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## Kuwait Amir embarks on official France visit Sunday



### Opinion

#### Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

## Give the Bedouns passports, so they can walk through the world's slopes and partake of His provision

THE recent government measures regarding those whose citizenships were revoked, whether obtained legally or fraudulently, are a step in the right direction toward easing their suffering. These actions have brought relief to many individuals and their families, and for that, we thank the ruler.

There is no doubt that this can be achieved only by a great man committed to social stability, and restoration of the relationship between these people and their community. This would allow them to move freely and deal with their situations through legitimate means.

Not long ago, I urged the government to carefully study the ramifications of its decisions before issuing them, to avoid unintended consequences that could worsen people's lives. Issuing decisions without thorough consideration risks turning well-intended benefits into major disasters. Had these factors been considered before revoking citizenship, those with extensive family and business ties could have better managed the transition. They could have avoided many of the negative consequences caused by the revocation and arranged their affairs more smoothly.

It is no secret that the majority of those whose citizenship was revoked, excluding those proven to be forgers, experienced injustice, especially after their transactions were halted. This included being unable to withdraw money from banks, which severely affected their daily lives and their families' ability to meet basic needs.

However, with the initiation of the final procedures, even if incomplete, these individuals have begun to feel some relief after a long period of hardship.

Their only consolation now lies in the existence of a grievance committee to review their petitions

and restore rights to those who can prove they deserve them. We live in a country that acts with humanity and keeps its doors open to all.

Officials listen to every complaint, which builds great hope. We live in a country where people freely express their feelings for the nation, and their leaders listen and respond because they fear God in their country.

In a related, and perhaps even more important, matter is the issue of the so-called "Bedoun," commonly referred to as "illegal residents." This group has been stuck in limbo for decades, like a snowball growing larger every day. The number of Bedoun residents continues to rise, while viable solutions remain elusive.

At the same time, we face challenges with the Kuwaitization of jobs and the large number of non-Kuwaitis employed in state institutions.

This Bedoun group understands the fabric of society and has made significant contributions in many fields, especially the fathers of some members who defended Kuwait and sacrificed for it. Therefore, they have basic human rights, including the right to work and earn a decent living.

They can be employed in various sectors, particularly in state institutions, to fill positions currently held by expatriates. Implementing this proposal would have multiple benefits, such as reducing security burdens and curbing the outflow of remittances abroad.

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KUWAIT CITY, July 12, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, accompanied by an official delegation, is set to leave for France on Sunday on an official visit.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya said Saturday that the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to France would reflect the depth of the historical relations between the two countries.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Yahya said that Kuwaiti-French relations span more than six decades of constructive cooperation and political understanding, noting that His Highness the Amir's visit represents an important milestone in strengthening the strategic partnership.

He added that the visit program includes high-level meetings with senior French officials, in addition to the signing of several agreements and memoranda of understanding in various fields, including infrastructure, education, defense, and culture.

He explained that the visit would open new horizons for political, economic, and investment cooperation



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

in line with the priorities of the National Development Plan (New Kuwait 2035).

Al-Yahya described France as Kuwait's reliable international partner, appreciating France's supportive stances on its security and stability.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is scheduled to begin an official visit to

France on Sunday.

The Kuwaiti-French relations date back to August 28, 1961, when Paris assigned its Beirut ambassador as envoy to Kuwait and established commercial representation in the Gulf State before establishing the diplomatic ties with Kuwait in 1967.

In the cultural field, the two sides signed a cooperation agreement in 1969, which contributed to sending Kuwaiti students to leading French universities and supporting training programs, graduate studies, and joint research.

The year 2015 saw the signing of eight agreements covering culture, education, and the social sciences, most notably the establishment of the French Center for Archeology and Social Sciences in Kuwait.

Their bilateral cooperation continued with the signing of three important agreements during the visit of French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot to Kuwait in April 2025.

These agreements included a declaration of intent for cooperation in the field of energy, a memorandum of understanding on energy efficiency

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## Kuwait nabs 184 underage drivers

Parents warned amid juvenile driving spike

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 12: As part of the ongoing efforts of the General Traffic Department to track down juveniles driving without a license, 184 juveniles were arrested in June and early July; and then referred to the Juvenile Prosecution for legal action.**

Statistics from the department showed that 64 of the

abovementioned juveniles were arrested in the first week of June.

A security source confirmed that traffic patrols are intensifying efforts to apprehend juveniles driving without a license and to take legal action against their parents.

The source added that security campaigns targeting juveniles intensified during the summer vacation; due to the prevalence of juveniles who are driving within this period, particularly at night.

The source called on the parents to closely monitor their children and not to give them vehicles for any reason in order to avoid legal accountability.

More men than women

## GCC population 61.2m in 2024

MUSCAT, July 12, (KUNA): Data released by the Statistical Center of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC) revealed on Saturday that the population of the GCC countries reached 61.2 million by the end of 2024.

The data, issued on the occasion of World Population Day, showed an increase of more than 2.1 million people compared to 2023, representing a 36 percent increase, which would indicate a rapid recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The population has increased by about 7.6 million people since 2021,

reflecting the resumption of population growth at an accelerated pace after the slowdown experienced by some countries during the pandemic.

The center added that the total number of males in the GCC countries reached approximately 38.5 million, constituting 62.8 percent of the total population, while the number of females reached approximately 22.7 million, or 37.2 percent of the total population.

It explained that the GCC population constituted 0.7 percent of the world's population, noting that the gender ratio

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Photo by Mohammad Morsi  
As the blazing Kuwait sun bears down mercilessly, a man lets water cascade over his face – his only refuge from the sweltering heat of the day.

### DCO AI Ethics Evaluator launched

## Kuwait highlights citizen-centric digital vision at global ICT forum

GENEVA, July 12, (KUNA): Acting Head of the Infrastructure and Operations Sector at Kuwait's Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) Layali Al-Mansouri has affirmed that digitalization in Kuwait is guided by one clear and unwavering principle "technology must serve everyone."

This came during her speech at a high-level forum held as part of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS 2025) in Geneva.

She stressed that "delivery of inclusive and efficient e-services not just as a matter of convenience but as a social imperative and a cornerstone of our national development agenda under the "Kuwait Vision 2035."

Al-Mansouri emphasized that "ensuring that digital public services are inclusive and user-centric is not merely a technical challenge but a reflection of our collective commitment to building equitable societies for the future."

She explained that achieving this fundamental goal in Kuwait means that inclusivity is embedded as a core design principle in digital services not an afterthought, highlighting that "Our approach is rooted in a citizen-centric methodology where we actively engage with our people to co-create the services they need."

Al-Mansouri stated that this approach prioritizes accessibility for the



KUNA photo  
Acting Head of the Infrastructure and Operations Sector at Kuwait's Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) Layali Al-Mansouri speaks during her participation at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS 2025) in Geneva.

elderly and persons with disabilities ensures multilingual support and promotes intuitive user interfaces suited to various levels of digital literacy.

She noted Kuwait's success stories notably the (Sahel unified government application) launched in 2021 with 13 government entities providing 123 services (Sahel) has evolved into a fully integrated digital ecosystem. It now serves over 2.8 million users and processes more than 100 million transactions and

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## Incheon, TAV submit bids for Kuwait's T4

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has opened the financial bids for the operation, management, service improvement, training, maintenance and development of Terminal Four (T4) at Kuwait International Airport.

Sources told the newspaper that two international companies have submitted bids, indicating the Korean company Incheon offered KD72 million, while the Turkish company TAV offered KD84 million. Sources said the offer of Incheon is the lowest among the bids.

Sources revealed that the Board of Directors of CAPT referred the bidding documents to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) -- the entity concerned with the bid, to study and analyze the offers from the technical and financial perspectives. Sources said the DGCA will present its recommendations within 30 days from the date of receiving the documents. Sources added the directorate will base its recommendations on the results of the study conducted in this regard and then submit them to CAPT for the latter to take the decision to award the contract to the best bidder.

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### Newswatch

**GAZA:** The Israeli occupation forces launched more airstrikes and artillery attacks on Gaza Strip in the past 24 hours, killing at least 50 Palestinian people, including women and children, and wounding 208 others.

Nine more bodies of persons who were killed in previous attacks were recovered from under rubble, local health authorities said in a press release on Saturday. (KUNA)

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**BEIRUT: Lebanon** has no plans to have normal relations with Israel at the present time, and Beirut's main aim is to reach a "state of no war" with its southern neighbor, the country's president said Friday.

President **Joseph Aoun's** comments came as the Trump administration is trying to expand the Abraham Accords signed in 2020 in which Israel signed historic pacts with **United Arab Emirates** and **Bahrain**.

In May, Syrian President **Ahmad al-Sharaa** said during a visit to **France** that his country is holding indirect talks with Israel to prevent military activities along their border from going out of control. Talks about peace between Israel and **Syria** have increased following the ouster of President **Bashar Assad** from power in December.

Aoun added in comments released by his office that only the Lebanese state will have weapons in the future, and the decision on whether Lebanon would go to war or not would be for the Lebanese government. (AP)



**2 Deanship of Diplomatic Corps organizes farewell for 6 outgoing envoys**



**8 Kuwait unveils key capital market reform to boost investment**

**9 stc celebrates excellence among high school achievers**



DGCA photo  
President of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Humoud Al-Sabah meets with Executive Vice President of Airbus Wouter van Wersch.



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	03:23	Asr .....	15:28
Sunrise ..	04:57	Maghrib ..	18:50
Zohr .....	11:53	Isha .....	20:21

# Local

**Expected weather for next 24 hrs:**  
**By Day:** Very hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.  
**By Night:** Hot to rather hot and relatively humid especially over

Weather			
coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.	Abdaly	49	32
	Jahra	49	34
	Salmiyah	43	34
	Ahmadi	43	31
	Nuwaisib	47	30
	Wafra	48	29
	Salmi	47	29
	Managish	49	33

## Women step in as co-ops dismiss board members

Sector acts to restore order in admin, output

**By Fares Ghaleb**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 12:** Saleh Al-Enezi, Director of the Membership Affairs and Publicity Department in the Cooperative Societies Sector at the Ministry of Social Affairs, confirmed that the ministry implemented its plans in the first half of this year to regulate the cooperative sector and ensure the good performance of their boards of directors in line with the principles of good governance and financial and administrative transparency.

In a press statement, Al-Enezi disclosed that from Jan 1 to June 30, a total of 69

general assemblies in various cooperative societies were convened, in addition to the approval of the administrative bodies of 58 cooperatives and the formation of 24 new boards of directors, enhancing the stability of cooperative work and the continuity of services to shareholders.

Al-Enezi indicated that the ministry's efforts -- led by Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah -- led to the issuance of important decisions to protect public cooperative funds and shareholder rights. He revealed these decisions included the dissolution and dismissal of 16 boards of directors in several cooperative societies, following the discovery of serious financial violations that required interven-

tion to ensure integrity and good management; dismissal of 51 members in 10 cooperatives; and the dissolution of the boards of directors of six cooperatives.

He revealed that legal mechanisms were implemented to regulate board membership, with a legal lottery held to revoke the membership of some members in 10 cooperatives, in compliance with the law and to ensure the infusion of new blood into the sector.

He went on to say that in the context of supporting women's participation and strengthening their role in the cooperative sector, 15 women were appointed to the boards of directors of the cooperatives whose members were dismissed, as part of the government's drive to empower women in leadership positions.

He added the number of shareholders in the cooperative sector reached around 526,000 -- a manifestation of the size of the segment benefiting from cooperative services and the importance of protecting their rights.



Al-Enezi

## Amir condoles with Saudi King over royal's passing

**KUWAIT CITY, July 12, (KUNA):** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Thursday a cable of condolences to his brother King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, of Saudi Arabia, over the demise of Princess Bazah bint Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

His Highness the Amir prayed for the Almighty Allah to bestow mercy on Princess Bazah's soul and lodge her in paradise, and grant solace and patience to the honorable royal family.

### Crown Prince

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### Prime Minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Thursday sent a cable of condolences to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, of sisterly Saudi Arabia, over the demise of Princess Bazah bint Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

His Highness the Prime Minister prayed for the Almighty Allah to bestow mercy on Princess Bazah's soul and lodge her in paradise, and grant solace and patience to the honorable royal family.

## Deanship of Diplomatic Corps organizes farewell for 6 outgoing envoys



US Ambassador is presented a memento.



Outgoing envoys at the cake-cutting ceremony.



Photos by Rizk Tawfiq  
Various ambassadors and diplomats pose for a picture.

**By Fares Ghaleb**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 12:** The Deanship of the Diplomatic Corps in Kuwait organized a farewell ceremony for six ambassadors who completed their assignments in the country.

The ceremony was held at the St. Regis Hotel with a large number of diplomats and officials, headed by representative of the Protocol Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Haif Al-Huwailah, in attendance.

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Tajikistan to Kuwait Zubaydullah Zubaydov expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the outgoing ambassadors for their efforts during their tenure. He praised the agreements and initiatives they achieved to support bilateral relations and deepen the bonds of friendship and understanding.

He affirmed that the diplomatic corps in Kuwait is characterized by unique cooperation among its members and a spirit of teamwork, which contributed to making every farewell an opportunity to celebrate achievement and loyalty.

He stated "we wish you a prosperous future filled with success. Kuwait will

always remain a second home for you."

He highlighted the influential role of US Ambassador Karen Sasahara, whose tenure witnessed the strong start of technological cooperation between the two countries; with companies such as Google Cloud and Johnson & Johnson entering the Kuwaiti market, in addition to the launching of strategic partnerships with Microsoft.

He praised the pivotal role played by British Ambassador Belinda Lewis during her four years in Kuwait, specifically her active participation in strategic dialogues and organizing high-level visits to and from the two countries -- most notably the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh and the celebration of the 125th anniversary of diplomatic relations. He pointed out her contributions to strengthening defense, humanitarian, and commercial cooperation; with trade exchanges reaching more than £6 billion annually. He also put the spotlight on her support for educational and cultural projects and symbolic visits such as hosting the Red Arrows.

He touched on the initiatives undertaken by Canadian Ambassador Aliya Mawani to promote humanitarian values and social justice, as well as her support for education and gender equality. He lauded the grand celebration that Mawani organized, marking the 60th anniversary of Canadian-Kuwaiti relations, which

included artistic and sporting events.

He noted the achievements of Egyptian Ambassador Osama Shaltout; which included five presidential visits; the signing of more than 10 cooperation agreements in the housing, aviation and education sectors; and the increase of Kuwaiti investments in Egypt to more than \$20 billion. He mentioned the ambassador's role in caring for the Egyptian community, his innovation of a digital employment system, his contributions to cultural initiatives such as the "Together in Love with Kuwait" festival, and his active participation in humanitarian issues, particularly the support for Gaza.

He paid tribute to Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan Chitem Tenzin who concluded a four-year diplomatic career that witnessed the signing of the historic air transport agreement, three visits by the King of Bhutan to Kuwait, and the expansion of the Bhutanese community to include more than 10,000 individuals.

He then commended Head of the NATO Office at the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative Regional Center Nora Elise Beck, who led the office during its most active period since inception; organizing 74 official events to address security, energy and women empowerment issues.

### Other Voices

## Jews, usury and Israel

**By Ahmad alsarraf**

Imran Abdullah wrote an article in 2019 titled "How did Jewish moneylenders in Medieval Europe contribute to the rise of Israel?"

This article contained valuable information, which we hope readers will share with us, with some modifications:

"Usury" was prohibited for Christians in the Middle Ages. The Catholic Church strictly forbade it, threatening usurers with excommunication from "Heaven" or denial of burial in Christian cemeteries.

As noted in a study by Moroccan historian and anthropologist Khaled Tahtah, medieval Christians in Europe found clever ways to practice usury despite the ban, due to its economic importance. These methods included lending in one currency and collecting repayments in another, with the interest represented by the difference between the two currencies, thus securing profitable returns.

However, another solution emerged when Jewish merchants were hired to handle all loan-related matters directly, especially since their holy book, the Torah, permits them to practice usury with non-Jews while prohibiting it among themselves. Christian merchants and bankers took advantage of this and delegated usurious transactions to Jewish moneylenders as their agents.

This situation led to increased hostility toward Jews in European society, as they became associated with everything forbidden or detested in Christianity. This implicit arrangement also led Jews to form what are known as intermediary functional groups.

The thinker specializing in Jewish and Zionist studies, Abdel-Wahhab El-Messiri, defined this phenomenon as a group imported from outside or recruited from within society to perform functions that members of society normally avoid be-



alsarraf

cause they are considered shameful.

Thus, their relationship with society became purely contractual and utilitarian, lacking any sense of connection or belonging. As a result, they lived on the margins, isolated by society in an effort to preserve its social cohesion.

This situation contributed to the development of deep-rooted stigma against Jews in Christian Europe. They were expelled from England at the end of the 13th century and from Spain two centuries later.

During the Catholic-Protestant conflict, Jewish communities faced accusations that extended beyond usury. They were blamed for crimes such as poisoning wells, practicing witchcraft, and kidnapping boys for use in sorcery.

Protestantism was no more tolerant of Jews. In 1514, the reformer Martin Luther accused Jews of cursing and blasphemy, and he fiercely attacked them in his book "The Jews and Their Lies".

The resentment of peasants and borrowers over exorbitant interest rates also fueled growing stigma and hostility toward Jews.

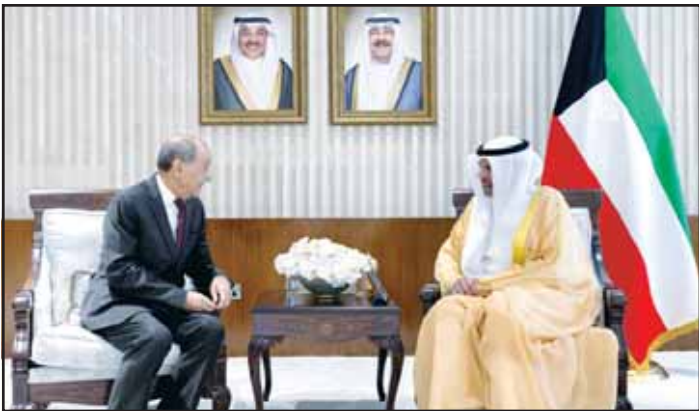
As commercial activity boomed, merchants' need for capital increased, along with their animosity toward Jewish moneylenders, who were seen as profiting effortlessly, even while they slept.

However, over time, the special status of Jews in financial dealings began to decline. The Church introduced a new concept - the doctrine of "purgatory", a place between Heaven and hell where sins could be purged after death before salvation is attained. Thus, the Church eventually opened the door for Christian merchants and money changers to practice usury, with the possibility of purchasing forgiveness, whether through indulgences or charitable acts that promised purification in the afterlife.

At the same time, the rise of centralized nation-states, the emergence of the modern banking system, the expansion of global trade networks, and the growth of local bourgeois classes all contributed to diminishing the economic relevance of Jews in Europe.

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KUNA photo  
Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya in talks with the new Algerian Ambassador Omar Belhadj.



Ahmadi Governorate photo  
Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with the council members.

## New Algerian envoy takes charge

**KUWAIT CITY, July 12, (KUNA):** Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya on Thursday received a copy of the credentials of Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to Kuwait Omar Belhadj, during a meeting held at the ministry's headquarters.

He wished the new ambassador success and expressed hope that Belhadj's work would strengthen the close ties between the two countries and advance their shared progress and cooperation.

## New pacts for street lighting repairs in two governorates

**By Mohammad Ghanem**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 12:** The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy intends to tender two new contracts for the maintenance of street lighting equipment in Hawally and Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorates, which were included in its plan for the current fiscal year.

Reliable sources told the newspaper that the Distribution Networks Sector has included two public tenders in the plan, which will be floated through the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT). Sources said the tender and award procedures are proceeding, indicating the approval of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) will be obtained to sign contracts with companies that presented the best offers.

Sources disclosed that the two contracts are for the maintenance of lighting equipment for main and secondary streets in the two governorates, scheduled every three years. They said the work includes daily network surveys to detect and repair faults, dealing with traffic accidents in the event of collision with lampposts or power supply boxes, and upgrading and installing lampposts in dark areas and those requiring infrastructure improvement.

Furthermore, sources unveiled the plan of the ministry to update information on the electricity and water networks, manage related geographic data, rectify data, address problems resulting from the transformation of the networks' geographic layouts, supervise the inventory and survey of geographic data from the field related to the network components, and cooperate with other departments in the ministry to share data and ensure coordinated efforts.

## Ahmadi Gov audiences

Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received the newly appointed members of the Ahmadi Governorate Council on Thursday morning at the governorate's headquarters. According to a press release issued by Ahmadi Governorate, the new members are:

- Khaled Abdullah Shamlan Al-Roumi
- Dr. Muhammad Mushabab Al-Jalal
- Major General Eng. Muhammad Melhem Al-Ajmi

The governor congratulated them on their appointments, and affirmed the council's role in enhancing cooperation with government agencies to better serve citizens and improve services throughout the governorate.

## 'Maintain your vehicles, homes to prevent fires'

**KUWAIT CITY, July 12:** Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) has urged the public to maintain their vehicle engines and electrical systems to prevent fire incidents during summer, reports Al-Anba daily. The advisory was included in an awareness brochure published on the official X account of KFF.

A source from KFF explained that damaged or worn electrical wiring can produce sparks that could lead to fire, while engine overheating poses an additional hazard. Fuel leaks were cited as among the most dangerous, as leaking fuel is highly flammable and can quickly lead to serious accidents.

The source advised vehicle owners to inspect the entire fuel system -- including hoses, pumps and tanks -- to ensure there are no leaks; and to replace old or cracked hoses immediately. Regular checks of the vehicle's electrical systems are also essential to prevent short circuits and other malfunctions.

KFF also advised drivers to ascertain that tyre pressure is consistent with manufacturer recommendations to avoid tyre bursts and overheating. Motorists were warned against storing flammable materials inside their vehicles and driving at high speed in extreme heat, as these practices can significantly increase the risk of engine or tyre fires.



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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

The strange, unwritten laws of life ... intriguing?

“LIFE has its own set of strange, unwritten laws, and let me mention a few among them,” columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The Law of the Queue - If you switch from a slow-moving line to a faster one, the line you just left will suddenly start moving faster than the one you just moved to.

“The Telephone Law - You can never dial a wrong number and find the line busy.

“The Law of Repair - The moment your hands are covered in grease or oil, you feel an irresistible urge to scratch your head.

“The Law of Equipment - If you drop something, it will roll to the most inaccessible place possible.

“The Law of Coincidence - If you are with someone you don't want to be seen with, you will suddenly run into everyone you know.

“The Law of Keys - If you have several identical keys, the one that works will always be the last one you try.

“The Law of Traffic Lights - If you are in a hurry or running a quick errand, every traffic light will turn red just as you approach.

“The Law of Search: When you are looking for something specific, you won't be able to find it, even if you see it every day or it is right in your hand.

“The Law of Shawarma: If you buy one shawarma sandwich, you will finish it and still feel hungry. But if you buy two, you will feel full after the first one.”



Ahmad Al-Dawas

Also:

“Before I share my story and that of the late former Minister of Education, Dr. Ahmad Al-Rubaie, regarding the teacher interview mission in several Arab countries, let me first review how a high school student's cumulative GPA is calculated,” Kuwaiti writer **Dr. Hamoud Al-Hattab** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Below are the steps for doing so:

1. Determine the number of credit hours for each course, along with the grade points earned.
2. Multiply the credit hours by the grade points for each course.
3. Add all the weighted grade points together.
4. Divide the total weighted grade points by the total number of credit hours to get the cumulative GPA

“This review is not about the method used to calculate a student's cumulative GPA, which has helped many students achieve perfect scores.

“As you can see, it is a mathematical and computational procedure that has little to do with the student's actual acquisition of experience, which we discussed earlier. What matters to me is that this process is purely mathematical. It does not build cumulative experience, nor does it shape the learner's character or educated personality.

“Now that you understand this, here is a story from the 1990s involving me, as the General Supervisor of Islamic Education, and the late Dr. Ahmad Al-Rubaie. It illustrates the failure of this newly developed cumulative system to provide learners with meaningful experience or sustainable education.

“After Kuwait's Ministry of Education delegation returned from the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt, followed by another delegation's return from the sisterly Kingdom of Jordan, in both of which I was a scientific member, the Minister of Education at the time, Dr. Ahmad Al-Rubaie, asked to meet with me.

“He said, surprised, “You traveled to Arab countries known for their long history and esteemed universities, yet you returned with a group of Islamic education teachers, none of whom graduated with honors. Most only achieved good or very good grades. You brought back less than half the number you were supposed to, from countries full of distinguished individuals. What was the reason?”

“I told Dr. Al-Rubaie, “The Ministry of Education sends its delegation late, after all the Gulf delegations. By then, the Gulf Ministries of Education had already selected the highest-scoring applicants. I interviewed about 400 candidates for work in Kuwait during the first batch, but only a few succeeded. I extended my stay at my own expense to bring back as many qualified teachers as possible, with the knowledge of the head of the delegation, Al-Rujaib. Instead of the scheduled three official days, I stayed for fifteen days at my own expense. In the end, I returned with only 60 teachers, even though I was supposed to bring about 100 Islamic education teachers. This was partly because the top students had already been recruited by other Gulf countries.

