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Kuwait Amir begins historic France visit



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is warmly received upon arrival in Paris for an official visit to strengthen Kuwait-France relations.



Amiri Diwan photos



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Dear Minister of Justice, mercy is the key ... isn't it?

THE fact that over three thousand bounced checks have been presented to the courts, with judicial rulings issued and their signatories being prosecuted (as revealed by sources from the Ministry of Justice), shows that the state and its institutions have become a collection point for these debts. It must be considered that these checks were issued either by individuals or companies with high interest rates, leaving the debtor unable to repay.

It is well known that each installment is accompanied by a check, meaning the debt is distributed across multiple checks. If the borrower misses one monthly payment, the creditor presents that check to the court. If the debt is divided into 60 installments, the debtor signs 60 checks and is held accountable for each one separately, as if each check represents a separate offense. This might seem reasonable if the judgment covered the entire debt, but instead, multiple penalties are imposed for multiple checks issued for the same debt to the same creditor.

This situation contradicts a recent Court of Cassation ruling, which stated that "all security instruments, including bills of exchange and promissory notes, are merely means of documentation within the framework of the relationship between creditor and debtor, and the amounts already refunded cannot be ignored when calculating the remaining debt."

This ruling, issued by the highest judicial authority, highlights the contradiction between decades-old laws and citizens' constitutional rights. While courts currently issue arrest warrants against check

signatories who fail to pay an installment, the Court of Cassation acquitted the debtor, recognizing that holding them accountable based solely on these "authentication tools" is unjust.

Most countries do not consider a "check without funds" a felony punishable by imprisonment, due to the absence of essential elements of a crime and the lack of sufficient physical evidence. Kuwait is one of the few countries where issuing a check without funds is treated as a punishable felony.

It is true that this issue is currently under review, with Kuwait aiming to adopt the approach taken by advanced countries in this regard. However, continuing to imprison issuers of checks without sufficient funds, and reactivating arrest warrants amid the large number of borrowers, will only worsen overcrowding in already crowded prisons. With over 60,000 debtors who have not fully repaid their debts, often involving relatively small amounts, the cost of imprisoning one debtor may exceed the value of the debt itself.

I will not delve into the reasons that lead borrowers to borrow, as they are numerous and, in most cases, purely humanitarian.

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Trip deepens six-decade alliance

PARIS, July 13, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, accompanied by an official delegation, arrived in France on Sunday for an official visit.

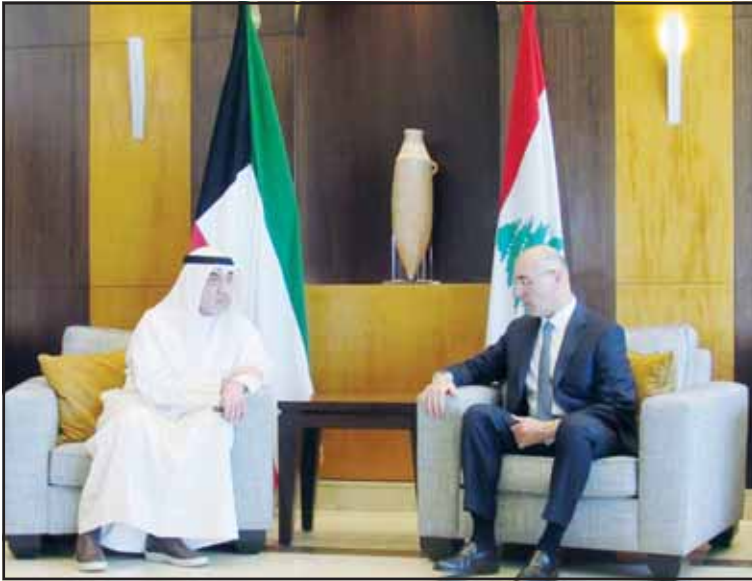
His Highness the Amir was received upon arrival at the airport by Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Kuwait's Ambassador to France Abdullah Al-Shaheen, the head of security and safety of Paris airports, Stephane Daguin, the French Embassy's Military Attache to Kuwait Colonel Francois Dicks, along with the Kuwaiti Embassy staff and heads of af-

filiated and technical offices accredited in the French capital, Paris.

His Highness the Amir is accompanied by an official delegation that includes Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, and Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and a number of senior state officials.

The visit by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to France will be of great importance, adding to the illustrious ties linking the two countries,

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KUNA photo
Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior meets Lebanese Interior Minister.

1st Deputy PM arrives in Lebanon

Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah arrived in Lebanon, Sunday, on an official visit.

Upon his arrival at Beirut's Rafic Hariri International Airport, Sheikh

Fahad Al-Yousef and his accompanying delegation were received by Lebanese Interior Minister Ahmad Al-Hajjar, Kuwait's Charge d'Affaires in Lebanon Counselor Yassin Al-Majed, and Kuwaiti embassy staff. (KUNA)

KD 1.5b set for Kuwait projects

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The 2025/2026 budget report revealed that a budget of KD1.497 billion was allocated for construction and major maintenance projects for the fiscal year -- an increase of KD46 million compared to the budget last year, which amounted to KD1.451 billion.

The report indicated that the three largest items in the construction and major maintenance projects budget are buildings and land improvements -- KD689.300 million, including construction and major maintenance projects for government, commercial and residential structures; followed by infrastructure with a budget of KD587.675 million, including construction and major maintenance projects for roads, bridges, tunnels, airports, water and sewage networks, communications, electricity and gas.

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April case clearance hits 90%

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Public Prosecution had a remarkable achievement in the disposition of cases in April with an overall completion rate of 90.7

percent, according to the monthly report of the Statistics and Research Department in Ministry of Justice.

The report showed that the Public Prosecution received a total of 2,629 cases in April; with felony cases topping

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Workshop empowers girls

False health trends under fire

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Treasurer of the Women's Cultural and Social Society and Health Program Head Dr. Fajr Al-Husseini underscored the need

to focus on developing a culture of volunteer work among girls and young women.

In an exclusive statement to the newspaper on the sidelines of the public awareness workshop organized by

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Photo during the workshop.

Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

Salary reform sparks uproar, experts demand transparency

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: There has been widespread uproar and intense interaction on social media over the ambiguity and uncertainty surrounding the "strategic alternative."

Many are questioning its scope of application, whether it will ease or worsen citizens' financial burdens, and to what extent it will achieve fairness in salaries.

The daily raised these concerns with experts, legal professionals, and former MPs, who unanimously stressed the need for clarity and transparency on the plan's details and implications before any formal approval.

In this regard, former MP and minister Ahmad Al-Mulaifi affirmed that while the "strategic alternative" is im-

portant for salary imbalances, there are simpler and more direct ways to adjust salaries, particularly given that the project has been under discussion by successive governments since 2013.

Al-Mulaifi indicated that the government has significantly delayed salary adjustments due to rising inflation, increasing prices, higher fees, allowance changes, and new taxes, all of which negatively impact low-income earners.

He emphasized the need for a simple system for allowances, benefits, and salary increases in a way that motivates productivity, enhances healthy competition, and ensures fairness among employees.

Al-Mulaifi noted that while unifying the salary structure is good, differences in certain professions such as lawyers, engineers, and accountants should be recognized, and should be based on experience and competencies.

Meanwhile, Dr. Abdullah Fahad Al-Abduljader, administrative consultant and member of the advisory committee formed by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for the strategic alternative project, explained that the Civil Service Council approved the implementation of the strategic alternative in 2015. This approval was based on a study conducted by a committee selected by the council in 2013, which included CSC employees, retirees, and experts in administrative development and human resources.

The committee proposed a unified salary schedule for all government

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Gold in Kuwait soars to KD 33

KUWAIT CITY, July 13, (KUNA): Precious metal prices in the local Kuwaiti market responded strongly to global developments last week, as demand surged amid rising geopolitical and economic uncertainty. The price of 24-karat gold reached approximately KD 33 per gram, while 22-karat gold stood at around KD 30.27 per gram. Silver also saw a notable uptick, with the price of one kilogram hitting KD 421.

This local surge mirrored global trends, where gold prices recorded

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NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: The official gazette "Kuwait Al-Yaum" published Cabinet Resolution No. 828/2025, regarding the revocation of the Kuwaiti citizenship of 16 individuals, including some who had obtained it through dependency, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

GAZA: Health Authorities in Gaza affirmed on Sunday the death of 139 Palestinians and the injury of 452 others, due to the continuous Israeli occupation aggression on **Gaza Strip** since October 2023.

The authorities said in a press release that the death toll has risen to 58,026 and the injured reached 138,520, while dozens of people are still under the rubble of houses destroyed in Israeli occupation attacks. (KUNA)



2 Al-Jarallah: Media plays vital role in bridging gaps

2 E-visa for Kuwaitis visiting India from Monday: envoy



8 NBK becomes a Platinum Member of Kuwait Green Building Council

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:24	Asr	15:28
Sunrise ..	04:57	Maghrib ..	18:50
Zohr	11:54	Isha	20:20

Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Very hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-40 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.			
By Night: Hot to rather hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	48	38	
Kuwait Airport	48	33	

Abdaly	50	33
Jahra	50	37
Salmiyah	45	32
Ahmadi	44	31
Nuwaisib	47	32
Wafra	49	31
Salmi	49	33
Managish	50	35



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince



HH the Prime Minister

Kuwait Amir congratulates Montenegro on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT CITY, July 13, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has sent a cable of congratulations to President of the Republic of Montenegro Jakov Milatovic on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the president good health, wellness, further prosperity and progress for the friendly Republic of Montenegro and people.

Crown Prince

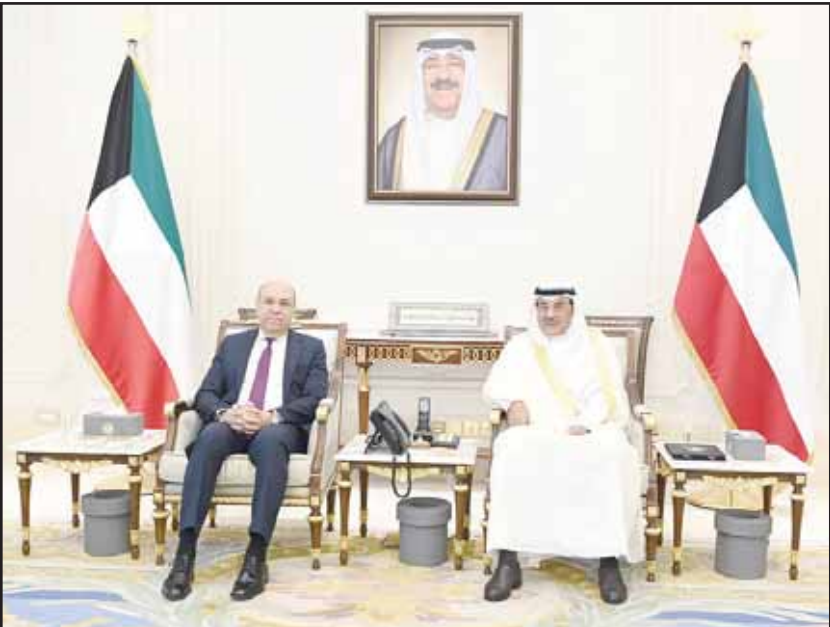
His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has sent a cable

of congratulations to President of the Republic of Montenegro Jakov Milatovic on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince wished the president good health, wellness, further prosperity and progress for the friendly Republic of Montenegro and people.

Prime Minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has sent a cable of congratulations to President of the Republic of Montenegro Jakov Milatovic on the occasion of his country's National Day.



Crown Prince Diwan photo
His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives the Egyptian Civil Aviation Minister Dr. Sameh Ahmad Al-Hefny.

Deputy Amir meets Egyptian official

KUWAIT CITY, July 13, (KUNA): His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on

Sunday Egyptian Civil Aviation Minister Dr. Sameh Ahmad Al-Hefny, on the occasion of his official visit to the country.

25 maid offices licenses suspended in May: PAM

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Domestic Labor Recruitment Regulatory Department has released its statistics for May 2025, reporting a total of 598 complaints and several regulatory actions concerning domestic labor recruitment office licenses.

According to the official data issued by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), the total number of registered domestic labor recruitment offices reached 488.

During the month, seven new licenses were issued, 19 were renewed, and only one request for license cancellation was submitted.

The statistics also showed that 25 licenses were suspended, and 31 suspensions were lifted after the offices resolved their regulatory status.

PAM affirmed that these figures reflect its ongoing efforts to regulate the domestic labor recruitment market and strengthen oversight of recruitment offices to ensure compliance with legal requirements and protect the rights of both employers and workers.

Al-Jarallah: Media plays vital role in bridging gaps



Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Chinese Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Liu Xiang and his colleague, Managing Editor of Al-Seyassah Faisal Al-Matni and Managing Editor of Arab Times Marlon Aquino Malinao pose for a picture.



Photos by Rizk Tawfiq
Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Kuwait Liu Xiang presents token of appreciation to Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah.

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah on Sunday met with Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Kuwait Liu Xiang, who came to his office for a courtesy visit.

The meeting included a constructive discussion on bilateral relations and media cooperation between the two sides, an open dialogue on the role of the media in building bridges of understanding between peoples, and the importance of responsible journalistic coverage in strengthening Ku-

waiti-Chinese relations, especially in light of the growing rapprochement and cooperation between the two friendly countries in various fields.

Xiang praised the role played by Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers in highlighting the activities of the embassy. He also affirmed the importance of the media in presenting a realistic and balanced image of bilateral relations and supporting cultural dialogue between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Al-Jarallah warmly welcomed the Chinese guest, while emphasizing the Kuwaiti press' commitment to

strengthen cooperation with diplomatic missions, and support every initiative that contributes to deepening regional and international understanding and rapprochement. He praised the effective role of the Chinese Embassy in this context.

Also present at the meeting were Managing Editor of Al-Seyassah Faisal Al-Matni and Managing Editor of Arab Times Marlon Aquino Malinao. They exchanged views on the importance of media and diplomatic integration in effectively conveying cultural and political messages to diverse societies.

Big turnout witnessed, 'Guide Me' drive ends

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Kuwait University President Dr. Dina Al-Mailam conducted an inspection visit at the university admissions campaign, which was launched last Thursday and continued for three days.

Al-Mailam made the visit on the final day of the campaign in the Avenues Mall to take a closer look at the services and guidance offered to high school graduates wishing to enroll at the university.

The campaign witnessed a large turnout of visitors from various segments amid growing interest among parents and students. It reflected the society's awareness of the importance of choosing the right specialization in building a successful academic future.

Acting Dean of Admissions and Registration Dr. Fadel Abbas Aziz and Director of the Admissions Department Samar Al-Awadhi accompanied Al-Mailam during the inspection tour.

They reviewed the application process, and listened to a thorough explanation of the admission requirements and courses offered.

Al-Mailam expressed her pride in the tremendous efforts exerted by the concerned team and praised the excellent organization of the campaign. She emphasized the importance of such activities in raising awareness among students and guiding them towards appropriate academic choices to increase their chances of success at the university level.

In addition, Aziz explained that the exhibition aimed to create an interactive environment that enabled students to ask questions and learn about the details related to their academic path.

He confirmed that the university remains committed to support the students for them to have a confident start toward their university future.

E-visa for Kuwaitis visiting India from Monday: envoy

5 years validity to cost \$80: Dr Swaika

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Adarsh Swaika announced that the e-visa service for Kuwaitis starts on Monday.

In a press conference on Sunday, Swaika stressed that this step "is a qualitative shift in facilitating travel procedures and strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries." He confirmed that the service is available entirely online, eliminating the need to visit Indian visa application centers. He said it includes five visa categories: tourism, business, medical, conference and AYUSH (for alternative medicine purposes such as yoga and Ayurveda).

He revealed that the new tourist visa is valid for up to five years with a fee of only \$80; while

fees for other categories range from \$40 to \$80, depending on the duration of the visa. He stated that "the procedures are very simple, as Kuwaitis can fill out applications, upload documents and pay electronically. Biometric fingerprints are taken upon arrival at an Indian airport."

He said the processing time typically takes only three to four days, with the possibility of "some minor technical challenges at the beginning due to the recent launch of the system." He affirmed this move is in response to a long-standing request from Kuwaiti citizens, and reflects the deep historical ties between the two countries. He added "there are several reasons behind this step, including the strong relations between India and Kuwait, our desire to promote tourism,

Dr. Swaika

growing trade relations, increased Kuwaiti investments in India, growing presence of Indian companies in Kuwait, and enhancing people-to-people and cultural exchanges."

He also disclosed that around 8,000 to 9,000 Kuwaitis visited India last year on tourist visas; indicating that the numbers are expected to rise after easing the visa procedures. He explained that 12,000 weekly seats are allocated for each side under the civil aviation agreement between the two countries. "Flights to and from nine direct destinations are operated by Kuwaiti airlines like Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways, and Indian airlines such as IndiGo, Air India Express and Akasa Air.

Regarding the types of visas excluded from the electronic platform, he pointed out that "student visas are still part of the paper system, but they can be obtained from the usual visa centers."

He expressed hope that this initiative will contribute to deepening friendly relations and encouraging more Kuwaiti citizens to visit India for tourism, medical treatment or business.

Other Voices

Barghouthi talk...and the barmy 'intellectual blocs'

By Ahmad alsarraf

VIENNA hosted the first International Jewish Anti-Zionist Conference from June 13 to June 15 in the same city where Theodor Herzl convened the first Zionist Congress in 1897.

Despite its significance as a historic and exceptional event, the conference received minimal media attention, except for a notable piece written by Palestinian activist Dr. Mustafa Barghouthi, from which I quote the following:

The conference, attended by 500 participants, was titled "The Jewish Anti-Zionist Conference" and brought together prominent Jewish and Palestinian figures. It was sponsored by the Austrian organization "Democracy and Human Rights in Palestine", known for its anti-Zionist and anti-imperialist stance. The organization sees itself as part of the global liberation movement and is led by Jewish and Austrian activists in coordination with independent Palestinian figures.

Several pro-Palestine Jewish networks took part, including "European Jews for Palestine", "Jews for Justice for Palestinians", "Jewish Voice for Peace", "European Jews for Peace", and the "International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network". The conference aimed to reject Zionism as a racist and colonialist ideology and to challenge the conflation of criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism.

The conference aimed to build a global Jewish front to resist colonialism and apartheid, acknowledge the Palestinian Nakba, and work toward ending it by supporting the Palestinian right of return and dismantling the Zionist regime.

The final statement, written in bold and revolutionary language, firmly rejected Zionism, not only as a colonialist ideol-



alsarraf

ogy but also as a racist regime that must be entirely dismantled.

Some viewed the conference as a historic turning point in the Palestinian struggle against Zionism and a step toward breaking Zionism's monopoly on representing the Jewish people. It gave the Palestinian cause a new level of legitimacy in Europe, this time voiced by Jewish participants, which could mark the beginning of the end of Zionist blackmail of the West.

By forging a Palestinian-Jewish alliance against Zionism, the conference moved beyond the traditional narrative of a "conflict between two peoples," posing a direct challenge to the Zionist discourse.

The conference brought together prominent Jewish academics, activists, and intellectuals from around the world. Holocaust survivor Steven Kappus declared that Israel commits atrocities in the name of Holocaust victims, stating, "Whoever lived through the Nazi hell cannot remain silent about what Israel is doing today in Gaza."

Other participants described Israel as a colonial apartheid regime, similar to the former apartheid system in South Africa.

The event sparked huge controversy. Some critics accused it of distorting the memory of the Holocaust, particularly through its invocation of the "Mauthausen Oath", in which Holocaust survivors pledged to fight fascism. Some claimed the oath was being weaponized against Israel and intertwined with conspiracy theories and antisemitic rhetoric.

The conference also called for the liberation of "Palestine from the river to the sea", rejecting the two-state solution as a façade for ongoing colonialism. Participants demanded that Israel and its leaders be held accountable before the International Criminal Court and advocated for expanding the definition of crimes against humanity to include settlement expansion and the blockade of Gaza.

□ □ □

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Digital transformation plan in co-ops underway

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Assistant Undersecretary for Financial, Administrative and Cooperative Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Sayed Issa Mahmoud revealed that the digital transformation plan of the ministry in monitoring the performance of cooperatives is divided into three phases, including the strengthening of financial and administrative oversight, using artificial intelligence technologies, and ensuring the improvement of services and goods provided to citizens.

In an interview with Al-Akhbar Channel, Mahmoud confirmed the completion of procedures to link six cooperative societies -- Al-Naseem Cooperative Society, Al-Masayel Co-

operative Society, Al-Jahra Cooperative Society, Al-Jabriya Cooperative Society, Jaber Al-Ahmad Cooperative Society and Al-Dhaher Cooperative Society. He also disclosed that by the end of this month, 67 cooperative societies will be connected to the strategic inventory system. He revealed that the first phase of the plan focuses on financial and administrative oversight and inventory control. He said work is underway to organize inventory, while the incoming and outgoing financial resources at cooperatives -- related to employees, sales or purchases -- will be monitored later. He added that the administrative and technical transactions in cooperatives will be monitored as well.

He indicated that the second phase will be implemented through a system, which collects and interprets data; including automated inventory

implementation and comprehensive camera monitoring in the cooperatives. He confirmed that these systems will be linked to a central control unit in Abdullah Al-Salem area; enabling leaders, regulatory bodies and relevant departments to monitor performance in real time.

He stated that the third phase includes the introduction of artificial intelligence into cooperative management to present accurate assessments, as well as monitor financial and administrative performance and inventory in an integrated manner.

He stressed that digital transformation will positively impact consumers by enhancing transparency and oversight; which will contribute to improving the quality, quantity and diversity of goods and services provided by cooperative societies.

Cultural colonialism: awareness of peoples, or hidden domination?

