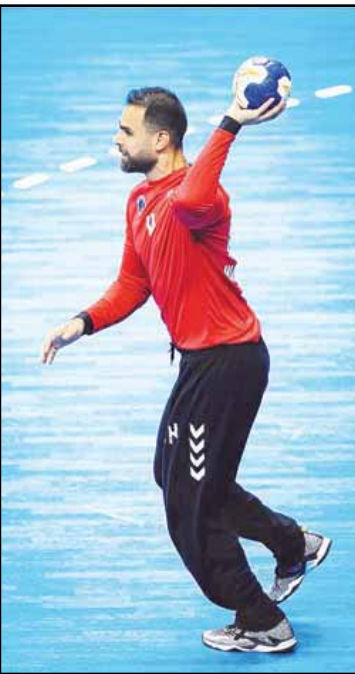
France coach Laurent Bonadei made a host of changes to his lineup with only four players including the goalkeeper starting again from the 2-1 win over England.

Alice Sombath and newcomer Thiniba Samoura, both 21, formed France women's youngest ever central-defensive partnership at a major tournament.

Burgan renews Khan's contract

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Burgan Club has announced the renewal of international goalkeeper Mehdi Khan's contract for a second season, following his impressive performance last season. Khan played a key role in helping the team secure second place in the league – the highest finish in the club's history – earning Burgan a spot in the upcoming Asian Club Championship.



Goalkeeper Mehdi Khan

technical staff. This follows earlier renewals with Serbian head coach Bozo and professional players Anwar Ben Abdullah (Tunisia) and Mohamed Farad.

The club has also extended the contracts of key players, including Hamoud Qaid Al-Adwani, as well as international professionals Yasuhira from Japan and Stipe from Croatia. Meanwhile, negotiations are ongoing with team coach Hussein Habib to finalize the terms of a new contract.

As part of their preparations for the upcoming season, Burgan is planning a European training camp to boost readiness and team cohesion.

In related news, Kazma Handball Club has renewed the contract of performance analyst Walid Al-Saleem, a member of the club's

ARAB TIMES

Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call

51508991

51526559

NEWS



Ireland's Ben Healy celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the sixth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 201.5 kilometers (125.2 miles) with start in Bayeux and finish in Vire Normandy, France. (AP)

Sports

Club accuses player of forgery

Al-Arabi submits legal complaint against Hamdan to Public Prosecution

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The dispute between Al-Arabi Club and its player Hassan Hamdan has escalated after the 24-year-old international forward reportedly signed an agreement to join Al-Ahli Jordan for the new season. In response, Al-Arabi's board of directors announced they have filed an official complaint with the Public Prosecution accusing Hamdan of forg-

ery, fraud, and deception. Al-Arabi asserts that Hamdan remains under a valid five-year contract with the club. Meanwhile, Al-Ahli Jordan requested his international transfer certificate from FIFA, which was granted via the Kuwaiti Football Association in accordance with official regulations. The club warned that this "escalation" could severely jeop-

ardize Hamdan's professional career. In a statement issued recently, Al-Arabi emphasized its commitment to protecting the club's legacy and its loyal fanbase. The club stated, "Our silence throughout this period was not due to weakness or fear, but to avoid unnecessary disputes that harm Kuwaiti sport.

However, following the serious false accusations aimed at tarnishing our reputation, we are compelled to take legal action to defend the club's name and dignity." The statement continued, "We have officially filed a complaint with the Public Prosecution against the player, supported by a signed contract bearing his handwriting,

signature, and fingerprint, which will be presented as evidence." Al-Arabi stressed that it will hold accountable anyone involved in damaging the club, declaring, "Al-Arabi is more than a sports club – it is an institution built on education, ethics, and values. We will continue to safeguard it against all attempts to distort its image."



In this file photo, Hassan Hamdan is shown a yellow card by a referee.

Kuwait swimming team heads to Bahrain for Championship

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: The Kuwaiti national swimming team departed for Bahrain yesterday to take part in the 29th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Swimming Championship set to take place over two days. The delegation, led by Ali Al-Enezi, includes a group of talented young swimmers who have undergone intensive training as part of their preparation for this key regional event, which is regarded as one of the most significant competitions in Gulf swimming. The Technical Committee of the Kuwait Aquatics Federation affirmed that this participation is a key component of the team's broader development strategy, designed to sharpen athletes' skills and elevate their readiness for upcoming continental and international tournaments. The committee also expressed high hopes for strong performances that showcase the progress of Kuwaiti swimming – progress made possible through the ongoing support of the Public Authority for Sports and the Federation's Board of Directors, chaired by Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr.



Kuwait swimming delegation.

Kuwait slips in FIFA world rankings after back-to-back qualifier losses



A file photo of Kuwaiti players preparing for a match.