“Another important reason is that I focused on recruiting candidates with cumulative academic experience, rather than just relying on cumulative grades and high scores. Many of the applicants I selected with ‘Good’ and ‘Very Good’ grades were better than some I interviewed who had excellent grades.”

“Among those who received excellent grades but lacked qualifying experience, it is important to note that many did not even know how to read the Quran. This was especially striking in a country renowned for producing some of the best Quran reciters in the Arab and Islamic world. Minister of Education Al-Rubaie was concerned about the poor timing of the Kuwaiti delegation, as the country sends its delegation every year but often interviews candidates who typically fail interviews in other Gulf countries.

“Regarding the cumulative GPA, this explains why I was unable to recruit someone who simply held a certificate

of excellence on paper, rather than one backed by sustainable, constructive, and experiential learning. It is the cumulative experience that truly shapes their educational character.

“Return to Picasso and his story, and remember his words, “I have spent my life learning through these artistic experiences. Picasso did not accumulate them from deceptive, superficial achievements.”

“A personal note: I never asked the Ministry of Education to reimburse me for the hotel accommodations they chose or for any expenses incurred during my extended stay, which I covered myself. What mattered to me was the satisfaction and peace of mind that came from returning with genuine experience, not just picking up leftovers.

“As the saying goes, “Those are my fathers. Bring me others like them if you gather us again, oh assemblies.”

“The head of the first scholarship delegation was the late Abdullah Al-Rujaib, and the head of the second delegation was Deputy Professor Abdullah Al-Luqman.”

“Leave something, and it will come back to you on its own. For example, when the price of eggs rose in Argentina, people stopped buying them. Eventually, prices collapsed, and sellers returned to the original price. The same happened in Saudi Arabia when tomato prices spiked. People stopped buying, and the price dropped back down.

“The issue isn't limited to food. If a man approaches a woman with sincere intentions, like wanting to marry her, and keeps calling her repeatedly, she may lose interest or even start to resent him, until he stops calling. Then suddenly, she might start asking about him. The same can happen in reverse.

“I used to subscribe to The Economist every year, but they raised the price so much that it reached \$430 annually, so I stopped. They contacted me several times with discount offers. I ignored them. Eventually, they offered a free month. I still ignored it, until the discount reached 50 percent.

“Conclusion - The global situation has some good and bad. The war between Israel and Iran ended in just 12 days. Iran, however, has responded by arresting hundreds of its citizens on charges of spying for Israel, and is speeding up executions. On the other hand, there is troubling news. Russia has not withdrawn from Ukraine. China continues to threaten an invasion of Taiwan. Several European countries are now led by right-wing governments. The UK economy is still struggling post-Brexit. And waves of African migrants continue to risk their lives crossing into Europe by boat.”



“As Kuwaiti farmers, we must deal with the challenges of power outages and the limited supply of treated water to our farms, both old and new, especially in Abdali, Wafra, and the far north and south of Kuwait,” a farmer from Abdali Farming area **Faisal Abdullah Al-Lafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The number of farms has increased in these regions but without a corresponding increase in services, particularly electricity and irrigation water, especially treated water. This situation calls for reducing crops that depend heavily on electricity (such as total cooling) and treated water.

“Instead, we must focus on intensive cultivation in open fields and traditional agricultural sheds without relying on water or electricity for cooling, using modern irrigation methods like drip irrigation.

“Operating agricultural sheds without electricity, cooling water, or even electric fans does not cost the farmer much. Like many other farmers in Abdali and Wafra, I have tried farming in simple sheds. We have successfully grown most crops that typically thrive in greenhouses and fully refrigerated environments, but at much lower operating costs.

“Among the crops that can thrive in ordinary, low-cost greenhouses are eggplant, bitter melon, okra, beans, both hot and sweet peppers, as well as cantaloupe (yellow melon) and hanging pumpkins.

“Add to this the cultivation of flowers, cabbage, potatoes, broccoli, lettuce, zucchini, squash, corn, field tomatoes, and leafy vegetables in open fields. We have also planted heat-tolerant trees such as jujube, tamarisk, and fruit-bearing palm trees, and raised sheep, goats, and even camels to feed on farm waste.

“We now have the integrated agriculture we desire, or sustainable agriculture, for most months of the year, from October until the end of April. The greenhouses can be single-shaded, meaning they do not require electricity or water for cooling.

“I mean shading with rocklin or seba (a mixture of sand and water), which helps keep some crops productive until the end of May. I am not exaggerating when I say even until the end of June. July and August remain as a resting period for the soil to recover and prepare for winter, fall, and spring production, all at lower financial costs.

“The key is the genuinity of the Kuwaiti farmer in producing vegetables and fruits for the longest possible period with minimal financial input. This means avoiding reliance on electricity and expensive refrigeration, while selling produce at higher prices through early or late-season harvests. Most importantly, it involves choosing heat-tolerant seeds, using natural fertilizers, and providing thorough care.”



Faisal Al-Lafi

— Compiled by Mahmoud Attiyeh/Simi K. Kutty



KUNA photo  
Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Chief Major General Talal Mohammad Al-Roumi receives Kuwait Municipality Director General Engineer Manal Mohammad Al-Asfour in his office.

KFF, municipality discuss expediting vital projects

KUWAIT CITY, July 12, (KUNA): Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Chief Major General Talal Mohammad Al-Roumi met Kuwait Municipality Director General Engineer Manal Mohammad Al-Asfour to discuss accelerating key projects, streamlining licensing, and removing hurdles facing investors and project owners.

The coordination meeting sought to boost inter-agency cooperation, speed permit issuance, and simplify technical and administrative procedures to improve the business climate and service quality for citizens and residents, a KFF statement said Thursday. Senior officials from both sides attended.

Jail to acquittal for two peddlers

Man freed in libel suit

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: The Court of Appeals overturned a verdict of three-year prison with hard labor issued by a lower court against two individuals accused of trafficking imported liquor. The court instead acquitted them.



Al-Qattan

Lawyer Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan highlighted the weakness of the evidence and contradictions in the investigations.

The case began in March 2024, when authorities raided the home of one defendant in Sabah Al-Salem and found quantities of imported liquor and cash.

Four defendants were arrested in total, and searches of their apartments in Sabah Al-Salem and Salwa uncovered more alcoholic beverages as well as suspected narcotics.

After a thorough review of the investigation and seizure records, the court

found insufficient evidence to prove the intent to traffic against the first and third defendants. It noted that the defendants' confessions were obtained under conditions that did not meet legal standards for conviction, especially given the lack of direct investigation and absence of witnesses to support the mass trafficking allegations.

Lawyer Al-Qattan emphasized procedural shortcomings, highlighting contradictions in the police officers' statements and stressing that the raid did not comply with the requirements of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

**Citizen released:** The detention renewal judge has ordered the release of a citizen accused of insulting a segment of Kuwaiti society via his social media account, on a bail of KD 500. The accused denied the charges leveled against him.

He was arrested by the Ministry of Interior four days earlier for allegedly attempting to undermine national unity and incite discord among members of society, following a social media post that, according to the ministry, contained language deemed insulting to the social fabric and inciting sectarianism.

As a result, the Public Prosecution had initially ordered his detention for 21 days pending investigation.

Bid to smuggle many types of drugs foiled

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: The General Administration of Customs (GAC) announced that airport inspectors successfully thwarted multiple attempts to smuggle drugs in a series of seizures carried out in Terminals T1, T4, and T5, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a press statement, GAC revealed that the confiscated items included various substances such as alcohol, marijuana, hallucinogenic pills, and other banned materials, which were expertly concealed inside passengers' luggage. It credited the success to the vigilance and dedication of its customs inspectors, who demonstrated a high level of security awareness and professionalism.



**Expat doing drugs:** Officers from the Farwaniya Security Directorate referred an expatriate to the Drug Control General Department (DGCD) after arresting him for driving under the influence of drugs in Ardiya Industrial Area, with some narcotic substances in his possession, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

A security source revealed that the officers were manning a checkpoint at the entrance of Ardiya Industrial Area when they noticed a car driven by an expatriate who appeared to be scared and confused. When the officers asked him to get out of the car, it became clear that he was under the influence of drugs. A thorough search ensued, during which the officers found narcotics and a hashish cigarette in his possession. He was referred to the DGCD along with the confiscated drugs.

In another development, officers from Hawally Security Directorate referred a young man, in his 30s, to the DGCD after arresting him in Salmiya for consumption and possession of drugs.

The backup patrols from the directorate were conducting a security inspection in the area when they noticed the suspicious movement of a car. The officers signaled for the driver to stop and then discovered that he was under the influence of drugs. They immediately searched him, and found narcotics and drug paraphernalia in his possession. He and the confiscated items were referred to the DGCD.

Top Mol officials to quit

By Munif Naif  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: According to security sources, three assistant undersecretaries at the Ministry of Interior submitted their retirement requests Thursday morning after reaching the legal retirement age.

The sources identified the retiring assistant undersecretaries as - Head of the State Security Service Major General Khalid Al-Shanfa, Assistant Undersecretary for Special Security Affairs Major General Abdullah Saffah, and Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Yousef Al-Khudda.

They affirmed that the Ministry of Interior will work on filling the resulting leadership vacancies, especially after the retirement of Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf in May and the appointment of Major General Ali Al-Adwani as the acting Undersecretary.

Asian flees with loot

Witchcraft, magic items found with passengers

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: The General Administration of Customs (GAC) announced that employees at the Northern Ports Customs Administration and the Failaka Island Passenger Inspection Office at Shuwaikh Port seized several items related to witchcraft and sorcery hidden in the luggage of arriving passengers, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

In a press statement, it indicated that inspectors became suspicious of some luggage contents and discovered talismans, papers, and materials believed to be used in witchcraft.

GAC affirmed that such items are illegal and pose a threat to the security and safety of society.

The administration affirmed its ongoing commitment to taking all necessary legal actions against violators and to firmly confronting any attempts to undermine Kuwait's security and safety.



**Asian flees with loot:** The Jahra Police Station investigator ordered putting an Asian on the wanted list for allegedly embezzling KD7,500, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

It remains unknown whether the accused will return to Kuwait or remain in his home country with the illegally obtained funds.

According to a security source, an elderly citizen -- the owner of a domestic labor recruitment agency -- filed a breach of trust report at Jahra Police Station. He revealed that his illness prompted him to delegate the entire responsibility of managing the agency to an Asian.

He added “when my health condition improved, I found out there have been losses and the secretary mysteriously disappeared. After conducting an inventory, I discovered that the secretary embezzled KD7,500. I tried to reach him but my efforts went in vain. I found out later that he left for his home country on Jan 29. All the while, I thought he is still in the country.”



KFF photo  
Fire Chief Major General Talal Al-Roumi visits the Al-Muhallab Rescue Center.

KFF chief visits rescue center, eyes readiness

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Major General Talal Al-Roumi conducted an inspection tour of the Al-Muhallab Marine Rescue Center on Friday to assess its readiness to respond to incidents and emergencies in marine areas and public parks, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

According to a press release issued by KFF, Major General Al-Roumi praised the preparedness of the marine rescue teams to handle reports and accidents with high level of efficiency and ensure the safety of beachgoers and park visitors.

He was received by the Director of the Fire and Marine Rescue Department Brigadier Bader Saif. The tour included an inspection of the center's marine station located on one of the islands.

The Al-Muhallab Marine Rescue Center, which opened in November 2020, was established to strengthen the presence of marine rescue teams in Kuwait's southern regions, particularly the densely populated Sabah Al-Ahmad Marine Area. The center also serves areas near the islands of Umm Al-Maradem and Qaruh.

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Crown Prince and PM extend wishes

Amir congratulates Sao Tome and Principe, Kiribati, Mongolia on National celebrations

KUWAIT CITY, July 12, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Saturday cables of congratulations to President Carlos Vila Nova of Sao Tome and Principe and President Taneti Maamau of the Republic of Kiribati, marking their countries' Independence Days. He also sent a similar congratulatory message on Friday to President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh of Mongolia on the occasion of Mongolia's National Day.

In the cables, His Highness the Amir extended wishes of continued good health to the presidents and further

progress and prosperity to their nations and friendly peoples.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar congratulatory cables to the presidents of Sao Tome and Principe, Kiribati, and Mongolia, sharing in the well-wishes on their respective national occasions.

Likewise, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah dispatched congratulatory messages to the three presidents, expressing Kuwait's warm regards on the joyous occasions.



Farwaniya Governorate photo  
Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser and Council member Faleh Al-Enezi with PAAAFR officials.

Farwaniya to see upgraded parks and roads as Governor ramps up oversight

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah on Wednesday met with Director General of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) Salem Al-Hai, Director of the Engineering Services Department and member of the Farwaniya Governorate Council Faleh Al-Enezi, Head of the Agriculture Department in Farwaniya Governorate Saleem Al-Enezi and Hamad Al-Dalk from the office of the PAAAFR Director.

The meeting, held at the office of the governor, focused on the development of services in the governorate, particularly those of a recreational and aesthetic nature, such as the

development and maintenance of parks and the beautification of public roads. Sheikh Athbi Nasser stressed the need to intensify efforts on the development of public parks and roads, and the continuous monitoring of their maintenance.

The governor's comments following his recent field visits were also discussed. He instructed all those present to prioritize beautification projects and the improvement of services.

Towards the end of the meeting, Al-Hai stated that the comprehensive maintenance of some public parks and roads will be completed soon. He thanked the governor for the warm welcome and his continuous follow up of the efforts and work of PAAAFR.

MPW enters new era under new structure

CSC-backed revamp slashes admin layers

By Mohammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan announced that the Civil Service Commission (CSC) has approved the new organizational and administrative structure of the ministry.

Al-Mashaan said this move aims to enhance institutional efficiency and raise the quality of performance in various sectors of the ministry. She explained that her vision for developing the new structure is based on the importance of keeping pace with modern technical and scientific developments.

She confirmed the integration of specializations in the newly created units; such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and geographic information systems (GIS). She pointed out this is in accordance with the changing requirements of the labor market and in line with the trend toward digitizing

government services; thereby, improving the ability of the ministry to adopt the latest engineering and technical practices in implementing construction projects, infrastructure and public services.

She emphasized that the new organizational structure intends to achieve optimal use of human and technical resources through a flexible administrative model based on precise professional standards that take into account the requirements of the next phase and support the vision of the State to improve government performance.

She said the ministry is moving toward strengthening corporate governance. She confirmed the ministry is one of the first government agencies to prepare a governance guide, in cooperation with the CSC. "This guide ensures clarity of powers and responsibilities, and promotes the principles of transparency and integrity. This step is the



Dr. Al-Mashaan

cornerstone for a new phase of institutional performance, based on flexibility and professionalism. It seeks to achieve the best results in implementing vital projects and providing advanced services to citizens; while strengthening internal oversight tools, field monitoring and direct communication with the public. The amendment includes reducing the number of assistant undersecretaries from 10 to only two; in addition to creating the director general position, with five directors, each of whom will oversee technical or administrative departments according to their specialization.

The aim is to reduce administrative layers, expedite decision-making, and enhance the quality of follow-up. The new structure includes a precise administrative and technical division, including the Minister's Office, which consists of the technical, inspection and auditing, and consulting offices. The Undersecretary's Office supervises the legal affairs, strategic planning, environmental auditing and public relations departments. The technical and administrative sectors include the personnel affairs, purchasing, information systems, major projects, maintenance and sanitary engineering departments," she added.

Authority merges labor sectors

PAM gets new organizational setup

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: According to sources from the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), the authority's new organizational structure has been approved, reports Al-Anba daily.

The new organizational structure includes the following:

- Director General of PAM and two deputies - one for the Financial and

Administrative Affairs Sector, and the other for the Labor Sector (merging the Expatriate and National Labor Sectors into one) - will be appointed.

- Five director generals have been appointed, with several departments merged based on similar specializations.

They revealed that Marzouq Al-Otaibi

has been appointed Director General of PAM and Deputy Director General for the Financial and Administrative Sector, and Musaed Al-Mutairi has been appointed Deputy Director General for the Labor Sector. The sources indicated that, under the new structure, all previous assignments of the Deputy Director General will be terminated.



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NCCAL hails UAE's Faya inclusion on UNESCO World Heritage List for '25

KUWAIT CITY, July 12, (KUNA): Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) congratulated on Friday the UAE, its government and people on adding Sharjah's Faya to the UNESCO World Heritage List for 2025.

In a statement to KUNA, the NCCAL conveyed the congratulations of Minister of Information and Culture, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and NCCAL President Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi on this move, expressing pride for the UAE's position in preserving heritage.

This cultural accomplishment shows great continued efforts made by the UAE in preserving humanitarian heritage and historic identity in the region, it stated.

The move is an addition to Gulf and Arab efforts aiming to boost heritage presence in international arenas, it noted.

The council wished the UAE everlasting



Al-Awsat photo  
Sharjah's Faya heritage site.

progress, prosperity and successes in highlighting its civilized legacy and cultural contributions globally.

News in Brief

MoE exams lauded:

The Kuwait Teachers Association congratulated those who passed the final stage of supervisory exams for the assistant principal and school principal positions, reports Al-Anba daily.

The exams were highly praised for the content and performance of the trainers who conducted them.

They reflected the tremendous efforts exerted by the staff at the Development and Training Center and the Systems Department, which played a vital role in organizing the electronic exams.

The association also congratulated Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei for the results achieved in accordance with the approved plans and objectives, the successful completion of all stages, and the selection of competent leaders with the potential to contribute to achieving the desired goals.

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**Nationality revoked:** The Supreme Committee for Kuwaiti Nationality issued Decision No. 111/13-2/2025 regarding the loss of Kuwaiti nationality for five individuals, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This decision is based on Article 11 of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959 concerning the Kuwaiti Nationality Law, along with its amendments and related laws.

Minimal health risk

KISR completes national study on radon exposure

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: The Environment and Life Sciences Research Center at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has confirmed the completion of a national project titled, "Radon Gas Concentration in Homes in the Six Governorates of the Country," reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to a statement published on the website of KISR Tuesday, the study identified potential sources of radon emissions in residential buildings, assessed the associated health risks for occupants, and recommended mitigation measures in areas with high radon levels, if any.

The results are reassuring as the average concentration of radon gas in all sampled homes was well below internationally recognized safety thresholds for indoor air. The study pointed out that while older homes tend to have radon levels approximately 35 percent higher than newer buildings, concentrations remained within safe limits. The increased levels in older buildings were attributed to structural wear and tear, such as cracks in the foundation and outdated ventilation systems.

The estimated annual effective radiation dose and the lifetime cancer risk posed by radon exposure were described as "very low and insignificant" under the study's conditions.

"These findings establish a national baseline for indoor radon concentrations in Kuwait. The data will play a vital role in shaping future public health policies, indoor air quality regulations, and awareness campaigns," KISR stated.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is colorless, odorless and tasteless. It forms from the natural decay of uranium found in soil and rocks and can infiltrate buildings through small cracks and openings. Long-term exposure to high radon levels is known to increase the risk of lung cancer.

KISR emphasized that while current levels pose minimal risk, continued monitoring and public awareness are essential, particularly as construction trends and environmental conditions keep on evolving.





The Gazelle Moon – a rare phenomenon in the Gulf.

Rare phenomenon

Gazelle Moon adorns Kuwait skies

KUWAIT CITY, July 12, (KUNA): The skies of Kuwait showcased the extraordinary Gazelle Moon, a breathtaking celestial phenomenon eagerly anticipated by astronomy enthusiasts and observers around the world on Thursday.

This enchanting event captured the attention and admiration of many, highlighting its significance in the realm of astronomical occurrences.

The Al-Ajairy Scientific Center reported to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the Kuwaiti sky showcased the brilliance of the first full moon of the astronomical summer in the northern hemisphere, illuminating the night with a magical and distinctive color.

The full moon in July is referred to as the “Gazelle Moon” due to its alignment with the season when new horns begin to develop on the heads of gazelles.

This full moon is notable for being one of the lowest full moons of the

year.

The phenomenon started shortly after sunset, at 6:51 p.m., and lasts for about ten minutes.

Moonrise occurs at precisely 6:53 p.m., providing a unique chance to observe the distinct colors as the moon ascends in the sky.

At sunrise, the moon appears closer to orange and gradually rises above the eastern horizon, taking a low position opposite the sun.

This positioning causes its color to take on a warm golden hue as its light passes through the dense layers of the atmosphere near the horizon.

Furthermore, the moon appears larger and brighter during this phenomenon due to its proximity to Earth.

At this time, it is also at its farthest point from the sun for the year, making it an ideal occasion for astronomy enthusiasts to photograph and enjoy this rare event, especially in the Gulf region.

Egypt’s Ambassador commends top Egyptian students in Kuwait

Envoy calls for continued academic excellence abroad

By Fares Ghaleb  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Osama Shaltout praised the pioneering role of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled in advancing the educational system.



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Osama Shaltout along with other officials celebrate with the outstanding students.

Kuwait, especially the outstanding students; wishing them continuous excellence and success in their future academic journeys.

He praised the role of Egyptian and Kuwaiti educational staff and the achievements of the top Kuwaiti and Egyptian students, stressing the importance of continuing their hard work and dedication to acquire knowledge.

He urged the Egyptian students to exert more effort to maintain the distinguished position they have reached, as they are ambassadors for their country abroad; thanks to their achievements, serving as bridges of communication and shining examples for Egyptian citizens abroad.

He added that Egyptian universities recently achieved remarkable progress in various disciplines at the international level, as they have advanced in their international rankings in a manner befitting the status and history of Egypt.

Continued from Page 1

Give the

The Bedoun residents would spend their earnings within Kuwait, which they regard as their only homeland. Employing them would not impose additional costs on the state, as the services they use already exist. Although rumors suggest the number of Bedoun residents is around 100,000, this figure does not align with the official count reported by the Central Agency for the Remedy of the Situations of Illegal Residents. The Ministry of Interior is aware of this. Employing this population would ease many burdens on the country.

We must not forget that many Bedoun residents were born, raised, and educated in Kuwaiti schools. Some have excelled in various fields but were denied full human dignity.

Many Bedoun residents immigrated to countries that granted them citizenship, where they found work and completed their education, only to return to Kuwait because they consider it their true home. Also, many Bedoun women are mothers to Kuwaiti children and share a deep attachment to Kuwait as their homeland.

So why aren't Bedoun residents granted passports, like those whose citizenship has been revoked?

Granting them full-term passports would allow them to travel freely to any country in search of work and livelihood. It is quite possible that many would regain their fathers' or grandfathers' citizenship once granted this freedom of movement, instead of continuing to live in poverty and with restricted mobility.

It is well known that people are naturally friendly and do not like harm, but harsh circumstances can push them to commit crime when they struggle to provide for their families. If restrictions tighten further, some may abandon their values and resort to illegal means to survive.

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah is deeply concerned about this issue. We thank him for his concern and pray for God's guidance and support in his efforts.

Therefore, it is important to carefully consider the repercussions and channel the energy of the Bedoun community for the benefit of society, rather than neglecting the issue and allowing crime to escalate.

There is a fine line between harsh enforcement and maintaining security through the rule of law. Judges consistently uphold the spirit of the law, balancing justice with compassion and the public interest, especially here in Kuwait, a country known for its humanity.

We therefore bring this matter to the attention of senior officials and urge them to devise a fair and just solution for this group of people, whose numbers have grown after the revocation of citizenship.

Facilitating travel for the Bedoun residents could enable many to reconnect with their family roots in other countries.

Kuwait Amir

and energy transition, and an agreement to exchange classified information in the defense field.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is scheduled to begin an official visit to the friendly Republic of France on Sunday.

It is His Highness the Amir's first such visit to the European nation and comes to mark leaders of the two countries' keenness on cementing and developing these ties at various levels.

The French-Kuwaiti relations date back to August 28, 1961, when Paris assigned its Beirut ambassador as envoy to Kuwait and established commercial representation in the Gulf State before establishing the diplomatic ties with Kuwait in 1967.

These relations, over the past seven decades, developed in all fields, culminating with Paris' stand of support for Kuwait in 1990 when the late president Francois Mitterrand declared, on August 26, 1990, that the sovereignty of Kuwait is non-negotiable and dispatched some 18,000 troops to the region to partake in liberating the country.

Senior leaders and officials of the two countries, since establishing the relations, have reciprocated visits. The late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah had visited France several times, lastly in September 1989, when he held talks with the officials in Paris on promoting the bilateral relations in diverse sectors.

The late Amir Sheikh Jaber had later visited

France in October 1990, during the flagrant Iraqi occupation of the country, and in October 1991 to express gratitude and appreciation of the French support for the just Kuwaiti cause.

He had also gone to France in November 2006 where he met with President Jacques Chirac and senior officials, discussing means of cementing the bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

In January 2017, the (ex) first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, took part in the international conference for peace in the Middle East, held in Paris.