“WARS between peoples and societies are not a recent phenomenon. Throughout history, powerful nations with regional influence have waged wars and colonized smaller countries to serve their existential interests. This was a natural course of action for such powers, as they carried out traditional military campaigns to expand their control over other societies”, Kuwaiti writer **Saqr Mohammad Al-Majim** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“However, this approach evolved when intellectuals redefined the traditional concept of invasion. One thinker proposed replacing military conquest with cultural invasion, or soft power, as a means of spreading the dominant country’s culture among weaker societies, thereby binding them culturally and ideologically to the stronger nation.

“This cultural invasion operates by convincing the targeted society that the process is merely an effort to raise awareness and promote development. In doing so, it diverts attention from its true purpose and conceals its underlying intent. The observer may then wonder who is truly strong, and who is being influenced by whom.

“A strong society is one that preserves its culture and upholds a valued identity, placing it above all other considerations. This strength is reflected not in nostalgic pride over historical achievements, but in the collective nature and behavior of its people.

“True strength lies in a society’s ability to renew its heritage, connect it meaningfully to contemporary realities, and use it to reinforce national unity and social cohesion. A strong society embraces modernity with purpose, utilizing clear and intentional means to share its culture with others, especially in our present age, which is often described as the golden era of globalization, cultural convergence, and, increasingly, the imposition of dominant cultures over weaker ones.

“A weak society, on the other hand, passively receives what the stronger society produces, often under the illusion that what it absorbs represents progress, diversity, or openness to globalization, without making any effort to transmit its own culture in return.

“Identity, in this context, can include political, religious, or social components.



Saqr Al-Majim

“If we were to ask someone, let’s say his name is Ahmed, why he is influenced by a particular society, he would likely respond without hesitation that the reason is cinema and drama. We might then be surprised to find that Ahmed chose that same country as his preferred tourist destination.

“In this way, cultural invasion evolves into financial profit, with the dominant culture not only spreading across nations but also embedding itself in individual choices and behaviors.

“As another example, Islam spread in one East Asian country through trade rather than military conflict. This shows how the expansion of trade can lead to the spread of religion and cultural influence. At that time, the state took pride in its advanced culture and religious heritage, expanding its reach until the religion spread throughout much of East Asia. As a result, many East Asian countries became allies of the culture-exporting nation and adopted its causes, bound by shared values and connections.

“We observe that the transformation of a society from one culture to another often passes through several stages, beginning with the erosion of its identity and leading to social fragmentation. Eventually, such a society may become a passive recipient, incapable of sharing or exporting a culture it no longer possesses.

“The recipient societies become captive to the propaganda disseminated by the dominant culture, delivered through all possible means and available channels.

“A weak society is characterized by a fragile identity. The first sign of this weakness is internal fragmentation, not necessarily full or overt control by another society. It is often enough to create an environment conducive to influence and to establish pressure groups aligned with the interests of the dominant culture. These groups help achieve the latter’s goals, whether directly or indirectly. Such tactics are among the winning cards that are played only at the right moment, as they are considered some of the subtle secrets of political strategy.”

Also:

“In today’s turbulent world, amid the daily pressures and demands of life, there are urgent matters and fundamental pillars that a wise person should never forget or neglect”, Kuwaiti writer **Dr. Khaled Al-Jenfawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

- “Some of the essential priorities that should always be at the top of the list include:
- Improving one’s livelihood: The pursuit of a better livelihood is paramount at all times and in every place. Each person is responsible for meeting their own needs as well as those of their loved ones. It is essential to continually strive to improve one’s living conditions according to one’s abilities and capacities, maintaining constant effort toward economic and personal growth.
 - Ensuring family security - A wise individual understands the importance of securing the safety and well-being of themselves, their family, and relatives at all times and under all circumstances.
 - “One of the fundamentals of maintaining security in today’s turbulent world is anticipating the unexpected and preparing everything necessary for it. This includes developing sound life plans and alternative strategies based on current and potential capabilities and resources, as well as those that may become available in the future. It also depends on the nature of the surrounding circumstances and any sudden changes that may arise. Prevention is better than cure. As the wise saying goes, “Treat the illness before it strikes, and prevent the problem before it occurs.”
 - Knowing true friends and allies - A wise person never forgets those who support and stand by them in times of need. They always remember their true friends.
 - “One of the fundamentals of life is to respect true friends, allies, and close relatives who hold a special place in one’s heart, and to treat them with kindness. Never forget those who have supported, befriended, and stood by you. May your hands be blessed.
 - Basic life priorities - The more a person recognizes what truly matters and places those things at the top of their life’s to-do list, the more likely they are to stay on the right path.
 - Intellectual flexibility - A wise person must embrace intellectual flexibility in both their private and public lives, constantly adapting to their surroundings. They should avoid rigidity in all its forms and under all circumstances, present and future. Be intellectually and psychologically flexible before it’s too late.”

— Compiled by Mahmoud Attiyeh/Simi K. Kutty



A drunk expat lies on the ground, unable to move.

Local liquor wonders

Dead drunk expats set for deportation

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Two expatriates have been referred to the Administrative Deportation Department by authorities at the Al Waha Police Station after they were found heavily intoxicated and unable to move outside a citizen’s home. Both individuals, who hold Article 20 residency permits, will be blacklisted and barred from re-entering the country, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to a security source, the incident began when a Kuwaiti citizen contacted the Ministry of Interior’s Operations Room to report two men sitting suspiciously in front of his house late at night. Upon approaching them, he discovered they were in a highly disoriented and intoxicated state. One of the men attempted to flee but collapsed and was unable to get far.

Public Security forces quickly responded and arrested the two individuals. During questioning, they admitted to consuming locally brewed alcohol. The case was subsequently handed over to the appropriate authorities for deportation procedures.

Crackdown nets traffic violators and criminals

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Traffic patrols continued their intensive campaigns in the six governorates from June 28 to July 4; achieving substantial progress in curbing violations and promoting safer driving behavior, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

A security source informed the daily that throughout the above-mentioned period; authorities issued 18,741 citations for various traffic violations. Enforcement teams impounded 46 vehicles and four motorcycles for serious infractions, while 57 wanted vehicles were seized.

Moreover, officers detained three individuals for abnormal behavior and 22 individuals for lacking identification documents.

Underscoring the commitment to apply the law equally to everyone, 37 juveniles and 10 other detainees were referred to the Juvenile Prosecution for driving without a license -- a practice that endangers their lives and that of others on the road.

The campaign also resulted in the arrest of 116 individuals wanted for various offenses, including absconding, expired residency permits, and outstanding arrest warrants. One street vendor was apprehended for violating municipal regulations.

During the same period, the Operations Department handled 2,786 reports, reflecting the high volume of daily incidents. Authorities also recorded 1,295 traffic accidents -- 1,084 collisions and 211 accidents that resulted in injuries, highlighting the significant challenges faced by traffic officers in maintaining public safety round the clock.

Officials emphasized that these efforts will continue to ensure compliance with traffic regulations and to safeguard lives.

Trooper jailed 10 years in libel, terrorism case

5 years for Kuwaiti joining ISIS

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Court of Cassation has upheld a 10-year prison sentence with hard labor for a soldier serving in Kuwait’s Ministry of Interior. The soldier was convicted on several serious charges, including insulting the Amir, joining the terrorist organization ISIS, inciting a fellow soldier to rebel, and advocating for the bombing of Camp Arifjan, a U.S. military base located in Kuwait.

The court found compelling evidence confirming the soldier’s involvement in extremist activities and his adherence to ideologies that pose a serious threat to national security and stability. As a result, the court rejected the appeal and affirmed the lower court’s ruling.

Meanwhile, the court also upheld the acquittal of other co-defendants in the case due to insufficient evidence.

The arrests were carried out by the State Security

Service, which had been monitoring the suspects’ movements and communications with suspicious parties abroad. The suspects, all Kuwaiti citizens -- including a military officer from the Ministry of Interior -- were detained after surveillance revealed their ties to foreign terrorist elements.

Charges brought against them included affiliation with a terrorist group, inciting violence, and planning attacks against foreign military installations within Kuwait. Despite denying the allegations, and the defense arguing for a lack of sufficient evidence and requesting bail for the soldier, the court maintained its original verdict.

□ □ □

5 years for Kuwaiti: The Court of Cassation, presided over by Judge Mohammad Al-Khalaf, upheld a five-year prison sentence with hard labor against a Kuwaiti citizen convicted of advocating joining the terrorist organization ISIS and insulting the Amir and rulers of Gulf and Arab countries.

State Security services arrested the accused after monitoring his social media activity. He had used his accounts to promote extremist ideologies, incite others to support ISIS, and publish offensive content targeting political leaders in Kuwait and the region. This constitutes a serious violation that threatens state security and public order.



Kuwaiti and Azeri delegations hold talks.

KUNA photo

KFF takes part in ICDO meetings in Azerbaijan

KUWAIT CITY, July 13, (KUNA): Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) took part recently in the 58th meeting of International Civil Defense Organization’s (ICDO) Executive Council and the third extraordinary session of the organization being hosted in Azerbaijan’s capital, Baku.

The meetings discussed means of boosting international coordination, sharing expertise in civil defense and responding to emergency, along the best practices and experiments in facing crises and disasters.

On the sidelines of the session, Kuwait’s delegation held a meeting with Azerbaijan’s Minister of Emergency Situations Kamaladdin Heydarov and discussed means of enhancing bilateral collaboration in all crisis management in a way that contributes to bolstering ties.

The Kuwaiti delegation was led by KFF acting vice president for financial and administrative affairs Brig. Gen. Mohammad Shamsan and Kuwait’s national communication officer in ICDO Major Abdullah Mohammad.

292 abandoned cars removed

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Public Relations Department of Kuwait Municipality announced that field teams from the Public Cleanliness and Road Occupancy Departments have been carrying out inspection tours to monitor and remove violations of the public cleanliness and road occupancy regulations in all governorates, as well as strengthen the oversight role of regulatory bodies, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

It explained that the Public Cleanliness and Road Occupancy Department of the Hawally Municipality conducted extensive tours of residential, commercial, and investment areas in the governorate to improve cleanliness levels and remove anything that obstructs roads or spoils the public appearance.

The purpose of intensifying these field tours is to monitor violators and take all necessary legal actions against them. In the month of June, the inspection tours resulted in the removal of 292 abandoned vehicles, scrap, boats, and motorcycles, and the issuance of 289 citations related to public cleanliness and road occupancy. Also, 1,591 removal notices were issued, including for abandoned vehicles, commercial containers, and illegal mobile grocery stalls. A total of 7,320 cubic meters of various types of waste were also collected during June.

Man spat upon

Youth’s ‘indecent act’ leaves driver aghast

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Al-Mutla’a detectives closed a case of indecent act and defamation following the arrest of a young man involved in the incident, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to a security source, a Kuwaiti citizen born in 1980 filed a complaint at Al-Mutlaa Police Station detailing the incident. The complainant reported that on May 21, 2025; while driving on the left lane of Al-Mutlaa Road, he noticed an American salon car approaching at high speed. He moved to the right lane to allow it to pass. As the vehicle pulled alongside, he was shocked to see the front-seat passenger committing an indecent act and spitting in his direction despite both vehicles having their windows closed.

The security source added that investigators, in coordination with the General Traffic Department, were able to identify the driver of the vehicle. The suspect was summoned for questioning and was positively identified by the complainant in a lineup, along with the vehicle used in the incident.

□ □ □

Expat held with drugs: Southern Highway Police arrested an expatriate, born in 1993, who was in an abnormal condition on Wafra Road with two packs of shabu and drug paraphernalia in his possession, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

In addition, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Police arrested an expatriate, born in 1970, for committing a security violation. Police discovered he was in an abnormal condition; and upon searching him, they found a pack of chemical substances in his possession.

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Municipality to cut deputy roles, merge sectors in new structure

Move aims to speed up decision-making

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Kuwait Municipality will soon announce its new organizational structure, as it has completed the final touches.

This is in compliance with the circular that the Civil Service Commission (CSC) issued to government agencies, urging them to review their organizational structures.

Sources informed the newspaper

that the new organizational structure will be submitted to Minister of State for Housing and Municipal Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari before the end of this month for appropriate action.

Sources said the new organizational structure includes only three deputies, instead of the current five; indicating they include one deputy (a senior leader



Al-Mishari

at the top of the administrative hierarchy), two assistant deputies (first and second), and a general manager for each Municipality branch.

Sources added that similar sectors like sanitation, environment and public health will be merged under one sector; while a planning and governance department will be created, digital transformation units will be strengthened, and the hierarchy will be reduced.

Sources stated that the most strategic objectives of the new organizational structure are improving the speed and efficiency of decision-making, eliminating duplication and

overlap of responsibilities between various sectors in the Municipality, aligning the organizational structure with governance and digital transformation requirements, developing human resources, and defining clear leadership paths.

Sources expect the new organizational structure to accelerate the documentation cycle; clarify the lines of authority between the undersecretary, assistant undersecretaries and general managers; and facilitate the follow up and administrative accountability procedures that will positively impact the Municipality's performance indicators.



MoHE photo
Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Lamia Al-Malham, speaking during the orientation meeting for scholarship students.

Al-Malham hails strong student turnout

MoHE wraps up orientation for 2025/2026 scholarship students

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Ministry of Higher Education Undersecretary Lamia Al-Malham announced the conclusion of the orientation for students accepted into the external scholarship plan for the 2025/2026 academic year.

The orientation was held from July 8-10 at the Kuwait University Conference Center in Shadadiya.

Al-Malham confirmed the remarkable participation of the students and their parents or guardians during the orientation; thereby, achieving the awareness and advisory objectives. She said this was made possible through the provision of necessary academic and administrative information, as well as the explanation of pro-

cedures before and after travel.

She disclosed that the orientation is the final phase of the 'Guide Me' campaign that the ministry launched this year. She said the campaign had three phases with the aim of ensuring that students make informed decisions about their academic and professional journeys. She commended the efforts of the campaign team and its leader -- Advisor to the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Wesal Al-Zamil.

She urged the students to be serious and committed throughout their scholarship period; stressing that the ministry continues to support them and follow up their academic progress, so that they can be honorable ambassadors for the State of Kuwait in the scholarship countries.

KU organizes 4th Dr Jassim bin Issa Award, celebrates outstanding dentistry graduates

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The College of Dentistry at the Medical Sciences Center in Kuwait University organized the fourth edition of the late Dr. Jassim bin Issa Award. Issa was the first Kuwaiti dentist.

The top three graduates of the seventh year for the 2024/2025 academic year were honored at the event -- Dr. Dima Al-Matar, Dr. Fatima Al-Enezi and Dr. Rabab Al-Mishaan; in addition to seven outstanding employees as follows: Ali Bu Hamad, Asayel Al-Adwani, Dalal Al-Shirazi, Shamima Rouf, Hazem Saber, Hawra Safar and Asmaa Al-Awadhi.

In his speech at the event, acting Dean of the College of Dentistry Dr. Rashid Al-Azmi recalled his experience and



KU photo

Photo during the fourth edition of the late Dr. Jassim bin Issa Award.

interactions with the pioneer of Kuwaiti dentistry -- Dr. Jassim bin Issa. He pointed out that encouraging and supporting dentists were among the fundamental

characteristics of Issa, stressing these characteristics were later manifested through the award -- a confirmation of the continuation of his career by his sons.

Al-Azmi praised the gesture of loyalty by the family of the deceased and Al-Sayafi Medical and Pharmaceutical Equipment Company in commemorating this generous figure through the incentive award that bears his name for the fourth consecutive year. He indicated that the award is held annually in July to honor seven employees and the top three seventh-year students who graduated last month.

Also present at the ceremony were former Dean and Founder of the college Dr. Jawad Behbehani, acting Administrative Director Rania Al-Kulaib, former Administrative Director Jawad Al-Gharib, the deceased's family represented by his grandson Jassim Sharif bin Issa, CEO of Al-Sayafi Medical and Pharmaceutical Equipment Company Ghassan Homs, and the academic and administrative staff of the college.

PAAET streamlines certificate pickup process for graduates

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Deanship of Admissions and Registration at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) will start receiving the original certificate requests of students who graduated in

the second semester of the 2024/2025 academic year on Sunday and it will continue until July 24.

The Deanship advised graduates wishing to obtain their original certificates to visit the Records and Information Department (Building Seven) at the headquarters of PAAET in Adailiya within the specified period.

JULY

Room Promotion

Farwaniya Governor advances family welfare & traffic reform

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received in his office on Sunday Director of the Family Care Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and member of the Farwaniya Governorate Council Hanan Al-Gharib to discuss important issues related to the ministry's work in Farwaniya Governorate.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the governor praised the ongoing efforts, and stressed the importance of activating initiatives aimed at strengthening social stability, meeting family needs, and developing cooperative work in Farwaniya.

Meanwhile, in a move to enhance coordination with security sectors, the governor also received the Director of the Farwaniya Traffic Department and member of the Farwaniya Governorate Council Colonel Raed Al-Sulaiman to discuss joint cooperation on traffic conditions in the governorate.

During the meeting, the governor emphasized the need to intensify efforts to deal with traffic congestion and



Farwaniya Governorate photos
Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received in his office members of the Farwaniya Governorate Council.

related issues, especially in densely populated areas.

He also called for strict enforcement of the law against violators, and expressed appreciation for the security personnel's efforts in maintaining safety and stability.

At the end of the meetings, Al-Gharib and Al-Sulaiman thanked the governor for his warm welcome and ongoing cooperation with various entities to achieve progress and improve services in line with the aspirations of the people of Farwaniya Governorate.

Over 46,000 plots in active dev't phase

PAHW accelerates major housing projects

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Omar Al-Ruwaih, Deputy Director General for Public Relations and Development and official spokesperson of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), has confirmed the progress of several housing projects and related services provided to citizens for the month of June, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement, Al-Ruwaih revealed that the South Saad Al-Abdullah housing project is progressing steadily; with the main roads contract achieving a completion rate of 39.05 percent or 22.63 percent increase over the contractual schedule.

He added that three infrastructure contracts in South Saad Al-Abdullah; covering 23,551 plots, remain in the preparatory phase. Specialized teams are overseeing the final preparations to move these contracts to the implementation phase, he affirmed.

On the affordable housing project, Al-Ruwaih reported that the first and second contracts have officially entered the construction phase.

These contracts include the development of 3,345 homes, with the first contract reaching 8.51 percent completion rate and the second achieving 5.54 percent.

He disclosed that four other contracts -- covering 6,455 homes -- are still in the preparatory stage.

Regarding the South Sabah Al-Ahmad housing project, Al-Ruwaih stated that specialized engineering teams are closely monitoring the progress of four contracts. The main roads contract recorded a completion rate of 54.37 percent as of June, he disclosed.

He went on to say that infrastructure works are also advancing steadily.

The first contract, comprising 7,623 plots, has reached 10.69 percent completion; the second contract, covering 6,189 plots, reached 19.22 percent; while the third contract, including 6,568 plots, reached 6.69 percent, he added.

He underscored the commitment of the authority to accelerate project timelines to meet the citizens' housing needs and ensure the timely delivery of vital infrastructure and services.

A historic day in Paris: Kuwait’s Amir attends French National Day celebrations – A testament to strong and enduring bilateral relations

By Abdulaziz Alfharhan

PARIS, July 13: In a powerful expression of deep bilateral friendship, His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, is attending France’s National Day celebrations on the Champs-Élysées and at the Élysée Palace, at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron.

This distinguished participation reflects the mutual respect and longstanding cooperation between Kuwait and France, and affirms Kuwait’s position as a trusted strategic partner in Paris.

Since 1964: A Relationship That Continues to Grow

Diplomatic relations between Kuwait and France officially began in 1964, and have since flourished across political, economic, and cultural sectors.

France’s steadfast support for Kuwait during the 1990 Iraqi invasion remains a landmark moment of solidarity that Kuwait will never forget.

Education and Francophonie: A Cultural Foundation

One of the strongest pillars of Kuwait–France relations is educational and cultural exchange. Over the years, many Kuwaiti students have chosen to pursue their studies in France, particularly in law, French language and literature, political science, and business administration.

These alumni have returned to Kuwait as cultural and intellectual bridges, helping shape the country’s legal, diplomatic, and administrative fields with a deep Francophone influence.

Today, French is one of the most widely studied foreign languages in Kuwait. It is taught in both

public and private schools, with increasing interest among Kuwaiti youth. The French Institute in Kuwait plays an essential role in promoting language and culture through courses, events, and artistic initiatives that have helped cultivate a strong Francophone presence in Kuwaiti society – not only in education, but in literature, arts, and intellectual life.

Expanding and Diversifying Cooperation

Beyond education and culture, Kuwait and France continue to collaborate in vital areas:

- Defense: Strong ties in military training and strategic cooperation.
- Economy and Investment: French companies contribute to Kuwaiti infrastructure, while Kuwait invests in key sectors across France.
- Green Energy: Joint efforts toward renewable energy and clean technologies.

- Humanitarian Work: Coordination in global relief and development efforts.

High-Level Diplomacy and Forward-Looking Vision

The Amir’s visit to Paris, and his meeting with President Macron, reflect Kuwait’s foreign policy goals of expanding alliances and engaging actively in regional and international dialogue – particularly in education, development, and peace-building.

Toward a Shared Future

On this French National Day, Kuwait proudly stands beside France – not just as a guest of honor, but as a true partner, committed to cooperation based on trust, dialogue, and shared values.

Together, Kuwait and France continue to build a future shaped by culture, diplomacy, and collaboration – for a more stable and prosperous world.

Continued from Page 1

Dear Minister

What is important to highlight are the various problems surrounding commercial transactions. I am not referring to bank loans, which require sufficient collateral and pledged assets before approval. Rather, I am speaking about debts owed to moneylenders, the checks they demand from borrowers, and debts owed to companies that sell goods on installment plans.