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Kuwait dropped four places in the latest FIFA world rankings for July 2025, released by FIFA. The Blues now sit at 138th, down from 134th in June. This decline follows the team's two defeats last month in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers—losing 0-2 to Palestine and 0-4 to South Korea. Globally, the rankings saw some notable shifts, though the top five remained unchanged. Argentina continues to lead the world rankings, followed by Spain, France, England, and Brazil. Portugal moved up to sixth place after winning the UEFA Nations League, defeating Spain in the final. The Netherlands dropped to seventh, while Belgium held steady in eighth. Germany and Croatia ranked ninth and tenth, respectively, with Italy slipping to 11th. On the continental front, Morocco remains the highest-ranked Arab and African nation, sitting at 12th globally. Senegal followed at 18th, with Egypt (34), Algeria (36), Nigeria (44), Ivory Coast (45), and Tunisia (49) rounding out the top African teams. Egypt, under coach Hossam Hassan, dropped two places to 34th overall and third in Africa. Saudi Arabia also saw a slight decline, falling one place to 59th in the world, attributed to underwhelming recent performances, particularly in the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

'Indescribable to be in final'

Anisimova upsets Sabalenka to reach 1st Grand Slam final

LONDON, July 10, (AP): A little more than two years ago, Amanda Anisimova took a break from tennis because of burnout. A year ago, working her way back into the game, the American tried to qualify for Wimbledon but lost and was unable to participate in the main bracket at the All England Club. Look at Anisimova now: She's a Grand Slam finalist for the first time after upsetting No. 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in a compelling contest at a steamy Centre Court on Thursday. The 13th-seeded Anisimova, who was born in New Jersey and grew up in Florida, was playing in her second major semifinal after losing at that stage at the 2019 French Open at age 17. "This doesn't feel real right now," Anisimova said after ending the 2-hour, 36-minute contest with a forehand winner on her fourth match point. "I was absolutely dying out there. I don't know how I pulled it out." In May 2023, Anisimova took time off from the tour, saying she had been "struggling with my mental health" for nearly a year. Now 23, she is playing as well as ever, her crisp groundstrokes, particularly on the backhand side, as strong and smooth as anyone's. She is guaranteed to break into the top 10 of the WTA rankings for the first time next



Amanda Anisimova of the U.S. celebrates winning the women's singles semifinal match against Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London.(AP)

week, no matter what happens in the title match. "To be honest, if you told me I would be in the final of Wimbledon, I would not believe you," Anisimova said with a laugh. "At least not this soon, because it's been a year turnaround since coming back and to be in this spot, it's not easy. So many people dream of competing on this incredible court. It's been such a privilege to compete here, and to be in the final is just indescribable, honestly."

Messi makes history in Miami win

FOXBOROUGH, Mass., July 10, (AP): Lionel Messi became the first player in Major League Soccer history with four consecutive multi-goal games, scoring twice to lead Inter Miami past the New England Revolution 2-1 on Wednesday night. Miami (10-3-5) has won four straight and is unbeaten in its last five. Defender Tanner Beason misplayed a header and Messi capitalized, scoring on a half-volley to open the scoring in the 27th minute. Messi made it 2-0 in the 38th. Sergio Busquets played a ball ahead from just beyond midfield to a charging Messi,

who scored on a first-touch shot from the edge of the penalty area that slipped inside the right post. Messi has at least one goal in five straight games. He has 14 goals - second in MLS to Nashville's Sam Surridge (16) - and seven assists in 15 regular-season matches. Oscar Ustari had five saves for Miami. New England (6-8-6) is winless in five straight. Carles Gil scored in the 79th minute for the Revolution. Aljaz Ivacic stopped one shot.

PSG routs Real Madrid to reach Club World Cup final



Paris Saint-Germain's Marquinhos, left, and Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe challenge for the ball during the Club World Cup semifinal soccer match between PSG and Real Madrid in East Rutherford, N.J. (AP)

Ruiz scores brace

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J., July 10, (AP): Fabián Ruiz scored twice as Paris Saint-Germain built a three-goal lead in the first 24 minutes and routed Real Madrid 4-0, advancing to the Club World Cup final against Chelsea. Ruiz scored in the sixth minute and Ousmane Dembélé in the ninth following glaring mistakes by defenders Raúl Asencio and Antonio Rüdiger, and Ruiz made it 3-0 to cap a counter. Gonçalo Ramos added a goal in the 87th. Coming off its first European title, PSG plays for

the championship on Sunday. Real fared no better than Inter Milan, overrun by PSG 5-0 in the Champions League final. The 15-time European champion looked sluggish after traveling to Florida for training between games, and PSG had 76.5% possession in the first half. A crowd of 77,342 was at MetLife Stadium on a scorching day with a temperature of 91 degrees Fahrenheit (33 Celsius) at kickoff and humidity that made it feel like 101 (38). Real's Kylian Mbappé was not a threat in his first game against his former team. Luka Modrić entered in the 64th in likely his last match for Madrid, his team since 2012. Éder Militão came in at the same time in his first game since tearing his right ACL on Nov. 9.

PSG surged ahead after Lucas Beraldo's cross was mis-hit by Raúl Asencio, Thibaut Courtois tipped the ball from Dembélé and Ruiz slammed it into the empty net. Dembélé then took possession about 40 yards out after a Rüdiger mis-hit, dribbled and slotted past Courtois. PSG went the length of the field to make it 3-0. Hakimi exchanged passes with Dembélé, then crossed for Ruiz, who maintained control despite Federico Valverde's challenge and scored from 8 yards for his third goal of the tournament. Madrid's defense was missing Dean Huijsen, who got a red card Saturday against Borussia Dortmund, and Trent Alexander-Arnold, who had right leg muscle discomfort.