On April 24, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot came to Kuwait where he held talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya on ways of strengthening the relations, in addition to signing a number of accords and memoranda of understanding in diverse spheres.

The Kuwaiti Embassy in France took part in the Gulf Vision Conference (2025), held in France under sponsorship of President Emmanuel Macron, aimed at bolstering the European nation's partnership with the GCC states amid rapid changes in the global economy and mutual efforts to broaden the economic relations.

France is a major investor in Kuwait's energy, infrastructural, transport, health and cosmetics sectors, with the number of the French companies operating in the Gulf country accounting to 50 percent of the European companies.

France and Kuwait had signed several agreements in different sectors namely in taxation, first inked in 1973, in addition to an agreement for protecting and boosting investments, ratified by the two governments in 1989. In June 2017, Kuwait and Paris signed an agreement for executing measures of the taxation treaties.

France mainly exports to Kuwait cosmetics, perfumes, clothes, vehicles, food and aviation equipment.

At the military level, Kuwait eyes France a strategic ally especially since Paris took part in the international coalition for liberating the country in 1991, along with subsequent defense treaties.

In August 1992, the two countries signed a defense treaty regulating cooperation and stipulating that Paris pledges to stand on Kuwait's side against any external aggression. It also tackled the holding of military training and maneuvers, exchanging expertise. Moreover, they had signed another accord in December 2006 on defense cooperation.

In the health sector, a delegation of Nice University visited Kuwait and held talks with local health official on enhancing the cooperation and expertise swap. In April 2025, Minister Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadi signed a MoU with Gustave Roussy Hospital.

At the level of scientific and cultural cooperation, the two countries had signed several MoUs and accords to increase number of the Kuwaiti students studying in France, partake in cultural activities and exchange experience in the field.

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Airbus, Kuwait

He pointed out that Airbus is working continuously to provide innovative solutions that contribute to raising operational efficiency and achieving environmental sustainability, in line with global trends in terms of emission reduction and enhancement of operational efficiency.

Meanwhile, DGCA stated that during the meeting, the two parties discussed a number of topics of mutual interest; such as the development of vocational and technical training programs for the national manpower; investment in modern air transport projects in a way that enhances the position of Kuwait as a regional center in the field of civil aviation and air services; and prospects for cooperation in the fields of aviation industries, aviation services and modernizing the air fleet.

Also, Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Noura Al-Fassam and Wersch met on the same day to discuss various ways of boosting future collaboration, in light of the implementation of some development projects in Kuwait.

The Ministry of Finance disclosed in a press statement that both sides affirmed historic relations between Kuwait and Airbus, and reviewed the latest developments in their current partnership.

Managing Director of Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Sheikh Saud Salem Al-Sabah was also present at the meeting.

GCC population

in the GCC reached 169 males for every 100 females last year, while the gender ratio for the total world population reached 101 males for every 100 females.

GCC Statistical Center was established in Oman to be the official authority for data, information, and statistics related to the GCC countries.

Incheon, TAV

Sources stated that the recommendations will then be referred to the remaining regulatory authorities to complete the other requirements; affirming this step is in accordance with the policy of involving the private sector in the management and operation of the airport, especially after the remarkable success of the private operator's experience with T4 over the years, which contributed to improving services provided to passengers and the achievement of high operational efficiency that were reflected in the overall performance of the airport.

Sources revealed that the aforementioned companies previously met the required percentage in the technical evaluation; with the Korean company receiving a rating of 87.5 percent, while the Turkish company got a rating of 87 percent.

Kuwait highlights

offers more than 450 services from 40 government agencies with an average of 4.5 million transactions per month.

She also highlighted Kuwait's innovations in digital experiences including the launch of the “Newborn's Journey” the first integrated digital process that combines seven government services into one seamless transaction. She noted the launch of “Sahel Business” in 2022 which now offers 212 specialized services from 18 government agencies with over 515,000 completed transactions to date.

Al-Mansouri affirmed that these platforms reflect Kuwait's commitment to a responsive digital government that ensures accessibility and leaves no one behind.

Speaking to KUNA following the forum, Al-Mansouri said CITRA's participation aims to follow global trends and the latest developments in key areas notably artificial intelligence cybersecurity advanced networks and sustainable digital infrastructure.

She stressed that through such participation Kuwait seeks to benefit from the successful experiences of other countries and learn from international best practices in ICT particularly in the fast-evolving digital environment.

Separately Acting Director-General of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) Najat Ibrahim told KUNA during her participation in (WSIS 2025) that Kuwait places strong emphasis on regional and international cooperation to build a safe and inclusive digital future.

She noted the rapid advances in artificial intelligence witnessed during the summit's sessions and panel discussions.

Ibrahim stressed Kuwait's firm belief that “true digital transformation is not just about adopting technologies but also about building national capacities developing digital skills and enhancing digital inclusion across all sectors.”

She also underscored the importance of attending such international events to stay abreast of the latest developments in AI and ICT and to exchange expertise with global specialists which she said will contribute to advancing the goals of (Kuwait Vision 2035) and enhancing the country's readiness for an innovation-driven digital economy.

(WSIS 2025) and the (AI for Good Global Summit) witnessed strong high-level participation from Kuwait led by Minister of State for Communications and Chair of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) Omar Al-Omar.

On Thursday, Kuwait's Minister of State for Communication Affairs and current chair of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) Council for 2025, Omar Saud Al-Omar officially announced on Thursday the launch of the “DCO AI Ethics Evaluator.”

It is a comprehensive digital policy tool designed to help individuals and organizations systematically assess and address ethical considerations in their AI systems, he noted in a speech to the high-level forum of the (AI for Good Summit 2025) held concurrently with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Abdullah Al-Salem University announces Master’s program admissions for ’25/’26

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: Abdullah Al-Salem University, through the Office of the Vice President for Scientific Research and Graduate Studies, has announced the list of students accepted into the Master's programs for the 2025/2026 academic year.

CMA launches 2nd part of 3rd phase in Capital Market Development Program

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: Resolution No. 101/2025 issued by the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) will come into effect on Sunday, July 13 for the launch of the second part of the third phase of the Capital Market Development Program. This resolution marks a new chapter in the advancement of the Kuwaiti capital market.

According to a press release issued by CMA, the phase extends the previous stages of the program and includes significant changes that fundamentally impact the capital market infrastructure, which reflects CMA's commitment to enforcing Law No. 7/2010.

Since the issuance of Resolution No. 101/2025 last June, CMA has completed all necessary procedures to launch this phase, including issuing the required licenses.

Notably, a license was granted to the Kuwait Clearance Company to practice central brokerage activities, making it the first entity in the Kuwaiti market to undertake this activity. This license marks an important step in market development, with the central broker expected to enhance market infrastructure efficiency, increase transparency, and reduce operational risks.

In a related development, ten financial brokerage firms were upgraded to the “Qualified Broker” model, enabling them to offer a wider range of financial services and products to clients within the capital market system.

Technical systems for issuing bonds, sukuk, and exchange-traded fund indexes have been developed and tested, along with draft amendments to the executive regulations of Law No. 7/2010, in preparation for launching these products on the market.

This initiative is expected to diversify and expand the financial services and products available on the stock exchange, thereby



Tifoni

enhancing the market's appeal to investors.

Work is underway to finalize the necessary regulatory rules to enable the relevant authorities to implement these operations efficiently and effectively.

From a regulatory standpoint, this phase includes the introduction of sub-account numbers within consolidated accounts, whether for investment portfolios or electronic accounts, thereby enhancing CMA's oversight capabilities over Boursa Kuwait.

In this context, Chair of the Board of Commissioners and CEO Imad Tifoni stated, “The Capital Markets Authority, represented by the Board of Commissioners and all its employees, is proud to launch the second part of the third phase of the Capital Market System Development Program. This milestone adds to the authority's extensive record of development initiatives. The program is one of our pivotal strategic projects, encompassing four vital projects that significantly enhance market efficiency.

CMA also extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Kuwait Clearance Company, Boursa Kuwait, brokerage firms, all relevant parties, and the dedicated teams involved in implementing this program for their unwavering efforts and cooperation.”

In addition, Member of the Board of Commissioners and Chair of the Capital Market System Development Committee, Tariq Abdul Latif Al-Shehab, explained that completing the third phase of the Capital Market System Development Program is a significant achievement that adds to CMA's longstanding record of development initiatives. This success would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts and fruitful coordination among all relevant entities.



Al-Shehab

VACANCIES

A major Cement manufacturing company invites applications for the below mentioned positions:

Position	Required
Mechanical Supervisor / Foreman	5 Nos.
Fitter	10 Nos.
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Requirements :

- Minimum 5 years experience in an industrial company.
- Maximum age 45 years.
- Able to communicate in English language
- Transferable residence

Applicants fulfilling the above requirements and who can join immediately may send their CV,s mentioning the position applied for in the subject, to Email id :

kscrecruit@gmail.com



## US State Department lays off over 1,300 employees: reports

NEW YORK, July 12, (Xinhua): The US Department of State has begun firing more than 1,300 people as part of a dramatic overhaul of the agency, US media reported on Friday.

“The firings will affect 1,107 civil service and 246 foreign service officers,” reported CNN after reviewing an internal notice. “It comes as the State Department implements a drastic reorganization as part of the Trump administration’s broader efforts to shrink the federal government.”

Hundreds of offices and bureaus are being eliminated or altered as a result of the changes being implemented on Friday, it added.

Employees will receive layoff notices via email, the notice said.



Rubio

The firings are happening as Secretary of State **Marco Rubio** is out of Washington, DC, on a flight back from an overseas trip to Malaysia. “Nearly 3,000 members of the workforce will depart as part of the reorganization,” the notice said. That number includes people who are being fired as well as those leaving voluntarily.

“In connection with the Departmental reorganization first announced by the Secretary of State on April 22, 2025, the Department is streamlining domestic operations to focus on diplomatic priorities,” it said, adding that “headcount reductions have been carefully tailored to affect non-core functions, duplicative or redundant offices, and offices where considerable efficiencies may be found from centralization or consolidation of functions and responsibilities.”

While quoting a senior State Department official on condition of anonymity, Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) on Friday also confirmed the reported number of layoffs.

## US federal judge orders WH to halt indiscriminate immigration stops and arrests in California

LOS ANGELES, July 12, (AP): A federal judge on Friday ordered the Trump administration to halt indiscriminate immigration stops and arrests in seven California counties, including Los Angeles.

Immigrant advocacy groups filed the lawsuit last week accusing President Donald Trump’s administration of systematically targeting brown-skinned people in Southern California during its ongoing immigration crackdown. The plaintiffs include three detained immigrants and two US citizens, one of whom was held despite showing agents his identification.

The filing in US District Court asked a judge to block the administration from using what they call unconstitutional tactics in immigration raids. Immigrant advocates accuse immigration officials of detaining someone based on their race, carrying out warrantless arrests, and denying detainees access to legal counsel at a holding facility in downtown LA.

Judge Maame E. Frimpong also issued a separate order barring the federal government from restricting attorney access at a Los Angeles im-



People wait outside of Glass House Farms, a day after an immigration raid on the facility on July 11, in Camarillo, Calif. (AP)

migration detention facility.

Frimpong issued the emergency orders, which are a temporary measure while the lawsuit proceeds, the day after a hearing during which advocacy groups argued that the government was

violating the Fourth and Fifth amendments of the Constitution.

She wrote in the order there was a “mountain of evidence” presented in the case that the federal government was committing the violations they

were being accused of.

The White House responded quickly to the ruling late Friday.

“No federal judge has the authority to dictate immigration policy - that authority rests with Congress and the President,” spokesperson Abigail Jackson said. “Enforcement operations require careful planning and execution; skills far beyond the purview (or) jurisdiction of any judge. We expect this gross overstep of judicial authority to be corrected on appeal.”

Immigrants and Latino communities across Southern California have been on edge for weeks since the Trump administration stepped up arrests at car washes, Home Depot parking lots, immigration courts and a range of businesses. Tens of thousands of people have participated in rallies in the region over the raids and the subsequent deployment of the National Guard and Marines.

The order also applies to Ventura County, where busloads of workers were detained Thursday while the court hearing was underway after federal agents descended on a cannabis farm, leading to clashes with protesters and multiple injuries.

‘Search for missing continues’

## Trump tours Texas flood sites and defends officials as questions mount about response

KERRVILLE, Texas, July 12, (AP): US President Donald Trump on Friday toured the devastation from catastrophic flooding in Texas and lauded state and local officials, even amid mounting criticism that they may have failed to warn residents quickly enough that a deadly wall of water was coming their way.

Trump has repeatedly promised to do away with the Federal Emergency Management Agency as part of his larger pledges to dramatically shrink the size of government, and he’s fond of decrying officials in Democrat-run states hit by past natural disasters and tragedy.

But the president struck a far more somber and sympathetic tone while visiting America’s most populous Republican state - highlighting the heartbreak of what happened while effusively praising elected officials and first responders alike.

“The search for the missing continues. The people that are doing it are unbelievable,” Trump, seated with officials around a table with emblazoned with a black-and-white “Texas Strong” banner, said at a makeshift emergency operations center inside an expo hall in Kerrville.

He later added, “You couldn’t get better people, and they’re doing the job like I don’t think anybody else could, frankly.”

Since the July 4 disaster, which killed at least 129 people and left more than 170 missing, the president has been conspicuously silent on his past promises to shutter FEMA and return disaster response to the states. Instead, he’s focused on the once-in-a-lifetime nature of what occurred in central Texas’ Hill Country and its human toll.

“We just visited with incredible families. They’ve been devastated,” the president said of a closed-door meeting he and first lady Melania Trump had with the relatives of some of those killed or missing.

Trump’s shift in focus underscores how tragedy can complicate political calculations, even though he has made slashing the federal workforce a centerpiece of his administration’s opening months. He spent a lot of time Friday discussing the victims from Camp Mystic, the century-old all-girls Christian summer camp where at least 27 people were killed.

The first lady described meeting “beautiful young ladies” from the area who she said gave her a “special bracelet from the camp in honor of all the little girls that lost their lives.” She promised to return to support the camp in the future.

Trump approved Texas’ request to extend the major disaster declaration beyond Kerr County to eight additional counties, making them eligible for direct financial assistance to recover and rebuild.

“All across the country Americans’ hearts are shattered,” he said. “I had to be



US First Lady Melania Trump, (from left), and President Donald Trump greet first responders as they observe flood damage in Kerrville, Texas on July 11. (AP)

here as president.”

Despite saying that he didn’t want to talk politics, Trump couldn’t help himself. During the roundtable, he bragged briefly about his administration reducing the cost of eggs around the country and, in a response to a question about Democratic criticisms of the flood response, said, “All they want to do is criticize.”

“They’re getting just absolutely clobbered ‘cause everyone sees what an incredible job the governor did,” Trump said of Democrats. “Everybody in this room, everybody at this table in particular.”

He also still insisted “we’ve got some good people” running FEMA. That is nonetheless a far cry from his call mere weeks ago to begin “phasing out” FEMA.

At the White House, Russell Vought, director of the Office of Management and Budget, similarly dodged questions Friday about FEMA’s future. He said that the agency has billions of dollars in reserves “to continue to pay for necessary ex-

penses.”

“We also want FEMA to be reformed,” Vought said. “The president is going to continue to be asking tough questions of all of us agencies, no different than any other opportunity to have better government.”

On the ground in devastated communities, meanwhile, some state and local officials have faced questions about how well they were prepared and how quickly they acted - including if warning systems might have given more people time to evacuate.

Asked about such concerns during his appearance at the operations center in Kerrville, Trump called a reporter “evil” and said he thought “everyone did an incredible job under the circumstances.”

“I admire you, and I consider you heroes,” Trump said of the officials around him.

He also praised a long list of Texas Republicans and had especially kind words for Rep. Chip Roy, who represents some of the hardest-hit areas. A staunch conservative, Roy initially opposed Trump’s sweeping tax-cut and spending package but ultimately supported it.

“He’s not easy, but he’s good,” Trump said of Roy. The congressman, for his part, bristled at questions about authorities’ flood response, calling the queries about inadequate flood warnings “ridiculous.”

Prior to the roundtable, Air Force One landed in San Antonio and Trump deplaned in a suit while the first lady wore more casual clothing - though both wore ball caps against the heat. The Trumps then boarded a helicopter to Kerrville and saw the flooding aftermath from the air. They later walked close to the Guadalupe River to receive a briefing from officials near an overturned tractor trailer, numerous downed trees and other debris.

Roads in the center of town were shut down, and people lined the streets, some wearing Trump hats and T-shirts and waving American flags. Green ribbons recognizing the lives lost at Camp Mystic were tied around trees, poles and along bridges, and marquees featured slogans such as “Hill Country Strong” and “Thank you first responders.”

Harris Currie, a rancher from Utopia, Texas, near Kerrville, said the flood devastation can be fully understood only by seeing it firsthand.

“Pictures do not do it justice,” Currie said. Asked what officials on the ground needed most urgently from federal sources, Kerr County Commissioner Jeff Holt, who also is a volunteer firefighter, stressed the need for repairs to nonworking phone towers and “maybe a little better early warning system.”

## Musk’s X investigated in France for alleged data tampering and fraud

PARIS, July 12, (Agencies): French prosecutors have launched a police investigation into alleged data tampering and fraud involving X, Elon Musk’s social media platform.

The Paris prosecutor’s office, in a statement Friday, announced the opening of the investigation, and said that a branch of the French gendarmerie is conducting the inquiry.

The investigation is looking into two alleged offenses “in particular” - organized tampering with the functioning of an automated data processing system, and organized fraudulent extraction of data from an automated data processing system, the statement said.

It didn’t give details of the alleged wrongdoing. It said that the investigation is targeting both the platform and people, without naming them or saying what role they might have within X.

The prosecutor’s office said that it



Elon Musk, who owns Twitter, Tesla and SpaceX, speaks at the Vivat-eich fair on June 16, 2023 in Paris. (AP)

was acting on information that two people provided in January to its cybercrimes unit. One of them is a

member of parliament, and the other is a senior official in a French government institution. It didn’t identify them or the institution.

It said the two people alleged the suspected use of X’s algorithm for the “purposes of foreign interference.” It didn’t detail the alleged interference or how the algorithm was allegedly used.

The prosecutor’s office said that it decided this week to open the police investigation, after conducting its own “verifications” and having received additional information from French researchers and “various public institutions.”

Laurent Buanece, CEO of X France, stated on the platform in January that X “has strict, clear, and public rules aimed at protecting the platform from hate speech,” adding that it “fights disinformation” and that its algorithm “is designed to avoid recommending hateful content.”



A fire burns at a residential building after a Russian attack in Kyiv, Ukraine on July 10. (AP)

## US selling weapons to NATO allies to give to Ukraine, says President Trump

WASHINGTON, July 12, (AP): The United States is selling weapons to its NATO allies in Europe so they can provide them to Ukraine as it struggles to fend off a recent escalation in Russia’s drone and missile attacks, President Donald Trump and his chief diplomat said.

“We’re sending weapons to NATO, and NATO is paying for those weapons, 100%,” Trump said in an interview with NBC News late Thursday. “So what we’re doing is, the weapons that are going out are going to NATO, and then NATO is going to be giving those weapons (to Ukraine), and NATO is paying for those weapons.”

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Friday that some of the US-made weapons that Ukraine is seeking are deployed with NATO allies in Europe. Those weapons could be transferred to Ukraine, with European countries buying replacements from the US, he said.

“It’s a lot faster to move something, for example, from Germany to Ukraine than it is to order it from a (US) factory and get it there,” Rubio told reporters during a visit to Kuala

Lumpur, Malaysia.

Ukraine badly needs more US-made Patriot air defense systems to stop Russian ballistic and cruise missiles. The Trump administration has gone back and forth about providing more vital military aid to Ukraine more than three years into Russia’s invasion.

Meanwhile, at least six people were killed overnight and on Saturday morning as Russia continued to pound Ukraine with hundreds of drones and cruise missiles as part of a stepped-up bombing campaign that has further dampened hopes for a breakthrough in efforts to end the more than three-year-old war.

Two people died and 14 were wounded when Russian forces overnight attacked the Bukovina area in the Chernivtsi region of southwestern Ukraine with four drones and a missile, regional Gov Ruslan Zaporaniuk said Saturday. He said that the two people died due to falling debris from a drone. A drone attack in Ukraine’s western Lviv region wounded nine people, regional Gov. Maksym Kozytskyi said.

## Greek parliament passes suspension of asylum claims despite int’l criticism

ATHENS, Greece, July 12, (AP): Greece’s parliament approved a three-month suspension of asylum claims for migrants arriving from Libya on Friday, despite strong criticism from the United Nations refugee agency and Europe’s top human rights official.

The measure suspends asylum application processing for those arriving by sea from North Africa, following a dramatic surge in Mediterranean crossings that has overwhelmed reception facilities on the island of Crete.

The suspension passed by a vote of 177-74 despite fierce opposition from left-wing parties, which unsuccessfully challenged the amendment as unconstitutional.

Thanos Plevris, the migration affairs minister, told lawmakers up to 1,000 migrants were arriving daily and described the situation as resembling an “invasion.”

Authorities are continuing efforts to intercept boats south of Crete and take migrants directly to mainland facilities.

The emergency measures drew sharp criticism from international human rights organizations. The United



Migrants rescued south of Crete wait to be registered on their arrival at the port of Lavrio, Greece, on July 10. (AP)

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees expressed “deep concern.” While acknowledging Greece’s right to manage borders, UNHCR said border control “must be in line with international and European law.”

Michael O’Flaherty, the Council of

Europe’s Commissioner for Human Rights, also condemned Athens’ response, arguing it “would legalize returning people to face a risk of torture and other serious violations, in breach of (Greece’s international) obligations.”

### Europe

**Wildfires continue in Bosnia:** Wildfires in southern Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)’s Trebinje region have entered their sixth day, with flames still active in some mountainous areas and nearby villages, according to local authorities on Friday.

Local firefighting units, backed by helicopters from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republika Srpska, one of the two entities of BiH, have managed to stabilize the situation. Officials confirmed that residential zones are currently not at risk, but warned that shifting winds could reignite the blaze.

Firefighting forces from neighboring cities, including

Trebinje, Bileca, Nevesinje, and Herceg Novi remain deployed, alongside volunteers and local residents. The fire near the main road to Bileca has been largely contained. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

**Police arrests alleged leader of Italian mafia:** Colombian authorities said Friday they captured an alleged leader of the Italian ‘ndrangheta mafia in Latin America who is accused of overseeing cocaine shipments and managing illegal trafficking routes to Europe.

Police identified the suspect as Giuseppe Palermo, also known as “Peppe,” an Italian who was wanted under an Interpol red notice, which called for his arrest in 196 countries. (AP)



Three countries hold joint air drill

Russia warns US, S.Korea and Japan against forming security alliance targeting N.Korea

SEOUL, South Korea, July 12, (AP): Russia’s foreign minister on Saturday warned the US, South Korea and Japan against forming a security partnership targeting North Korea as he visited his country’s ally for talks on further solidifying their booming military and other cooperation.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov flew to North Korea’s eastern Wonsan city on Friday for a meeting with his North Korean counterpart Choe Son Hui.

Relations between Russia and North Korea have been flourishing in recent years, with North Korea supplying troops and ammunitions to support Russia’s war against Ukraine in return for military and economic assistance. That has raised concerns among South Korea, the US and others that Russia might also transfer to North Korea sensitive technologies that can increase the danger of its nuclear and missile programs.

After a meeting with Choe on Saturday, Lavrov accused the US, South Korea and Japan of what he called their military buildups around North Korea.

“We warn against exploiting these ties to build alliances directed against anyone, including North Korea and, of course, Russia,” he told reporters, according to Russia’s state Tass news agency.

The US, South Korea and Japan have been expanding or restoring their trilateral military exercises in response to North Korea’s advancing nuclear program. On Friday, the three countries held a joint air drill involving US nuclear-capable bombers near the Korean Peninsula, as their top military officers met in Seoul and urged North Korea to cease all unlawful activities that threaten regional security.

North Korea views major US-led military drills as invasion rehearsals. It has long argued that it’s forced to develop nuclear weapons to defend itself from US military threats.

Lavrov said Russia understands North Korea’s decision to seek nuclear weapons.

“The technologies used by North Korea are the result of the work of its own scientists. We respect North Korea’s aspirations and understand the reasons why it is pursuing a nuclear development,” Lavrov said.

During their meeting, Choe reiterated that North Korea “unconditionally” sup-



In this photo released by Russian Foreign Ministry Press Service, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, (center), walks from the plane upon his arrival at an international airport outside Pyongyang, North Korea, on July 11. (AP)

ports Russia’s fight against Ukraine. She described ties between North Korea and Russia as “the invincible alliance.”

Lavrov said he repeated Russia’s gratitude for the contribution that North Korean troops made in efforts to repel a Ukrainian incursion into Russia’s Kursk border region.