Unfortunately, the majority of these debtors have succumbed to the pressures of need, while debtors’ committees have failed to provide them with support. They have found no mercy in the law. Instead, the law became a tool to pressure poor debtors for the benefit of powerful and wealthy influential figures who seek to control people by various means and seize their property.

Mercy should be the foundation of judicial rulings. However, a judge cannot disregard the law, even if convinced that it is outdated. Therefore, please amend the legislative text and do not pressure judges to enforce a flawed law.

April case

the list at 35.1 percent, while drug addiction cases were the least at 3.5 percent.

The number of pending cases reached 2,409; with commercial misdemeanors constituting the largest percentage at 39.4 percent, while juvenile misdemeanor cases ranked last at 2.2 percent.

The number of completed cases reached 2,185; with commercial misdemeanor cases constituting the largest percentage at 43 percent, while juvenile misdemeanor cases have the lowest percentage at only 2.3 percent.

The report indicated that the highest completion rate was for check cases -- 99 percent, while the lowest rate was that of information technology cases at 74 percent. This entails the need to develop investigative tools for this growing type of digital crime.

On felony cases, the report indicated that drug and psychotropic substance cases ranked first, accounting for 29.1 percent of incoming cases and 36.3 percent of pending cases. They also topped the list of completed cases at 34.8 percent.

In contrast, murder and physical assault cases accounted for the least number of incoming cases at 3.3 percent; while kidnapping, arrest and detention cases recorded the lowest percentage of heard and disposed cases at one percent.

The overall completion rate for criminal cases reached 75 percent, led by assault on honor and reputation cases at 90 percent.; while kidnapping cases accounted for the least completion rate at 66.7 percent.

Based on the distribution of cases among the prosecution offices, the report showed that the Commercial Affairs Prosecution recorded the largest number of cases received at 19.7 percent, heard cases at 17.8 percent, and completed cases at 18.4 percent.

On the other hand, the Capital Market Prosecution recorded the lowest number of cases (0.04 percent), but achieved the highest completion rate of 100 percent; thereby, demonstrating its efficiency in handling cases.

False health

the association entitled, “With Awareness, More Beautiful,” Al-Husseini pointed out that volunteer work is a community service whose promotion and development requires honing the skills of young men and women and raising them on the concept of giving toward a better society for everyone.

Al-Husseini said “the workshop is the first activity in the Health Program of the association. It aims to warn, educate and inform girls and young women that beauty begins from within. It also stems from the association’s commitment to empower young women and enhance their health and beauty culture, given the influence of social media on their

decisions related to physical and mental health, nutrition and daily routine. Social media promotes a lot of false information and trends, which have negative, and sometimes, disastrous effects on health.”

She stated that one of the most prominent trends is the ‘matcha’, which is a natural substance beneficial to health. “However, its commercial exploitation by some cafés and social media celebrities has turned it into a harmful substance, causing many young people to suffer from stress and anxiety due to the negative effect of caffeine on heart rate,” she explained.

She then stressed the importance of distinguishing between what is beneficial and what is harmful in light of the abundance of electronic content.

Moreover, Sondos Al-Hamoud, a member of the Board of Directors of the association, said the workshop is one of a series of initiatives that they launched to boost the role of women in society by raising awareness and providing safe and effective dialogue platforms that address the new generation in their own language and based on their interests.

She affirmed the great interaction between the audience and the experts who participated in the workshop, in addition to the opportunity to obtain free consultations after the discussions.

Gold in

a significant rise, closing at \$3,356 per ounce by the end of last week’s trading. The increase was largely driven by escalating U.S. trade tensions and heightened geopolitical risks, reinforcing gold’s status as a safe-haven asset.

According to a report released Sunday by Kuwait’s Dar Al-Sabeek company, U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to announce a 35 percent tariff on Canadian imports, set to take effect in early August, along with potential tariffs of 15 percent to 20 percent on other major trade partners, contributed to growing market uncertainty. As a result, investors turned to precious metals for protection.

The report also highlighted President Trump’s call for a 300-basis-point interest rate cut, which has raised expectations of appointing a more dovish Federal Reserve chair to replace Jerome Powell. Such a move could increase inflationary pressures and enhance gold’s appeal as a hedge.

Despite a fourth straight week of declining U.S. jobless claims, attention is now focused on upcoming inflation data due this Thursday. Forecasts suggest a year-on-year rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to 2.6 percent for June, which may further drive investors toward gold as a store of value.

Gold traded last week within a support range between \$3,300 and \$3,332 per ounce, with resistance levels noted at \$3,376 and \$3,400. This positioning gives gold buyers a clear technical advantage and strengthens the likelihood of a continued medium-term upward trend.

Silver also witnessed impressive gains, rising three percent both on a daily and weekly basis to reach its highest level in 13 years at \$38.30 per ounce.

The report noted that silver broke through its previous technical resistance at \$37 per ounce, signaling strong short-term buyer control and sustained momentum within a solid upward trend.

On the geopolitical front, the report highlighted escalating tensions in the Middle East and Red Sea, particularly due to repeated attacks on commercial vessels. These developments have led investors to seek refuge in safe assets like gold and silver, reinforcing their roles as primary hedging tools during global crises.

Salary reform

agencies to address the issue of unfair salaries, along with the implementation of job descriptions and a performance assessment plan. The project’s results were presented to the Civil Service Council, which ap-

proved it and referred it to the Council of Ministers, and subsequently to the National Assembly, where it remains pending to this day.

Al-Abduljader stressed the need to update the strategic alternative, as when it was first proposed, it was based on outdated data, particularly concerning the salary market, organizational and functional structures, and job descriptions.

Dr. Al-Abduljader pointed out another fairness issue in the current salary schedule, which is that Kuwaitis with the same specialization may receive different salaries depending on their workplace. For example, one employee at a ministry earns KD 850, while another at a government agency with an independent budget receives KD 1,100 per month, along with additional benefits such as an annual bonus and health insurance. Designing the salary schedule in line with the strategic alternative should address these disparities and ensure fairness in salaries, benefits, and allowances. This includes implementing a modern annual performance evaluation system that differentiates employee productivity and performance levels and standardizes salaries based on job titles rather than solely on educational qualifications.

He noted that, according to the strategic alternative presented in 2015, the government projected savings of between KD 10 billion and KD 19 billion over a 10-year period upon its implementation.

Al-Abduljader went on to explain that the strategic alternative system will not freeze salaries for all employees. The freeze will apply only to those whose salaries have reached the maximum limit in the unified salary schedule; however, an annual salary increase will still be granted based on the employee’s performance evaluation.

The strategic alternative does not affect the private sector or retirees. Under the strategic alternative, job-related allowances, known as the “nature of work allowance”, will be consolidated. There are allowances related to work conditions such as housing, car rental, and shift work, which will remain separate. Also, the annual bonus will be divided into three parts, awarded based on employee performance evaluations.

In addition, Lawyer Ali Al-Attar called on the Ministry of Finance to present the strategic alternative” for public discussion before approving it.

He noted that most of what is currently being circulated consists of personal opinions rather than official details, and stressed that ordinary citizens have the right to know all aspects of the project, as it directly affects their livelihood and their families’ well-being.

Lawyer Al-Attar affirmed the importance of allowing sufficient time to clearly explain the pros and cons of the strategic alternative to avoid surprising citizens upon its implementation.

He indicated that citizens are expecting a positive salary adjustment, especially in light of the continued rise in living costs, adding that the strategic alternative must ensure fairness and serve as a motivation for citizens to enhance their productivity.

Kuwait Amir

said Kuwait Ambassador to France Abdullah Al-Shaheen on Sunday.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Shaheen affirmed that the visit, upon the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron, would explore more venues of cooperation solidifying the six-decade strategic partnership and shared vision of both countries.

The visit also comes at a time when France is celebrating its national day on July 14, he added, noting that it would exemplify the strength of ties and eagerness to open new horizons of cooperation.

The Kuwaiti diplomat affirmed that commercial and economic relations had expanded especially within renewable energy, technology, and green economy, do-

maines that were in line with Kuwait’s development vision 2035.

He also stressed that cultural and scientific exchange had increased within recent years, asserting that the Kuwaiti embassy in France would carry on its missions to bring both countries closer in terms of mutual interests and benefits.

Meanwhile, the French Presidential Palace (Elysee) affirmed that His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah’s visit to France embodied the deep historical ties and distinguished partnership between the two friendly countries.

The Elysee, in a statement obtained by KUNA, said that this visit, the first by His Highness to France since assuming power, came within the framework of strong relations based on trust and mutual respect.

The two sides seek to develop their relations in a way that enhances the strategic partnership in various sectors, including diplomacy, defense, the economy, education, health, culture, and scientific research.

The Amir’s visit also comes as the two countries celebrate the 65th anniversary of the relations in 2026, an occasion that affirms the depth of the historical ties between the two countries.

His Highness will visit Paris on Sunday and Monday to attend the official military parade marking France’s National Day (Bastille Day) on July 14, alongside French President Emmanuel Macron, and then the two will meet up at the Elysee Palace for a work lunch.

France was among the first countries to support Kuwait’s independence and actively contributed to its liberation in 1991, strengthening ties of political trust and laying a solid foundation for growing Kuwaiti-French relations.

The two countries are keen to strengthen this relationship through high-level meetings and ongoing cooperation in international forums, where their views converge on many issues, particularly respect for international law and support for mediation and dialogue efforts to resolve disputes peacefully.

On the economic front, the amount of trade exchange between the two countries reached approximately EUR 2.8 billion in 2023, with France ranking fourth among Kuwait’s European trading partners, with French companies active in the fields of infrastructure, energy, and construction.

In the cultural field, France continues to support the French language and culture in Kuwait through the French School and the French Institute, with more than 1,000 students benefiting from joint educational programs, while Kuwaiti students participate in academic and university programs in France.

Additionally, French medical institutions such as the Gustave Roussy Institute, contribute to supporting the Kuwaiti health sector through technical consultations and specialized projects.

Kuwaiti-French relations are an example of a strong partnership and long-standing friendship, which both sides are keen to continuously develop to enhance bilateral cooperation and support stability in the region and the world.

KD 1.5b

The third item is the radical maintenance of civil and social service facilities, amounting to KD283.889 million -- covering projects for civil and social service facilities.

It is worth noting that the entire construction and radical maintenance item includes the amounts paid for new and approved construction projects currently being implemented with additions like expansions, increases or extensions to an existing asset, as well as the maintenance, replacement and renovation works.

MoE ensures orderly second-round exam

Appeals open for supervisory posts

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Ministry of Education confirmed the regularity of the second-round exams in various educational districts for secondary school students -- 18,919 students from Grades 10, 11 and 12.

In a press statement Sunday, the ministry stated that the examination halls have witnessed remarkable commitment and discipline since the start of exams; stressing that it continues to implement regulatory and oversight measures in the educational districts with a total of 54 examination halls -- 27 for boys and 27 for girls.

The ministry also affirmed the continuous presence of the national supervisor in the examination halls; indicating that 65 national supervisors were assigned to conduct field visits to instill discipline, ensure fairness, and strictly implement regulations in the examination halls. It added that all examination committees are keen on implementing the rules and regulations in line with the

principle of equal opportunities for students.

It praised the role of field work teams and school administrations, including those working in the Literature and Science control rooms, exam correctors and specialized technical guidance, for ensuring that the exams proceed according to the highest standards of transparency and integrity.

It stated that the Grade 12 exams will conclude on July 17 for the Science section and on July 20 for the Literature section; adding that it is closely monitoring the progress of the exams and the committees’ adherence to all regulations, particularly those stated in the exams violations list. It revealed that results will be announced through the Sahel application, its official website and electronic application.

Second-round scorecards will be delivered to students on July 21, enabling Grade 12 graduates to complete the registration procedures at higher education institutions within the deadlines.

The ministry also announced that the submission of grievances regarding personal interviews for educational supervisory positions (director and assistant Director) started on Sunday and will continue until Thursday.


It advised that grievances should be submitted through its official website, while stressing the need to follow the instructions and procedures for submission.

KISR’s Al-Hulaili to join scientific jury for International Energy Conference

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Building and Energy Research Center at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has announced the selection of Dr. Badriya Al-Hulaili as a member of the scientific jury for the Second International Conference and Exhibition on Electrical Engineering and Energy, which will be held in South Korea on March 16-17, 2026. A select group of scientists and professors from leading international universities, including South Korea, China, Europe and the United States, will participate in the event.

Al-Hulaili is the first Kuwaiti, Gulf and Arab woman to receive this interna-



Dr. Al-Hulaili

tional honor -- a remarkable achievement that reflects the competence and scientific strength of KISR researchers in the fields of Science, leadership and practice.

The international conference aims to strengthen cooperation and knowledge exchange among researchers, scientists, students and industry professionals worldwide; as well as promote progress in renewable and sustainable energy and engineering.

The discussions cover a wide range of scientific topics related to renewable energy technologies, smart grids and energy storage solutions, sustainable and clean energy solutions, energy efficiency, transportation innovations, energy flow analysis, analytical structure of sustainable energy, methods for improving the technical and economic aspects of energy systems, renewable resources, carbon pricing and low-carbon energy policy, big data applications in energy systems, energy systems education, large-scale electronics and semiconductors for power electronics, energy disasters and protection, energy harvesting, and energy interconnection.

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‘Increase of arrests by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement’

Trump wants to deport ‘the worst of the worst’, government data tells another story

WASHINGTON, July 13, (AP): US President Donald Trump has pledged to deport “the worst of the worst.” He frequently speaks at public appearances about the countless “dangerous criminals” - among them murderers, rapists and child predators - from around the world he says entered the US illegally under the Biden administration. He promises to expel millions of migrants in the largest deportation program in American history to protect law-abiding citizens from the violent threats he says they pose.

But government data around ongoing detentions tells a different story.

There has been an increase of arrests by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement since Trump began his second term, with reports of raids across the country. Yet the majority of people currently detained by ICE have no criminal convictions. Of those who do, relatively few have been convicted of high-level crimes - a stark contrast to the chilling nightmare Trump describes to support his border security agenda.

“There’s a deep disconnect between the rhetoric and the reality,” said Ahilan Arulanantham, co-faculty director of the UCLA Law School’s Center for Immigration Law and Policy. “This administration, and also in the prior Trump administration, they consistently claim to be going after the

worst of the worst and just talk about immigration enforcement as though it is all about going after violent, dangerous people with extensive criminal histories. And yet overwhelmingly, it’s people they’re targeting for arrest who have no criminal history of any kind.”

The latest ICE statistics show that as of June 29, there were 57,861 people detained by ICE, 41,495 - 71.7% - of whom had no criminal convictions. That includes 14,318 people with pending criminal charges and 27,177 who are subject to immigration enforcement, but have no known criminal convictions or pending criminal charges.

Each detainee is assigned a threat level by ICE on a scale of 1 to 3, with one being the highest. Those without a criminal record are classified as having “no ICE threat level.” As of June 23, the latest data available, 84% of people detained at 201 facilities nationwide were not given a threat level. Another 7% had been graded as a level 1 threat, 4% were level 2 and 5% were level 3.

“President Trump has justified this immigration agenda in part by making false claims that migrants are driving violent crime in the United States, and that’s just simply not true,” said Lauren-Brooke Eisen, senior director of the justice program at the Brennan Center for Justice. “There’s no research and evidence that supports his



A volunteer sets up an art installation displaying names and faces of people who have been detained, deported, or sent to offshore camps during ICE raids in Southern California, at Olvera Street Plaza in Los Angeles, on July 3. (AP)

claims.”

Tricia McLaughlin, an assistant secretary at the Department of Homeland Security, called the assessment that ICE isn’t targeting immigrants with a criminal record “false” and said that DHS Secretary Kristi Noem has directed ICE “to target the worst of the worst-including gang members, murderers, and rapists.” She counted

detainees with convictions, as well as those with pending charges, as “criminal illegal aliens.”

Nonpublic data obtained by the Cato Institute shows that as of June 14, 65% of the more than 204,000 people processed into the system by ICE since the start of fiscal year 2025, which began Oct. 1, 2024, had no criminal convictions. Of those with convictions, only

6.9% had committed a violent crime, while 53% had committed nonviolent crimes that fell into three main categories - immigration, traffic, or vice crimes.

Total ICE arrests shot up at the end of May after White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller gave the agency a quota of 3,000 arrests a day, up from 650 a day in the first five months of Trump’s second term. ICE arrested nearly 30% more people in May than in April, according to the Transactional Records Clearinghouse, or TRAC. That number rose again in June, by another 28%.

The Cato Institute found that between Feb. 8 and May 17, the daily average of “noncriminals” processed into the system ranged from 421 to 454. In the following two weeks at the end of May, that number rose to 678 and then rose to 927 in the period from June 1 through 14.

“What you’re seeing is this huge increase in funding to detain people, remove people, enforce immigration laws,” Eisen said. “And what we’re seeing is that a lot of these people back to sort of the original question you asked, these are not people who are dangerous.”

Abigail Jackson, a White House spokesperson, said the administration is intensely focused on rooting out unvetted criminals who are in the country

illegally.

“Just this week, the Administration conducted a successful operation rescuing children from labor exploitation at a marijuana facility in California, and continued arresting the worst of the worst - including murderers, pedophiles, gang members, and rapists,” she wrote in an email. “Any suggestion that the Administration is not laser focused on these dangerous criminals is flat out wrong.”

While most ICE detainees are not convicted criminals, there are detainees who have committed serious crimes. On Friday, the administration released information on five high-level offenders who had been arrested.

During his campaign, Trump highlighted several cases where immigrants in the country illegally were arrested for horrific crimes. Among them: The killing of 22-year-old Laken Riley, a Georgia nursing student who was slain last year by a Venezuelan man in the US illegally. Jose Ibarra was found guilty of murder and other crimes in Riley’s February 2024 killing and sentenced him to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Ibarra is seeking a new trial.

Trump in January signed into law the Laken Riley Act, which requires the detention of unauthorized immigrants accused of theft and violent crimes.



This photo provided by the National Parks Service shows smoke from wildfires in the Black Canyon of Gunnison National Park in Colorado on July 10, after high temperatures, very low humidity, gusty winds, and very dry vegetation across the region led to extreme fire danger. (AP)

Wildfires force evacuations at two national parks in US

Wildfires have forced evacuations for visitors and staff at two national parks in the US West as the summer monsoon season brings increased lightning to the arid region.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, about 260 miles (420 kilometers) southwest of Denver, closed until further notice after lighting strikes sparked blazes

on both rims, park officials said. The Grand Canyon’s North Rim in Arizona also closed because of a wildfire on adjacent Bureau of Land Management land near Jacob Lake.

The wildfire on Black Canyon of the Gunnison’s South Rim ignited Thursday and has burned 2.5 square miles (6.5 square kilom-

eters), with no containment of the perimeter. The smaller blaze on the North Rim was out as of Friday, according to an incident map.

The conditions there have been ripe for wildfires with hot temperatures, low humidity, gusty winds and dry vegetation, the park said, adding that weather remained a concern Friday. (AP)

‘They’re vying to replace party’s old guard’

Young US Democrats call for rebrand

PHOENIX, July 13, (AP): Deja Foxx celebrated her April birthday in a way most 25-year-olds don’t. The extra candle meant she was now eligible to represent Arizona in Congress, and Foxx marked the occasion with a fundraiser.

She’s part of a wide-ranging group of young Democratic candidates, many running to replace older incumbents, who have grown restless waiting for their turn to lead their party back to power.

After a crushing 2024 election loss, they say the party desperately needs a rebranding - and young leaders should steer it.

In southern Arizona on Tuesday, Foxx is one of several Democrats hoping to step into a deep blue seat left vacant by the death of Rep. Raúl Grijalva, a longtime political power broker in Tucson. He had become one of the most senior lawmakers on Capitol Hill over two decades in Congress. Grijalva’s daughter, Adelita, is one of the contenders, and three Republicans are vying in the GOP primary.

But the push for younger leaders won’t end there. In next year’s midterm elections, primary challengers have already begun to emerge in states like California and Indiana that will give Democratic voters choices between longtime lawmakers and younger candidates.

In Georgia, for example, 80-year-



Deja Foxx, Democratic candidate for the CD 7 special election, gets her supporters fired up as she brings her rally to an end in Tucson, Arizona on July 11. (AP)

old Democratic Rep. David Scott’s decades-long legacy could end with a primary he’s expected to join. This has drawn challengers fed up with his refusal to step aside despite years of concern about his declining health and rare public appearances.

The primary got crowded almost a year after former President Joe Biden dropped out of the 2024 election race amid similar scrutiny over his age.

Challenging well-connected candidates can be daunting, but progressive leaders say the moment calls for urgency.

“Passing of the torch implies the leaders are handing it off,” said Amanda Litman, head of a group called Run for Something that bolsters progressive young candidates. “What we’re seeing right now is, the new generation is taking the torch. They’re not waiting for it to be passed.”

Many Boomer and Gen Z candidates alike have largely abandoned the traditional playbook of spending millions on TV ads in favor of TikTok and social media. But it’s a pivot that older political hands would recognize from an older playbook: meeting voters where they are.

Bulgarian government survives its fourth no-confidence motion

SOFIA, July 13, (Xinhua): Bulgaria’s six-month-old coalition government, led by Prime Minister Rossen Jeliakov, on Friday survived its fourth no-confidence motion in the National Assembly.

The motion, brought forward by opposition parties over alleged failures in the environment and water sectors, was supported by 83 deputies in the 240-seat legislature. Backing came from members of the Revival party, Alliance for Rights and Freedoms, Greatness, and Mech, along with nearly half of the We Continue the Change - Democratic Bulgaria alliance.