Wonsan city, the meeting venue, is where North Korea recently opened a mam-

moth beach resort that it says can accommodate nearly 20,000 people.

In his comments at the start of his meeting with Choe, Lavrov said that “I am sure that Russian tourists will be increasingly eager to come here. We will do everything we can to facilitate this, creating conditions for this, including air travel,” according to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The Wonsan-Kalma tourist zone is at the center of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s push to boost tourism as a way to improve his country’s troubled economy. But prospects for the biggest tourist complex in North Korea aren’t clear, as the country appears unlikely to fully reopen its borders and embrace Western tourists anytime soon.

Top South Korean, US and Japanese military officers urged North Korea to cease all unlawful activities that threaten regional security, as the three nations flew advanced warplanes for a joint exercise in a show of force against the North.

During their regular meeting in Seoul on Friday, the chairmen of the joint chiefs of staff from South Korea, the US and Japan discussed North Korea’s deployment of troops to Russia to support its war against Ukraine and Russia’s potential transfer of military technology to North Korea in return.

“They urged the DPRK to immediately cease all unlawful activities to destabilize the Korean Peninsula, the Indo-Pacific, and beyond, and pledged to continue working together to respond to the DPRK’s threats,” according to a joint press statement. DPRK stands for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, North Korea’s formal name.

North Korea and Russia have grown sharply closer in recent years, with North Korea supplying thousands of troops and ammunitions to Russia in return for economic and military assistance. Seoul, Washington and their partners worry Russia might provide North Korea with sensitive technologies that can enhance its nuclear and missile programs as well.

The three joint chiefs of staff chairmen - South Korea’s Kim Myung-soo, the United States’ Dan Caine and Japan’s Yoshida Yoshihide - discussed various ways to deepen their cooperation in order to ensure peace and stability in the region, according to the joint statement.

Trump to host Philippine president to discuss trade, security in Asia

MANILA, Philippines, July 12, (AP): US President Donald Trump will host his Philippine counterpart in the White House this month to discuss how the longtime treaty allies can further deepen their security and economic engagements, Philippine officials said Friday.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s will visit the United States from July 20 to 22 but Philippine officials were still finalizing details of his meeting with Trump with the US State Department, the Philippine government said. The allies have boosted mutual defense engagements, including large-scale combat exercises in the Philippines, to strengthen deterrence against China’s increasingly aggressive actions in the region.

Among the proposed topics for discussion is strengthening “peace through deterrence,” Philippine Ambassador to Washington Jose Manuel Romualdez told The Associated Press by telephone.

That echoed Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth’s remarks about the U.S. military’s plan to ratchet up deterrence against China’s increasingly assertive actions in the disputed South China Sea by intensifying security engagements with the Philippines and allied nations in the region.

The Philippines has also expressed concern over a 20% tariff



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr listens during the 12th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) -US Summit in Vientiane, Laos on Oct 11, 2024. (AP)

the Trump administration plans to impose on Manila’s exports starting Aug1 unless a deal was reached. A Philippine trade delegation would travel to the US next week to pursue negotiations with American counterparts.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met his Japanese and Philippine counterparts in a meeting Thursday on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ annual ministerial meetings in Malaysia. The US, Japan and the Philippines have been building a trilateral bloc

to broaden security and economic cooperation.

“We have a great relationship with Japan and the Philippines and work closely with them on the economic corridor, on maritime security and territorial integrity and continue to build upon that partnership,” Rubio said after his meeting in Malaysia with Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya and Philippine Foreign Secretary Theresa Lazzaro. Washington looks “forward to hosting the president of the Philippines in Washington in a few days.”

Wang calls for joint efforts in finding right way for China and US to get along

KUALA LUMPUR, July 12, (Xinhua): China and the United States should work together to find the right way to get along with each other in the new era, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here on Friday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, expressed his hope that the U.S. side would view China with an objective, rational and pragmatic attitude.

Wang made the remarks during a meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in the Malaysian capital on the sidelines of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting and related meetings.

Wang comprehensively expounded China’s principled positions on developing China-U.S. relations, emphasizing that both sides should translate the important consensus reached by the two heads of state into specific policies and actions.

Noting that the US policy towards China should be based on the goal of peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, Wang said the United States should treat China in an equal, respectful and mutually beneficial manner.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on Sino-US relations and issues of common concern.

**Also:**

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday met with



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, meets with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 11. (Xinhua)

his Canadian counterpart Anita Anand in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, emphasized that **China-Canada** relations have experienced ups and downs in recent years. There are no territorial disputes or geopolitical conflicts between the two countries, and they can become partners that achieve mutual success.

Noting that this year marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Canada, as well as the 20th anni-

versary of the establishment of their strategic partnership, Wang said that it is an important opportunity to reflect on the past and think about the future.

China and Canada should further implement the important consensus reached by leaders of the two countries, adopting a more objective and rational attitude towards each other and strengthening cooperation with a more positive and open spirit, said Wang, adding China hopes Canada will provide a favorable business environment for Chinese companies to invest and operate.

Fuel to Air India plane cut off moments before crash, investigation report says

NEW DELHI, July 12, (Agencies): Fuel control switches for the engines of an Air India flight that crashed last month were moved from the “run” to the “cutoff” position moments before impact, starving both engines of fuel, a preliminary investigation report said early Saturday.

The report, issued by India’s Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, also indicated that both pilots were confused over the change to the switch setting, which caused a loss of engine thrust shortly after takeoff.

The Air India flight - a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner - crashed on June 12 and killed at least 260 people, including 19 on the ground, in the northwestern city of Ahmedabad. Only one passenger survived the crash, which is one of India’s worst aviation disasters.

The plane was carrying 230 passengers - 169 Indians, 53 British, seven Portuguese and a Canadian - along with 12 crew members.

According to the report, the flight lasted around 30 seconds between takeoff and crash. It said that once the aircraft achieved its top recorded speed, “the Engine 1 and Engine 2 fuel cutoff switches transitioned from RUN to CUTOFF position one after another” within a second. The report did not say how the switches could have flipped to the cutoff position during the flight.

The movement of the fuel control switches allow and cut fuel flow to the plane’s engines.

The switches were flipped back into



Officials inspect the site of Air India plane crash on the roof of a building in Ahmedabad, India on June 13. (AP)

the run position, the report said, but the plane could not gain power quickly enough to stop its descent after the aircraft had begun to lose altitude.

**Also:**

**NEW DELHI:** The death toll from a bridge collapse in the western Indian state of Gujarat rose to 20 on Friday, officials said.

A portion of the bridge over the **Mathisagar** river collapsed on Wednesday in **Vadodara** district, about 151 km southeast of **Gandhinagar**, the capital city of **Gujarat**. Following its collapse, five to seven vehicles plying on it plunged into the river.

“The search operation has been go-

ing on since Wednesday, and today two more bodies were recovered during the extraction of a truck from the riverbed, taking the death toll to 20 in the accident so far,” an official said.

The search operation at the spot was underway, as two people were still missing.

The cause of the bridge collapse was unknown.

Meanwhile, the local government has suspended four engineers from the Public Works Department in connection with the matter.

Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** has ordered an inquiry into the accident, promising a detailed report within 30 days.

Africa

**Cameroon presidential election in Oct:** Cameroon on Friday set the next presidential election for Oct 12, according to a statement from the country’s longtime president. The vote comes at a key time for the west African nation whose 92-year-old leader has not ruled out that he would seek another term.

**Paul Biya**, Africa’s second longest-serving president after Teodoro Obiang of Equatorial Guinea, is frequently sick and abroad, and last year, talk spread that he had died, prompting the government to publicly deny the rumors.

The over 40 years of Biya’s stay in power has left a lasting impact. His government has faced various challenges, including allegations of corruption and a secessionist movement in Cameroon’s English-speaking provinces that has forced thousands out of school and triggered deadly clashes with security forces.

Cameroon has also had to deal with spillover violence by the Islamic extremist Boko Haram group, based in neighboring Nigeria.

Recently, several of Biya’s longtime allies defected to announce their own candidacies for president.

Bello Bouba Maigari, Cameroon’s tourism minister, quit last week after Issa Tchirroma Bakary resigned as minister of employment and vocational training, both pitching themselves as the right candidates to succeed Biya.



Biya

Biya, in power since 1982, is also Cameroon’s second president since independence from France in 1960. Though he has not announced whether he would seek another term, he has hinted at accepting the ruling party’s requests for him to run again.

He cruised to victory in 2018 with over 70% of the vote in an election marred by irregularities and low turnout due to ongoing separatist and jihadi violence. (AP)

**Kenya opp’n leaders demand Ruto resignation:** Kenya’s opposition leaders demanded the president’s resignation over his call for police to shoot those found stealing or burning property during protests, as mourners on Friday attended the burial of a Kenyan civilian who was shot at close range by a police officer during a recent demonstration.

Opposition figure Kalonzo Musyoka said the president’s order was “against the constitution” and that he should “resign or be impeached.”

President William Ruto said on Wednesday that he would not allow “anarchy” in the country disguised as peaceful demonstrations, and called for police to shoot and “break the legs” of those found looting or damaging property during protests.

Human rights groups have called for restraint among police officers as waves of protests have rocked Kenya in recent weeks. More than 50 people have died in the two major demonstrations, according to the state-funded Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. The unrest began when the death of a blogger in police custody last month angered many Kenyans, and tensions heightened after the shooting of the civilian, Boniface Kariuki. (AP)

US sanctions Cuba president, other officials for human rights violations

HAVANA, July 12, (AP): The United States government announced Friday it was sanctioning Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel and other top officials for human rights violations and restricting access to visas on the anniversary of the biggest protests on the island in recent decades.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on social media platform X that the State Department also would impose visa restrictions on Cuban judicial and prison officials “responsible for, or complicit in, the unjust detention and torture of the July 2021 protesters.”

The protests, which were not led by an opposition group, developed July 11 and 12, 2021, drawing attention to the depths of Cuba’s economic crisis.

“The US will continue to stand for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Cuba, and make clear no illegitimate, dictatorial regimes are welcome in our hemisphere,” Rubio said in the statement.

The Trump administration has taken a harder line against Cuba’s government than the Biden administration.

In addition to Díaz-Canel, the U.S. sanctioned Cuban Defense Minister Álvaro López Miera and Interior Min-



Cuba’s President Miguel Diaz-Canel attends the 17th annual BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro on July 6. (AP)

ister Lázaro Álvarez Casas.

Shortly after the announcement, Johana Tablada, deputy director of the US department in the Cuban Foreign Ministry, lashed out at Rubio, calling him a “defender of genocide, prisons and mass deportations.”

The rare protests in 2021 came about

after repeated blackouts in Havana and other cities. One man died and some marches ended in vandalism. Groups supporting the government responded along with authorities to repress the protests. Human rights groups estimated there were more than 1,000 arrests but the government gave no official figures.

Sudan’s paramilitary attack leaves at least 4 people dead

CAIRO, July 12, (AP): The fight between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces has escalated in Sudan’s central Kordofan region, killing at least four people, healthcare workers said on Friday.

Sudan’s paramilitary forces launched artillery shelling on neighborhoods in Obeid city, the capital of North Kordofan province, on Thursday night, killing at least four people and injuring others, Sudan Doctors’ Network said in a statement. The group said the shelling targeted women and elderly people.

“The RSF is targeting civilians with guided artillery rockets, deliberately inflicting fatalities in the neighborhoods of El-Obeid, which ... are densely populated with displaced people and those who fled from areas under RSF control,” the group said.

The fighting in North Kordofan displaced around 700 households between July 4 and July 9, according to the latest update by the International Organization for Migration.



Soldiers arrive to the Allafah market, in an area recently recaptured by Sudan’s army from the Rapid Support Forces paramilitary group, in the Al Kalalah district, south of Khartoum, Sudan on March 27. (AP)



Kuwait oil down USD 1.36 to USD 70.61 pb

KUWAIT CITY, July 12, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil fell USD 1.36 to reach USD 70.61 per barrel (pb) on Friday, compared to Thursday's USD 71.97 pb, as reported by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Saturday.

In global markets, Brent Crude rose by USD 1.72 to reach USD 70.36 pb, and West Texas Intermediate went up by USD 1.88 to reach USD 68.45 pb.

Other Voices

Bad news – oil prices plunge below \$70 pb

By Kamel Al-Harami  
Independent Oil Analyst

Demand for oil is weak from major consumers in Asia, including China, Japan, and South Korea, with a reduction of more than 400,000 barrels per day. These countries are the main consumers of oil from Arabian Gulf producers, so the decline will have a major impact on Gulf economies without exception.



Al-Harami

In addition, demand in the United States has slowed by 70,000 barrels per day, along with reduced demand from Mexico. Oil prices have now fallen below \$68 a barrel, a level not seen even during the 2009 financial crisis or the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sad reality is that oil prices are now much lower than in previous years, possibly reflecting the impact of U.S. tariffs, which may also be affecting domestic demand.

Meanwhile, Europe and emerging markets such as India, Pakistan, and Vietnam show reduced demand. This could suggest that Far East countries either have surplus oil with no available storage capacity, or they are holding off in anticipation of further price drops.

This is certainly bad news for OPEC, which recently increased crude output, pushing more than one million barrels per day in excess into the market. With global oil demand at 104 million barrels per day and supply at 105.2 million, the market is now oversupplied by over one million barrels daily, and it is struggling to find buyers.

As a result, prices have dropped below \$68 a barrel, with no immediate signs of recovery.

The question remains whether OPEC+ will return to its tradi-

tional policy of supporting crude oil prices by cutting production, a strategy that may ultimately benefit non-OPEC producers and erode OPEC+'s market share. This could lead to the same cycle of repeated policy shifts.

Or will this time be different, as OPEC+ becomes more accustomed to outside borrowing?

The oil market needs stability and clear guidance from OPEC+ to take the right actions that balance supply while managing oil prices at an acceptable level.

This raises questions about the effectiveness of the quota system and the success of the overall policy of OPEC+. Most of the time, their measures work only briefly before the organization relaxes its stance. When oil prices rise, other producers increase output to capitalize on the situation, undermining OPEC's efforts. This cycle repeats as prices eventually harden again.

The decline in oil prices is likely to continue, and nothing can change this unless OPEC+ intervenes as usual by calling for further production cuts, resulting, as always, in losses for the organization.

As mentioned before, OPEC+ is relying heavily on borrowing from external banking sources to cover its deficits, a trend that is expected to continue unless oil-producing countries reduce their expenses and cut their budgets. In addition, it is important to explore new sources of income.

Governments must also focus on creating jobs for recent graduates despite the drop in oil revenues.

The future looks challenging, with lower oil prices and reduced income from oil. Our governments need to find alternative revenue streams and provide job opportunities for new entrants to the labor market.

We must face these new realities - weaker oil prices, higher expenses, and growing numbers of job seekers. These are the new challenges facing the Arabian Gulf countries amid a period of lower oil prices.

Email: [naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com](mailto:naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com)



A group photo of OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais with OIAPEC Secretary General Jamal Al-Loughani and a number of participants.



KUNA photos  
Part of the attendees at the closing session of the Ninth OPEC International Symposium.

Security, major obstacle facing global energy mix: OAPEC chief

OPEC seminar adopts recommendations for sustainable energy

VIENNA, July 12, (KUNA): OPEC concluded on Thursday its ninth international seminar after high-level discussions over two days that brought together decision-makers and high-level experts of energy in the world.

The seminar issued some key references to determine the path of the next period in global energy sector.

OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais opened the closing session, highlighting the recommendations topped with enhancing energy systems flexibility and building infrastructure to be able to meet the expected growing demand in the upcoming decades.

The second recommendation affirmed the continued role of oil as a main source of global energy mix, despite the expansion of alternative sources.

The participants called for intensifying investments in all energy fields, focusing at the same time on developing infrastructure and techniques to ensure supplies security in the long run.

The fourth recommendation stressed the need of enabling developing countries to fairly exploit their natural resources through providing funding and technology in a way that lessens energy gap and achieves development and climate justice.

The conferees also urged adopting a real and comprehensive approach in terms of drawing up energy policies based on science and data.

Al-Ghais emphasized that energy future should be built on the principles of collaboration, justice and reality, stressing the need of continued dialogue among sector's players.

He expressed hope that these recommendations would be practical steps to boost international cooperation, and establish a safer and more sustainable energy future.

The seminar has witnessed unprecedented participation, featuring 71 speakers, including 23 ministers, 35 CEOs and 12 international organizations.

Secretary-General of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) Jamal Al-Loughani said Thursday that energy security is one of the major challenges facing global energy mix, in

light of accelerating changes in this sector.

Interviewed by KUNA on the sidelines of the Ninth OPEC International Seminar in Vienna, Al-Loughani said achieving energy security requires mixing all reliable sources, topped with oil and gas, along boosting the use of renewable energy and improving energy consumption efficiency.

He underlined the need of diversifying energy sources and addressing challenges of limited production of critical minerals.

On OAPEC future, Al-Loughani noted that it plans to expand organizing research events and providing data related to energy sources, environment and sustainability to enhance transparency and market stability.

The bloc contributes to building a reliable, clean and fair energy system for the upcoming generations, he said.

He pointed to the raid change in energy industry and the appearance of renewable energy.

Keeping pace with energy changes, achieving energy security and reducing emissions are challenges facing OAPEC, he elaborated.

He called for adopting a balanced approach based on eliminating carbon and keeping fossil fuel as part of a sustainable and varied energy mix.

OAPEC chief urged enhancing international collaboration and sharing technology as well as funding projects to help developing countries for just and real transition to clean energy.

The bloc is carrying out 15 strategic initiatives to fulfill the administrative and legal amendments of the establishment agreement to turn the bloc into an inclusive Arab organization by December, he said.

OAPEC Arab members own 54 percent of global oil reserve, and 27 percent of gas, and this helps them play a pivotal role in meeting the global demand for energy, he added.

Meanwhile, necessary investments in the oil sector until 2040 will amount to USD 10.6 trillion, said an OPEC report on Thursday.

In the new annual report 2025 World Oil Outlook (WOO), OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais said that the oil sector required around USD 18.2 tril-

lion in investments until 2050 to ensure market stability and meeting the demand of developing and developed world countries.

He stressed the importance of minimizing the impact of emissions, reinforcing efforts for low carbon emission solutions.

He asserted that an increase interest in capturing and storing carbon emissions as part of the circle economy policy.

Achieving energy security and climate goals required balanced policies covering all sources of energy and technology in a transparent and cooperative spirits, said Al-Ghais, calling for acknowledging facts on the ground when it came to the energy sector.

He indicated that the report would be a vital reference for decision-makers and experts to face future challenges and ensure a solid and proactive global economic performance.

The annual report, which included an outlook on the industry until 2040, predicted an increase in oil demand led by none members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) especially from Asia, possibly China, by an average of USD 21.4 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2040.

Petrochemical and aviation sectors would be the main factors in pushing demand for oil in compared to demand stability and decrease in use by industrial states.

The WOO touches on other climate, geopolitical, and technical aspects, pointing to an increase in production from beyond OPEC especially US Shale oil, which will reach its fervor mid-decade before declining and paving the way for traditional producers in the market.

Oil will remain as a main driver for global energy despite rapid policies for renewable energy resources.

The OPEC9 Seminar will included later Thursday. Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Tareq Al-Roumi is partaking in the event alongside oil and energy ministers from OPEC and beyond in addition to oil and natural tycoons, energy experts, and decision-makers.

Capital market launches phase 3, part 2 of development plan

Kuwait unveils key capital market reform to boost investment

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: Reaffirming its commitment to building a more efficient, attractive, and globally competitive market that meets investor ambitions and aligns with international best practices, the Kuwaiti capital market apparatus has launched part two of the third phase of its comprehensive market development program (MD 3.2).

This phase included a series of core initiatives aimed at strengthening the operational and regulatory infrastructure as well as expanding the range of products and services in the Kuwaiti capital market. Led by the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) and in collaboration with the Central Bank of Kuwait, local banks, investment firms and brokerage companies, Boursa Kuwait and the Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC) delivered a variety of transformative products, services and infrastructure enhancements, including the introduction of the Central Counterparty (CCP) framework, which reduces risks and provides guarantees to advance clearing and settlement processes in line with international standards.

Among the other enhancements are cash settlements through local banks and the Central Bank of Kuwait's KASSIP system; the upgrade of brokerage firms' operating models to "Qualified Broker" status, marking a significant step forward in market structure; and the introduction of sub-account numbers under omnibus accounts, which will strengthen transparency and oversight.

In addition, the technical environment and IT infrastructure have been fully prepared and upgraded, with comprehensive testing conducted with all relevant parties in preparation for the listing and trading of Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) and fixed-income instruments, including bonds and sukuk. Legislative updates for these products are expected to be introduced later.

This milestone represents one of the most significant transformations in the market's history since the privatization of Kuwait's stock exchange. It aims to reshape the regulatory and operational infrastructure of the market, paving the way for the introduction of new instruments and investment products that will deepen market liquidity, enhance its breadth and reinforce its role as a strategic driver of national economic growth.

Commenting on this achievement, Boursa Kuwait Chairman Mr. Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi affirmed



Bader Al-Kharafi, Boursa Kuwait Chairman

that these developments represent a pivotal milestone in the continued advancement of Kuwait's capital market, reinforcing its position and competitiveness on both regional and international levels. He highlighted that this achievement also reflects Boursa Kuwait's steadfast commitment to supporting the State's ambitious vision of establishing Kuwait as a leading regional financial center that attracts investment, while working in close partnership with all stakeholders to implement a comprehensive strategic roadmap that accelerates market development and enhances its contribution to national economic growth.

"We greatly value the remarkable efforts that have driven the various phases of the Market Development Program for Kuwait's capital market, a reflection of the power of constructive cooperation between the public and private sectors, which stands as a national model for realizing economic objectives and development ambitions rooted in innovation and professionalism," Al-Kharafi said.

"This collaboration has played a vital role in advancing market infrastructure and introducing sophisticated products and services that promote a more transparent and dynamic investment environment. These efforts are essential to attracting capital, generating added value for the national economy, and supporting the diversification of income sources," he added.

Al-Kharafi concluded by extending his sincere thanks to all parties who contributed to this achievement, saying: "I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Capital Mar-



Mohammed Al-Osaimi, Boursa Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer

kets Authority, and Kuwait Clearing Company for their continued support, which has played a vital role in strengthening market stability and enhancing its standards of transparency and governance. I also commend the cooperation of our partners in the financial sector, who remain a cornerstone in the ongoing development of Kuwait's capital market. Boursa Kuwait remains committed to providing an exceptional investment experience for all market participants and continuing the joint efforts to reinforce Kuwait's position as a leading financial hub in the region."

Boursa Kuwait led the efforts to prepare the market's infrastructure for the launch of this latest phase, which represents a significant operational milestone for the bourse and the capital market apparatus. The exchange was instrumental in implementing the technical framework in MD 3.2, as it continued upgrading the trading system, which will support the introduction of new products, strengthen market integration, and lay the foundation for future offerings such as derivatives. The upgrades also highlight the market's readiness to broaden its range of investment instruments and align its regulatory framework with world-class standards.

"The launch of this phase reflects our unwavering commitment to developing an advanced, efficient trading environment that meets the highest international standards," stated Boursa Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Mohammed Saud Al-Osaimi. "It is the product of close collaboration across the capital market apparatus and represents a key

step in expanding the depth, transparency and resilience of Kuwait's capital market."

"Alongside the enhanced capacity of our technical systems to introduce advanced financial instruments, MD 3.2 represents a major milestone in Boursa Kuwait's efforts to build a more diverse, robust and efficient financial market, underscoring our readiness to advance to the next stage once the relevant rules and regulations are in place, enabling both the public and private sectors to utilize flexible, effective financing solutions that drive sustainable economic growth," he added.

Al-Osaimi concluded his statement by saying, "We take great pride in our ability to translate our strategic vision into tangible operational achievements that demonstrate the strong collaboration and alignment of roles across all components of our capital market. Boursa Kuwait remains committed to working closely with our partners at the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Capital Markets Authority, Kuwait Clearing Company and all stakeholders in the financial sector to further enhance market readiness, attract greater domestic and foreign capital and solidify Kuwait's position as a leading financial center in the region."

The launch of MD 3.2 marks a significant step in strengthening Kuwait's capital market and reinforcing its position as a leading financial hub regionally and internationally. It builds on a comprehensive reform journey aimed at broadening the range of investment products, improving the efficiency of the operational infrastructure and applying the highest standards of governance and transparency to meet investor expectations and enhance the appeal of the Kuwaiti capital market.

This milestone reflects the successful realization of a strategic vision to build a resilient, secure and transparent capital market that enables issuers to access diverse financing tools and provides investors with more stable and varied opportunities.

The capital market apparatus remains committed to advancing infrastructure development and enhancing the investment environment, contributing to the national economy, advancing the UN's sustainable development goals and solidifying Kuwait's position as a pioneering financial center in the region and a destination of choice for capital from across the globe.

Serving customers of KFH-Turkey & KFH-Egypt

Kuwait Finance House launches Group Service Center in Mishref

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: In pursuit of comprehensive performance, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) launched the Group Service Center at Mishref branch. The center, which is part of KFH's broader strategy to bolster its Group-wide performance and vision, will cater to customers of KFH-Turkey and KFH-Egypt.

KFH Group Service Center aims to provide customers of KFH-Turkey and KFH-Egypt with a seamless and integrated banking experience, with plans to eventually cover the remaining Group subsidiaries' markets.

The center offers a variety of services catering to customers' needs. These include hassle-free new account opening, straightforward updates to personal and banking information for continuous service and dedicated technical support for activating and using the mobile banking apps of KFH-Turkey and KFH-Egypt. Additionally, the center facilitates secure transaction management and the request and delivery of ATM cards for KFH-Egypt account holders.

Additionally, the aim of the center is



KFH Mishref

to serve customers with a convenient and comprehensive manner, ensuring speed and flexibility in completing their transactions inside Kuwait.

The center will cater specifically to individuals in the personal banking tier and above. This underscores KFH's continuous effort to provide excellent service and keep up with current banking practices. This will bring the Bank closer to its customers, enabling it to offer direct support and immediate responses with top-quality banking services.

Jazeera Airways' 25% discount makes travel more affordable

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: Jazeera Airways is making it easier than ever to plan your holidays in advance. With a 25% discount across all destinations and markets—travelers can enjoy more for less.

Available exclusively on the Jazeera Airways website and mobile app, the special offer runs from 13 to 19 July 2025 and applies to travel between 15 September and 31 December 2025. Whether you're dreaming of a quick weekend escape or planning a longer holiday, all you need to do is enter the promo code J9SALE25 at checkout to unlock big savings.

With a growing network of exciting new destinations, Jazeera Airways now connects Kuwait to some of the most unique cities and scenic spots in Europe, Central and South Asia, Africa and the Middle East—many just a few hours away. From exploring the vibrant streets of Yerevan and Sochi, to relaxing in the Adriatic charm of Tivat or the fairy tale magic of Prague and Krakow, there's never been a better time to discover somewhere new.

And for those looking to reconnect with loved ones, this offer is a perfect opportunity to visit family back home—without the financial strain.

Paul Carroll, Chief Commercial



Jazeera unveils holiday sale with 25% discount.

Officer said, "We're pleased to offer a wide range of travel options that are both affordable and convenient, helping bring people closer to the moments that matter most. Whether it's a long overdue holiday, a spontaneous adventure, or a much-awaited visit to family back home, this offer makes it easier for everyone to create meaningful memories—without breaking the budget. The 25% discount reflects Jazeera Airways' ongoing commitment to making travel more accessible, while opening up a world of opportunities for adventure, culture and connection."

To book your journey at fraction of the cost, visit [www.jazeeraairways.com](http://www.jazeeraairways.com) or the Jazeera Airways app and use the code J9SALE25.



Recognized at stc's headquarters for their hard-earned achievements

# stc celebrates excellence among high school achievers

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers enabling digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the recognition of a distinguished group of high-achieving high school students, outstanding students from special needs schools, and the children of stc employees who achieved academic excellence during the year. The recognition ceremony was held under the umbrella of stc's comprehensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) framework, through its educational 'upgrade' initiative, which was launched primarily to support the education sector and empowering the next generation.

The event took place at stc's headquarters in Olympia Tower and was attended by Maryam Al-Enezi, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities at the Ministry of Education. stc executives also attended the ceremony, including Mr. Khaled AlSudairy, Chief Strategy Officer and Mr. Raed Maree, Chief Human Resources Officer. Family members joined to celebrate and share in this proud moment of achievement for the students.

Commenting on the occasion, Ahmed Al Nowaibet, Director of Public Relations and Social Media at stc, said, "Recognizing academic excellence among students reflects our ongoing commitment to empowering Kuwait's future leaders. Through programs like the educational 'upgrade' initiative, we aim to encourage young people to strive



Honoring Maryam Al-Enezi in the presence of Raed Maree and Khaled AlSudairy.



Honoring a distinguished group of high school students who excelled at the top.

for success, embrace their potential, and inspire their peers to pursue their goals with passion and determination."

Al Nowaibet added, "At stc, we

believe in the importance of empowering the younger generation by celebrating their achievements and acknowledging the hard work and effort that they have put in to achieve



Honoring top students, children of employees, for their academic excellence.



Honoring outstanding students from special needs schools.

their academic goals. This is why our recognition ceremony has become an annual celebration where we can invite high-achieving students and celebrate what they have accomplished

in the presence of their loved ones. Such events strongly align with the various strategic pillars defined under our extensive CSR program, focusing primarily on supporting the

community. Through our educational 'upgrade' initiative and ongoing collaborations across the education sector, stc will continue to foster a culture that values knowledge, creativity, and personal growth."

Maryam Al-Enezi, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development & Activities Sector at the Ministry of Education expressed her thanks and appreciation to Kuwait Telecommunications Company stc for its continuous contribution and support to the educational initiatives through meaningful activities and events to empower future leaders. She pointed out that collaboration between the private and government sectors contributes strategically to highlighting the importance of promoting and developing education and focusing on sustainable education to create a lasting and positive impact on society.

In a statement, stc expressed that the Company has been a long-time supporter of students and graduates, having participated in numerous events. These initiatives align with the Company's strategy to empower and attract ambitious Kuwaiti talents who fit stc's dynamic culture. Additionally, the Company has participated in and sponsored various initiatives that aimed to support and contribute to the local education arena, especially under the umbrella of its educational 'upgrade' initiative. The Company highlighted that it will continue to explore opportunities of strategic collaborations within the education sector, stressing on the importance of knowledge and education to further develop the economy.

## Dow drops 279 points

## S&P 500, Nasdaq ease back from peak levels

NEW YORK, July 12, (AP): A modest pullback for U.S. stocks Friday eased the market from all-time highs and left major stock indexes on Wall Street in the red for the week.

The S&P 500 closed 0.3% lower a day after setting a record high. The benchmark index's loss for the week followed two straight weekly gains.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.6%, and the Nasdaq composite gave up 0.2% after drifting between small gains and losses much of the day. The tech-heavy index was coming off its own all-time high on Thursday.

The selling capped an uneven week in the market as Wall Street kept an eye on the Trump administration's rollout of new tariff threats against trading partners like Canada and looked ahead to the upcoming corporate earnings reporting season.

President Donald Trump said in a letter Thursday that he will raise taxes on many imported goods from Canada to 35%, deepening the rift between the longtime North American allies. The letter to Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney is an aggressive increase to the top 25% tariff rates that Trump first imposed in March.

The move was the latest bid by the White House to use threats of higher tariffs on goods imported into the U.S. in hopes of securing new trade agreements with countries around the globe, even historically close trading partners like Canada.

The administration had initially set Wednesday as a deadline for countries to make deals with the U.S. or face heavy increases in tariffs. But with just two trade deals announced since April, one with the United Kingdom and one with Vietnam, the window for negotiations has been extended to Aug. 1.

Trump also floated this week that he would impose tariffs of as much as 200% on pharmaceutical drugs and place a 50% tariff on copper imports, matching the rates charged on steel and aluminum.

The initial rollout of Trump's tariff policies in the spring roiled financial markets. But Wall Street has been relatively stable in recent weeks, with stocks steadily rising to record levels That suggests the market has mostly adjusted to the unpredictability of Trump's rapidly shifting tariffs. Some market watchers, however, aren't so sure.

The market's response to Trump's tariff escalation this week "has been surprisingly muted. Markets appear to believe that Trump will again back down," Paul Ashworth, chief North America economist at Capital Economics, wrote Friday. "We are not so sure."

Despite the uncertainty around tariffs, Wall Street has already come to accept a "base case" of 10% tariffs across the board, said Eric Teal, chief investment officer at Comerica Wealth Management.

"To the extent that this gets extended, I think the market has priced a lot of that in," he said.

Trade policy aside, the market is now set to shift at least some of its focus on companies due to report quarterly earnings over the next few weeks.

On Friday, Levi Strauss jumped 11.3% after the jeans maker easily beat Wall Street's sales and profit targets and raised its full-year forecast, despite expecting higher costs from tariffs.

PriceSmart climbed 5.3% a day after the warehouse club operator delivered solid third-quarter results and said it's looking into expanding into Chile.

Earnings season shifts into high gear next week with JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Citigroup among the big banks due to report their results on Tuesday.

Shares in financial and health care sector companies were the biggest weights on the market Friday.

Visa fell 2.2% and Gilead Sciences dropped 4.3%.

Several airline stocks lost ground a day after encouraging quarterly results from Delta Air Lines set off a rally in the sector. Delta slipped 0.2%, United fell 4.3% and American gave up 5.6%.

Elsewhere in the market, shares of T-Mobile closed 0.2% lower after the Justice Department announced Thursday that it would not prevent the company from closing on its proposed \$4.4 billion acquisition of U.S. Cellular. That deal, announced more than a year ago, had come under antitrust scrutiny from the Justice Department under President Joe Biden's administration.

U.S. Cellular shares rose 3.6%.

Shares in aviation company Red Cat Holdings jumped 26.4% after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth issued orders aimed at ramping up production and deployment of drones.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 20.71 points to 6,259.75. The Dow dropped 279.13 points to 44,371.51, and the Nasdaq slipped 45.14 points to 20,585.53.

Bond yields rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.42%, from 4.34% late Thursday.

European stock indexes closed broadly lower following a mostly lower finish in Asian markets.

Meanwhile, bitcoin climbed to another all-time high Friday, briefly eclipsing \$118,000 before easing back to around \$117,901, according to Coindesk.

Bitcoin's price jump came amid bullish momentum across risk assets and coincides with Nvidia's surge to a \$4 trillion valuation. It also comes days before the U.S. Congress' Crypto Week on July 14, where lawmakers will debate a series of bills that could define the regulatory framework for the industry.

# Trump hikes Canada tariffs to 35%

US hits EU, Mexico with new 30% tariffs

WASHINGTON, July 12, (AP): **US President Donald Trump said in a letter that he will raise taxes on many imported goods from Canada to 35%, deepening a rift between two North American countries that have suffered a debilitating blow to their decades-old alliance.**

The Thursday letter to Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney is an aggressive increase to the top 25% tariff rates that Trump first imposed in March after months of threats. Trump's tariffs were allegedly in an effort to get Canada to crack down on fentanyl smuggling despite the relatively modest trafficking in the drug from that country. Trump has also expressed frustration with a trade deficit with Canada that largely reflects oil purchases by America.

"I must mention that the flow of Fentanyl is hardly the only challenge we have with Canada, which has many Tariff, and Non-Tariff, Policies and Trade Barriers," Trump wrote in the letter.

The higher rates would go into effect Aug. 1, creating a tense series of weeks ahead for the global economy as recent gains in the S&P 500 stock index suggest many investors think Trump will ultimately back down on the increases. But stock market futures were down early Friday in a sign that Trump's wave of tariff letters may be starting to generate concern among investors.

In a social media post, Carney said Canada would continue to work toward a new trade framework with the U.S. and has made "vital progress to stop the scourge of fentanyl."

"Through the current trade negotiations with the United States, the Canadian government has steadfastly defended our workers and business," Carney said.

While multiple countries have received tariff letters this week, Canada - America's second largest trading partner after Mexico - has become something of a foil to Trump. It has imposed retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods and pushed back on the president's taunts of making Canada the 51st state. Mexico has also faced 25% tariffs because of fentanyl, yet it has not faced the same public pressure from the Republican U.S. president.

Carney was elected prime minister in April on the argument that Canadians should keep their "elbows up." He has responded by distancing Canada from its intertwined relationship with the U.S., seeking to strengthen its links with the European Union and the United Kingdom.

Hours before Trump's letter, Carney posted on X a picture of himself with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, saying, "In the face of global trade challenges, the world is turning to reliable economic partners like Canada." Implied in his statement was that the U.S. has become unreliable because of Trump's haphazard tariff regime, which has gone through aggressive threats and reversals.

When Carney went to the White House in May, the public portion of their meeting was cordial. But Trump said there was nothing the Canadian leader could tell him to remove the tariffs, saying, "Just the way it is."

Daniel Beland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal, said Trump's latest

move will make it more difficult for Canada and the U.S. to reach a trade deal, Beland said.

"It doesn't mean a new trade deal between Canada and the United States is impossible, but it shows how hard it is for the Canadian government to negotiate with a U.S. president who regularly utters threats and doesn't appear to be a reliable and truthful interlocutor," he said.

Trump has sent a series of tariff letters to 23 countries. Those form letters became increasingly personal with Canada as well as a Wednesday note that put a 50% tariff on Brazil for the ongoing trial of its former President Jair Bolsonaro for trying to stay in office after his 2022 election loss. Trump was similarly indicted for his efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump administration officials have said that Trump was seeking to isolate its geopolitical rival China with the tariffs, but the latest tariffs have undermined that message. Brazil's largest trading partner is China, not the U.S., and Chinese government officials have framed his import taxes as a form of bullying.

"Sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs are important principles of the U.N. Charter and basic norms governing international relations," said Mao Ning, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman. "Tariffs should not be used as a tool for coercion, bullying and interference in the internal affairs of other countries."

The letters reflect the inability of Trump to finalize the dozens of trade frameworks that he claimed would be easy to negotiate. Shortly after unveiling his April 2 "Liberation Day" tariffs, a financial market selloff caused Trump to announce a 90-day negotiating period during which a 10% baseline tariff would be charged on most imported goods.

But Trump has indicated that the 10% tariff rates are largely disappearing as he resets the rates with his letters.

"We're just going to say all of the remaining countries are going to pay, whether it's 20% or 15%," Trump said in a phone interview with NBC News.

Trump has announced trade frameworks with the U.K. and Vietnam, as well as a separate deal with China to enable continued trade talks. Trump jacked up import taxes on Chinese goods to as much as 145%, but after talks he has said China faces total tariffs of 55%.

In June, Trump said he was suspending trade talks with Canada over its plans to continue its digital services tax, which would hit U.S. technology companies. A few days later, talks resumed when Carney rescinded the tax.

Under the current tariff structure, the 2020 United States Mexico Canada Agreement has protected eligible goods from Trump's tariffs. But a review of the pact is scheduled for 2026.

### Also:

**BRIDGEWATER:** President Donald Trump on Saturday announced he's levying tariffs of 30% against the European Union and Mexico.

Trump announced the tariffs on two of the United States' biggest trade partners in letters posted to his social media account.

In his letter to Mexico's leader, Trump acknowledged that the country has been helpful in stemming the flow of undocumented migrants and fentanyl into the United States. But he said the country has not done

enough to stop North America from turning into a "Narco-Trafficking Playground."

"Mexico has been helping me secure the border, BUT, what Mexico has done, is not enough," Trump added.

Trump in his letter to the European Union said that the U.S. trade deficit was a national security threat.

"We have had years to discuss our Trading Relationship with The European Union, and we have concluded we must move away from these long-term, large, and persistent, Trade Deficits, engendered by your Tariff, and Non-Tariff, Policies, and Trade Barriers," Trump wrote in the letter to the EU. "Our relationship has been, unfortunately, far from Reciprocal."

Trump is in the midst of an announcement blitz of new tariffs with allies and foes alike, a bedrock of his 2024 campaign that he said would set the foundation for reviving a U.S. economy that he claims has been ripped off by other nations for decades.

With the reciprocal tariffs, Trump is effectively blowing up the rules governing world trade. For decades, the United States and most other countries abided by tariff rates set through a series of complex negotiations known as the Uruguay round. Countries could set their own tariffs - but under the "most favored nation" approach, they couldn't charge one country more than they charged another.

With Saturday's letters, Trump has now issued tariff conditions on 24 countries and the 27-member European Union.

The European Union's chief trade negotiator said earlier this week that a trade deal to avert higher tariffs on European goods imported to the U.S. could be reached "even in the coming days." Maroš Šefčovič told EU lawmakers in Strasbourg, France on Wednesday that the EU had been spared the increased tariffs contained in the letters Trump sent on Monday, and that an extension of talks would provide "additional space to reach a satisfactory conclusion."

The bloc collectively sells more to the U.S. than any other country. U.S. goods imports from the EU topped \$553 billion in 2022, according to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Trump on April 2 proposed a 20% tariff for EU goods and then threatened to raise that to 50% after negotiations did not move as fast as he would have liked. Šefčovič did not mention any tariff figures.

The higher tariffs as well as any EU retaliation had been suspended as the two sides negotiate. However the base rate of 10% for most trade partners as well as higher rates of 25% on autos and 50% on steel and aluminum had gone into effect.

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former Congressional Budget Office director and president of the center-right American Action Forum, said the letters were evidence that serious trade talks were not taking place over the past three months. He stressed that nations were instead talking amongst themselves about how to minimize their own exposure to the U.S. economy and Trump.

"They're spending time talking to each other about what the future is going to look like, and we're left out," Holtz-Eakin said.

He added that Trump was using the letters to demand attention, but, "In the end, these are letters to other countries about taxes he's going to levy on his citizens."

## Committee advances cooperation on digital, green economies

## ASEAN stresses importance of economic cooperation with GCC

KUALA LUMPUR, July 12, (KUNA): ASEAN Foreign ministers stressed on Friday the importance of enhancing economic cooperation and regional connectivity with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

This came in the joint statement of the 58th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, held in Kuala Lumpur from July 8 to 11, as part of preparations for the 47th ASEAN Summit scheduled for next October. ASEAN expressed keenness to expand engagement with new partners to promote trade and market integration, citing countries such as the GCC, the Pacific Alliance, and the African Union as potential strategic partners.

Areas of cooperation include enhancing supply chain resilience, digital and green economies, economic integration, and supporting sustainable growth and energy transition efforts in the region, as well as exploring cooperation in the field of halal food.

ASEAN welcomed Algeria's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, along with Uruguay, bringing the number of signatories to the treaty to 54 countries.

The statements also welcomed the encouraging progress made in ASEAN's Sectoral Dialogue Partnerships with Morocco, the UAE, Türkiye, and South Africa aiming at building a more inclusive and open society for the Arab region and the African continent.

Regarding the Palestinian conflict, ASEAN expressed grave concern over the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, which has been exacerbated following the 7 October 2023 attacks and the resumption of hostilities on 18 March 2025.



ASEAN foreign ministers during their annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

It condemned all attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, as well as the continued restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian aid, relief supplies, and basic needs.



New deductions help donors, but taxes and cuts may hurt charities

# Trump’s ‘big’ bill adds charitable breaks, raises nonprofit concerns



US President Donald Trump holds his signed signature bill of tax breaks and spending cuts at the White House, Friday, July 4, 2025, in Washington, as House Speaker Mike Johnson, left, watches and Rep. Steve Scalise, takes a photo. (AP)

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

By Daniel Hungerman  
University of Notre Dame

The multitrillion-dollar bill that President Donald Trump signed into law on July 4, 2025, will change how the U.S. tax code treats charitable donations. It also has several tax provisions that affect some colleges, universities and other nonprofits.

The consequences generally vary depending on how much money a donor gives to charity. They also depend on whether a donor claims the standard deduction - as about 90% of U.S. taxpayers have done since the 2017 tax reforms took effect during the first Trump administration - or itemizes their tax returns.

Anyone taking the standard deduction, which will rise in 2025 to US\$15,750 for an individual and \$31,500 for married couples filing jointly, will get a new broadly available tax break of up to \$1,000 for giving to a charitable nonprofit if they file on their own. Married couples filing jointly may deduct \$2,000 from their taxable income if they give at least that amount to charity.

To put this into sharper perspective, the average middle-income household gives about \$3,300 annually.

Americans who give a bit more than the typical donor - say, between \$5,000 and \$20,000 - will see major changes too. In some places, it will become easier for people to deduct more of the amount they pay in state and local taxes from their federal taxes - at least for a few years. Those taxpayers may also deduct their charitable giving from their income when they file their taxes.

But there’s a new catch. People who itemize their taxes can’t claim the charitable deduction unless they give at least the equivalent of 0.5% of their adjusted gross income to charity. For example, someone who earns \$100,000 a year would have to donate at least \$500 to qualify for this tax break.

A similar new catch will apply to corporate donations: Unless corporations give at least 1% of their taxable income to charity, they will no longer get a charitable tax deduction.

The tax law also revises a rule that limits how much the biggest donors can give to charity and still get a tax break.

Based on my research on tax policies and donations, I don’t expect the \$1,000 charitable

deduction for taxpayers who take the standard deduction to boost giving. The government has tried this before.

The first time was in the 1980s. Starting in 1982, people taking the standard deduction could take a charitable deduction. The amount changed annually. In 1984, for example, it was \$75 - \$236 in 2025 dollars. Congress ended this experiment with the 1986 tax reforms.

There was also a temporary \$300 charitable deduction for people who took the standard deduction in 2020.

The results were underwhelming both times, for two reasons.

First, the maximum size of those tax breaks was too small in those earlier efforts. Many people were already giving enough to max out this new benefit. When that happens, the government is giving up tax revenue without encouraging charities to donate more.

To be fair, there are a couple of reasons that things might be better this time. First, \$1,000 in 2025 - or \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly - is more money than the \$300 deduction in 2020. Also, this time it is permanent. A permanent provision gives charities time to publicize the bill and people time to learn about it.

Another concern with this bill

is that Americans who have not given to charity in the past might not begin to open their wallets but will still try to get the new \$1,000 charitable deduction anyway by lying about it on their tax returns. There is evidence that a growing number of taxpayers try to game the tax system this way. The only way to stave off that sort of tax evasion would require additional work by the IRS, costing more tax dollars.

This part of the tax law also sends a message that giving is not just for the wealthy, but that everyone can do it and get a tax break for it. That could help halt or reverse a decline in gifts from people who aren’t rich. And it makes me wonder whether a charitable deduction for people who don’t itemize their tax returns will work better this time around.

The government will raise its tax on the income earned by the endowments held by some colleges and universities from 1.4% to as much as 8%. The system is complicated and hinges on how large an endowment is per student enrolled. Colleges attended by fewer than 3,000 students don’t have to pay this tax.

Endowments are pooled financial investments that belong to a nonprofit. Those assets usually come from donations, and the income they earn typically flows

into the nonprofit’s budget.

Several prominent schools are bracing for higher taxes. Yale University, for example, says it will have to pay \$280 million once this goes into effect.

The higher endowment tax is unlikely to raise a whole lot of tax revenue, but it could force some schools to scale back financial aid, hike tuition or freeze hiring.

Perhaps the most significant change will be a new federal K-12 educational tax credit. Starting in 2027, it will be available to help offset the cost of private K-12 school tuition or other educational expenses, such as homeschooling. If someone makes a \$1 gift to a nonprofit scholarship-granting organization - which would then deliver those funds to the school the donor designates - the government will cut their tax bill by \$1. This tax credit can be worth up to \$1,700 per year.

Many details about how this system would work are yet to be determined.

I believe that this provision could mark another step in the transformation of how private schools are funded in the United States. Beyond that, many private schools are run by churches, and many churches running schools already get large amounts of their funding from vouchers issued by state and local governments. Ultimately, private K-12 education could become an increasing source of revenue for churches.

Even if the megabill boosts charitable giving, nonprofits providing social services are likely to find themselves financially squeezed.

That’s because the bill also cuts spending and tightens eligibility restrictions on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps, and Medicaid, the public health insurance program that mainly covers people who are low-income or have disabilities.

I have researched the effects of the welfare reforms President Bill Clinton signed into law in 1996. One of my findings was that when the government cut spending on safety net programs by a dollar, charities, including churches, stepped in to provide 25 cents of services or more. But for every extra dollar needed to compensate for lost government spending, donors only gave 5 cents more.

Another concern is that this bill makes permanent increases in the standard deduction - which I’ve found to have historically lowered charitable giving considerably. Perhaps the deduction for people who don’t itemize their tax returns, together with the state-and-local-taxes change, will counteract this trend. But it is certainly possible that Americans will give less to charity starting in 2025 compared with a world where there were no Trump tax reforms at all. (AP)

## Toxic culture outweighs paid time off benefits

# Why do American workers feel guilty about taking vacation they’ve earned?

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

By Karen Tan  
Middle Tennessee State University

“My dedication was questioned.”

“Managers or upper management have looked down upon taking time off.”

“People think that maybe you’re not as invested in the job, that you’re shirking your duties or something.”

These are just a few of the responses to questions I asked during a study I conducted on vacation guilt among American workers.

More than 88% of full-time, private sector workers in the U.S. receive paid time off. This benefit is ostensibly in place to improve employee morale and well-being.

Yet a 2024 Pew Research Center survey found that nearly half of American workers don’t take all the vacation days they’ve been allotted. And many of them feel as if they’re discouraged from using their time off. Ironically, what’s supposed to be a source of relaxation and restoration morphs into a stressor: As vacations approach, feelings of doubt and guilt creep in.

I’m from Singapore. Upon moving to the U.S. in 2016, I was surprised at how pervasive vacation guilt appeared to be.