A total of 131 members of Parliament voted against the motion, including representatives from the ruling GERB-UDF coalition, BSP-United Left, There Is Such People (ITN), and the 29-seat Movement for Rights and Freedoms - New Beginning.

To succeed, a no-confidence vote must secure the backing of more than half of the Assembly’s members.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Jeliakov expressed confidence that the motion would fail, calling it a “sectoral no-confidence vote” lacking substantive grounds. “The



Protesters march against corruption in Sofia, Bulgaria on April 12. (AP)

topic itself does not affect the work of this cabinet, and this cabinet is making efforts to resolve inherited problems,” he said.

The first no-confidence motion, which criticized the government’s foreign policy, failed on April 3. The second one, accusing the government of inadequately combating corruption, was rejected on April 17. The third one, filed over the government’s alleged failure in its fiscal policy, shared the fate of the

other two on July 4.

Under Bulgaria’s constitution, a no-confidence vote can be initiated by at least one-fifth of the Assembly’s members. However, a second motion on the same grounds cannot be filed within a six-month period.

Jeliakov’s administration was sworn in on Jan. 16 following Bulgaria’s October 2024 snap elections, the country’s seventh parliamentary election in just three and a half years.

France says South Pacific territory of New Caledonia to have more freedoms

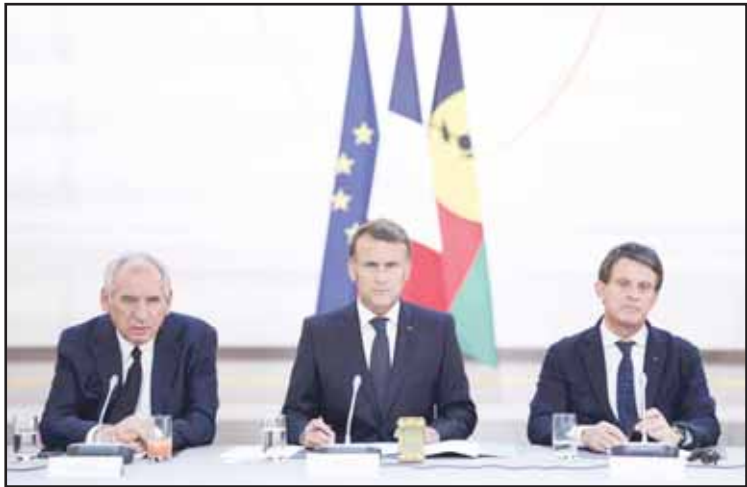
PARIS, July 13, (AP): France announced a sweeping, hard-fought agreement Saturday aimed at granting more autonomy to the restive South Pacific territory of New Caledonia, but stopping short of the independence sought by many Indigenous Kanaks.

The agreement - hailed by President Emmanuel Macron as “historic” - still needs final approval in New Caledonia, a nickel-rich archipelago east of Australia and 10 time zones away from Paris. The accord may face a vote by New Caledonians in February.

The accord proposes the creation of a “state of Caledonia” within the French republic and inscribed in the French constitution, and the creation of a “Caledonian nationality” alongside French nationality, according to excerpts viewed by The Associated Press.

It was reached after 10 days of negotiations - including a final overnight marathon - with representatives of the central government and those on both sides of the independence question. The talks stemmed from deadly rioting last year prompted by proposed changes to electoral rules that pro-independence groups said would marginalize Indigenous voters.

The accord will help “us get out of the spiral of violence,” said Emmanuel Tjibaou, a Kanak lawmaker who took part in the talks, as he and other sleepless negotiators announced the accord in a gilded hall Saturday evening in the



French President Emmanuel Macron, (center), Prime Minister Francois Bayrou, (left), and Minister for Overseas Territories Manuel Valls attend a meeting with New Caledonia’s elected officials and state representatives for an agreement aimed at granting more autonomy to the South Pacific territory, at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France on July 12. (AP)

Elysee presidential palace in Paris.

He described a “difficult path” ahead but one that would allow Kanaks and other Caledonians to move forward together as “us” instead of divided.

Those seeking to keep New Caledonia firmly in the French fold hailed the accord. Lawmaker Nicolas Metzdorf called it a compromise born of “demanding dialogue,” and described the Caledonian nationality as a “real con-

cession.”

A special congress will be held to finalize next steps, which could include more sovereignty for New Caledonia over issues of international affairs, security and justice, according to excerpts published by New Caledonia’s public broadcaster. The accord could also eventually allow New Caledonians to change the territory’s name, flag and hymn.

Ukraine’s security agency kills Russian agents suspected of gunning down officer

KYIV, Ukraine, July 13, (Agencies): Ukraine’s security agency said Sunday it tracked down and killed Russian agents suspected of shooting one of its senior officers to death in the Ukrainian capital.

The Security Service of Ukraine, or SBU, said in a statement that the suspected Russian agents were killed in the Kyiv region after they offered resistance to arrest. A video released by the agency showed two bodies lying on the ground.

The agency said earlier that a man and a woman were suspected to be involved in Thursday’s assassination of Ivan Voronych, an SBU colonel, in a bold daylight attack that was caught on surveillance cameras.

Media reports claimed that Voronych was involved in covert operations in Russia-occupied territories of Ukraine and reportedly helped organize Ukraine’s surprise incursion into Russia’s Kursk region last year.

After a series of massive attacks across Ukraine involving hundreds of exploding drones, Russia launched 60 drones overnight, Ukraine’s air force said. It said 20 of them were shot down and 20 others were jammed.



Civilians practice military skills on a training ground in Kharkiv, Ukraine on July 12. (AP)

The Ukrainian authorities reported that four civilians were killed and 13 others injured in Russian attacks on the Donetsk and Kherson regions since Saturday.

Leaders of Azerbaijan, Syria discuss energy cooperation

BAKU, July 13, (AP): The leaders of Azerbaijan and Syria on Saturday pledged to deepen their cooperation particularly in the energy sector, as they moved to revitalize the ties that had been strained under former Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev expressed hope that the visit to Baku by Syria’s interim leader Ahmad Al-Sharaa, whose rebel forces toppled Assad in December, would “significantly contribute to the development of bilateral relations.”

Al-Sharaa thanked Aliyev for Azerbaijan’s “brotherly support to Syria” and said that Assad’s government had harmed relations with many countries, including Azerbaijan, according to the Azerbaijan president’s press service.

The leaders also highlighted plans to export Azerbaijani gas to Syria via Turkey and Azerbaijan’s potential role in rebuilding Syria’s energy infrastructure, it said.

The new authorities in Damascus have strong relations with Turkey, Azerbaijan’s close ally.

In April, Turkey and Israel held “technical talks” in Azerbaijan to establish a “de-escalation mechanism to prevent undesirable incidents in Syria.”



In this photo provided by Azerbaijan’s Presidential Press Office, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, (right), and Syria’s interim president, Ahmad al-Sharaa, second left, stand on the balcony during their meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, on July 12. (AP)

Asia

Top DPRK leader meets Russia’s Lavrov: The top leader of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) met on Saturday with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov during his visit to the country to take part in the second strategic dialogue between the foreign ministers of the two countries, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Sunday.

During the talks between Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, and Lavrov, the two sides “widely exchanged the opinions of the leaderships of the two countries on a series of important matters for faithfully implementing the agreements made at the historic DPRK-Russia summit talks in June 2024,” the report said.

The two countries share the same views on all strategic issues in conformity with the level of alliance, and it shows the high strategic level established between the two countries, Kim said.

The DPRK leader reaffirmed that his country is “ready to unconditionally support and encourage all the measures taken by the Russian leadership as regards the tackling of the root cause of the Ukrainian crisis in keeping with the spirit of the interstate treaty between the DPRK and Russia in the future,” he was quoted as saying.

Kim expressed his conviction that “the coordinated and harmonious diplomatic stands of the two countries to take initiative and proactive attitude towards the radically changing international geopolitical situation would make a positive contribution to ensuring peace and security in the region and the rest of the world.”

During the talks, Lavrov expressed his willingness to “further strengthen the strategic and tactical cooperation and intensify concerted action” between the two countries in the international arena, the report added.

The two sides also expressed the will of the leaderships of the two countries “to closely support and cooperate with each other in the journey for thoroughly safeguarding the core interests of the two countries, powerfully promoting the overall development of bilateral ties and guaranteeing endless well-being of the peoples and their bright future.”

Lavrov’s three-day visit came at the invitation of the DPRK Foreign Ministry, which will end on Sunday, the KCNA reported. (Xinhua)



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, its leader Kim Jong Un, (left), and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov shake hands in Wonsan, North Korea, on July 12. (AP)

Laos alerts riverbank residents to potential flooding: The weather bureau of Laos has warned the public, especially those living near riverbanks, to remain vigilant as heavy rain, occasional strong winds, and rising water levels may lead to widespread flooding.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment on Saturday, the river level in Khammuan province reached 13.75 meters, close to the warning level of 14 meters, with the danger level at 15 meters. The weather bureau expected the river to reach the warn-

ing level in the coming days.

The weather bureau has warned of heavy rain with the possibility of flooding and landslides across the country.

Authorities urged residents living near rivers and in low-lying areas along riverbanks to remain vigilant and prepare for the ongoing rainfall that could trigger landslides and flash floods. (Xinhua)

2 dead after car hits tree northeast of Sydney: A woman and a child have died after a car hit a tree and caught fire northeast of Sydney.

A police statement on Friday said that emergency services were called to reports of the collision in the coastal town of Hat Head, northeast of Sydney, at around 9:40 a.m. on Thursday.

Officers attended the scene and found that a vehicle had crashed into a tree and caught fire. A report on the incident will be prepared for the coroner of the state of New South Wales. (Xinhua)

3 dead, 1 injured in Philippine car crash: Three people were killed and a toddler was injured after a sport utility vehicle (SUV) crashed into a pedestrian and a roadside house in Sorsogon province, southeast of Manila, at dawn on Saturday, local authorities said.

The incident occurred around 4:10 a.m. local time in Castilla town, when the SUV, traveling south from Manila, veered out of control, according to Edgar Ard-ales of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

The vehicle first struck a 55-year-old man outside his home, who was later declared dead at the scene. It then crashed into a house, killing a 21-year-old man and his 20-year-old partner. Their two-year-old child sustained injuries and was taken to a hospital for treatment.

The SUV driver and two passengers sustained minor injuries and were briefly taken into police custody. Authorities said they were later released after a settlement was reached with the victims’ families.

An investigation into the cause of the crash is ongoing. (Xinhua)

China, UK should focus on cooperation and eliminate distractions, says Zheng

LONDON, July 13, (Xinhua): China and the United Kingdom (UK) should implement the important consensus reached by leaders of both nations, uphold mutual respect, openness, and inclusiveness, focus on cooperation, and eliminate distractions, Chinese Ambassador to the UK Zheng Zeguang said at a recent event.

Addressing the Sino-UK Financial Education Symposium on Thursday, Zheng emphasized the strong potential for deeper China-UK collaboration in both the finance and education sectors.

In the area of green finance, cooperation is accelerating, Zheng noted, citing a key milestone in April when the Chinese government issued 6 billion yuan (about 836.2 million U.S. dollars) in green sovereign bonds on the London Stock Exchange.

Education continues to be a cornerstone of the bilateral relationship. According to the ambassador, China remains the largest source of international students in the UK, with more than 200,000 Chinese students currently in the country. Between 2013 and 2024, around 50,000 British students

participated in academic programs in China.

These figures, Zheng said, have demonstrated China’s openness to welcoming more British students for study and cultural exchange programs.

However, Zheng also warned of increasing instability and uncertainty challenging the world economic growth. The trade war initiated by the United States has severely undermined the World Trade Organization rules and the multilateral trading system, disrupted the security and stability of global industrial and supply chains, and jeopardized the global economy and the interests of all countries, he said, calling for greater unity and co-operation in the international community.

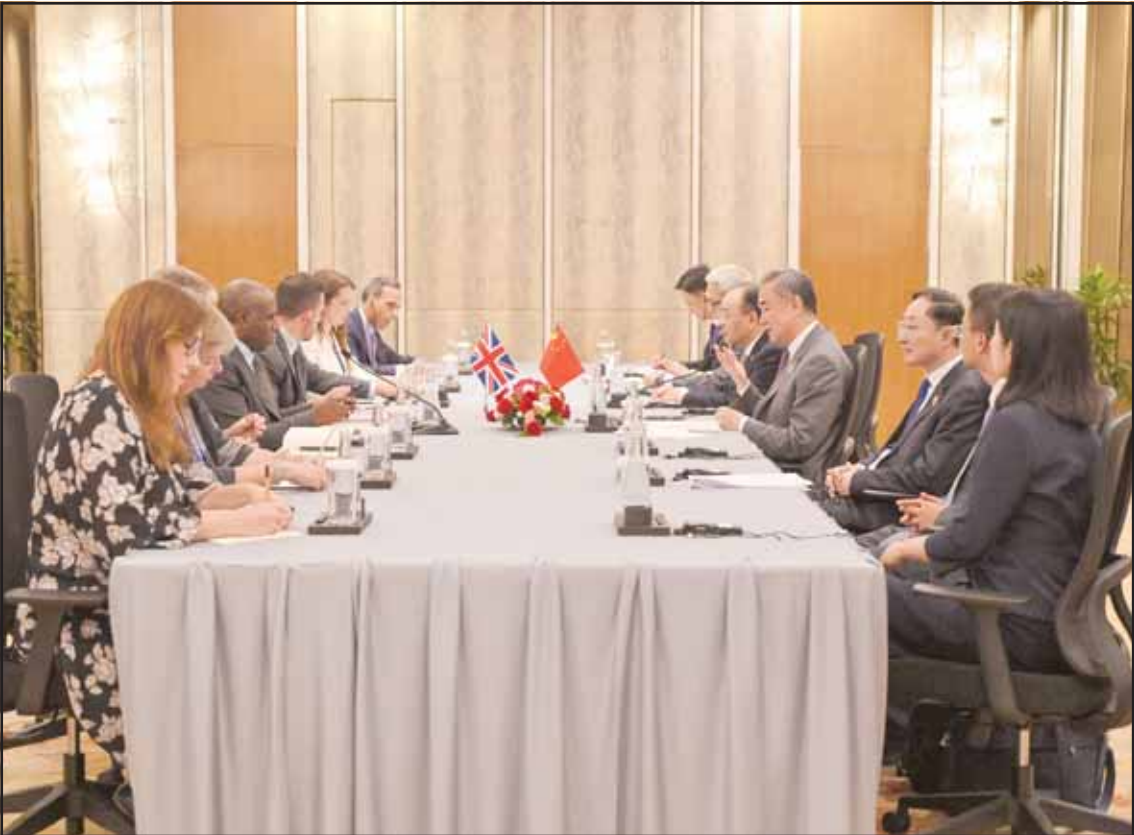
The event was attended by many representatives from the financial, educational sectors, and think tanks in China and the UK, including Li Min, secretary general of the Western Returned Scholars Association, Michael Lawrence, CEO of Asia House, and David Quarry, member of the Board of Asia House, attended the event.

Also:

KUALA LUMPUR: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on met with British Foreign Secretary David Lammy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, saying that under the strategic guidance of the two sides’ leaders, bilateral relations have been on the right track of improvement and development.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said both sides should regain the original intention of being strategic partners, grasp the general trend of mutually beneficial cooperation, adhere to mutual respect, properly handle differences, and respond to the expectations of all sectors of the two countries.

Noting that this year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of World War II, Wang said that, as co-creators of the post-war order and permanent members of the UN Security Council, China and Britain should also jointly fulfill their international obligations, safeguard the fruits of victory in World War II, maintain the free trade system, and make new contributions to world peace and development.



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

Mexico President Sheinbaum slams United States raids on farmworkers

MEXICO CITY, July 13, (Agencies): Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has condemned recent U.S. immigration raids targeting migrant workers in farm fields, saying the actions were unjust and would harm the US economy.

“These raids are deeply unfair and will severely damage the US economy,” Sheinbaum said during her daily press conference.

Emphasizing the significant contributions of both Mexican nationals and other Latino migrants to the U.S. economy, she said, “Without that labor force, California and other states will see their fields go unharvested.”

Sheinbaum said that following the raids in California, staff from Mexican consulates are visiting detention centers to determine how many Mexicans may have been detained.

She also announced increased funding for Mexico’s consulates in the United States, especially to strengthen legal support for detained nationals. “Our brothers and sisters over there need legal assistance, and we’re going to ensure they get it,” she said.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement raided two farms in southern California.

Meanwhile, a farmworker who fell from a greenhouse roof during a chaotic ICE raid this week at a California cannabis facility died Saturday of his injuries.

Jaime Alanis, 57, is the first known person to die during one of



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum arrives in Calgary, Alberta on June 16, 2025, to attend the G7 Leaders meeting, taking place in Kananas, Alberta. (AP)

the Trump administration’s ongoing immigration enforcement operations. Yesenia Duran, Alanis’ niece, confirmed his death to The Associated Press.

Duran posted on the fundraising site GoFundMe that her uncle was his family’s only provider and he had been sending his earnings back to a wife and daughter in Mexico. Alanis worked at the farm for 10 years, his family said.

The United Farm Workers reported Alanis’ death prematurely late Friday. The Ventura County Medical Center later issued a statement authorized by the family saying he

was still on life support.

“These violent and cruel federal actions terrorize American communities, disrupt the American food supply chain, threaten lives and separate families,” the UFW said recently in a statement on the social platform X. The union does not represent workers at the raided farm.

The Department of Homeland Security said it executed criminal search warrants Thursday at Glass House Farms facilities in Camarillo and Carpinteria. Glass House is a licensed cannabis grower. The farm in Camarillo also grows tomatoes and cucumbers.

Islamic State-aligned rebels kill 66 civilians in eastern Congo: officials

KINSHASA, Congo, July 13, (AP): Rebels affiliated with the Islamic State group killed 66 people in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, local officials said Saturday.

Fighters with the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), which has ties to IS, killed civilians in the area of Irumu in the east of the country bordering Uganda. The attack comes as eastern Congo may see an end to its ongoing war with M23, a separate rebel group which is backed by Rwanda, another of Congo’s neighbors.

Jean Tobie Okala, the spokesperson for the United Nations mission in Ituri in eastern Congo, called the attack a “bloodbath.”

“Around 30 civilians were killed between Thursday and Friday, July 11, in the Walese Vonkutu chiefdom, Irumu territory, in Ituri,” said Okala in a statement to the Associated Press. “Based on information from civil society, the death toll has risen from 31 to 66 civilians killed.”

The ADF is a Ugandan Islamist group that operates on both sides of the porous border.

All the victims, including women, were killed with machetes, said the president of a local civil society, Marcel Paluku. The number of people taken hostage is unknown.

The attack is suspected to be in response to an escalating bombing campaign by joint Congolese and Ugandan forces that started on Sunday.

The number of ADF fighters in Congo is unclear, but they are a significant presence in the region and regularly attack civilians. The group originated in the late 1990s in neighboring Uganda and became affiliated with IS in



UN troops deploy outside Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo on Jan 24. (AP)

2019. Muslims make up about 10% of the Congolese population, most of them in the east.

In recent years, attacks by the Allied Democratic Forces have intensified near Congo’s border with Uganda and spread towards Goma, eastern Congo’s main city, as well as the neighboring Ituri province. Rights groups and the United Nations have accused the ADF of killing hundreds of people and abducting even more, including a significant number of children.

In December, the ADF killed at least 10 people and abducted several more in another village in North Kivu.

Trump administration floated deporting third-party nationals to Africa

DAKAR, Senegal, July 13, (AP): South Sudan has accepted eight third-country deportees from the US and Rwanda says it’s in talk with the administration of President Donald Trump on a similar deal, while Nigeria says it’s rejecting pressure to do the same.

Although few details are known, these initiatives in Africa mark an expansion in US efforts to deport people to countries other than their own. The United States has sent hundreds of Venezuelans and others to Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama but has yet to announce any major deals with governments in Africa, Asia or Europe.

While proponents see such programs as a way of deterring what they describe as unmanageable levels of migration, human rights advocates have raised concerns over sending migrants to countries where they have no ties or that may have a history of rights violations.

Last year, UK Supreme Court ruled that a similar plan to deport rejected asylum-seekers to Rwanda was illegal.

Earlier this week, Trump held a summit with five West African leaders in the White House, which highlighted the new transactional US policy towards the continent.

Trump discussed migration with the leaders of Liberia, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Gabon, including the need for countries to accept the return of their nationals who do not have the right to stay in the US, as well as the possibility of accepting deported nationals of third countries.

US border tsar Tom Homan told the media Friday that the Trump administration hopes to forge deals with “many countries” to accept deported migrants.

“If there is a significant public threat or national security threat - there’s one thing for sure - they’re not walking the streets of this country. We’ll find a third, safe nation to send them to, and we’re doing it,” he said.

Liberian President Joseph Boakai told media in Liberia on Friday that third-country nationals were discussed but that Trump had not directly asked Liberia to accept such deportees.

“They’re not forcing anybody, but they want us to know that this is the concern they have, and they are asking how can we contribute, how can we help?” he said.



Liberia’s President, Joseph Boakai, (left), and Nigeria Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Tuggar, right, pose for a photo, prior to the start of the ECOWAS meeting, in Abuja, Nigeria on July 7, 2024. (AP)

President Umaro Sissoco Embaló of Guinea Bissau said Trump discussed the topic during the summit, but did not specifically ask for the African nations to agree to accept deportees. Other West African governments did not reply to a request for comment.

Nigeria’s Foreign Minister Yussuf Tuggar, meanwhile, said such conversations were being held between U.S. representatives and several African countries, though he declined provide details.

He said late Thursday that Nigeria would not bow to what he described as pressure to accept third-country deportees, saying the country had enough problems of its own.