Compared with many of the other countries where I’ve lived or worked, American culture seems to prioritize mental health and wellness. I assumed these attitudes extended to the American workplace.

Surprisingly, though, I noticed that many of my American friends felt guilty about taking time off that they’d earned. So as a scholar of tourism and hospitality, I wanted to understand

how and why this happened.

To carry out the study, I collaborated with tourism scholar Robert Li. We interviewed 15 workers who had experienced feelings of guilt over taking time off. We also administered an online survey to 860 full-time employees who received paid time off from their employers.

We wanted to know whether employees felt less respected or believed that their bosses and colleagues saw them in a worse light for taking time off. Maybe they feared being seen as slackers or, worse, replaceable.

We found that 1 in 5 respondents to our survey experienced vacation guilt, and these concerns made them think twice about following through with their vacation plans. For those who eventually did take a vacation, they often tried to ease their guilt by going for fewer days. They might also apologize for taking a vacation or avoid talking about their vacation plans at

work.

Some of the people we interviewed had pushed through their hesitation and taken their vacation as planned. Yet all of these employees believed that they’d been penalized for taking time off and that it led to poor performance reviews, despite the fact that their paid vacation days had been a clearly articulated, earned benefit.

The U.S. is the only advanced economy that doesn’t legally mandate a minimum number of vacation days. On top of that, only a handful of states require workers to be compensated for their unused vacation days.

Meanwhile, the law in other advanced economies entitles employees to a minimum amount of annual paid leave. The EU, for example, mandates at least 20 days per year on top of paid public holidays, such as Christmas and New Year’s Day, with a number of EU member countries requiring more than 20 days of paid vacation for full-time em-

ployees. Even in Japan, which is notorious for its workaholic culture, employees are entitled to a minimum of 10 days of paid leave every year.

Throughout much of the U.S., whether paid vacation time is offered at all depends on an employer’s generosity, while many employees face a “use-it-or-lose-it” situation, meaning unused vacation days don’t roll over from one year to the next.

Of course, not all workers experience vacation guilt. Nonetheless, the guilt that so many workers do feel may be symbolic of broader issues: an unhealthy workplace culture, a toxic boss or a weak social safety net.

For paid time off to serve its purpose, I think employers need to provide more than vacation days. They also need to have a supportive culture that readily encourages employees to use this benefit without having to worry about repercussions. (AP)

‘People think that maybe you’re not as invested in the job, that you’re shirking your duties or something.’

‘People who itemize their taxes can’t claim the charitable deduction unless they give at least the equivalent of 0.5% of their adjusted gross income to charity.’



## Fatherhood fuels Bieber's return with deeply reflective album

## Justin Bieber releases 'Swag,' his long-awaited seventh album

NEW YORK, July 12, (AP): Never say never! Justin Bieber surprised fans Friday by releasing "Swag," his seventh studio album, hours after he teased it on billboards and social media posts.

It is his first album since 2021's "Justice" and his first since becoming a father last year.

"Inspired by his devotion as a husband and father, this new era of music has fueled a deeper perspective and more reflective sound, resulting in some of his most personal music yet," Def Jam Recordings said of the 21-track album.

Billboards depicting Bieber were found by fans Thursday in Reykjavik, Iceland, and Los Angeles. The singer also shared images of billboards on his official Instagram account along with a tracklist that included song names like "All I Can Take," "Walking Away," "Dadz Love" and "Forgiveness."

There's a lot to love across the 21-tracks of the intimate "Swag." Here are a few choice cuts.

1. "Daises" - The second track on the album may very well be its strongest; an exemplar in Bieber's slow-burn brand of alternative R&B-pop, now anchored with lo-fi guitar. Here, his sweet voice is pronounced - exactly what his most dedicated fans want to hear.

2. "Devotion" ft. Dijon - Dijon is a rising R&B voice; some fans might be familiar with his 2021 debut album "Absolutely" or his contribution to Bon Iver's

"SABLE, fABLE" from earlier this year. He makes for a standout collaboration on "Swag," a sweet song about deep-

ening affection.

3. "Go Baby" - Bieber married the model Hailey Bieber (nee Baldwin) in 2018; she's long been source material for his most loving tracks. "Go Baby" is a standout for that reason. "That's my baby, she's iconic," he opens the track, "iPhone case, lip gloss on it," referencing her Rhode skincare and beauty brand, which sold to Elf Beauty in a \$1 billion deal.

4. "Walking Away" - Marriage isn't easy; that's clear on "Walking Away," a slightly-more-up-tempo track where Bieber makes his dedication evident. It's the perfect song for dancing in the kitchen with your partner.

5. "All I Can Take" - The throwback opener "All I Can Take" has a vintage groove - echoes of Bieber's early work, now matured to reflect his current adult reality. He sounds as sweet as ever in the pre-chorus, his declaration of "Ooh, baby, don't it feel good? Baby, don't it feel nice? / Ooh, baby, don't it feel good? You don't have to think twice."

Bieber, the two-time Grammy Award winning singer and Canadian pop idol who revolutionized teen pop and social media fame, is best known for his silky R&B pop lyric tenor, demonstrated on the diamond-selling "Baby," "Sorry," and "Stay" with the Kid Lari. At the beginning of his career, and as a tween, Bieber began working with Usher and the influential music manager Scooter Braun.

In 2023, Bieber sold the rights to his music - all six of his albums, including hits like "Sorry" and "Baby" - to Hipgnosis, a U.K.-based music investment company. The deal's fi-



Justin Bieber attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala on Sept. 13, 2021, in New York. (AP)

nancial details were not disclosed, but Billboard Magazine reports that the sale was worth an estimated \$200 million.

In August 2024, Justin and Hailey Bieber announced the birth of their first child, Jack Blues Bieber.

"Bieber Fever," the intense adoration of Grammy award-winning artist Justin Bieber, was a phenomenon of the 2010s. After the singer teased his first album in four years, titled "Swag," AP journalists proved what fans have made known for years - there is no cure.

In a private group channel, several journalists who revealed themselves as "Beliebers" expressed their excitement about Bieber's new music. Some even traveled back in time, sharing photos and anecdotes about themselves as teens and young children supporting his career.

"I'm so sorry for the person you are all about to witness me become," Audience Engagement Editor Sarah Jones-Smith said. "I'm SO back."

They referenced the 31-year-old's recent encounter with paparazzi, which went viral on TikTok. The star was enjoying a day at the beach with his family when he, visibly upset, confronted paparazzi to get them to leave the area.

"You're not getting it," he said. "It's not clocking to you. It's not clocking to you that I'm standing on business, is it?"

Bieber made light of the video on the album by titling the 16th track: "Standing On Business." The audio includes humorous commentary about the paparazzi encounter from comedian Druski.

"He really was standing on business," Audience Engagement Editor Elise Ryan said.

Deputy Live Blog Editor Curtis Yee said, "Oh, it IS clocking with me."

"I wish I had this photographic evidence but, on my old ipod nano, I bought the 'Baby' music video on iTunes and the play count on it is embarrassing LOL," Audience Engagement Editor Karena Phan said.

"Truly today we tapped into my main standom of my teen years," Digital News Editor Mary Kate Metivier said.

## Unusual alliance

## Jackson backs moa de-extinction plan

WASHINGTON, July 12, (AP): Filmmaker Peter Jackson owns one of the largest private collections of bones of an extinct New Zealand bird called the moa. His fascination with the flightless ostrich-like bird has led to an unusual partnership with a biotech company known for its grand and controversial plans to bring back lost species.

Last Tuesday, Colossal Biosciences announced an effort to genetically engineer living birds to resemble the extinct South Island giant moa — which once stood 12 feet (3.6 meters) tall — with \$15 million in funding from Jackson and his partner Fran Walsh. The collaboration also includes the New Zealand-based Ngai Tahu Research Centre.

"The movies are my day job, and the moa are my fun thing I do," said Jackson. "Every New Zealand schoolchild has a fascination with the moa."

Outside scientists say the idea of bringing back extinct species onto the modern landscape is likely impossible, although it may be feasible to tweak the genes of living animals to have similar physical traits. Scientists have mixed feelings on whether that will be helpful, and some worry that focusing on lost creatures could distract from protecting species that still exist.

The moa had roamed New Zealand for 4,000 years until they became extinct around 600 years ago, mainly because of overhunting. A large skeleton brought to England in the 19th century, now on display at the Yorkshire Museum, prompted international interest in the long-necked bird.

Unlike Colossal's work with dire wolves, the moa project is in very early stages. It started with a phone call about two years ago after Jackson heard about the company's efforts to "de-extinct" — or create genetically similar animals to — species like the woolly mammoth and the dire wolf.

Then Jackson put Colossal in touch with experts he'd met through his own moa bone-collecting. At that point, he'd amassed between 300 and 400 bones, he said.

## Conservation

In New Zealand, it's legal to buy and sell moa bones found on private lands, but not on public conservation areas — nor to export them.

The first stage of the moa project will be to identify well-preserved bones from which it may be possible to extract DNA, said Colossal's chief scientist Beth Shapiro.

Those DNA sequences will be compared to genomes of living bird species, including the ground-dwelling tinamou and emu, "to figure out what it is that made the moa unique compared to other birds," she said.

Colossal used a similar process of comparing ancient DNA of extinct dire wolves to determine the genetic differences with gray wolves. Then scientists took blood cells from a living gray wolf and used CRISPR to genetically modify them in 20 different sites. Pups with long white hair and muscular jaws were born late last year.

Working with birds presents different challenges, said Shapiro.

Unlike mammals, bird embryos develop inside eggs, so the process of transferring an embryo to a surrogate will not look like mammalian IVF.

"There's lots of different scientific hurdles that need to be overcome with any species that we pick as a candidate for de-extinction," said Shapiro. "We are in the very early stages."

If the Colossal team succeeds in creating a tall bird with huge feet and thick pointed claws resembling the moa, there's also the pressing question of where to put it, said Duke University ecologist Stuart Pimm, who is not involved in the project.

"Can you put a species back into the wild once you've exterminated it there?" he said. "I think it's exceedingly unlikely that they could do this in any meaningful way."

"This will be an extremely dangerous animal," Pimm added.

The direction of the project will be shaped by Maori scholars at the University of Canterbury's Ngai Tahu Research Centre. Ngai Tahu archaeologist Kyle Davis, an expert in moa bones, said the work has "really reinvigorated the interest in examining our own traditions and mythology."



Filmmaker Peter Jackson, (left), and Colossal CEO Ben Lamm hold up bones from Jackson's collection of extinct moa bones in Wellington, New Zealand, 2024. (AP)

## Film



This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Lexi Venter in a scene from 'Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight.' (AP)

## 7-year-old Venter commands the screen

## War through a child's eyes in 'Dogs Tonight'

LOS ANGELES, July 12, (AP): "Are we racists?" That's the blunt question posed by Bobo, a white girl living on a farm in Africa, to her horrified (and defensive) mother.

There are so many ways this three-word line reading could land wrongly — or just seem forced or mannered. But it feels thoroughly organic when voiced by Lexi Venter, an extraordinary first-time actor who gives, at age 7, one of the more compelling child performances in recent memory in "Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight."

It's a performance that was seeded, watered and nurtured by Embeth Davidtz, an extraordinary actor herself who wrote, directed and stars in this adaptation of Alexandra Fuller's admired 2001 memoir. One imagines Davidtz, in her triple role (and as a first-time director), had hundreds upon hundreds of decisions to make. Her most important, though, was finding and casting this youngster possessed of a wild nature, a mop of unruly hair and a face like a broad canvas waiting to be painted.

The movie, which chronicles one family's life in the turbulent, waning days of white rule in Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia), was not always going to be narrated by a child. Davidtz's first attempt at adapting the memoir, told in third person, was too remote, she herself has said. Then she zoomed in on the idea of telling the tale uniquely from Bobo's perspective.

Davidtz, who spent much of her childhood in South Africa, was drawn to the project because it recalled her own experience growing up in a world where racial inequality and violence were everywhere, but none of the adult explanations made much sense.

The director's own family life also included, like the Full-

er family's, mental illness and alcoholism; she has said that neither the outside world nor home life felt safe.

And that's how it is for Bobo, 8 years old when we meet her, the younger of two daughters of Nicola and Tim Fuller. We will soon learn that another daughter died as a toddler in a tragic drowning — one of the reasons Nicola (Davidtz) is so emotionally tied to the family farm, as conveyed in one particularly brutal scene brimming with rage. She may not be native to the land, but her offspring is buried in its soil.

We begin with Bobo explaining how she's afraid to go alone to pee in the night. "Terrorists," as they've been described by the adults, might lurk anywhere, even on the way to the bathroom, carrying a gun or knife or spear.

But imaginary threats are accompanied by real ones. During the day, a trip into town with her mother necessitates an escort vehicle. "I really hope we don't die in an ambush today," Bobo says casually to an armed guard. This is a child who helps her Dad pack his ammo at breakfast.

The film, shot in South Africa, is set in the days before and after the 1980 parliamentary election — a crucial vote that will bring the Black majority to power in Zimbabwe under Robert Mugabe. Visiting her parents' home, Nicola patronizingly instructs their Black servants which candidate to support.

At home, Nicola's desperation rages. She drinks bourbon by the bottle and sleeps with a huge gun. She doesn't spend much time with her daughters, which leaves Bobo plenty of time to hang out with the animals, ride her motorbike, and smoke cigarettes.

Such habits earn Bobo the disapproval of her most valued

friend, Sarah (Zikhona Bali, in a warm and nuanced performance), one of two adult servants who work on the farm. The other is Jacob (Fumani N. Shilubana), who warns Sarah that her relationship with Bobo is too publicly affectionate in these precarious times. Besides, he tells her, Bobo thinks of her as a "stupid village girl."

But there is real affection between the two. Privately, they laugh and share stories. And Sarah, conscious of the risks, tries to be the attentive parent Bobo lacks. When she catches the girl, messy-haired and smudgy-faced, smoking — at age 7! — she scolds her. "There's nothing wrong with me, I'm perfect!" Bobo replies, with the self-belief that comes from a childhood spent bossing around people like Sarah.

You can spend moments like this, as Davidtz does expertly while somehow turning in a heartbreaking and increasingly untinged performance of her own. But you can't manufacture lightning in a bottle — for example, the infectious joy Venter exudes, even while family is losing everything, singing a rowdy song about a stripper.

Davidtz has said she searched far and wide to find her star, interviewing experienced child actors but not finding the "feral" girl she needed. A Facebook search yielded Venter. Davidtz knew she was the right before even meeting her in person. Working with the girl three hours a day, she did not give her a script, but rather provided guidance and let her improvise.

Nobody's perfect, though Bobo may think she is. But in Venter's performance, Davidtz has found something pretty close: a child actor who can carry an entire film and never seem like she's acting. Bobo's story has now been told; let's hope we see young Venter telling many more.

## Variety

**LONDON:** Grammy-winning singer **Chris Brown** on Friday pleaded not guilty to two further charges related to the serious beating of a music producer with a bottle in a London nightclub in 2023.

Brown, 36, denied the more serious charge of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm at a hearing last month.

The singer, wearing a light brown suit, pleaded not guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm to Abraham Diaw at the Tape nightclub in the swanky London neighborhood of Mayfair in February 2023.

He also denied having an offensive weapon - a bottle - in a public place during the short hearing at Southwark Crown Court.

Around 20 fans sat in the public gallery behind the dock for Friday's hearing, with several gasping as the singer of "Go Crazy," "Run It" and "Kiss Kiss" walked into the courtroom.



Brown

Co-defendant - Brown's friend and fellow musician - Omololu Akinlolu, 39, also denied actual bodily harm on Friday. The 2023 attack was caught on surveillance camera in front of a club full of people, prosecutors said. (AP)

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**LOS ANGELES:** Larry David will bring his grumbly sensibility to US history in a team-up with Barack and Michelle Obama for an HBO sketch show, the network announced Thursday. The "Curb Your Enthusiasm" creator and "Seinfeld" co-creator will act as executive producer, writer and star of the limited series consisting of six half-hour episodes, produced by the Obamas' company, Higher Ground.

The show marks the 78-year-old David's return to HBO just over a year after the end of the 12th and final season of "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

His "Curb" showrunner Jeff Schaffer will co-write and direct episodes.

HBO did not give a premiere date, but the show is meant to mark the nation's 250th anniversary next year.

The series doesn't have a title yet but it has a promotional logline: "President and Mrs. Obama wanted to honor America's 250th anniversary and celebrate the unique history of our nation on this special occasion. ...But then Larry David called."

And statements from some of the principals suggest the tone it will take.

"Once 'Curb' ended, I celebrated with a three-day foam party. After a violent allergic reaction to the suds, I yearned to return to my simple life as a beekeeper, harvesting organic honey from the wildflowers in my meadow," David said. "Alas, one day my bees mysteriously vanished. And so, it is with a heavy heart that I return to television, hoping to ease the loss of my beloved hive." (AP)

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**SHANGHAI:** An English-language version of "Ne Zha 2" will hit theaters across the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand in IMAX and 3D from Aug. 22, CMC Pictures said on Wednesday.

Written and directed by Yang Yu, also known as Jiaozi, "Ne Zha 2" is a milestone in modern animation -- merging emotionally resonant storytelling, mythological spectacle and cutting-edge visual artistry.

Co-released by A24 and CMC Pictures this time around, "Ne Zha 2" is already the highest-grossing animated film of all time, the fifth-highest-grossing film of any type ever released, and the highest-grossing non-English-language film ever made. (Xinhua)



Author Winn accused of fabricating key elements of story

## ‘The Salt Path’: Beloved book faces controversy

LONDON, July 12, (AP): “The Salt Path” is a memoir of resilience and courage that captured the hearts of millions and was subsequently adapted for the big screen, with actors Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaacs taking the lead roles.

But now, the book and the film are mired in a controversy that could see them suffer that very modern phenomenon - being canceled.

On Friday, publisher Penguin Michael Joseph agreed with author Raynor Winn to delay the publication of her next book, “On Winter Hill” from this October after “intrusive conjecture” about her husband’s health.

The delay is the latest blowback from a bombshell report in Sunday’s The Observer newspaper in the United Kingdom that claimed there was more to the 2018 book than met the eye - that key elements of the story had been fabricated.

Author Raynor Winn stands accused of betraying the trust of her readers and of reaping a windfall on the back of lies. Winn accepts “mistakes” were made, but that the overarching allegations were “highly misleading.” She has sought legal counsel.

Winn’s book tells how she and her husband of 32 years, Moth Winn - a well-to-do couple - made the impulsive decision to walk the rugged 630 miles (around 1,000 kilometers) of the South West Coast Path in the southwest of England after losing their house because of a bad business investment.

Broke and homeless, the memoir relays how the couple achieved spiritual renewal during their trek, which lasted several months and which saw them carry essentials and a tent on their back.

The book also recounts how Moth Winn was diagnosed with the extremely rare and incurable neurological condition, corticobasal degeneration, or CBD, and how his symptoms had abated following the walk.

It sold 2 million copies, became a regular read at



A copy of ‘The Salt Path’, by Raynor Winn is on display in a book store, in London, Friday, July 11. (AP)

book clubs, spawned two sequels and the film adaptation, which was released this spring, to generally positive reviews.

On its website, publisher Penguin described the book as “an unflinchingly honest, inspiring and life-affirming true story of coming to terms with grief and the healing power of the natural world. Ultimately, it is a portrayal of home, and how it can be lost, rebuilt, and rediscovered in the most unexpected ways.”

That statement was released before the controversy that erupted last Sunday.

In a wide-ranging investigation, The Observer said that it found a series of fabrications in Raynor Winn’s tale. It said the couple’s legal names are Sally and Timothy Walker, and that Winn misrepresented the events that led to the couple losing their home.

The newspaper said that the couple lost their home following accusations that Winn had stolen tens of thousands of pounds from her employer. It also said that

the couple had owned a house in France since 2007, meaning that they weren’t homeless.

And perhaps more damaging, the newspaper said that it had spoken to medical experts who were skeptical about Moth having CBD, given his lack of acute symptoms and his apparent ability to reverse them.

The book’s ability to engender empathy from its readers relied on their personal circumstances. Without those hooks, it’s a very different tale.

As a writer of what was represented as a true story, Winn had to attest to her publisher that the book was a fair and honest reflection of what transpired.

Any memoir may have omissions or hazy recollections.

But making things up is a clear no-no.

In the immediate aftermath, Winn made a brief comment on her website about the “highly misleading” accusations and insisted that the book “lays bare the physical and spiritual journey Moth and I shared, an experience that transformed us completely and altered the course of our lives. This is the true story of our journey.”

She fleshed out her response on Wednesday, describing the previous few days have been “some of the hardest of my life,” while acknowledging “mistakes” in her business career.

She also linked documents appearing to show Moth had been diagnosed with CBD, and described how the accusations that Moth made up his illness have left them “devastated.”

After the allegations were published, Penguin said it undertook “the necessary pre-publication due diligence,” and that prior to The Observer story, it hadn’t received any concerns about the book’s content.

It’ll be interesting to see how the book’s sales and the film’s box office receipts are affected by the controversy. Those should start emerging in the coming days.

### Film



Vanessa Kirby poses for photographers upon arrival at the photo call for the film ‘The Fantastic Four: First Steps’ on Friday, July 11, in London. (AP)

### Iconic film marks milestone with re-release

## Douglas, DeVito revisit ‘Cuckoo’s Nest’ at 50

LOS ANGELES, July 12, (AP): Jack Nicholson did not want to go to the Oscars. It was 1976 and he was nominated for best actor in “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.” The Miloš Forman film, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a nationwide theatrical re-release on July 13 and July 16, had become a bit of a sensation - the second highest grossing picture of 1975, behind “Jaws,” and had received nine Oscar nominations.

But Nicholson wasn’t feeling optimistic. In five years, he’d already been nominated five times. He’d also lost five times. And he told his producer, Michael Douglas, that he couldn’t go through it again.

“I remember how hard I had to persuade Jack to come to the ceremony. He was so reluctant, but we got him there,” Douglas said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. “And then of course we lost the first four awards. Jack was sitting right in front of me and sort of leaned back and said ‘Oh, Mikey D, Mikey D. I told you, man.’ I just said, ‘Hang in there.’”

Douglas, of course, was right. “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” would go on to sweep the “big five” - screenplay, director, actor, actress and picture - the first film to do so in 41 years, (“It Happened One Night,” in 1934) which only “The Silence of the Lambs” has done since. That night was one of many vindicating moments for a film that no one wanted to make or distribute that has quite literally stood the test of time.

“This is my first 50th anniversary,” Douglas said. “It’s the first movie I ever produced. To have a movie that’s so lasting, that people get a lot out of, it’s a wonderful feeling. It’s bringing back a lot of great memories.”

The film adaption of Ken Kesey’s countercultural novel was a defining moment for Douglas, a son of Hollywood who was stuck in television and got a lifeline to film when his father, Kirk Douglas, gave him the rights to the book, and many of the then-unknown cast like Danny DeVito and Christopher



Members of the cast and crew of ‘One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,’ winners of the Oscars for best actor, best actress and best picture, (from left), co-producer Saul Zaentz, actor Jack Nicholson, actress Louise Fletcher and co-producer Michael Douglas, are shown at the Oscars on March 30, 1976. (AP)

Lloyd.

DeVito was actually the first person officially cast. Douglas, who’d known him for nearly 10 years, brought Forman to see him play Martini on stage.

“Miloš said, ‘Yes! Danny! Perfect! Cast!’ Douglas said in his best Czech accent. “It was a big moment for Danny. But I always knew how talented he was.”

Though the film’s themes are challenging, unlike many of its New Hollywood contemporaries it wasn’t a tortured shoot by any stretch. They had their annoyances (like Forman refusing to show the cast dailies) and more serious trials (they found out halfway through production that William Redfield was dying of leukemia), but for the most part it was fun.

“We were very serious about the work, because Miloš was very serious. And we had the material, Kesey’s work, and the reverence for that. We were not frivolous about it. But we did have a ball doing it,” DeVito said, laughing.

Part of that is because they filmed on

location at a real state hospital in Salem, Oregon. Everyone stayed in the same motel and would board the same bus in the morning to get to set. It would have been hard not to bond and even harder if they hadn’t.

“There was full commitment,” Douglas said. “That comes when you don’t go home at night to your own lives. We stopped for lunch on the first day and I saw Jack kind of push his tray away and go outside to get some air. I said, ‘Jack, you OK?’ He said, ‘Who are these guys? Nobody breaks character! It’s lunch time and they’re all acting the same way!’”

Not disproving Nicholson’s point, DeVito remembers he and the cast even asked if they could just sleep in the hospital.

“They wouldn’t let us,” DeVito said. “The floor above us had some seriously disturbed people who had committed murder.”

The film will be in theaters again on July 13 and July 16 from Fathom Enter-

tainment. It’s a new 4K restoration from the Academy Film Archive and Teatro Della Pace Films with an introduction by Leonard Maltin.

“It’s a gorgeous print and reminds me how good the sound was,” Douglas said.

DeVito thinks it, “holds up in a really big way, because Miloš really was paying attention to all great things in the screenplay and the story originally.”

Besides the shock of “holy Toledo, am I that old?” DeVito said that it was a treasure to be part of - and he continues to see his old friends, including Douglas, Lloyd and, of course, Nicholson, who played the protagonist, R.P. McMurphy.

One person Douglas thinks hasn’t gotten the proper attention for his contributions to “Cuckoo’s Nest” is producer Saul Zaentz, who died in 2014. His music company, Fantasy Records who had Creedence Clearwater Revival, funded the endeavor which started at a \$1.6 million budget and ballooned to \$4 million by the end. He was a gambler, Douglas said, and it paid off.

And whatever sour grapes might have existed between Douglas and his father, who played R.P. McMurphy on Broadway and dreamt of doing so on film, were perhaps over-exaggerated. It was ultimately important for their relationship.

“McMurphy is as good a part as any actor is going to get, and I’m now far enough in my career to understand maybe you have four, maybe five good parts, really great parts, I’m sure for dad that was one of them,” Douglas said.

“To not be able to see it through was probably disappointing on one side. On the other, the fact that his son did it and the picture turned out so good? Thank God the picture turned out. It would have been a disaster if it hadn’t.”

Douglas added: “It was a fairy tale from beginning to end. I doubt anything else really came close to it. Even my Oscar for best actor years later didn’t really surpass that moment very early in my career.”

### Heritage



Visitors walk by the mass grave of the victims of the Khmer Rouge regime next to a memorial stupa filled with victims' skulls at the Choeung Ek killing field in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014. (AP)

### China’s Imperial Tombs

## Khmer Rouge sites join UNESCO’s heritage list

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, July 12, (Agencies): Three locations used by Cambodia’s brutal Khmer Rouge regime as torture and execution sites 50 years ago have been added by UNESCO to its World Heritage List.

The three locations were inscribed to the list by the United Nations cultural agency Friday during the 47th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris.

The inscription coincided with the 50th anniversary of the rise to power by the communist Khmer Rouge government, which caused the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians through starvation, torture and mass executions during a four-year reign from 1975 to 1979.

UNESCO’s World Heritage List lists sites considered important to humanity and includes the Great Wall of China, the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, the Taj Mahal in India and Cambodia’s Angkor archaeological complex.

The three sites listed Friday include two notorious prisons and an execution site immortalized in a Hollywood film.

Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, located in the capital Phnom Penh, is the site of a former high school used by the Khmer Rouge as a notorious prison. Better known as S-21, about 15,000 people were imprisoned and tortured there.

The M-13 prison, located in rural Kampong Chhnang province in central Cambodia, also was regarded as one of the main prisons of the early Khmer Rouge.

Choeung Ek, located about 15 kilometers (10 miles) south of the capital, was used as an execution site and mass grave. The story of the atrocities committed there are the focus of the 1984 film “The Killing Fields,” based on the experiences of New York Times photojournalist Dith Pran and correspondent Sydney Schanberg.

The Khmer Rouge captured Phnom Penh on April 17, 1975, and immediately herded almost all the city’s residents into the countryside, where they were forced to toil in harsh conditions until 1979, when the regime was driven from power by an invasion from neighboring Vietnam.

In September 2022, the UN-backed Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, better known as the Khmer Rouge tribunal, concluded its work compiling cases against Khmer Rouge leaders. The tribunal cost \$337 million over 16 years but convicted just three men.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet issued a message Friday directing people to beat drums simultaneously across the country Sunday morning to mark the UNESCO listing.

Youk Chhang, executive director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, said the country is “still grappling with the painful legacies of genocide, torture, and mass atrocity.” But naming the three sites to the UNESCO list will play a role in educating younger generations of Cambodians and others worldwide.

The UNESCO inscription was Cambodia’s first nomination for a modern and non-classical archaeological site and is among the first in the world to be submitted as a site associated with recent conflict, Cambodia’s Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts said in a statement Friday.

Four Cambodian archaeological sites were previously inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites including Angkor, Preah Vihear, Sambo Prei Kuk and Koh Ker, the ministry said.

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The Xixia Imperial Tombs, first built nearly 1,000 years ago, have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, highlighting their role in showcasing a multicultural civilization based on agro-pastoralism and trade in northwest China.

The announcement was made on Friday during UNESCO’s 47th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Paris, France, bringing the total number of World Heritage sites in China to 60.

Located at the foot of Helan Mountain in Yinchuan, capital of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, the tombs were built by the Tangut, an ethnic group that thrived in northwest China between the 11th and 13th centuries.

Since excavations began in 1972, archaeologists have uncovered nine imperial tombs, 271 subordinate tombs, an architectural complex spanning five hectares, 32 flood control sites and over 7,100 artifacts - revealing the engineering, artistry and cultural achievements of the dynasty.

According to the World Heritage Committee, the site is a testament to the cultural fusion and interactions of diverse traditions. It also bears witness to the unique role of the Xixia Dynasty (1038-1227) in cultural and commercial exchanges along the Silk Road during the period.

Meanwhile, the Australian government and Aboriginal leaders on Saturday welcomed a decision by UNESCO to grant World Heritage status to an area of ancient rock art in Western Australia (WA).

The Murujuga Cultural Landscape was inscribed on the World Heritage List on Friday at the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris, following 20 years of campaigning by local Aboriginal leaders to protect the area.

The landscape spanning more than 100,000 hectares in WA’s Pilbara region, 1,200 km north of Perth, is home to over one million petroglyphs dating back up to 50,000 years, including the world’s oldest-known depiction of a human face.

The federal government formally nominated the site for World Heritage listing in 2023 following a 20-year campaign by the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC).



KUNA photo  
Craftsman Mohamed Mostabshir in his workshop at Seffarine Square in the old city of Fes, northern Morocco.

### Moroccan artisans keep tradition alive

Strikingly, Seffarine Square in Morocco’s northern city of Fes abounds in small workshops where skillful craftsmen can produce copper-made masterpieces that reflect this north African country’s heritage and tradition.

These Moroccan workshops attract so many visitors and tourists who enjoy touring the ancient city in general and workshops in particular, where they can get souvenirs and gifts.

Those capable craftsmen have greatly contributed to maintaining the originality and history of this eight-century traditional craft. (KUNA)



Experts question scant data on diabetes

CDC finds nearly 1 in 3 US youth have prediabetes

NEW YORK, July 12, (AP): A new federal estimate shows a rise in prediabetes among American adolescents, a finding that is spurring concerns about the health of US children - and the way Trump administration health officials are conducting research and communicating information, experts said.

In 2023, nearly 1 in 3 US youngsters ages 12 to 17 had prediabetes, according to recently released data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That is far higher than a previous estimate that the condition affects about 1 in 5 kids.

There's no question that prediabetes in US youth is a serious concern. The condition puts them at risk for developing Type 2 diabetes, plus heart disease, stroke and other metabolic problems.

But scientists who study and treat diabetes noted that CDC officials released only a 600-word online summary of their new findings - not the raw data nor a peer-reviewed published paper describing how they arrived at the new figure. The agency also changed the methodology used to calculate the higher estimate without a detailed explanation.

That underscores questions about the accuracy of information being released by America's top public health agency following widespread staff cuts in recent months, experts

said.

"For any of the national health organizations now being decimated by firings (and) layoffs, I am going to be skeptical of data updates until there is transparency and clarity on the source of the data and analysis," said Christopher Gardner, an expert in diabetes and nutrition at Stanford University.

The new analysis used "the latest science and technologies" and "the most updated methodology as science is continually evolving," said Melissa Dibble, a CDC spokesperson.

"These new data highlight the magnitude of prediabetes among adolescents and serve as a critical wake-up call for the nation," Dibble said in a statement.

The new analysis relied on the long-running National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, which collects information on demographic and health indicators via interviews, examinations and laboratory testing.

Prediabetes is a precursor to diabetes, a disease in which sugar builds up in the blood. Prediabetes is characterized by slightly elevated blood sugar levels, indicating that a person may progress to developing Type 2 diabetes.

The researchers collected data about blood sugar levels in US youth - but they also changed the methodology used to analyze the information, dramatically increasing the esti-

mate of how common prediabetes is.

The new analysis concludes that about 8.4 million US adolescents - or nearly 33% - have prediabetes. That's up from an estimate of 18% published in a 2020 peer-reviewed paper, which used the previous methodology. If the new methodology had been applied to that 2005-2016 data, the estimate would have been about 28%.

The increase from 28% to nearly 33% is not statistically significant, even though it reflects an apparent rise in prediabetes among kids, said Steven Kahn, a diabetes researcher at the UW Medicine in Seattle and editor-in-chief of the journal Diabetes Care. He said it's concerning that CDC officials provided such limited information about the new analysis. Such findings typically have been published in the agency's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report or submitted to a scientific journal for peer review and publication.

"I would like to believe it doesn't diminish the quality of CDC data," said Kahn. "However, because there's no raw data to look at, none of us can look at it to better understand where these numbers are derived from and what they really mean."

Dr. Samar Hafida, an endocrinologist and representative for the American Diabetes Association, said the new analysis "wasn't very transparent," but she noted that the CDC's

updated estimate generally squares with what doctors are seeing - an increase in youth with obesity and elevated blood sugar levels that put them at risk for serious future health problems.

"It could be that maybe the number slightly inflated, but I would hesitate to dismiss it," she said.

It remains unclear what proportion of kids with prediabetes will go on to develop the disease, noted Dr. Dana Dabelea, a researcher who studies pediatric diabetes at the University of Colorado. Blood sugar levels can rise in response to developmental changes during puberty and then resolve later, she said.

Still, confirmed rates of obesity and diabetes among kids are rising.

The diabetes association recommends that children and adolescents should be screened for Type 2 diabetes starting at age 10 if they are overweight or have obesity or another risk factor for the disease. Focusing on healthy diet, exercise and other lifestyle factors is key, noted Hafida.

"It's still a call to action," she said. "There will likely be a surge in early onset Type 2 diabetes that we are not prepared to deal with."



This photo taken on July 12, 2025 shows the combination of the Tianzhou-9 cargo craft, tasked with carrying supplies to China's space station, and a Long March-7 carrier rocket being vertically transferred to the launch site in Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in Wenchang, south China's Hainan Province. (Xinhua)

Evolution history

China's Chang'e-6 sheds light on moon's dark side

BEIJING, July 12, (Xinhua): A series of research findings by Chinese scientists on the samples collected by the Chang'e-6 mission from the moon's far side have unveiled the volcanic activity, ancient magnetic field, water content and geochemical characteristics of the moon mantle, shedding the first light on the evolutionary history of its dark side.

Four studies by the research teams from the Institute of Geology and Geophysics (IGG), the National Astronomical Observatories, both under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Nanjing University, and other institutions were published in the latest issue of Nature.

As the moon's revolution cycle is the same as its rotation cycle, the same side always faces Earth. The other face, most of which cannot be seen from Earth, is called the far, or dark, side of the moon. This term doesn't refer to visible darkness, but rather the mystery shrouding the moon's largely unexplored terrain.

The moon's near and far sides exhibit significant differences in morphology, composition, crustal thickness and magmatic activities. However, the mechanisms behind these disparities remain unresolved, representing a key issue in lunar science. Previously, scientific understanding of the far side relied primarily on remote sensing studies, scientists say.

In 2024, Chang'e-6 made history by bringing 1,935.3 grams of lunar far-side samples back to Earth. These samples were collected from the South Pole-Aitken (SPA) Basin, the largest,

deepest and oldest basin on the moon, which provided a rare opportunity to clarify the compositional differences between the near and far sides and to unravel the long-standing mystery of their asymmetry.

"The SPA Basin is one of the moon's three major tectonic units, measuring approximately 2,500 kilometers in diameter. The energy from the impact that formed this crater is estimated to be 1 trillion times greater than that of an atomic bomb explosion. Yet, the exact influence of such a massive collision on the moon's evolution has remained an unsolved mystery," Wu Fuyuan, an academican of CAS and a leading researcher with the IGG, said at a CAS press conference on Wednesday.

The four papers published in Nature systematically reveal, for the first time, the effects of this colossal impact, which is the core highlight of these findings, said Wu.

Over the past year, Chinese scientists have achieved multiple pioneering breakthroughs through the study of the Chang'e-6 samples.

They found the evidence of volcanic activity on the moon's far side approximately 4.2 billion and 2.8 billion years ago, indicating such activity had persisted for at least 1.4 billion years.

For the first time, scientists obtained the ancient magnetic field information from the far side of the moon, revealing a possible rebound in the moon's magnetic field intensity around 2.8 billion years ago. This discovery indicates the presence of fluctuations in the driven power of the lunar dynamo.

Nearly 800 killed seeking aid in Gaza: UN

Gaza's young amputees struggle to heal amid war, medical collapse

GAZA, July 12, (Xinhua): On the dusty floor of a makeshift tent in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza City, 10-year-old Sara al-Borsh clutches a pen between her toes, carefully sketching a butterfly on the back of a recycled notebook page.

Just months ago, she was drawing with her hands, dreaming of becoming a pediatrician. But an Israeli airstrike in October 2024 shattered those dreams, along with her arms and her father's life.

"I fainted after the explosion, and when I woke up, I couldn't find my hands," she recalled to Xinhua.

Now armless, Sara has adapted to using her feet for everything: writing, drawing, even messaging her teachers on WhatsApp to keep up with lessons.

"She used to be completely independent. Now, she requires assistance with the most basic tasks, such as eating, dressing, and moving. But her spirit is strong," Amani al-Barsh, Sara's mother, told Xinhua.

According to Amani, Sara experienced a period of emotional withdrawal and sadness after her injury. "She was ashamed of people's stares. But we stood by her, and now she is slowly adapting and gaining confidence again," the mother said.

Each day, Sara devotes time to improving her skills with her feet, including writing in Arabic, drawing birds and flowers, and completing her schoolwork. She has also found a new dream.

"I want to become a doctor who helps children like me get artificial limbs."

Her resilience is matched only by the harshness of her surroundings, overcrowded tents, sweltering heat, and a devastated health system that offers little hope for prosthetic care.

Sara is one of hundreds of children



A Palestinian child amputee is seen at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the city of Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, on Oct. 5, 2024. (Xinhua)

in Gaza who have lost limbs during the ongoing Israeli military campaign that began in October 2023.

According to the Gaza-based health authorities, more than 136,000 people have been injured in the conflict, many of them children with life-changing disabilities.

Overall, in the Gaza Strip, the number of amputees in need of prosthetic services has surged to 6,000 people, comprising 4,000 new and 2,000 pre-existing cases, according to an update released by the United Nations on June 18.

Gaza's hospitals, already reeling from years of blockade, cannot meet the demands for specialized prosthetics and long-term rehabilitation.

In the Jabalia refugee camp, 13-year-old Omar al-Najjar sits quietly on a plastic chair, staring at the stump where his right leg used to be.

An airstrike hit his school while he

and dozens of children were sheltering there. His best friend was killed instantly. Omar survived but had to undergo a life-saving amputation below the knee.

**Also:**

**GENEVA:** Nearly 800 people have been killed while trying to access humanitarian aid in the **Gaza Strip**, the UN human rights office (OHCHR) said on Friday.

Speaking at a press briefing in Geneva, OHCHR spokesperson **Ravina Shamdasani** said that as of July 7, the OHCHR had documented 798 killings in aid distribution areas in Gaza. "Including 615 in the vicinity of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) sites and 183, presumably on the routes of aid convoys," she said.

She also noted that most of the casualties resulted from gunshot injuries.

Shamdasani said that such a situation is unacceptable, yet it continues.

Africa crises

Cholera, mpox kill over 4,200

ADDIS ABABA, July 12, (Xinhua): Africa has recorded more than 4,200 deaths due to ongoing cholera and mpox outbreaks in different parts of the continent in 2025, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has said.

During an online media briefing on Thursday night, Yap Boum II, deputy incident manager for mpox at the Africa CDC, said cholera and mpox constitute the top disease outbreaks so far in 2025, causing 4,275 deaths since the start of this year.

Data from the African Union's specialized healthcare agency showed that since the start of this year, some 21 African countries have recorded 176,136 suspected cholera cases, and 3,697 related deaths.

Inadequate clean and safe water was identified as the primary driver of recurring cholera outbreaks in Africa, which is further exacerbated by strained health systems as the continent grapples with a number of disease outbreaks and public health emergencies.

According to the Africa CDC, some 23 African countries have also recorded 79,024 mpox cases and 578 related deaths since the start of 2025.

Mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, was first detected in laboratory monkeys in 1958.

In August last year, the Africa CDC declared the mpox outbreak a public health emergency of continental security. Shortly afterward, the World Health Organization designated the viral disease as a public health emergency of international concern.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is wrestling with a deepening health crisis as a cholera outbreak hit an "acute phase," compounded by escalating insecurity, a resurgence of mpox, and a nationwide strike by health workers.

At a press conference in the capital, Kinshasa, Health Minister Roger Kamba said that since January, more than 33,000 cases of cholera have been reported nationwide, with a case fatality rate approaching two percent. This figure has already surpassed the 31,749 cases recorded in 2024, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The disease has now spread to 17 of the country's 26 provinces, up from 14 reported by the government a day earlier, with newly affected areas including Kwilu, Mai-Ndombe, and Mongala provinces. "This means we are in the acute phase of the epidemic, which is still on the rise," said Kamba.

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Fever dominates late to even season series with Dream

# Storm surges past Sun with huge fourth-quarter run

SEATTLE, July 12, (AP): Gabby Williams scored 18 points, including a 3-pointer with 6:10 remaining to put the Seattle Storm up for good in a 79-65 win against the Connecticut Sun.

Williams' shot gave the Storm (13-8) a 63-62 lead and started a 19-3 game-ending run. The Storm outscored the Sun 24-13 in the fourth quarter.

Nneka Ogwumike chipped in 16 points while Skylar Diggins and Ezi Magbegor each added 14 points for Seattle.

Tina Charles led Connecticut (3-17) with 20 points. Saniya Rivers had 12 points while Olivia Nelson-Ododa and Leila Lacan scored 10 each.

The strong finish was needed, considering the Storm got off to a slow start. Seattle trailed 16-10 after the first quarter thanks to sloppy shooting. The Storm converted just 23.5% of their shots in the opening frame while Connecticut forward Charles scored eight of her 20 points in the quarter.

The Storm chipped away at their deficit and even took a 29-28 lead at the 1:57 mark in the second quarter on a 14-foot jump shot from Erica Wheeler. The teams traded the lead for much of the second and third quarters before Seattle pulled away in the fourth.

The Sun continues with its quick road trip on Sunday against the Los Angeles Sparks. The Storm, meanwhile, will continue its homestand on Sunday when it hosts the Washington Mystics.

Kelsey Mitchell scored 25 points, Aliyah Boston had 19 points, six re-



Indiana Fever's Caitlin Clark (22) shoots against Atlanta Dream's Brittney Griner (42) during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

bounds, and eight assists, and the Indiana Fever used a 59-point second half to beat the Atlanta Dream 99-82. It was the fourth and final meeting in the regular season between the Fever and the Dream, with the series tied at 2-all.

Caitlin Clark was 5 of 17 from the field, including 1 of 7 from 3-point range, for 12 points and added nine assists for Indiana (10-10). Sophie Cunningham had 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Indiana trailed 63-60 with 3:38 left in the third quarter before holding Atlanta without a field goal for the rest of the frame. The Fever scored the final four points of the third and opened the fourth on an 11-2 run to take an 80-67 lead. Indiana led by double figures the rest of the way.

Jordin Canada set career highs with 30 points and six 3-pointers for Atlanta (12-8). Rhyné Howard added 14 points and four 3-pointers, and Brittney Griner had 10 points and eight rebounds. Brionna Jones fouled out with 6:17 remaining in the fourth.

Canada made six 3-pointers and tied her career high with 26 points in the first half to help Atlanta take a 45-40 halftime lead. The Dream closed the first half on a 6-0 run after Indiana turned it over on its final three possessions.

Canada entered the game 6 of 29 from 3-point range this season and made 6 of 9 in the first half against the Dream.

# New Zealand crushes France, takes unassailable series lead



New Zealand's Jordie Barrett passes the ball during the second rugby union international between the All Blacks and France in Wellington, New Zealand. (AP)

Wales finally tastes victory after 19 tests and 644 days

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, July 12, (AP): Ardie Savea scored a try and led the All Blacks superbly to a 43-17 win over France in the second test and an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-test series.

Savea took over the captaincy from the injured Scott Barrett, and under his leadership, the All Blacks produced a more intense and physical performance than in the first test, in which they scraped home 31-27.

The All Blacks dominated through their forwards against a French team that had 10 changes to its starting lineup from the first test and still lacked most of its Six Nations stars.

"This week we talked about our defense, and we wanted to bring fire in that area, and we did that in most parts of the game," Savea said. "I'm proud of our boys for just sticking with it and doing a good job tonight."

With greater control of possession, New Zealand was able to set a higher tempo than in the first test and play more often in the French half. With quick ball and an ability to dominate the collision area and offload in tackles, New Zealand scored six tries on two.

Four of those tries came in the first half and only two in the second, in which the All Blacks were less clinical.

The All Blacks were dangerous around the fringes of breakdowns through Savea and Cam Roigard and unstoppable when they got the ball wide to fullback Will Jordan and winger Rieko Ioane, who scored tries.

The credit belonged mostly to the forwards, who fully atoned for a submissive first test performance.



New Zealand's Ardie Savea breaks a tackle as he makes a run during the second rugby union international between the All Blacks and France in Wellington, New Zealand. (AP)

After a penalty to Beauden Barrett, Roigard scored the first try of the match in the 14th minute when he linked with Savea, who broke on the blindside.

Savea scored in the 23rd minute, pivoting away a lineup drive to touch down while New Zealand was reduced to 14 men with Beauden Barrett in the sin-bin.

Hooker Codie Taylor scored from another lineup drive in the 23rd minute, then backrower Tupou Vaa'i ended the first half with a try from a superb handling movement which involved Savea, Ioane, and center Billy Proctor.

Wales' misery is over.

Wales finally won a rugby test and snapped an 18-match international losing streak when it held off Japan 31-22.

The Welsh looked like they were going to blow it again when their 24-10

lead was cut to 24-22 by Japan with 17 minutes remaining.

But Wales used a Josh Macleod ruck turnover to get back into the Japan 22, and pressure and desperation earned a 74th-minute try for flyhalf Dan Edwards. The first-time test starter converted his try and was a perfect five-for-five off the tee.

The nine-point margin and sterling defense in sweltering heat were finally enough to get Wales to full time, when it celebrated with hugs and cheers.

"We knew it was 18 successive defeats, but this is a young group and there's a lot more to come from us," Edwards told the S4C channel. "It was amazing to score. I was just glad to catch the ball! I'm just so glad we won."

He and many of the team had never tasted victory for Wales.

Wales had gone 644 days since its last win in October 2023 against Georgia in the Rugby World Cup. Its 18-match losing run left it tied with France's losing streak from 1911-20 as the longest by a major team in test rugby history.

Wales had to endure brutal conditions again. The afternoon match was played in high humidity in an enclosed stadium, which required regular water breaks and an extended 20-minute half-time break.

Winger Josh Adams was a standout for Wales, scoring the opening try and setting up the second of a first-half double for scrumhalf Kieran Hardy before being replaced at halftime.

Hardy scored in the 27th minute and again in the 35th, while Japan No. 8 Paulua Makisi was in the sin-bin, as Wales opened a 21-3 lead.

But with Makisi back and a new front row on, Japan struck just before halftime with a try to replacement tighthead Shuheii Takeuchi.

A 40-meter Edwards penalty after the break made it 24-10, then Japan came roaring back.

Lock Warner Dearn scored at the end of a long attack started by his chargedown, and center Dylan Riley scooped a dropped overhead catch by Edwards and ran from halfway to score between the posts.

Wales looked like it was wilting as it did last week in the first test in Kitakyushu, when it blew a 19-7 lead and lost 24-19.

The Wales 6-2 bench was even exposed when an injured center had to be replaced with a scrumhalf who was posted on the wing. But Macleod's turnover started a last resurgence, and the Welsh prevailed.

They looked spent and clung to each other in celebration.

# Turner ready to compete for titles with Bucks

LAS VEGAS, July 12, (AP): Myles Turner wants to keep contending for NBA titles. That's why he decided to challenge an old cliché, one that he doesn't think is particularly accurate.

The Milwaukee Bucks formally introduced Turner - the most significant free agent who switched addresses this summer - on Friday. Turner had spent the entirety of his 10-year NBA career with the Indiana Pacers, who went to the NBA Finals this past season and lost Game 7 of the title series to the Oklahoma City Thunder.

"I hate when they say the grass can't be greener on the other side," Turner said. "I'm confident enough to

say the grass is going to be greener wherever I go."

He'll be greener, anyway: The Bucks have green as their primary uniform color.

He makes Milwaukee younger and likely a bit more versatile. Brook Lopez, who is 37, was Milwaukee's starting center this past season. Turner is only 29, and even though he's played 10 seasons already may now just be coming into his prime.