Experts say some African countries may seek to facilitate U.S. deportation programs in order to earn good will in negotiations over tariffs, cuts in US aid or visa restrictions that have hit several African countries in recent months.

Beverly Ochieng, an analyst at the security consulting firm Control Risks, said countries may want to reach a migrant deal to avoid a situation “where they lose access to the US economy or economic initiatives and bilateral relations.”

Subcontinent

Gunmen kill 9 in Pakistan: At least nine passengers were abducted and shot dead after gunmen intercepted at least two buses in Pakistan’s southwestern Balochistan province, the spokesperson of the provincial government confirmed on Friday.

The attack occurred on Thursday night in Loralai, a district in northern Balochistan, where armed assailants stopped the passenger buses, removed several individuals based on identity, and took them away, **Shahid Rind**, the spokesperson, told Xinhua.

“They shot dead the passengers belonging to the eastern Punjab province, after taking them to a certain distance from the buses, and their bodies have been recovered,” Rind said.

Following the incident, security forces launched a search operation in the affected area to recover any remaining abducted passengers and apprehend the perpetrators, he added.

No group has claimed responsibility for the assault yet.

The country’s Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the attack, calling the incident a heinous act of terrorism.

“We will deal with the terrorists with full force, and the blood of innocent people will be avenged,” the prime minister said in a statement issued by the Prime Minister’s Office. (Xinhua)



Rind

India freight train fire disrupts rail services: A massive fire broke out Sunday on a freight train carrying

crude oil in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, with no casualties reported, police said.

However, train services to and from Chennai, the capital city of Tamil Nadu, have been disrupted. Southern Railway announced the cancellation of some trains departing from Chennai and the diversion of five trains.

The fire broke out when a freight train with 45 coaches, ferrying crude oil, caught fire while passing through the Tiruvallur district, about 45 km west of Chennai.

“This morning, a freight train from Ennore to Jolarpettai carrying crude oil caught fire while passing through the Tiruvallur-Egattur section,” a police official said. “Initial reports say four coaches were completely engulfed in the blaze, and the fire has spread to additional coaches.”

Authorities have rushed the firefighters to the spot to contain the blaze. Television images showed the massive flame emitting columns of thick black smoke skyward.

National Disaster Response Force personnel have also been deployed to assist with relief operations.

Reports said authorities evacuated residents living near the tracks as a precautionary measure. (Xinhua)

2 dead, 8 injured in Delhi building collapse: At least two people were killed and eight others injured Saturday after a four-story building collapsed in the Indian capital territory, Delhi, officials said. The building collapsed inside the congested area of Janta Colony in Seelampur.

“This morning, a building collapsed in Janta Colony. Two people were killed and eight others, including three women and a 14-month-old baby, were pulled out in an injured condition,” a police officer said. “The injured were removed to the hospital.”

According to the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), seven fire tenders were rushed to the spot following an emergency alert. People from the disaster response force are at the spot assisting in the search operation. (Xinhua)

Boursa Kuwait ends higher on active trading

KUWAIT CITY, July 13, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed higher on Sunday, with the general index rising 18.73 points, or 0.22 percent, to finish at 8,624.40. Trading was active throughout the session, as 870.6 million shares changed hands in 32,060 cash transactions, generating a total value of 129.1 million Kuwaiti dinars (approximately \$421.7 million).

The main market index posted a stronger gain, advancing 40.03 points, or 0.55 percent, to close at 7,363.39. Investors exchanged 693.6 million shares in 23,876 transactions, with a turnover of 73.7 million dinars (about \$238.8 million).

Reflecting its strong commitment to achieving sustainability and responsible environmental practices

NBK becomes a Platinum Member of Kuwait Green Building Council

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: In an unprecedented step towards enhancing its sustainable efforts and responsible environmental practices, National Bank of Kuwait signed an agreement with Kuwait Green Building Council (KGBC) by the which it has become a Platinum member and the first bank in Kuwait to join the council.

NBK is the only bank to have obtained the LEED Gold Certification for its headquarters, mirroring its dedication to adopting the highest sustainability standards in the design and construction of its facilities.

This agreement aims to enhance collaborations between NBK and KGBC to shape a sustainable future for Kuwait. The agreement will involve the bank's active participation in the council's programs, campaigns, initiatives, and the sharing of its expertise in this field.

Under this agreement, NBK can benefit from a variety of programs, including specialized training, workshops, and seminars that have been tailored to enhance the knowledge of KGBC members in green buildings and sustainable construction practices, keep them updated-with the field latest development, and provide them with technical consultations that help them understand and apply green standards and practices.

Moreover, council members can attend all NBK's activities, including conferences, seminars, and panel discussions, which presents a remarkable opportunity for field enthusiasts to communicate and exchange ideas.

In this light, NBK is organizing an exclusive tour for approximately 30 visitors from KGBC at its LEED Gold certified headquarters to explore the features of the building's sustainable design and energy-saving operations in addition to its environmental responsibility as per world



National Bank of Kuwait signed an agreement with the Kuwait Green Building Council.

green building standards.

NBK constantly supports sustainable development and promotes green practices in the construction field aimed at conserving natural resources, as it firmly believes that green buildings play a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable and safe future for Kuwait.

As a responsible and sustainable financial institution, NBK strives to make positive impact that reflects its continuous efforts during the past years in promoting all sustainable practices and supporting Kuwait's low-carbon emissions agenda.

Additionally, NBK continues to work hand in hand with its strategic partners to develop and execute sustainable projects that aim to make real and tangible changes, as well as participate in several purposeful initiatives to raise awareness about the significance of green buildings.

The Kuwait Green Building Council was established as a non-profit, non-governmental entity in 2017. As a membership-based organization, KGBC aims to encourage and promote sustainable development in Kuwait, and it's a member of a global network of more than 75 green building councils operating under the umbrella of the World Green Building Council.

It is worth noting that NBK has always been the first to take the initiative and support all green projects aimed at enhancing sustainability efforts. It has also made significant strides in the field of environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG), making sustainability a fundamental pillar in all its business operations and corporate culture, which enhances the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy in line with Kuwait's strategic agenda.

Jobless claims drop, Fed holds fire

Trump tariffs jolt markets again

By National Bank of Kuwait
Market Commentary

Financial markets experienced renewed volatility this week, with U.S. equities trading sideways as President Trump's announcement of a 35% tariff on Canadian goods along with a 30% tariff against the EU and Mexico sparked fresh trade worries. The S&P 500 increased approximately 0.01%, while the Dow Jones lost about 0.96% over the week. The U.S. dollar strengthened broadly amid risk aversion, pushing GBP/USD down to trade near 1.3499 following disappointing U.K. GDP data (-0.1% for May). Meanwhile, stronger-than-anticipated U.S. jobless claims (falling to 227,000 versus an expected 235,000) suggested labor market resilience, contributing to the 10-year Treasury yield edging higher to 4.41%, as markets dialed back expectations for imminent Fed rate cuts amid trade uncertainty.

United States
President Trump Announces New Tariff Measures

President Trump escalated trade tensions on Monday by sending letters to leaders of 14 countries announcing new "reciprocal" tariffs, some as high as 40%. While these tariffs were initially set to take effect mid-week, Trump signed an executive order delaying implementation (except for China) until August 1. The tariffs target nations with significant trade surpluses with the U.S. or policies Trump claims restrict American exports. Japan and South Korea, both set to face 25% tariffs, expressed interest in further negotiations. In the days following, President Trump also announced a 35% tariff on Canadian goods. He also announced upcoming 30% tariffs on the European Union and Mexico. In addition, Trump has imposed broad tariffs, including a 50% duty on global aluminum and steel imports, a 25% tariff on all foreign-made cars and trucks, and a 50% tariff on copper imports set to begin next month. The 35% tariff on Canadian goods is separate from these sector-specific measures.

FOMC Meeting Minutes
The latest FOMC minutes revealed that most Fed officials expect a rate cut to be appropriate later in the year, though opinions were divided on timing. While some policymakers suggested a cut as early as the next meeting, others argued for holding steady through year-end. The Fed kept rates unchanged at 4.25%-4.50% for the fourth consecutive time in June, citing elevated but slightly easing uncertainty from trade tensions, government policy shifts, and geopolitical risks. Markets are currently pricing in two rate cuts by year-end, taking the federal funds rate all the way down to the 3.75%-4% range.

Unemployment Claims Falls
U.S. jobless claims unexpectedly fell to a seven-week low, signaling that employers may be reluctant to lay off workers despite broader signs of a slowing labor market. According to the Labor Department, initial unemployment claims dropped

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.1770	1.1661	1.1790	1.1689	1.1590	1.1750	1.1761
GBP	1.3625	1.3479	1.3657	1.3499	1.3370	1.3600	1.3509
JPY	144.37	144.20	147.51	147.40	146.50	149.00	145.89
CHF	0.7940	0.7917	0.7994	0.7964	0.7870	0.8010	0.7873

by 5,000 to a seasonally adjusted 227,000 for the week ending July 5, below the 235,000 expected by economists. The data, which includes the July Fourth holiday, may reflect typical volatility around public holidays and suggests little immediate pressure on the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates.

The Greenback was last seen trading at 97.85.

United Kingdom
UK Economy Contracts

The UK economy unexpectedly contracted by 0.1% in May, according to data from the Office for National Statistics, missing expectations for slight growth. This marks a second consecutive monthly decline, following a 0.3% drop in April, as the economy struggles with fallout from U.S. tariffs and ongoing business uncertainty. The contraction was driven by declines in industrial production (-0.9%) and construction (-0.6%). The disappointing figures are a setback for Finance Minister Rachel Reeves, who has prioritized boosting growth and cutting the budget deficit. While the strong Q1 GDP growth of 0.7% was likely front-loaded ahead of Trump's tariff announcements, it's not expected to continue. Despite inflation remaining elevated, with headline at 3.4% and core at 3.5%, the weak GDP data has strengthened expectations for a Bank of England rate cut in August, which would lower the policy rate to 4.0%. Meanwhile, the British pound remains subdued, with GBP/USD down 0.55% following the GDP number.

The GBP/USD currency pair was last seen trading at 1.3499.

Asia-Pacific
RBA Unexpectedly Holds Rates

The Reserve Bank of Australia unexpectedly held interest rates steady at 3.85%, defying market expectations. Despite weak early-year growth, 2.1% inflation, and global concerns tied to Trump's trade policies, the RBA opted against a third consecutive cut for this year. The board was divided, as six members voted to hold rates, while three supported a cut, marking a shift from recent unanimity. The RBA said it would wait for more data to confirm inflation is on track, with any potential rate cut in August likely depending on upcoming quarterly CPI figures. The AUD/USD currency pair rose after the unexpected decision by the central bank.

The AUD/USD currency pair was last seen trading at 0.6578.

RBNZ Maintains Policy Rate
The Reserve Bank of New Zealand kept its Official Cash Rate unchanged at 3.25% in July 2025,

as expected, maintaining the lowest level since August 2022. The central bank cited persistent uncertainty and near-term inflation risks as reasons to hold off on further action until August. Annual inflation stood at 2.5% in Q1 2025, within the 1-3% target range, and is expected to approach the upper bound in Q2 and Q3 before easing back toward the 2% midpoint due to slowing core inflation and economic slack. Meanwhile, the economy contracted by 0.7% year-on-year in Q1, a smaller decline than anticipated and an improvement from the previous quarter. However, the Monetary Policy Committee remained cautious about the recovery's strength, warning that uncertainty could dampen household and business activity.

The NZD/USD currency pair was last seen trading at 0.6009.

Mixed Chinese Inflation Report

China's consumer prices rose by 0.1% year-on-year in June 2025, marking the first annual increase since January and reversing three consecutive months of decline. The uptick, which exceeded market expectations for a flat reading, was driven by government subsidies, e-commerce shopping events, and improving trade sentiment with the U.S. Nonfood prices inched up 0.1%, supported by modest gains in housing, clothing, healthcare, and education, while transport costs fell at a slower rate. Food prices continued to decline but at a softer pace, registering their fifth straight monthly drop. Core inflation, which excludes food and energy, climbed to 0.7%, its highest in 14 months, up from 0.6% in May. However, on a monthly basis, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) fell 0.1%, marking the fourth monthly decline this year. On the other hand, China's producer prices fell by 3.6% in June year-on-year, the steepest drop since July 2023, surpassing expectations of a 3.2% decline. The persistent deflation in factory prices, ongoing since September 2022, reflects the impact of an intensifying domestic price war. At a recent top-level economic meeting led by President Xi Jinping, policymakers criticized Chinese firms for slashing prices excessively to offload inventory and attract consumers amid mounting U.S. tariffs. Beijing has now pledged to crack down on this aggressive pricing strategy, which has failed to stimulate demand and is eroding corporate profits.

The USD/CNY currency pair was last seen trading at 7.1681.

Kuwait
Kuwaiti Dinar
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30505

App upgrades with group split and send options

Warba Bank launches WAMD group transfer to simplify daily payments

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: As part of its ongoing investment in innovative digital solutions that enhance customer experience and meet daily banking needs, Warba Bank has introduced two new features under its WAMD instant transfer service: WAMD Group Send and WAMD Group Request. These services allow customers to send or request funds from multiple people in a single transaction directly through the bank's mobile application, streamlining group payments and saving time and effort.

Commenting on the new digital services, Mejren Hamad AlMejren, Director of Digital Department at Warba Bank, stated: "At Warba Bank, we don't just offer financial services, we redefine the banking experience through digital and smart technologies that align with our customers' modern lifestyles and empower them with secure, easyand flexible tools to manage their finances. We believe that continuous innovation is key to delivering banking services that evolve with today's fast-paced world."

Group Transfers via WAMD
Through its WAMD instant transfer platform, Warba Bank has developed two new features tailored for group payments, WAMD Group Send and WAMD Group Request, making it easier for customers to send or request money from multiple contacts in one seamless trans-



Mejren AlMejren, Director of Digital Department

action via the Warba Bank mobile app.

AlMejrenadded: "We designed WAMD Group Send and Group Request to reflect the evolving needs of our customers and to deliver a smarter and more intuitive banking experience. Today's lifestyle calls for digital-first, on-the-go financial solutions; and this is exactly what we're providing by continuously upgrading our digital services to make everyday banking easier and more effective for everyone."

The services offer a simple user interface, allowing customers to select up to ten recipients from their contact list or add them manually.

By contacting 1803333

Kuwait Finance House launches toll free calls to four group subsidiaries

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced a new service enabling customers to make fast and free calls to the Group's subsidiaries in three countries: Egypt, Bahrain and the UK, in addition to Turkey which was introduced by KFH earlier.

Customers in Kuwait can simply dial 1803333 at no cost. This initiative is part of KFH's ceaseless efforts to provide top-tier and secure services in addition to maintaining continuous communication with its customers.

Explaining the service, KFH Executive Manager Contact Center Service Channels, Ali Azeran, said that the enhanced service aims to further strengthen connections between KFH Group customers in Kuwait with subsidiaries abroad. "KFH has already introduced toll free calls to KFH-Turkey," he stated. "Now, the service has expanded to include complementary calls to KFH banks in Egypt, Bahrain, the UK and Turkey."

To benefit from this complementary service, Azeran explained: "Customers can simply call the contact center in Kuwait to be transferred to the selected international branches instantly and for free. This service enhances customer experience and direct interaction between Group subsidiaries and their customers."



Ali Azeran

He pointed out that the service is accessible to everyone, whether to complete transactions through the interactive voice response, or by communicating with a contact center agents to complete their transactions or answer their inquiries.

Azeran outlined the steps for using the service, saying: "After dialing 1803333, a list of service options will be available. By selecting communicate with KFH subsidiaries option, customers will select a specific KFH branch in one of the four countries; Egypt, Bahrain, the UK, or Turkey. The service operates 24/7, with full attention to safety and speed."

This new service is part of a

The Group Request feature includes an option to split the total amount evenly among the recipients, with the flexibility to exclude the sender from the calculation. These features serve real-life needs such as splitting dinner bills among friends or sending Eid gifts to family members in one go, positioning WAMD as an efficient tool for fast, smooth group payments.

This latest launch aligns with Warba Bank's comprehensive digital transformation strategy, aimed at continuously enhancing its services and adapting to evolving technologies and customer expectations. As one of Kuwait's leading Islamic financial institutions, Warba Bank remains committed to delivering innovative, Sharia-compliant banking solutions with a strong focus on digitalization, sustainability, and customer-centricity, setting new standards for the future of Islamic banking and building a more inclusive and sustainable financial ecosystem.

Warba Bank is recognized as one of Kuwait's most successful banks in recent years, having secured a leading position in Islamic digital banking. With a large shareholder base, it remains close to all segments of society. This initiative further confirms the bank's role as a trusted financial partner that blends innovation with social responsibility to deliver the best products and services.

broader range of communication means that KFH provides to customers and non-customers alike who are interested in learning about its services and products. KFH also offers free access from several countries through the following numbers:

1. USA & Canada: 1-800-818-8608
 2. UK: 0-800-014-8898
 3. France: 0805-086620
 4. Germany: 0800-181-7080
 5. Spain: 900-905-440
 6. Turkey: 00908507712154 (Local tariff charges in Turkey might be applied by local Turkish service providers when calling this number)
- Calling the numbers is free exclusively for mobiles & landlines users in the countries mentioned above only. This service does not apply to the Roaming Service.
- Additionally, customers can contact KFH through KFHOnline inbox, or through WhatsApp for general inquiries. The contact center at 1803333 operates 24/7, ensuring constant support and availability of a range of services at any time.
- It serves to note that such initiatives help build and reinforce customer trust by simplifying communication with the Group subsidiaries. KFH customer service agents respond to inquiries promptly and deliver services efficiently, with international calls receiving prioritized handling.



Faleh Sultan, Managing Director of the Information Technology Sector at NIC.

In a significant move to accelerate its digital transformation journey, the National Investments Company (NIC) has entered into a strategic partnership with ZainTECH, the digital solutions arm of Zain Group. This collaboration will see NIC migrate its data center infrastructure to ZainTECH’s cloud platform, forming part of a comprehensive transformation initiative powered by cutting-edge cloud computing and cybersecurity technologies. The project aligns with Kuwait Vision 2035, which aims to drive innovation and embed digitalization across the national business landscape.

The collaboration underscores NIC’s commitment to strengthening its digital infrastructure and operational agility by building a secure, scalable technology environment that meets the evolving

Faleh Sultan:

- This collaboration marks a major milestone, with the migration of NIC’s data center infrastructure to ZainTECH’s cloud platform boosting digital readiness
- A strategic move that strengthens NIC’s leadership, unlocks AI potential, and supports sustainable growth in a digital investment landscape.) and Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS)

ing demands of the global digital economy. It also supports the company’s mission to deliver advanced investment solutions powered by intelligent infrastructure and data-driven insights, reinforcing sustainable growth and institutional excellence.

A Transformational Milestone

Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Faleh Sultan, Managing Director of the Information Technology Sector at NIC, described the partnership with ZainTECH as a pivotal milestone in the company’s digital transformation journey. He emphasized that migrating NIC’s data center infrastructure to a modern, locally hosted cloud platform will strengthen regulatory compliance, ensure seamless business continuity, and provide

A digital agreement reshaping the future of investment technology

NIC collaborates with ZainTECH to accelerate digital transformation through cloud computing technologies



a scalable, high-performance technology foundation to support future growth, aligned with the highest standards of operational excellence.

Sultan emphasized that the collaboration reflects NIC’s ongoing commitment to adopting cutting-edge global technologies and delivering flexible, customized tech solutions that empower clients to succeed in a fast-evolving digital landscape. He noted that the partnership opens new opportunities to leverage cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and advanced cybersecurity, further advancing NIC’s goal of achieving full digital transformation and driving a more

“Utilizing a fully managed, end-to-end cloud ecosystem including Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) and Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS)

agile and efficient business model. He explained that this initiative aligns seamlessly with NIC’s long-term strategy to foster institutional innovation and deepen technology integration. The partnership with ZainTECH is a key component of a broader strategic roadmap to establish a robust digital operating model that supports business growth and operational excellence.

Sultan reiterated that digital transformation is central to NIC’s corporate vision, guided by the

belief that technology is no longer optional but a strategic imperative for long-term sustainability and growth. He highlighted that the agreement reinforces NIC’s leadership in digital innovation within Kuwait’s financial and investment sector, setting a regional benchmark in sovereign cloud adoption.

He further added that implementing sovereign cloud infrastructure is a crucial step in enhancing NIC’s ability to respond to shifting regional and global market dynamics. By embracing this advanced infrastructure, NIC is positioned to accelerate the development of intelligent, adaptive investment solutions, supporting the company’s sustainable growth objectives and aligning with the evolving expectations of shareholders and clients alike. This strategic collaboration firmly places NIC at the forefront of responsible and impactful digital transformation across the region.

Enabling a Digital Ecosystem

Sultan also highlighted that

“Delivering backup solutions, security patch management, and multi-layered cyber threat monitoring and response

ZainTECH’s offerings are built on a fully integrated suite of advanced cloud services, including fully managed Infrastructure

as a Service (IaaS) and Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS), hosted within Zain’s Tier III data centers in Kuwait. These solutions guarantee maximum uptime and reliability, with availability levels reaching 99.999%. Additionally, the services encompass backup, security patch management, multi-layered cyber threat detection and response, and a fixed monthly billing model that ensures predictable operating costs, supporting both long-term financial stability and technological efficiency.

Driving Institutional Transformation

Sultan added that the partnership reflects NIC’s vision of building a secure, scalable smart infrastructure capable of integrating advanced technologies such as big data analytics and intelligent systems. This integration contributes to long-term strategic value, enhances decision-making efficiency, and accelerates innovation. He emphasized that adopting the cloud transformation model is a core pillar of NIC’s strategic roadmap – not only modernizing infrastructure but also reinventing the corporate experience by fostering innovation and aligning technology more closely with business objectives.

Sultan concluded by affirming that building a modern, secure, and flexible IT environment is fundamental to NIC’s pursuit of excellence and full digital transformation. This approach extends beyond operational efficiency,

opening broader opportunities for smart growth through advanced, data-driven digital investment solutions. It enhances the client experience while reinforcing trust in the company’s technological capabilities and operational professionalism. He stated that the partnership represents a strategic step toward reshaping NIC’s digital foundation to meet the demands of the digital economy. Collaborating with ZainTECH underscores NIC’s commitment to building resilient technologies that accelerate innovation and expand the scope of digital solutions, paving the way for a smarter, more proactive operational environment grounded in security, flexibility, and sustainability.

The National Investments Company (NIC) is one of the most prominent investment firms in Kuwait and the broader region. Listed on Boursa Kuwait and regulated by the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Capital Markets Authority, NIC actively operates across diverse sectors locally, regionally, and globally. It has a broad and diverse shareholder base, including leading corporations and high-net-worth individuals.

Notably, ZainTECH collaborates with several global partners, including Microsoft, Amazon Web Services, and Google Cloud, to accelerate cloud transformation in Kuwait. These strategic partnerships enable organizations and individuals to leverage a comprehensive range of cloud services, encompassing infrastructure, cybersecurity, and advanced digital solutions.

After receiving CMA approval

Watani Investment, Brokerage firms complete merger

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Watani Investment Company KSCC and Watani Financial Brokerage Company KSCC, two subsidiaries of NBK Group, have completed their merger process, by which Watani Investment Company is the merging company and Watani Financial Brokerage Company is the merged company.

This merger comes after the two companies obtained the approval of Kuwat Capital Markets Authority (CMA) to complete the merger, in accordance with Annex 1 of Module Nine (Mergers and Acquisitions) of the executive regulations of Law No. (7) of 2020 and their amendments.

Commenting on this step, Mr. Mishari Al-Wazzan, Head of Brokerage at Watani Investment Company said: “The merger between Watani Investment Company and Watani Financial Brokerage Company should have a

positive impact on their clients in many ways, by combining integrated trading and investment services under one umbrella, we enable clients to access a comprehensive investment system that encompasses a diverse range of investment and trading services.” Al-Wazzan added that: “this step will enable Watani Investment Company to upgrade its trading services, simplify procedures and processes and benefit from current and upcoming digital solutions, to enhance its clients’ experience, and provide them with easier access to wider investment solutions” and highlighted that “another benefit of the merger is that Watani Investment Company clients who trade in Boursa Kuwait will be able to access brokerage services through NBK branches across the country, as well as through the company’s representative offices in Boursa Kuwait, giving

them access to these services in a better, easier, and faster manner.” It should be noted that Watani Investment Company, a leading investment firm in the region, was established in 2005. It is setting the standard in growth-focused innovative financial products and services with a customer-centric approach, addressing the specific needs of investors. Watani Investment Company combines local and regional expertise with the resources and global network of National Bank of Kuwait, one of the largest and oldest financial institutions in the region, to consistently deliver integrated solutions, innovative products and objective research with excellence in service.

With over 120 investment professionals, Watani Investment Company prides itself in a leading regional presence and a global reach and scale.



Mishari Al-Wazzan

Global debt issuances hit \$6.4 trillion in 1H-2025 despite Q2 dip

By KAMCO Invest

Global debt market issuances reached a record level during Q1-2025 and 1H-2025 with a total of USD 6.4 Trillion in issuances during 1H-2025, according to data from LSEG. Issuances in Q2-2025 declined by 8% q-o-q but the record high issuances during the first quarter overshadowed this decline in YTD numbers. The growth in issuances were led by higher investment grade instruments while issuance of high yield instruments remained flat y-o-y. Government issuers and Financials maintained their share of issuances during 1H-2025 accounting for three fourth of total issuances. Corporates issuers in emerging markets were leading with 26% increase in issuances during 1H-2025 with issuers from India, Saudi Arabia, Brazil and UAE accounting for 52% of total emerging markets activity. Issuances of green bonds reached a three-year low level and declined by 2% to reach USD 267.7 Bn during 1H-2025. The volume of issuances also declined to two year low levels.

Yields on US sovereign bonds remained volatile and the yield on 10-year bonds largely trended downwards since its peak during the third week of May-2025 at 4.6% to now trade at 4.3%. There were gains during the first week of July-2025, the biggest gains in five weeks, after a surprisingly strong jobs report and the signing of the tax bill by the US president that would add close to USD 3.4 Trillion to deficits over the next decade. However, yields declined in recent sessions reflecting expectations of future interest rate cuts by the US Fed as well as strong demand in auction of 10-year treasury notes. The most recent meeting by the US Fed indicated rate cuts in the remainder of the year, although the frequency would depend on the impact that tariffs would have on the economy and inflation.

The rate forecast for 2025 from most global central banks remains uncertain, especially in the aftermath of the announcement of tariffs in the US. The increase in tariffs were expected to be mostly inflationary in nature that would force the US Fed to hold rates steady. The US Fed maintained its wait and watch approach in terms of rate cuts, despite pressure from the government. The Fed insisted on staying cautious keeping an eye on inflation and economic impact of the tariffs. However, in the recent Fed meeting, there has been some softening of tone with some officials indicating rate cuts later this year. Nevertheless, forecasts suggest a late year rate cut but an accelerated pace of cuts in 2026 mainly catching up with their European counterparts that have lowered rates by 100 bps this year led by economic weakness.

Inflation and interest rate hikes

The minutes of the most recent Fed meeting indicated a division amongst officials over the impact of the tariffs on inflation and the economy and the supposed reaction to this by the US Fed by cutting rates or keeping in at current levels. The Fed majority of the officials agreed that the tariffs would have a lasting impact on inflation in the US. However, the latest dot plot showed an almost equal split on whether there would be a rate cut this year, which was pegged at two cuts, or there will be no cuts, although the former had a slight majority. Nevertheless, despite pressure from the US government, the rate was held steady for the fourth consecutive meeting indicating Fed’s cautious stance and a wait for clarity, defying steady economic growth and strong employment numbers that analysts doubt represent the true picture about the US labor market. Data also showed a decline in small business sentiment in the US with subdued forecasts for

job creation, inventory restocking and sales outlook.

In terms of tariff agreements, the Trump administration has sent more than 20 letters so far to its trading partners and simultaneously delayed the implementation of higher tariffs to 1-August-2025 from the last deadline of 9-July-2025 that marked the end of the 90-day reprieve announced in April-2025. Based on the current analysis, the new tariff rates in the announcements make little difference to the US average tariff rate overall relative to levies already planned, as per Bloomberg. Moreover, new tariff announcements were made on copper imports in the US with rates as high as 50%. This led to a spike in copper prices in the US to record high levels while producers around the world hunt for long-term supply agreements with copper miners. The data also showed significantly higher tariffs expected to be imposed on China and a 50% tariff on Brazil, while already announcing 25% tariffs on Japan and South Korea. Based on data from Bloomberg, estimates suggest average tariff rate on US imports could settle at 15.5% in the base case scenario as compared to 2.3% before the trade war.

In Europe, meanwhile, the ECB continued to lower rates with four cuts so far this year and eight times since June-2024 to 2%. The ECB president insisted that the current interest rate position is appropriate while inflation hovers around the 2% target. The ECB is expected to hold interest rates steady at current levels in the next meeting while consensus estimates suggest one more cut later this year while the options market indicate two cuts. The cuts would mostly likely be triggered by slower inflation readings as well as weakened economic outlook from the US tariffs. There are also concerns about the strength of the Euro against the USD. The EUR has risen nearly 15% vs. the greenback during 1H-2025 and this further impacts the competitiveness of European products in the world markets.

Meanwhile, in the GCC, the trend in the interest rates was almost in line with that by the US Fed. Last year, most GCC central banks lowered in line with the Fed decision while Kuwait, which has its currency pegged to a basket of currencies, implemented a 25 bps cut vs. 100 bps cuts by other central banks in the region. GCC instruments benefits from being closely tied to US corporate spread but the credit profile helps to protect against volatility and tariff related risks. In terms of economic growth, the increase in oil output should be positive for the rest of the year, especially if the crude oil sustains current levels of around USD 70/b. This along with a strong non-oil manufacturing sector in the region with steady projects market activity will support non-oil growth.

GCC Bond/Sukuk Maturities

GCC governments are expected to see elevated levels of maturities over the next five years, especially for bond issuances during the years after the pandemic. According to data from Bloomberg, GCC sovereign maturities stands at USD 226.1 Bn over the next five years (2025-2029), whereas corporate maturities stand at slightly lower at USD 223.0 Bn. Both bond and sukuk maturities are expected to remain elevated starting from 2025 until 2029 and then gradually taper for the rest of the tenor. The higher maturities during the next five years reflects a number of short-term (less than 5-year maturity) issuances by governments and corporates. A majority of these maturities are denominated in USD at 59.3% followed by local currency issuances in SAR and QAR at 16.9% and 7.0%, respectively. In addition, due to the credit rating profile of the GCC governments, a majority

of these maturities are in the high investment grade or A rated instruments with maturities of USD 158.5 Bn while maturities of investment grade instruments stood at 171.7 Bn. In terms of type of instruments, conventional bonds dominate with USD 278.0 Bn in maturities over the next five years, whereas sukuk maturities are expected to be at USD 171.0 Bn. In terms of conventional bond maturities, corporate maturities stood at USD 144.3 Bn, surpassing government bond maturities at USD 133.7 Bn. In the sukuk market, government sukuk maturities stood at USD 92.4 Bn vs. corporate sukuk maturities at USD 78.6 Bn.

At the country level, Saudi Arabia continues to see the biggest fixed income maturities during 2025-2029. The Kingdom is expected to see maturities of USD 166.0 Bn until 2029 followed by UAE and Qatari issuers at USD 146.8 Bn and USD 74.7 Bn, respectively. However, bulk of the maturities in Saudi Arabia are for bonds/sukuk issued by the government at USD 96.7 Bn while in the case of UAE, the lion’s share of maturities are for instruments issued by corporates at USD 119.1 Bn. Kuwait has the smallest maturities in five years at USD 13.2 Bn while the number for Oman and Bahrain stood at around USD 24.0 Bn each. In terms of sector maturities, Banks and other Financial Services sector have USD 167.9 Bn in maturities in the next five years, accounting for around 75.3% of the total corporate maturities and 37.4% of the total maturities in the GCC until 2029. The Energy sector was next with maturities of USD 21.0 Bn or 9.4% of GCC corporate maturities until 2029 followed by Utilities and Materials at USD 11.3 Bn and USD 7.2 Bn, respectively. Banks in UAE have the biggest maturities over the next five years at USD 65.5 Bn followed by Qatari banks with maturities of USD 23.2 Bn.

Banks in UAE and Qatar accounted for 39.8% of total corporate maturities in the GCC and 19.8% of total bonds/sukuk maturities over the next five years in the GCC. Other Financial Services and Real Estate sectors were next with maturities of USD 27.7 Bn and USD 13.2 Bn until 2029. Meanwhile, Real Estate maturities are concentrated mainly in the UAE and Saudi Arabia at USD 9.1 Bn and USD 3.2 Bn, respectively, until 2029.

Issuances in 2025 on track to reach 2024 records

Aggregate issuances of bonds and sukuk in the GCC stood at USD 100.3 Bn during 1H-2025 as compared to USD 128.8 Bn during 1H-2024, resulting in a y-o-y decline of USD 28.5 Bn or 22.1%. The decline was mainly led by more than 50% decline in government issuances in 1H-2025 while an increase in corporate issuances partially offset the overall decline. Government issuances reached USD 36.6 Bn in 1H-2025 vs. UDS 76.9 Bn in 1H-2024 while corporate issuances stood at USD 63.7 Bn this year vs. USD 51.9 Bn during the first half of last year. Full year issuances during 2024 stood at a record high level of USD 195.4 Bn.

In terms of type of issuances, sukuk issuances witnessed a sharp decline during 1H-2025 whereas bond issuance remained flat y-o-y. Aggregate GCC bond issues stood at USD 60.9 Bn this year vs. USD 60.2 Bn during 1H-2024 whereas sukuk issuances declined by almost a third to reach USD 39.4 Bn this year as compared to issuances of USD 68.6 Bn during the first six months of last year.

At the country level, there was a broad-based y-o-y decline in issuances during the year, barring marginal growth in issuances from UAE and Bahrain. Aggregate issuances from the UAE stood at USD 32.9 Bn in 1H-

2025 as compared to USD 31.7 Bn in 1H-2024, registering a gain of 3.8%. On the other hand, issuances from Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar witnessed double-digit declines. Total issuances from Saudi Arabia stood at USD 50.2 Bn, accounting for half of the issuances in the GCC, but declined by almost a third from USD 72.4 Bn in issuances in 1H-2024. Issuances from Qatar and Oman almost halved to USD 8.7 Bn and USD 1.1 Bn during 1H-2025. The structure of maturities saw perpetual instruments seeing growth in 2024 after seeing a steep decline in 2023. According to data from Bloomberg, aggregate issuances of perpetual instruments remained steady in the region with aggregate issuances during 1H-2025 already reaching full year levels seen in 2024 at USD 10.7 Bn. Saudi-based issuers were the biggest in this space with issuances of USD 7.4 Bn in perpetual instruments followed by UAE with issuances of USD 2.7 Bn.

The issuance of green instruments remained steady during 1H-2025 in the GCC. Total issuances of green instruments reached USD 8.7 Bn during 1H-2025 as compared to USD 18.0 Bn in full year 2024. Saudi Arabia was leading in the GCC with green instrument issuances worth USD 5.6 Bn this year as compared to USD 5.9 Bn during full year 2024. Issuances in UAE stood at USD 3.1 Bn this year vs. USD 5.0 Bn last year.

Outlook - Fed vs. GCC rate moves

Expectations for rates cuts remain volatile with the current consensus estimates suggesting one to two cuts by the end of the year by the US Fed. The uncertainty comes mainly from the changing policies of the US government related to the tariffs as well as wavering confidence in the US economy and the greenback. Treasury bond auctions post the tariff announcements have garnered tepid demand, although the demand for auctions in July-2025 calmed these fears. In addition, USD has seen significant declines this year against a basket of currencies and especially against the Euro. This would further influence investor decision regarding whether to go for local currency bonds.

For the GCC, we have forecasted rates based on US Fed rate cuts. As a result, most central banks in the GCC would slash rates in line with the US Fed due to the pegged currencies. However, Kuwait has its currency pegged to a basket of currencies. As such, we’ve forecasted a 25 bps cut by the Kuwait Central Bank in its discount rate. Last year, Kuwait lowered its discount rate by 25 bps last year as against 100 bps cuts implemented by other GCC central banks.

In terms of issuances, we believe that GCC would see a back end loaded issuance this year as against higher issuances during the start of last year. Fixed income issuers would focus on locking in lower rates as expectations for rate cuts gain pace by the end of the year as uncertainty related to tariffs see more clarity. Maturity refinancing is expected to come in at USD 21.7 Bn during the remainder of the year while government deficit financing led by lower average oil prices would also contribute to the overall trend during the rest of the year and compensate for the decline in issuances during 1H-2025. Sukuk issuances are expected to gain traction during 2H-2025 backed by demand from specific investors and funding diversification. Moreover, the announcement from the Kuwaiti government for the issuance of USD 6.0 Bn in bonds in the international market in the coming months would be further incremental to overall fixed income issuances from the region.

Slip into summer with LuLu Hypermarket’s Summer Fashion 2025

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: LuLu Hypermarket officially kicked off its much-anticipated Summer Fashion Specials “Slip into Summer 2025” on July 12 at its Al Rai outlet, launching a vibrant celebration of style, savings, and seasonal trends. The event was inaugurated in style by prominent fashion influencers, bloggers, and LuLu management, drawing enthusiastic crowds and marking the start of a fashion-forward shopping extravaganza across all LuLu Hypermarket stores in Kuwait.

Running from 12 to 19 July, the LuLu “Slip into Summer 2025” delivered unbeatable deals and exciting promotions on the latest summer collections for men, women, and children.

Customers enjoyed browsing a wide selection of trendy apparel, chic footwear, and stylish ladies’ bags, with irresistible discounts on top fashion labels including Eten, Cortigiani, Tom Smith, DeBackers, Marco Donatelli, John Louis, and Reo. Shoppers also received added value with a special offer: Spend KD 10 and get a KD 2.5 voucher.

The grand launch at Al Rai was a lively affair, featuring a glamorous preview of the new summer collections modeled by popular fashion vloggers and influencers. A highlight of the event was the vibrant kids’ fashion show, where over 50 young participants lit up the runway in the latest children’s wear trends. Winners of the fashion show received exciting prizes, making it a memorable experience for everyone involved.

With great fashion, family fun, and fabulous deals, LuLu Hypermarket’s “Slip into Summer 2025” is the ultimate destination for summer style this season.



Top & above: Photos from the event

In line with CSR and SDG commitments to empower future environmental leaders

Markaz sponsors vertical farming facility at The English School

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” announces its sponsorship of an innovative educational initiative in partnership with The English School (TES), providing students with hands-on, experiential learning opportunities in sustainable agriculture and its applications through vertical farming inside the school. The sponsorship reflects the ‘building human capacity’ pillar of Markaz’s corporate social responsibility (CSR) strategy by equipping students with future-ready skills, fostering environmental responsibility and developing the knowledge and critical thinking skills needed to confront global challenges through localized solutions.

The initiative offers students the opportunity to explore vertical farming through a school-based facility designed for indoor sustainable agriculture. It introduces them to the types of crops that can be cultivated through these systems and explains how they can help address food security challenges. In doing so, the project also demonstrates the wider potential of vertical farming as a sustainable and cost-effective solution for future food production.

Highlighting the significance of the project, Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications at Markaz,



From left to right: Sondos Saad, Senior Vice President – Corporate Communications at Markaz; Bahareh Azizi, Chair of the Parents Association; and Alison Peterson, Principal of The English School.

Ms. Sondos Saad, said: “We are proud to partner with The English School on this impactful initiative, which



Markaz logo

introduces students to practical approaches to vertical farming. It reflects our firm belief that education rooted in real-world engagement is key to enabling the next generation of changemakers. By raising environmental awareness and promoting responsible resource use, this project encourages students to think innovatively about how local initiatives can drive global impact.”

Ms. Alison Peterson, TES Principal stated: “Thanks to the sponsorship of Markaz. Our fantastic vertical farming facility will be an integral part of the education process. This project reflects curiosity, responsibility, and a deeper understanding of how science, technology, and care for the planet all connect. In this space, our students won’t just learn about photosynthesis from a textbook,

they’ll see it in action. In a world facing growing environmental challenges, vertical farming offers a glimpse into the future of agriculture, a future that TES students will help shape.”

Rooted in Markaz’s ESG-driven approach to long-term value creation, this initiative demonstrates how the company translates its sustainability strategy into meaningful, community-based partnerships. It also reaffirms Markaz’s commitment to advancing key United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 4: Quality Education, Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, and Goal 13: Climate Action, by embedding these global principles into innovative educational models.

The collaborative effort builds on a broader portfolio of national partnerships and programs supported by Markaz. Notable among them are the “Kuwait Commute” design competition, which aims to advance the development of public transport in Kuwait, and the Uni-CODE program in collaboration with “Coded” Academy, which equips youth with foundational skills in programming and technology. Such pioneering initiatives reinforce Markaz’s role in developing human capital and driving knowledge-based progress in Kuwait.

Dreamztree Academy and BDK Kuwait Chapter organize blood donation camp

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Blood Donors Kerala (BDK) Kuwait Chapter, in association with Dreamztree Academy Kuwait, organized a blood donation camp at Al Adan Blood Transfusion Center on July 11, 2025.

The camp, held from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, was presided over by BDK Camp Coordinator Praveen Kumar and inaugurated by Dreamztree Managing Director Ranjith James.

Sreejith Mohandas, Marketing Manager of Al Ansari Exchange, extended full support to BDK’s ongoing services in the field of blood donation promotional activities, and Rajesh from Al Ansari Exchange conveyed his greetings and appreciation to the donors and organizers.

Mebin Sam of Dreamztree delivered the welcome

address, while Manoj Mavelikkara from BDK offered the vote of thanks. Certificates were distributed to all the blood donors who participated in the camp.

The camp was organized as part of BDK Kuwait Chapter’s efforts to promote voluntary blood donation and as a demonstration of Dreamztree’s commitment to social responsibility along with its members and well-wishers.

BDK Kuwait Chapter announced that, on the occasion of India’s 79th Independence Day, which is on 15th August 2025, it will organize a blood donation camp, with transportation facilities available for participants.

For more details and registration, please contact: +965 69997588.



Top & above: Photos during the event

The Conversation

School smartphone bans reflect growing concern over youth mental health, academic performance

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

By Margaret Murray
University of Michigan

The number of states banning smartphones in schools is growing.

New York is now the largest state in the U.S. to ban smartphones in public schools. Starting in fall 2025, students will not be allowed to use their phones during the school day, including during lunch, recess or in between classes. This bell-to-bell policy will impact almost 2.5 million students in grades K-12.

By banning smartphones in schools, New York is joining states across the country. The bans are happening in both traditionally liberal and conservative states.

Alabama, Arkansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and West Virginia all passed legislation in 2025 that requires schools to have policies that limit access to smartphones. The policies will go into effect in the 2025-2026 school year. This brings the total to 17 states, plus Washington, D.C., that have phone-free school legislation or executive orders.

I’m a professor who studies communication and culture,

and while writing a book about parenting culture, I’ve noticed the narrative around smartphones and social media shifting over the past decade.

According to the Pew Research Center, 67% of American adults support banning smartphones during class time, although only 36% support banning them for the entire school day. Notably, a majority of Republican, Democratic and independent voters all support bans during class time.