Bucks coach Doc Rivers is already convinced that pairing Turner - someone Milwaukee was able to get because it used the waive-and-stretch provision on the final two years and \$111 million on Damian Lillard's contract with the team - will work wonders

alongside a generational talent like former MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo.

"If you could sit down before free agency started and draw the perfect fit next to Giannis, it was a picture of him," Rivers said, pointing to his new center, seated a couple of feet to his right. "I don't think people get how hard it is to win enough. Just, people don't get it. Myles and I started talking about it ... and I said, 'Yeah, winning is hard, man. And it takes everything out of you, and everything has to go right. Health and playing together and the team meshing and the right shot. It just takes so much.'"

Elanga completes move to Newcastle

# Leverkusen signs Tillman for club-record \$41m fee

LEVERKUSEN, Germany, July 12, (AP): Bayer Leverkusen has moved to replace Florian Wirtz by signing United States international Malik Tillman from PSV Eindhoven for a club-record fee.

The 23-year-old attacking midfielder signed a contract through June 2030, the Bundesliga club said Saturday.

Kicker magazine reported Leverkusen was paying PSV a fixed sum of 35 million euros (\$41 million) for the player, making him the club's most expensive incoming transfer.

"We've gained another strong and very dangerous attacking player," Leverkusen sporting director Simon Rolfes said "He can play in both the number 10 and the number 8 positions in midfield. Malik is an absolute top signing for us."

Tillman, who was born in Nuremberg, Germany to a German mother and American father, played through Bayern Munich's youth teams after switching from Bavarian rival Greuther Fürth in 2015. He was unable to establish himself in the senior team and made just seven appearances for Bayern before joining Glasgow Rangers on loan in 2022-23. He joined PSV on loan with an option to buy the next season, before PSV activated the buy option last year.

Tillman scored 16 goals and set up five more in 34 competitive games for PSV last season, helping it to the Dutch league title.

Leverkusen is rebuilding this off-season amid star player Wirtz' departure for Liverpool for a Bundesliga-record fee.



United States forward Malik Leon Tillman celebrates after scoring during a penalty kick shootout of a CONCACAF Gold Cup quarterfinals soccer match against Costa Rica in Minneapolis. (AP)



In this file photo, Nottingham Forest's Anthony Elanga controls the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Nottingham Forest at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester. (AP)

Anthony Elanga completed a move from Nottingham Forest to Newcastle for a reported 55 million pounds (\$74 million).

The Sweden international signed what Newcastle described as a long-term deal.

"He is an exciting talent with attributes that make him a unique attacking threat. His pace, energy and ability to create and score goals will strengthen us and complement the way we want to play," Newcastle coach Eddie Howe said.

The 23-year-old Elanga began his career at Manchester United but established himself as a leading player in the Premier League at Forest following his 15 million pound (\$20 million) move in 2023.

He was one of Forest's top performers as it made a surprise push for the Champions League last sea-

son. Forest ultimately missed out on a top five spot but Elanga will get the chance to play in the elite competition with Newcastle.

Elanga is Newcastle's first major signing of the offseason.

"I'm ready to put on this black and white top to really fight for this team and give everything for the passionate fanbase that lives and breathes football," he said. "I had an amazing two years at Nottingham Forest, they really helped me to become the player I am today, but I'm really happy to be here now. The club won a trophy last season and are building something unique, something special that I really want to be part of."

Best of the Rest

**San Lorenzo makes winning start:** A late own goal from Colombian midfielder Juan Portilla gave San Lorenzo a 2-1 away win over Talleres Cordoba on Friday in their opening match of Argentina's Primera Division Clausura tournament.

Alexis Cuello gave the visitors the lead by running onto Ezequiel Cerutti's pass and chipping a shot over goalkeeper Guido Herrera.

Luis Sequeira equalized after combining with Ruben Botta and sending a low 25-yard effort into the bottom-left corner.

Portilla then gifted the Buenos Aires side the winner, heading Matias Reali's floating free kick into his own net.

Aldosivi was held to a goalless home draw by Central Cordoba. (Xinhua)

**PSV completes transfer of Ruben:** PSV secured the signing of AZ forward Ruben van Bommel, with the 20-year-old winger signing a contract until mid-2030.

With a transfer fee around 15 million euros (approximately 17.5 million U.S. dollars), Van Bommel is expected to be the successor to Noa Lang in Eindhoven, who is set to move to Italian champion Napoli.

Van Bommel is the son of Mark van Bommel, a 79-cap Dutch international and PSV club legend, and the grandson of former Netherlands coach Bert van Marwijk. He spent seven years in PSV's youth academy before transferring to MVV Maastricht in 2020.

After making his professional debut with MVV in the Dutch first division, he moved to AZ in 2023. During his two seasons in Alkmaar, he scored 17 goals and provided six assists in 73 matches. (Xinhua)

**Lodeiro rejoins Nacional:** Uruguayan midfielder Nicolas Lodeiro has returned to his boyhood team Nacional on a free transfer, the Montevideo club said.

Lodeiro signed a one-year deal with Nacional after parting ways with MLS side Houston Dynamo.

"I was drawn by the challenge and the opportunity to close a cycle," the 36-year-old said at his official presentation.

"I don't want to go anywhere else from here. This is the place where I grew up, and the chance to wear the shirt again is something I don't take lightly." Lodeiro began his professional career at Nacional in 2007 before spells at Ajax, Botafogo, Corinthians, Boca Juniors, Seattle, Orlando and Houston.

He has 60 Uruguay caps and was a part of the Celeste's FIFA World Cup squads in 2014 and 2018.

Lodeiro added: "I'm a lot more experienced now but I have the same desire and enthusiasm as when I left." (Xinhua)



## Al-Khadher joins elite Spanish handball coaching program



Francisco V. Plazquez Garcia poses with participants.

**By Khaled Al-Enezi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: Ali Al-Khadher, goalkeeper coach for both Kuwait Club and the Brazilian national team, has embarked on the third-level postgraduate course in handball – one of the most advanced international coaching certifications in the sport. The program is organized by the Spanish Handball Federation under the leadership of its president, Francisco V. Plazquez Garcia.

The year-long postgraduate program is structured into three comprehensive phases: distance learning, on-field attendance, and a final residency period in Madrid. Participants are also required to complete a graduation project, which includes a certified research component and thesis.

Significantly, Al-Khadher is the first

coach from outside Europe to join this elite course, proudly representing the Gulf, Arab, and Asian coaching communities. His participation paves the way for future inclusion of non-European coaches in this high-level academic program.

Al-Khadher extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Spanish Handball Federation and its president, Francisco V. Plazquez Garcia, for the opportunity, and expressed his determination to overcome any challenges in pursuit of academic and professional excellence.

Garcia, who has led the Spanish Federation since 2013, was re-elected in July 2024 with 95 out of 99 votes and will continue in office until 2028. In addition to his national role, he serves as Vice President of the Spanish Olympic Committee (since 2017) and is a member of the Executive Committee of the European Handball Federation.

## Kuwait’s volleyball team to face Algeria in Tunisia camp



The national volleyball team intensifies its training session.

**By Hassan Mosa**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

TUNIS, July 12: The Kuwaiti volleyball team comfortably defeated Libya 3-0 in its second friendly match during its training camp in Tunisia, preparing for the upcoming West Asian Championship, which Bahrain will host from July 17 to 27.

The team is set to play its third friendly today against the Algeria. Led by Argentine coach Julian Alvarez and his national assistant Zaid Al-Kazemi, Kuwait is currently holding a 10-day training camp in Tunisia before heading to Manama, Bahrain’s capital, for the tournament.

The national team maintained strong form in its latest friendly, winning in straight sets: 25-20, 25-22, and 25-21.

The technical and administrative staff is considering gradually increasing the intensity of friendly matches to help the team reach peak performance ahead of the competition.

In the tournament draw, Kuwait was placed in Group B alongside Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman, while Group A features hosts Bahrain, Jordan, the UAE, and Lebanon.

Kuwait will open its campaign on July 17 against Oman, face Saudi Arabia on July 18, and conclude group play against Qatar on July 21.

## Kuwait kicks off preparations for AFC Futsal Champ’ship qualifiers



A file photo of players celebrating.

**By Hassan Mosa**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: Kuwait futsal team will begin preparations for the AFC Futsal Championship qualifiers on August 2nd, continuing training until August 21st before departing for a training camp in Spain. The camp will feature several friendly matches to sharpen the team’s skills.

The team is scheduled to return from Madrid on September 4th, ahead of an internal training camp from September 9th to 14th. This camp will include two friendly matches against Vietnam on September 11th and 13th.

The final training camp will commence on September 18th, as the team gears up for the qualifiers running from September 20th to 24th.

Drawn into Group A alongside Australia, Mongolia, and India, Kuwait will open its campaign against India on September 20th, face Mongolia on September 22nd, and conclude with Australia on September 24th.

The qualifiers feature eight groups, with the top two teams from each group, plus the seven best second-placed teams, advancing to join host country Indonesia in the 18th edition of the tournament, set to begin next January.

# Unbeaten Spain and Italy advance to quarterfinals

Belgium beats Portugal for first win at Euros

**BERN, Switzerland, July 12, (AP):** Tournament favorite Spain came from behind to beat Italy 3-1 and swept through its group for the first time at a Women’s European Championship.

Italy lost but also advanced to the quarterfinals for the first time in 12 years.

Italy had the audacity to take a 10th-minute lead against the 2023 World Cup champion on defender Elisabetta Oliviero’s shot, soon after captain Elena Linari struck the crossbar with a header.

Spain leveled within four minutes, led from the 49th, and added Esther González’s tournament-leading fourth goal in stoppage time.

Still, Spain had enough problems in defense handling the Italians, who had 13 attempts on goal, to give host Switzerland some hope for their quarterfinal in one week.

Italy finished runner-up to Spain in the group because Portugal, which was third in the standings at the start of play, lost to Belgium 2-1 when needing a lopsided win.

Norway awaits Italy in the first quarterfinal on Wednesday in Geneva, and it will be Spain-Switzerland two days later in Bern.

Spain’s first two goals were created by the skipping feet and dribbling runs of winger Athenea del Castillo, who got her first start of the tournament.

She leveled in the 14th, finishing a move she started with a right-foot shot curled into the top corner.

After Del Castillo’s driving run across the face of the Italian defense in the 49th, the ball sat up for Patri



Italy’s Elena Linari, 2nd left, heads the ball at goal during the Women’s Euro 2025, Group B, soccer match between Italy and Spain at Stadion Wankdorf in Bern, Switzerland. (AP)

Guijarro to snap a shot low into the bottom corner.

Spain also gave a first start at Euro 2025 to Aitana Bonmati, two weeks since the two-time Ballon d’Or winner was hospitalized by viral meningitis.

By scoring three goals on Friday, after a 5-0 win against Portugal and 6-2 against Belgium, Spain tied England’s tournament record of 14 in a group set at Euro 2022. England went on to win the title.

Spain rested regular starters ahead of the quarterfinals including both defenders who are one yellow card

away from a suspension, Laia Aleixandri and Ona Batlle.

Teenage star Vicky López, González and Clàudia Pina also were rested, making space for Bonmati to get more game time.

Janice Cayman scored in stoppage time for Belgium to beat Portugal 2-1 and a first win in its final game at the Women’s European Championship.

Amber Tysiak thought she already scored Belgium’s winner in stoppage time but that goal was struck out for an offside call, the second Belgium goal ruled out after a VAR check.

Portugal needed a win to have any hope of making the knockout stage but got off to a bad start when Belgium captain Tessa Wullaert slid in to meet Jill Janssens’ cross for the third-minute opener.

Telma Encarnação got Portugal’s only goal late and couldn’t prevent her team’s elimination.

Spain came from behind to beat Italy 3-1 and both teams progressed from Group B, the world champion with a perfect three wins from three games, Italy second on four points, followed by Belgium on three and Portugal with one.

## Burgan Club signs Nikolic

**By Hassan Mosa**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: Burgan Club has strengthened its handball squad by signing Serbian national team standout Jovica Nikolić as its third professional player, joining Japanese player Kasuke Yasuhira and Croatian Stipe Mandalinic.

The club also renewed the contracts of key players, including goalkeeper Mehdi Khan, Hamoud Al-Adwani, and Ahmed Mazal, along with head coach Hussein Habib, reaffirming their commitment to continuity and stability.

Meanwhile, Al-Arabi Club has bolstered its squad by signing Denir Janima, formerly of Sulaibikhat, and his fellow countryman Mikhail Loeb, in addition to renewing the contract of Tunisian professional Osama Al-Jaziri.

Burgan Club recently made history by finishing second in the Premier League



Jovica Nikolic

for the first time, earning a spot in the upcoming Asian Club Championship. In contrast, Al-Arabi concluded the season in sixth place.

## China tests new pairings ahead of World Aquatics Champ’ships

BEIJING, July 12, (Xinhua): China’s diving team held internal trials Saturday ahead of the upcoming World Aquatics Championships in Singapore, featuring significant lineup changes.

New partnerships will compete in key events, including women’s 10m platform and women’s 3m springboard. Chen Yuxi, who previously swept multiple Olympic and world titles in women’s synchronised 10m platform with Quan Hongchan, will now partner with Zhang Minjie.

“I feel her individual dives are quite stable with good height off the board. She can guide me well,” Zhang said.

“For the synchro event, each has her own style,” Chen Yuxi noted. “The priority is aligning with each other. We need continuous refinement through teamwork.”

Reflecting on her mindset post-2024 Olympics, Chen added: “The shift is substantial. After three years of intense competition last cycle, I’m starting from scratch

this time to gradually regain competition rhythm. Mentally, I feel more stable and mature now.” In women’s 3m springboard, Olympic champion Chen Yiwen pairs with newcomer Chen Jia, who has won two World Cup singles titles this season. “I’m looking forward to my first Worlds,” Chen Jia said. Chen Yiwen aims to “regain her sense of purpose” at the event. Both will also contest the singles.

Veteran Cao Yuan, an Olympic gold medalist in three different diving disciplines, switches back to men’s 3m springboard singles. “This switch demanded tremendous effort. I aim for breakthroughs and hope to execute details well,” Cao said.

Wang Zongyuan teams with Zheng Jiuyuan in the men’s synchronised 3m springboard. Wang, who will also compete in the singles, stated: “As a major post-Olympics meet, this championship will help identify areas for improvement. I’ll focus on technique and adapt during competition.”

**‘I believe that they will have 20 days to rest’**

## La Liga president rejects Courtois’ plea to delay Madrid’s opener for more rest time

NEW YORK, July 12, (AP): Spanish league president Javier Tebas rejected Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois’ plea to postpone the team’s 2025-26 opener to give players time to rest following the expanded Club World Cup.

Real Madrid was eliminated with a 4-0 semifinal loss to Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday and will have a 41-day offseason before their La Liga opener against Osasuna on Aug. 19.

Tebas said the decision not to move the opener was made by the Spanish Football Federation and La Liga agreed with it. He said players were to have 21 days off and 21 days of preseason training.

“I believe that they will have 20 days to rest instead of 21 and no other leagues like the Premier League for Chelsea or the French Ligue 1 for PSG are changing the games,” he said through a translator during a Friday interview with



Real Madrid’s Thibaut Courtois reacts after a crash during the Club World Cup semifinal soccer match between PSG and Real Madrid in East Rutherford, N.J. (AP)

The Associated Press. “So I don’t believe that we should change the calendar for that reason, especially thinking that it’s a matter of one

day.” Real Madrid played 68 competitive matches in a season that started Aug. 18: 38 in the league,

14 in the Champions League, six each in the Copa del Rey and the Club World Cup, two in the Spanish Super Cup and one apiece in the European Super Cup and Intercontinental Cup.

PSG will play its 65th game in Sunday’s Club World Cup final and Chelsea its 64th. PSG opens its season from Aug. 15-17 at Nantes and Chelsea starts against Crystal Palace on Aug. 17.

“It’s always the same for La Liga,” Courtois said. “To listen those comments from a president it’s something that I haven’t seen it in Italy, or in England, nor the NBA and NFL. It’s fine if Tebas doesn’t like the Club World Cup, but it exists. It’s part of the FIFA calendar. We’re here competing, and it seems this gentleman just wants to be the focus. I’ve never seen a president of another competition speak like that. The players’ health is on the line.”

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NEWS





In this file photo, Crystal Palace players celebrate with the trophy after winning the English FA Cup final soccer match between Crystal Palace and Manchester City at Wembley stadium in London. Crystal Palace demoted by UEFA from Europa League because of co-owner Textor's ties to Lyon. (AP)

# Sports

## Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr praises Kuwait swimmers' success at Gulf Championship

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: President of Kuwaiti and Asian Aquatics Federations Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah praised the results achieved by Kuwaiti swimmers in the 29th Gulf Cooperation Council Championship hosted by Bahrain, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah made the statement while he is in Gstaad, Switzerland; indicating that the results reflect the great administrative and technical efforts of the technical staff of the national team; in addition to the dedication of Kuwaiti swimmers to achieve good results, win medals, and raise the Kuwaiti flag high in international forums.

On the first day of the championship, the Kuwaiti athletes won eight medals. Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah congratulated Al-Qadisiya swimmer Rashed Al-Tarmoum for setting a new Kuwaiti record in the 50-meter race when he participated in the Swiss World Open Swimming Championship.

Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah stressed that the Aquatics Federation

continues to provide all forms of support to the national athletes, like top-level coaches, in addition to facilitating and supporting their participation in international competitions, and preparing them for competitions in the appropriate manner. He also indicated that these participations are part of the plan of the federation to prepare more champions for the upcoming competitions at the regional, continental and international levels.

The following are the achievements of Kuwaiti swimmers so far:

- Three gold medals for Saud Al-Shamroukh in the 1,500m freestyle, 200m freestyle, and 4x200m freestyle (team)
- Two silver medals for Mohammad Zubaid in the 50m butterfly and 50m backstroke
- One silver medal for Khaled Al-Otaibi in the 200m freestyle
- Two silver medals for Saud Al-Enezi in the 200m butterfly and 4x100m medley.



Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah

## Kuwait continues U-23 qualifier prep with 2nd friendly in Cairo

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, July 12: The Kuwait Olympic football team will take on Egyptian club El Gouna this evening in its second friendly match, part of its ongoing training camp in Cairo, which began last Monday.

The Blues are scheduled to play two more matches against the Egyptian national team on July

Kuwait fell 1-3 to Malia Kafr El-Zayat last Thursday in its first match, with Jarrah El Helili scoring the team's only goal.

The camp is a key component of Kuwait's build-up to the AFC U-23 Championship qualifiers, which will be hosted by Saudi Arabia in January. Kuwait is drawn into Group B of the qualifiers, alongside Japan, Afghanistan, and Myanmar—the group stage host—from September 1 to 9.

Head coach Dario Pesic of Croatia and his assistant Mohamed El-Felakawy utilized the match against Kafr El-Zayat to assess as many players as possible, using two different lineups in each half. The goal



Kuwait U-23 team pose for a group photo before facing Malia Kafr El-Zayat.

is to evaluate individual readiness before finalizing the roster for the qualifiers.

In addition to tactical experimentation, the coaching staff is focused on improving the players' fitness and

fostering team chemistry—especially important given the inclusion of several new faces in the squad. The ultimate aim is to prepare a competitive team capable of delivering positive results in the upcoming qualifiers.

## Kuwait lands in Group B of Championship

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, July 12: The draw for the Arab Junior Basketball Championship placed Kuwait in Group B, alongside Qatar, Lebanon, and Tunisia. Group A features host nation Egypt, along with Bahrain, Jordan, and Algeria.

The draw was held yesterday in Cairo, where the tournament will take place from August 10 to 17 at the 6th of October Hall. The competition will be played in a single round-robin format across two groups. In the quarterfinal stage, the top team from Group A will face the fourth from Group B, the second from Group A will play the third from Group B, and the fourth from Group A will meet the top team from Group B. The winners will progress to the semifinals, while the losing teams will compete in placement matches for fifth to eighth place.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's junior national team is scheduled to return from Bahrain this evening after concluding its participation in the Gulf Cup qualifiers for the Asian Cup finals, which will be held in Mongolia next month. The team faced Saudi Arabia last night in Manama to wrap up its campaign.

In a separate development, the Arab Basketball Federation announced the postponement of the draw for the 36th Arab Men's Championship by 24 hours. This came after the Tunisian Federation withdrew from hosting the tournament on its previously scheduled dates of July 25 to August 2. The competition will now be held in December.



A Kuwaiti dribbles the ball as his teammate looks on.

## Swiatek wins Wimbledon in historic double bagel final against Anisimova



Poland's Iga Swiatek returns to Amanda Anisimova of the U.S. during the women's singles final at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London. (AP)

### Pole 6-0 in major title matches

LONDON, July 12, (AP): Iga Swiatek won her first Wimbledon championship with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Amanda Anisimova on Saturday in the first women's final at the tournament in 114 years in which one player failed to claim a single game.

Swiatek's victory on a sunny, breezy afternoon at Centre Court took just 57 minutes and gave Swiatek her sixth Grand Slam title overall. She is now 6-0 in major title matches.

The 24-year-old from Poland finished with a 55-24 edge in total points and accumulated that despite needing to produce merely 10 winners. Anisimova was shaky from the start and made 28 unforced errors.

Swiatek already owned four trophies from the French Open's red clay and one from the U.S. Open's hard courts, but this is first title of her professional career at any grass-court tournament. And it ended a long-for-her drought: Swiatek last won a trophy anywhere more than a year ago, at Roland-Garros in June 2024.

Kate, the Princess of Wales, was sitting in the Royal Box on Saturday and took part in the on-court ceremony afterward.

Swiatek is the eighth consecutive first-time women's champion at Wimbledon, but her triumph stands out from the others because it came in a stunningly dominant performance against Anisimova, a 23-year-old American who was participating in her first final at a major.

Anisimova eliminated No. 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka in the semifinals but never looked like she was the same player on Saturday. Not at all. When

it was over, while Swiatek climbed into the stands to celebrate with her team, Anisimova sat on the sideline in tears.

All the way back in 1911, Dorothea Lambert Chambers was a 6-0, 6-0 winner against Dora Boothby.

Swiatek never had been past the quarterfinals of the All England Club and her only other final on the slick surface came when she was the runner-up at a tuneup event in Germany right before Wimbledon began.

Swiatek spent most of 2022, 2023 and 2024 at No. 1 in the WTA rankings but was seeded No. 8 at Wimbledon after going more than a year without claiming a title anywhere. She served a one-month doping ban last year after failing an out-of-competition drug test; an investigation determined she was inadvertently exposed to a contaminated medical product used for trouble sleeping and jet lag.

## Hayel joins Al-Arabi technical staff Al-Salmiya signs Al-Shatti as head coach for new season

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 12: Al-Salmiya Club officially announced the signing of coach Nasser Al-Shatti and his brother Maitham Al-Shatti to lead the first football team in preparation for the upcoming 2025-2026 season. The agreement was finalized the day before yesterday following months of negotiations that began earlier this year.

Al-Shatti had previously led Al-Arabi to an impressive season, finishing as runner-up in the Zain Premier League and the Crown Prince Cup, and reaching the final of the Amir's Cup, which was postponed last June due to regional circumstances. The team also reached the AFC Challenge Cup semifinals. Despite Al-Arabi's desire to renew his contract for a third season, both sides were unable to reach a final agreement.

As a result, Al-Salmiya parted ways with Croatian coach Ante Miša, who had been under contract through the end of next season. The club expressed its gratitude to Miša and wished him success in future endeavors.

With the appointment of the Al-Shatti brothers, Al-Salmiya aims to return to title contention and secure local championships after a prolonged absence from the podium.

In addition to the coaching change, Al-Salmiya has reinforced its squad by signing Abdullah Al-Shamali, who recently ended his stint with Al-Qadisiya. Al-Shamali began his career at Al-Arabi and spent the last two seasons at Al-Qadisiya.

Meanwhile, Al-Arabi has announced the appointment of Jordanian coach Ahmed Hayel as assistant coach, joining the technical staff led by Portuguese



Nasser Al-Shatti

head coach Marco Cesar Pereira Alves, whose hiring was confirmed last week.

Hayel will work alongside Portuguese coach Alonso, who was recently added to the staff, marking his first coaching role outside Jordan. A former Al-Arabi player, Hayel's career was cut short by a head injury nearly a decade ago.

He brings a strong coaching résumé, having guided the Jordan U-23 Olympic team to the 2021 West Asian Championship title and qualification for the AFC Asian Cup finals. He also served as assistant coach for Jordan's senior national team, and led Al-Faisaly and Al-Hussein Irbid, winning the Jordanian Professional League title last season.

Al-Arabi's technical staff also includes:

- Tunisian Khalil Jebabli as fitness coach (continuing in his role)
- Portuguese Blessing Lumiono and Ahmed Hayel as assistant coaches
- Brazilian Artur Guedes as goalkeeper coach
- Algerian Mahfouz Jenad as technical analyst