More broadly, parent-led movements to limit children’s use of smartphones, social media and the internet have sprung up around the country. For example, the Phone-Free Schools Movement in Pennsylvania was launched in 2023, and Mothers Against Media Addiction started in New York in March 2024. These organizations, which empower parents to advocate in their local communities, follow in the footsteps of organizations such as Wait Until 8th in Texas and Screen Time Action Network at Fairplay in Massachusetts, which were formed in 2017.

The concerns of these parent-led organizations were reflected in the best-selling book “The Anxious Generation,” which paints a bleak picture of modern childhood as dominated by depression and anxiety brought on by smartphone addiction.

Phone-free schools are one of the four actions the book’s author, Jonathan Haidt, recommended to change course.

The other three are no smartphones for children before high school, waiting until 16 for social media access, and allowing more childhood independence in the real world.

Haidt’s research team collaborated with The Harris Poll to survey Gen Z. They found that almost half of those age 18-27 wish social media had never been invented, and 21% wish smartphones had never been invented. About 40% of Gen Z respondents supported phone-free schools.

The Pew Research Center found that almost 40% of kids age 8-12 use social media, and almost 95% of kids age 13-17 use it, with nearly half of teens reporting that they use social media almost constantly.

Phone-free schools are also part of the larger trend of states and nations resisting Big Tech, the large technology companies that play a significant role in global commerce.

In May 2025, two U.S. senators introduced the Stop the Scroll Act, which would require mental health warnings on social media.

New laws that ban smartphones or social media for youth are being introduced across several Western nations. Australia has banned all social media for those under 16.

After a fatal stabbing at a middle school in eastern France on June 10, French President Emmanuel Macron announced the same day that he wants the European Union to set the minimum age for social media at 15. He argued that social

media is a factor in teen violence. If the EU doesn’t act within a few months, Macron has pledged to enact a ban in France as soon as possible.

Although this trend of restricting use of phones in school is new, more states may adopt smartphone bans in the future. Bell-to-bell bans are viewed as especially powerful in improving academic performance.

Some research has suggested that when children have access to a smartphone, even if they do not use it, they find it harder to focus in class. Initial research has found that academic performance improves after the bans go into effect.

Test scores fell across the U.S. during the pandemic lockdown and have not returned to prepandemic levels. Some states, such as Maine and Oregon, are almost a full year behind grade level in reading. Not a single state has recovered in both math and reading.

Statewide bans free local school districts from having to create their own technology bans, which can lead to heated debates. Although a majority of adults approve of banning smartphones in class, 24% oppose it for reasons such as wanting to be able to contact their kids throughout the day and wanting parents to set the boundaries.

However, 72% of high school teachers say that phones are a major distraction. Anecdotally, schools report that students like the bans after getting used to the change. (AP)

Years of bitter exchanges continue in public feud

Trump threatens to strip O'Donnell of US citizenship

WASHINGTON, July 13, (AP): President Donald Trump says he is considering "taking away" the US citizenship of a longtime rival, actress and comedian Rosie O'Donnell, despite a decades-old Supreme Court ruling that expressly prohibits such an action by the government.

"Because of the fact that Rosie O'Donnell is not in the best interests of our Great Country, I am giving serious consideration to taking away her Citizenship," Trump wrote in a social media post on Saturday. He added that O'Donnell, who moved to Ireland in January, should stay in Ireland "if they want her."

The two have criticized each other publicly for years, an often bitter back-and-forth that predates Trump's involvement in politics. In recent days, O'Donnell on social media denounced Trump and recent moves by his administration, including the signing of a massive GOP-backed tax breaks and spending cuts plan.

It's just the latest threat by Trump to revoke the citizenship of people with whom he has publicly disagreed, most recently his former adviser and one-time ally, Elon Musk.

But O'Donnell's situation is notably different from Musk, who was born in South Africa. O'Donnell was born in the United States and has a constitutional right to US citizenship. The US State Department notes on its website that US citizens by birth or naturalization may relinquish US nationality by taking certain steps - but only if the act is performed voluntarily and with the intention of relinquishing US citizenship.

Amanda Frost, a law professor at the University of Virginia School of Law, noted the Supreme Court ruled in a

1967 case that the Fourteen Amendment of the Constitution prevents the government from taking away citizenship.

"The president has no authority to take away the citizenship of a native-born US citizen," Frost said in an email Saturday. "In short, we are nation founded on the principle that the people choose the government; the government cannot choose the people."

O'Donnell moved to Ireland after Trump defeated Vice President Kamala Harris to win his second term. She has said she's in the process of obtaining Irish citizenship based on family lineage.

Responding to Trump Saturday, O'Donnell wrote on social media that she had upset the president and "add me to the list of people who oppose him at every turn."



Presenter Rosie O'Donnell speaks at the 30th annual GLAAD Media Awards, May 4, 2019, in New York. (AP)

Thrilling end

Renko's last case in 'Hotel Ukraine'

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP): Arkady Renko now fumbles with his keys at the door as his Parkinson's disease gradually grows worse.

The legendary Russian detective has struggled to keep his declining health a secret, but the worsening symptoms have become impossible to hide. Still, Renko is determined to crack the case of a Russian defense official mysteriously murdered in his Moscow hotel room as Russia's war on Ukraine rages.

The murder takes place at the Hotel Ukraine, a well-known hotel in the heart of Moscow, one of the towering Stalin-era buildings known as the Seven Sisters.

"Hotel Ukraine" is the 11th and last installment in the popular Arkady Renko series by Martin Cruz Smith that he launched in 1981 with his blockbuster "Gorky Park." Books like "Red Square," "Havana Bay" and "Stalin's Ghost" followed.

We don't find out until we get to the acknowledgments at the book's end to learn that Smith, like Renko, has also been concealing a Parkinson's diagnosis for years until it was clear he had to step aside.

The revelation is sure to sadden Smith's loyal fans who have followed the fictional detective's career from Moscow's Cold War days to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and the rise of the Russian oligarchs

Reputation

But the aficionados of the Renko novels will still have a gem in Smith's latest, which upholds Smith's reputation as a great craftsman of modern detective fiction with his sharply drawn, complex characters and a compelling plot.

It's a fresh international detective tale with a backstory pulled straight from recent headlines, referencing world leaders like presidents Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine, Vladimir Putin of Russia and Joe Biden of the U.S.

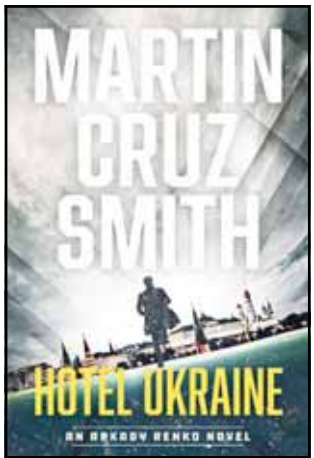
It's also a well-informed personal look at how the worsening effects of Parkinson's can affect an individual, as Renko finds he can still drive, and he can still talk on the phone, but he can't do both at the same time.

When Renko's superiors discover his health problems, they place him on paid sick leave. But that doesn't stop the intrepid detective from continuing his investigation, alongside his lover, journalist Tatiana Petrovna.

Renko discovers a Russian military group was involved in the killing and is being helped on the sly by Marina Makarova, a government official and former lover who he is working with on the official probe.

After a somewhat slow start, the action in the novel speeds up as the story advances, and the end approaches with multiple twists and surprises.

"It is surprising to think that I have had Parkinson's for almost 30 years. For most of that time I have been remarkably well," Smith writes in the acknowledgments. "But this disease takes no prisoners, and now I have finished my last book. There is only one Arkady and I will miss him."



This cover image released by Simon & Schuster shows 'Hotel Ukraine' by Martin Cruz Smith. (AP)

Television



This image released by MGM+ shows Joe Freeman in a scene from 'The Institute.' (AP)

Dark series explores kids with psychic powers

'The Institute' gets King's thumbs up

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP): Stephen King has a rule for anyone wanting to adapt one of his books for the big or small screen. It's basically the Hippocratic oath for intellectual property - first, do no harm.

"When you deviate from the story that I wrote, you do so at your own risk," he says in a recent interview from his home in Maine. "I know what I'm doing and I'm not sure that screenwriters always do or that producers and directors always do."

Not everyone has listened to King, who has enjoyed hit adaptations - "The Shawshank Redemption," "Stand By Me," "Misery," "It" and "The Shining" - as well as flops - "Salem's Lot," "Graveyard Shift" and "The Lawnmower Man."

The industrious novelist has lately watched as a wave of adaptations are crafted for theaters or streaming platforms, a list that includes "The Life of Chuck" and the upcoming "The Long Walk," "The Running Man" and "It: Welcome to Derry." It also includes the eight-episode series "The Institute," which debuted on MGM+ on Sunday.

It's about a secret government facility where kids with special talents - telekinesis and telepathy - are imprisoned and put to dark geopolitical uses. Their bedrooms are faithfully re-created and creepy posters - "Your Gift Is Important" and "I Choose to be Happy" - line the halls.

Does this small-screen adaptation of his 2019 book get King's approval? "I'm talking to you which is a pretty good sign," he says, laughing. He even signed on as executive producer.

"When I write a book, it's a single-person sport and when these people do a TV show or a movie it becomes a team sport. So you expect some changes and, sometimes, man, they're really good."

"The Institute" stars Mary-Louise Parker as a sinister scientist and Ben Barnes as a small-

town cop on opposite sides as the group of children are kidnapped and exploited. The series is faithful to the book, but includes some changes, like setting it entirely in Maine and aging the hero up so as not to appear too sadistic.

That hero - 14-year-old Luke Ellis, played winningly by Joe Freeman - is the latest youngster with special powers that King has manifested, a line that stretches back to the heroine of "Carrie," Danny Torrance in "The Shining" and Charlie McGee in "Firestarter."

"I thought to myself, what would happen if a bunch of kids that had psychic powers could see enough of the future to tell when certain moments were going to come along," he says. "But the kids would be wrecked by this process and they would be kept in a place where they could serve the greater good. It was a moral problem that I really liked."

King has a special respect for young adults, who he says can be brave and behave nobly under pressure but who can also be mean and petty.

He says he was inspired by William Golding, who wrote the iconic "Lord of the Flies," a dystopian novel about a group of schoolboys who while trying to survive on a remote island unlock their own barbarism.

"He was talking to his wife before he wrote the book and he said, 'What would it be like if I wrote a story about boys and the way that boys really acted?' And so I tried to write a book about kids the way that kids really act," says King.

Executive producer and co-writer Benjamin Cavell says King resists the impulse to be overly involved in the process, instead identifying people he trusts to do right by the material.

"So much of the pleasure of King's writing is the access he gives his reader to the deepest, darkest, most private thoughts and dreams and desires

of his characters; the adaptor's task is to make all that external and cinematic," says Cavell.

Jack Bender has become something of a King whisperer, helping adapt both King's "Mr. Mercedes" and "The Outsider" to the screen. This time, he helped direct and executive produce "The Institute."

"I count my blessings to be in the position of someone he creatively trusts," says Bender. "He is a genius at tapping into the fears we all share of what's hiding under our beds. For me, both 'Mr. Mercedes' and 'The Institute' deal with those fears by focusing on the monsters inside of us human beings, not just outside in the world around us."

The first thing Bender and Cavell had to figure out was what form "The Institute" would take - a standalone film or a series.

"In the case of 'The Institute,' which was a 576-page novel packed with rich, fascinating characters that would need time to connect and be with each other, I didn't want to shrink it into a 110 minute movie that would've become the 'X-Kids,'" says Bender.

King says that while Hollywood has a seemingly insatiable appetite for his books, he hasn't gotten more cinematic as a writer - he always has been.

"I am one of the first writers that was actually influenced by television as well as movies. 'I grew up with the idea that things should be cinematic and that you should look at things in a visual way, a very sensory way.'"

King was also pleased that the adapters of "The Institute" made sure not to change the name of Barnes' small-town cop, Tim.

"I named him Tim because I read somewhere that no great thing was ever done by a man named Tim. And so I thought to myself, 'Yeah, well, OK, I'll call him Tim and he can do great things.'"

ular reality show's finale after old posts resurfaced that contained a slur against Asian people. She apologized for the resurfaced posts in a nearly five minute TikTok video Wednesday.

Friday's episode saw the elimination of Ace Greene and Chelley Bissainthe, setting the stage for the finale. Green and Bissainthe were the only couple to maintain a relationship throughout most of the show. With \$100,000 up for grabs for the winning couple. (AP)

MANCHESTER, England: Some Oasis fans weren't quite "mad fer it" when the band dedicated a song to Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola at a homecoming concert.

A smattering of boos followed Liam Gallagher dedicating "D'You Know What I Mean?" to "the greatest manager of all time, the one and only Pep Guardiola" - who was in attendance.

It occurred Friday night at Heaton Park during the band's first concert in Manchester in 16 years as part of its reunion tour.

Noel Gallagher then asked: "Who you booing?" The Brothers, who grew up in Manchester and are longtime City fans, have attended many games over the years as Guardiola has guided the club to six Premier League titles - among an array of other trophies.

Guardiola, who received some respectful applause as well, didn't seem to mind the razzing - likely from crosstown Man United fans at the show - and joined the rest of the 70,000-plus fans in singing "Don't Look Back in Anger." (AP)

Bold album

Cano broadens his music style

MEXICO CITY, July 13, (AP): **Natanael Cano** was not afraid to leave the terrain of corridos tumbados that made him famous to experiment with trap, reggaeton, Afrobeats and other urban genres in his new album.

Cano had tried out some of this genres in albums like "Nata-Kong" and "Trap Tumbado," but felt it was time for a radical turn. "Porque La Demora," which can be translated as "Why the Delay?" may answer questions about the gap between his previous album, 2023's "Nata Montana," with its first track, which has Cano rapping.

"I'm happy to make this music, change the rhythm a little, I think it's something fresher. And more than trying to show people that more can be done, I enjoyed it a lot, I really enjoyed making this music," he said in a recent interview in Mexico City.

Cano envisions "Porque La Demora" as the soundtrack to a party. The first song that paved the way for this album is "Como Es," a trap created with the producer EQ.

For those looking for a sample of his new sound, Cano recommends listening to "Polos Opuestos." Also noteworthy is "Mary Poppins" with Chilean star Floy Menor, one of the new generations of Latin urban artists.

"Floy Menor and I vibed very well," he said. "People are going to like it, I loved it."

With Eladio Carrión he recorded "Como Tony" and teamed up with Myke Towers and Ganggy for "El Juez." Victor Mendivil, a musician originally from the Mexican state of Sonora like Cano, is his guest for two songs: "Bellakita" and "Comida del Espacio."

Influences

Cano's past is not completely erased. He summoned another great of the corridos, Gabito Ballesteros, for "Perlas Negras," one of the album's standout songs with Afrobeat influences.

"The people who I showed it (to), loved it," she said. "No matter how old they were, they liked it a lot."

This week he premiered the video of the reggaeton "Hoy Nos Amanecio" with Badguychapo and Capo, recorded in Punta Mita.

"I went to suffer," he joked about the Mexican beach used as location.

Cano was recently announced as one of the artists who will perform at the Coca-Cola Flow Fest, a major Latin urban music festival held in Mexico City, and he will also be at the Baja Beach Fest, a more eclectic festival in northern Mexico.

"How delicious, everything came together," he said. "It's time to enjoy those stages a lot."

Cano called Mexico's push for artists not to perform songs that promote crime (and the prospect of US visa cancellations for regional Mexican music performers) a "smoke screen."

"Well, if it will help them solve what is happening, go ahead, we are not going to give it and if not, then let people express themselves in the ways they want, which in the end is not illegal," he said. "If there is no need, then don't do it, if there is no reason to do it."

Cano had protection from Mexican authorities after threats from criminals, but does not have a visa to appear in the United States after a traffic violation and attempted bribery in Sonora. Regardless, he is confident that he will eventually be able to perform stateside.

"It will be achieved, sooner or later. This is not going to last long. In other words, everything passes, and we are going to be there. Hopefully, we can sing to people for the first time."

Variety

LONDON: A two-week-long music festival in central London has cancelled its final night after **Jeff Lynne's** Electric Light Orchestra pulled out of the headline slot on Sunday.

Lynne, 77, who was billed to play alongside his band Sunday at the The BST Hyde Park festival, withdrew on Saturday on the advice of doctors as a result of what was termed a "systemic infection."

In a statement, the festival organizers said the event will "sadly be cancelled" and that ticket holders will be refunded and contacted directly by their ticket agent with further details.

Stevie Wonder will be taking to the London stage on Saturday evening in what will now be the festival's final event of 2025. This year's festival, which started on June 27, hosted the likes of Olivia Rodrigo, Van Morrison and Neil Young.

US rock band The Doobie Brothers and Steve Winwood were among those slated to perform on Sunday ahead of ELO's headline performance.

In an earlier statement, BST said Lynne was "heartbroken" to report that he could not perform.



Lynne

"Jeff has been battling a systemic infection and is currently in the care of a team of doctors who have advised him that performing is simply not possible at this time nor will he be able to reschedule," the statement read. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: "Love Island USA" will crown the winning couple of its seventh season Sunday evening, culminating a tumultuous summer full of explosive breakups and shock exits.

The finale will air on Peacock at 6 p.m. Pacific/9 p.m. Eastern, following a chart-topping run since the season premiered on June 3. The show brings young singles together in a remote villa in Fiji to explore connections with the ultimate goal of finding love.

The show, an American spinoff to the UK series, has shaken up reality TV, becoming Peacock's most watched entertainment series on mobile devices, according to NBC Universal.

This season follows breakout success from last summer, which captured mainstream attention. "Love Island: Beyond the Villa," a new series spinoff premiering Sunday, follows Season 6's main cast as they navigate relationships, life and newfound social media fame in Los Angeles.

This season has also been under fire as two contestants - Cierra Ortega and Yulissa Escobar - left the villa following resurfaced posts in which they used racial slurs.

Ortega, who was half of one of the season's strongest couples, left the villa just a week before the pop-

Beetle infestation threatens Hungarian cultural heritage

Hungary’s oldest library races to save 100,000 books

PANNONHALMA, Hungary, July 13, (AP): Tens of thousands of centuries-old books are being pulled from the shelves of a medieval abbey in Hungary in an effort to save them from a beetle infestation that could wipe out centuries of history.

The 1,000-year-old Pannonhalma Archabbey is a sprawling Benedictine monastery that is one of Hungary’s oldest centers of learning and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Restoration workers are removing about 100,000 handbound books from their shelves and carefully placing them in crates, the start of a disinfection process that aims to kill the tiny beetles burrowed into them.

The drugstore beetle, also known as the bread beetle, is often found among dried foodstuffs like grains, flour and spices. But they also are attracted to the gelatin and starch-based adhesives found in books.

They have been found in a section of the library housing around a quarter of the abbey’s 400,000 volumes.

“This is an advanced insect infestation which has been detected in several parts of the library, so the entire collection is classified as in-



In this photo provided by Pannonhalma Archabbey, a restorer shows an old book with holes in its pages due to a drugstore beetle infestation, at the Pannonhalma Archabbey’s library in Pannonhalma, Hungary, Thursday, July 3, as a beetle infestation threatens its ancient collection. (AP)

fectured and must be treated all at the same time,” said Zsófia Edit Hajdu, the chief restorer on the project.

“We’ve never encountered such a degree of infection before.”

The beetle invasion was first detected during a routine library cleaning. Employees noticed unusual layers of dust on the shelves and then saw that holes had been burrowed into some

of the book spines. Upon opening the volumes, burrow holes could be seen in the paper where the beetles chewed through.

The abbey at Pannonhalma was founded in 996, four years before the establishment of the Hungarian Kingdom. Sitting upon a tall hill in northwestern Hungary, the abbey houses the country’s oldest collection of books, as well as many of its earliest and most important written records.

For over 1,000 years, the abbey has been among the most prominent religious and cultural sites in Hungary and all of Central Europe, surviving centuries of wars and foreign incursions such as the Ottoman invasion and occupation of Hungary in the 16th century.

Ilona Ásványi, director of the Pannonhalma Archabbey library, said she is “humbled” by the historical and cultural treasures the collection holds whenever she enters.

“It is dizzying to think that there was a library here a thousand years ago, and that we are the keepers of the first book catalogue in Hungary,” she said.

Among the library’s most outstanding works are 19 codices, including a complete Bible from the 13th century. It also houses several hundred manuscripts predating the invention of the printing press in the mid-15th century and tens of thousands of books from the 16th century.

While the oldest and rarest prints and books are stored separately and have not been infected, Ásványi said any damage to the collection represents a blow to cultural, historical and religious heritage.

“When I see a book chewed up by a beetle or infected in any other way, I feel that no matter how many copies are published and how replaceable the book is, a piece of culture has been lost,” she said.

To kill the beetles, the crates of books are being placed into tall, hermetically sealed plastic sacks from which all oxygen is removed. After six weeks in the pure nitrogen environment, the abbey hopes all the beetles will be destroyed.

Before being reshelfed, each book will be individually inspected and vacuumed. Any book damaged by the pests will be set aside for later restoration work.

The abbey, which hopes to reopen the library at the beginning of next year, believes the effects of climate change played a role in spurring the beetle infestation as average temperatures rise rapidly in Hungary.

Hajdu, the chief restorer, said higher temperatures have allowed the beetles to undergo several more development cycles annually than they could in cooler weather.

“Higher temperatures are favorable for the life of insects,” she said. “So far we’ve mostly dealt with mold damage in both depositories and in open collections. But now I think more and more insect infestations will appear due to global warming.”

The library’s director said life in a Benedictine abbey is governed by a set of rules in use for nearly 15 centuries, a code that obliges them to do everything possible to save its vast collection.

“It says in the Rule of Saint Benedict that all the property of the monastery should be considered as of the same value as the sacred vessel of the altar,” Ásványi said. “I feel the responsibility of what this preservation and conservation really means.”

Film

‘Dogs Tonight’ marks passion project for actress-director

Davidtz draws on African roots to adapt memoir

LOS ANGELES, July 13, (AP): In 1974, when it seemed as though everyone was leaving South Africa, Embeth Davidtz’s family was going back.

Davidtz, a familiar presence in films and television for over 30 years with memorable roles in everything from “Schindler’s List” to “Matilda,” was born in the United States to white, South African parents. When she was 8, they decided to return during a time of upheaval.

Although the transition from “innocent New Jersey” was hard, it was also a life-making, character- and imagination-building experience that she’s still processing to this day. It’s where she grew up. It’s where she began acting. And it’s where she’d return decades later to direct her first film, “Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight,” a poetic and deeply personal adaptation of Alexandra Fuller’s memoir about growing up during the Bush War in Zimbabwe, which was then Rhodesia.

The film, which was widely praised at the Telluride and Toronto Film Festivals for its deft handling of complex themes and for the discovery of young newcomer Lexi Venter, opened Friday in limited release and expands nationwide July 18.

“The sun rises and sets on her writing,” Davidtz said in an interview with The Associated Press. “If anything works, it’s because of that memoir.”

Like so many people, especially those who lived in Africa in the 1970s and ‘80s, Davidtz devoured the book when it came out in 2001. But it would take more than 15 years to start seriously thinking about a film. Davidtz was refocusing after a little hiatus from acting: She’d survived breast cancer, raised children and was reflecting on parts of the book she loved, like Fuller’s mother, a complex figure who struggled with trauma, alcohol and mental health. Davidtz, who is now 59, could have hardly predicted that this journey would lead to her writing, directing and producing her first feature as well.

Imperative

“It felt like an imperative. It felt like a call,” she said. “Once I dug my teeth into this, I felt like I couldn’t not tell it.”

The adaptation was slow-going but rewarding as Davidtz sprinkled some of her own stories and recollections in and the focus and structure of the story started to reveal itself. A pivotal revelation came four years in: It had to be from the child’s point of view.

“I wasn’t thinking about directing it, but at the end, I thought, you know what? I know what kind of shots I like. I know what sort of films I like. I could shoot this so simply,” she said. “I need to take control of this because if I give it away to someone else, they’re not going to tell the story that I’m trying to tell.”

Davidtz was inspired by Terrence Malick films like “Badlands” and “Days of Heaven,” and the young girls’ narrations, as well as Steven Spielberg’s “Empire of the Sun,” in which the end of a colonial regime is seen through the eyes of a young, white boy.



Embeth Davidtz poses for a portrait on Thursday, June 26, 2025, in West Hollywood, Calif. (AP)

ven Spielberg’s “Empire of the Sun,” in which the end of a colonial regime is seen through the eyes of a young, white boy.

“People say, ‘Oh, voiceover is so lazy,’”

Davidtz said. “But with a child you hear the quirks, you hear the offbeat, you hear what is wrong and the point of view that is skewed.”

To play Bobo, the 8-year-old center of the film, Davidtz did not want a polished child actor. She wanted a real kid - a wild, little barefoot child, unspoiled and unsophisticated, who could maybe ride a motorbike. They eventually resorted to a Facebook post which led them to Venter, age 7.

“It was such a project of love and torture,” she said. “It was so very hard to direct a 7-year-old who doesn’t act.”

Venter wasn’t given a script. Davidtz instead played games, would give her some lines to say and then pour through the footage to find the most unfiltered moments to sprinkle into the film with the overlaying voiceover - a yawn, the picking of a wedge, the things kids just do.

Perfect

“I got a few gray hairs from that, but I love her. She’s perfect,” Davidtz said. “I worry that I have brought her into the world in a way that, cinematically, people will seek her out. I want her to be left to be the wild little creature that she is.”

Filming took place in South Africa as Zimbabwe was too unstable and didn’t have the infrastructure for film. And Davidtz filled the production with an entirely South African crew and cast, including Zikhona Bali as Sarah, who works for Bobo’s family. Authenticity was paramount to Davidtz, from the music to the props and costumes, many of which she sourced herself, including a tattered silk robe she found on eBay.

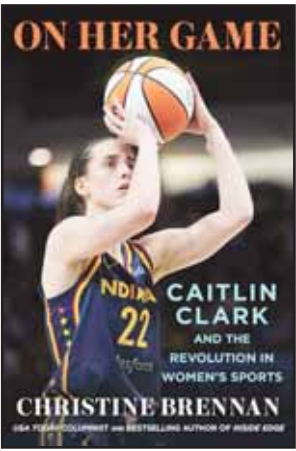
“I remember someone saying, why don’t you cast Morgan Freeman and bring him out. I said, ‘No, it’s got to be the real thing. It’s got to be the real people,’” she said. “Everyone carries the burden of what was there.”

She’s acutely aware that South Africa is not Zimbabwe and the dismantling of white rule differed in each, but there are similarities, too. It allowed her to ask questions about what happens to children surrounded by violence and generational racism through Bobo’s lens. Though she worried about the optics of telling the story from a white child’s point of view, she also didn’t waver.

“That’s what I remember and that’s what I saw,” she said. “There’s a way of informing and telling what you saw that can teach. My connection to my past, as risky as it was, there was nothing to be lost.”

Early audiences seem to be receiving it the way she hoped. For Davidtz, it hardly matters what happens now - awards, box office, whatever.

“I don’t think I was ever the wisest person about what I would choose material-wise or business-wise,” she said. “But it’s so great that I, at almost 60, got this chance to do this. Whatever ends up happening, it got made. That’s a miracle.”



This cover image released by Scribner shows ‘On Her Game: Caitlin Clark and the Revolution in Women’s Sports’ by Christine Brennan. (AP)

WNBA star

‘Her Game’ dives into Clark effect

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP): “On Her Game: Caitlin Clark and the Revolution in Women’s Sports,” the title of USA Today columnist Christine Brennan’s new book about the WNBA star, is doing a lot of work.

On one hand, it’s about the game, right? Nobody can deny Caitlin Clark’s talent on a basketball court, where her rookie season stats with the Indiana Fever were eye-popping: 19.2 points, 8.4 assists and 5.7 rebounds per game while leading the WNBA in assists and 3-pointers made. On the other hand, why is Caitlin Clark the poster child for a “Revolution in Women’s Sports?” The WNBA’s been around since 1997 and plenty of female athletes are or were the very best at what they do, inspiring millions of young women to play all sorts of sports - from Serena Williams to Simone Biles to Lindsey Vonn.

But there’s something more to the Caitlin Clark phenomenon, and it’s that something that Brennan’s reporter instincts sensed early, when Clark was filling the Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City for every home game, well before her remarkable first year in the WNBA.

Jealousy

“What was going on?” writes Brennan in her introduction. “Was this because Clark is white and straight in a league that is 74% Black or mixed-race, with a sizable gay population?... Was it because of her eight-year \$28 million Nike shoe deal?... Was it jealousy? Was it all of the above?”

Hoping to find answers or at least insights into those questions, Brennan convinced her editor to let her cover six straight weeks of Clark’s first WNBA season, giving “On Her Game” a comprehensive feel, except for one thing: Clark never sat down for a one-on-one interview with Brennan. She did, however, answer every question Brennan posed at press conferences, and they are widely quoted throughout the book, along with all sorts of other Clark content like TV appearances and social media posts as well as interviews Brennan conducted with other WNBA players, coaches and various experts.

Brennan’s presence at Fever games, home and away, and her intense focus on Clark as a singular story became a story of its own in September 2024, when Brennan asked follow-up questions of Dijonai Carrington, a Phoenix Sun player whose fingers made contact with Clark’s eye during a playoff game. Brennan asked Carrington if there was anything intentional about it, she said no, and days later the WNBA Players Association called for Brennan’s media credential to be revoked for “unprofessionalism.”

Ten months later, it’s a good bet only the most diehard sports journalism fans will care about that controversy. Brennan makes it very clear how she feels about it. “I was doing my job,” she writes.

Rare item could sell for up to \$4m at auction

Biggest piece of Mars on Earth goes up for sale in New York

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP): For sale: A 54-pound (25-kilogram) rock. Estimated auction price: \$2 million to \$4 million. Why so expensive? It’s the largest piece of Mars ever found on Earth.

Sotheby’s in New York will be auctioning what’s known as NWA 16788 on Wednesday as part of a natural history-themed sale that also includes a juvenile Ceratosaurus dinosaur skeleton that’s more than 6 feet (2 meters) tall and nearly 11 feet (3 meters) long.

According to the auction house, the meteorite is believed to have been blown off the surface of Mars by a massive asteroid strike before traveling 140 million miles (225 million kilometers) to Earth, where it crashed into the Sahara. A meteorite hunter found it in Niger in November 2023, Sotheby’s says.

The red, brown and gray hunk is about 70% larger than the next largest piece of Mars found on Earth and represents nearly 7% of all the Martian material currently on this planet, Sotheby’s says. It measures nearly 15 inches by 11 inches by 6 inches (375 millimeters by 279 millimeters by 152 millimeters).

“This Martian meteorite is the largest piece of Mars we have ever found by a long shot,” Cassandra Hatton, vice chairman for science and natural history at Sotheby’s, said in an interview. “So it’s more than double the size of what we previously thought was the largest piece of Mars.”

It is also a rare find. There are only 400 Martian meteorites out of the more than 77,000 officially recognized meteorites found on Earth, Sotheby’s says.

Hatton said a small piece of the red planet remnant was removed and sent to a specialized lab that confirmed it is from Mars. It was



A Martian meteorite, weighing 54.388 lbs. (24.67 kg), said to be the largest piece of Mars on Earth, estimated at \$2 - 4 million, is displayed at Sotheby’s, in New York, Wednesday, July 9, part of their Geek Week auction, July 16, 2025. (AP)

compared with the distinct chemical composition of Martian meteorites discovered during the Viking space probe that landed on Mars in 1976, she said.

The examination found that it is an “olivine-microgabbroic shergottite,” a type of Martian rock formed from the slow cooling of

Martian magma. It has a course-grained texture and contains the minerals pyroxene and olivine, Sotheby’s says.

It also has a glassy surface, likely due to the high heat that burned it when it fell through Earth’s atmosphere, Hatton said. “So that was their first clue that this wasn’t just some big rock on the ground,” she said.

The meteorite previously was on exhibit at the Italian Space Agency in Rome. Sotheby’s did not disclose the owner.

It’s not clear exactly when the meteorite hit Earth, but testing shows it probably happened in recent years, Sotheby’s said.

The juvenile Ceratosaurus nasicornis skeleton was found in 1996 near Laramie, Wyoming, at Bone Cabin Quarry, a gold mine for dinosaur bones. Specialists assembled nearly 140 fossil bones with some sculpted materials to recreate the skeleton and mounted it so it’s ready to exhibit, Sotheby’s says.

The skeleton is believed to be from the late Jurassic period, about 150 million years ago, Sotheby’s says. Its auction estimate is \$4 million to \$6 million.

Ceratosaurus dinosaurs were bipeds with short arms that appear similar to the Tyrannosaurus rex, but smaller. Ceratosaurus dinosaurs could grow up to 25 feet (7.6 meters) long, while the Tyrannosaurus rex could be 40 feet (12 meters) long.

The skeleton was acquired last year by Fossilologic, a Utah-based fossil preparation and mounting company.

Wednesday’s auction is part of Sotheby’s Geek Week 2025 and features 122 items, including other meteorites, fossils and gem-quality minerals.

Treatable weakness in blood vessels may drive muscle weakness

New study offers hope for muscle loss in cancer patients

By Jalees Rehman
University of Illinois Chicago

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

Tumors can destroy the blood vessels of muscles even when the muscles are nowhere close to the tumor. That is the key finding of a new study that my colleagues and I recently published in the journal Nature Cancer.

Muscle loss in cancer patients is a major health problem, but the exact causes of how precisely tumors affect muscles remain an active area of research.

Scientists in my lab were curious whether one explanation for the muscle loss in cancer patients could be that the cancer impairs the blood vessels that are necessary to supply nutrients and oxygen to muscles. Healthy blood vessels ensure that blood containing oxygen and nutrients is transported from the heart to all tissues and organs in the body, and then circulates back to the heart. Unhealthy blood vessels lose the ability to circulate sufficient blood and develop leaks, with nutrients seeping into the tissue prematurely and thereby cutting off the supply of nutrients to tissues that are further downstream.

To tackle this question, my colleagues and I worked with several other scientific research teams with expertise in advanced microscopy, cancer research and metabolism. We used animal models to study several kinds of tumors - lung can-

cer, skin cancer, colon cancer and pancreatic cancer. We consistently observed that the blood vessels in the muscles became fewer and leakier even before the muscle weakness set in.

We also found that tumors release a protein called Activin-A, which acts on blood vessels to cause the leakiness and, ultimately, loss of blood vessels in the muscle. When we used a gene therapy to restore blood vessel health by counteracting the effects of Activin-A, we were able to prevent the muscle loss.

So we examined the muscles of patients who had passed away because of cancer and found that the muscles of cancer patients contained fewer blood vessels than expected.

Millions of cancer survivors struggle with muscle weakness, which can be so profound that they may have difficulties walking up a couple of flights of stairs or going shopping for groceries on their own.

Severe muscle weakness and muscle loss during cancer is called cancer cachexia, which occurs in up to 80% of patients with advanced cancer.

Recent research indicates that cachexia is far more common among cancer patients than previously suspected, with approximately half the patients who see their cancer doctor for the first time already showing signs of muscle weakness.

Importantly, cachexia can persist even after the cancer is successfully treated and cured. This can have a devastating impact on the quality of life for cancer survivors.

Our discovery that the loss of blood vessel function in the muscles occurs early

on during the progression of the cancer suggests that fixing blood vessels in cancer patients and cancer survivors could be a new way to prevent or reverse cachexia.

The reasons for the muscle loss in cancer are complicated and involve poor nutrition due to loss of appetite and inflammation, which are initially caused by the tumor but persist even when the tumor is removed.

There are currently no treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration for cachexia, but new therapies are on the horizon.

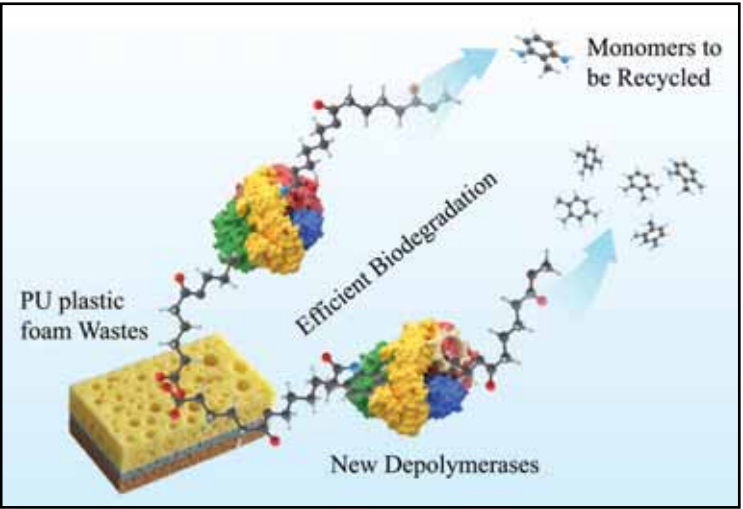
One such therapy is an antibody drug that targets the molecule GDF-15, a protein that is thought to suppress appetite.

Other studies are using a combination of targeted nutrition and exercise programs to help patients with cancer cachexia regain muscle mass and muscle strength.

All these studies suggest that we will need a combination of approaches to enhance exercise, nutrition, appetite, muscle regeneration and - as we propose - blood vessel health.

We are now evaluating drugs and exercise programs that are known to improve blood vessel health. Repurposing these treatments that are traditionally designed for cardiovascular patients could be a rapid way to help cancer patients regain muscle strength.

We hope that our work highlights how important it is for cancer patients to receive comprehensive medical care, which includes improving cardiovascular health and overall quality of life. (AP)



This schematic diagram shows a new variant of polyurethane (PU) plastic-degrading enzyme developed by a Chinese research team degrading the PU plastic foam wastes. (Xinhua)

Plastic degradation improved

China yields net-negative emissions with new tech

BEIJING, July 13, (Xinhua): Chinese researchers have developed an innovative electrified catalysis strategy that removes more greenhouse gases than it generates, achieving net-negative emissions, according to a research article published in the journal Science Advances on Saturday.

Carbon dioxide and methane are the two major greenhouse gases caused by human beings. Reducing and even eliminating these gases from the atmosphere has become a significant scientific priority.

Previously, the traditional method of carbon dioxide and methane removal was achieved through a process known as dry reforming of methane (DRM) which operated at high temperatures exceeding 800 degrees Celsius and was typically powered by fossil fuels.

The carbon dioxide released during the process often outweighed the amount converted, undermining efforts to reduce the emissions and mitigate climate change.

A research team from the Ningbo Institute of Materials Technology and Engineering (NIMTE) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the University of Jinan has developed a novel electrified catalysis strategy for DRM, which they termed electrified DRM (e-DRM).

In the study, the e-DRM process converted the carbon dioxide and methane into syngas of hydrogen and carbon monoxide with an impressive energy utilization rate of 80 percent.

This innovative approach achieved thermodynamic equilibrium conversion and maintains stability for over 120 hours, the research article noted.

Using renewable electricity from

sources such as wind, solar, hydropower, and nuclear energy, this process can convert more carbon dioxide than those was emitted during electricity generation.

This breakthrough potentially advances the transition of DRM from laboratory research to commercial application, according to the NIMTE.

Plastic waste: A Chinese research team has made a promising advancement in managing waste plastic and promoting recycling, which remain a global challenge.

Researchers from the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, recently developed a new variant of polyurethane (PU) plastic-degrading enzyme, achieving a more than tenfold increase in PU plastic degradation efficiency.

Biological degradation methods, which employ enzymes to accelerate chemical reactions, are a key focus in international plastic waste research. These methods are preferred over traditional chemical degradation due to their lower energy consumption and reduced pollution.

However, PU plastic -- commonly used in insulation foam, car seat cushions and other daily products -- are more difficult to degrade through biological methods due to their complex chemical bonds.

Based on cooperative research with German scientists about the structure-function relationship of PU plastic-degrading enzymes, the Chinese researchers identified a new PU depolymerase from nature and further engineered its structure to create a variant with significantly enhanced performance.

Vaccination

Yemen starts anti-polio drive

ADEN, Yemen, July 13, (Xinhua): Yemen's internationally-recognized government launched a three-day polio vaccination campaign on Saturday, as the war-ravaged country is battling a resurgence of the disease, according to the state-run Saba news agency.

Nearly 7,000 health teams will administer oral vaccines door-to-door or at health facilities, focusing on 120 high-risk districts.

The drive, targeting 1.35 million children across 12 provinces under the government's control, came as data from the World Health Organization and UNICEF showed that 282 variant polio cases have been reported in the country since 2021, 98 percent of which in children under the age of 5, with national polio immunization coverage dropping to 46 percent in 2023 amid war-disrupted healthcare.

"Yemen remains at high risk for poliovirus outbreaks due to protracted conflict, weakened health systems and low routine immunization coverage," said Acting WHO Representative in Yemen Ferima Coulibaly-Zerbo in a joint statement issued by the WHO and UNICEF.

"With poliovirus continuing to circulate and cases confirmed in 2025, these campaigns are essential to interrupt transmission and protect every child from the debilitating effects of polio," she said.

Malnutrition: The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Friday that the number of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Sudan's North Darfur region has doubled as a result of the country's ongoing military conflict.

In a statement, UNICEF reported a 46 percent increase in the number of children receiving treatment for SAM across Sudan's five Darfur states between January and May 2025, compared to the same period in 2024.

"In North Darfur alone, more than 40,000 children were admitted for treatment for SAM in the first five months of the year -- double the number for the same period last year," according to the statement.

Africa's expertise poised to aid the world

US aid cuts halt HIV vaccine study in South Africa, with global impact

JOHANNESBURG, July 13, (AP): Just a week had remained before scientists in South Africa were to begin clinical trials of an HIV vaccine, and hopes were high for another step toward limiting one of history's deadliest pandemics. Then the email arrived.

Stop all work, it said. The United States under the Trump administration was withdrawing all its funding.

The news devastated the researchers, who live and work in a region where more people live with HIV than anywhere else in the world. Their research project, called BRILLIANT, was meant to be the latest to draw on the region's genetic diversity and deep expertise in the hope of benefiting people everywhere.

But the \$46 million from the US for the project was disappearing, part of the dismantling of foreign aid by the world's biggest donor earlier this year as President Donald Trump announced a focus on priorities at home.

South Africa has been hit especially hard because of Trump's baseless claims about the targeting of the country's white Afrikaner minority. The country had been receiving about \$400 million a year via USAID and the HIV-focused PEPFAR.

Now that's gone.

Glenda Grey, who heads the Brilliant program, said the African continent has been vital to the development of HIV medication, and the US cuts threaten its capability to do such work in the future.

Significant advances have included clinical trials for lenacapavir, the world's only twice-a-year shot to prevent HIV, recently approved for use



Laboratory technician Nozipho Mlotshwa works on samples at the Wits laboratory Antiviral Gene Therapy Research Unit, at University of the Witwatersrand Medical School, in Johannesburg, South Africa, May 22, 2025. (AP)

by the US Food and Drug Administration. One study to show its efficacy involved young South Africans.

"We do the trials better, faster and cheaper than anywhere else in the world, and so without South Africa as part of these programs, the world, in my opinion, is much poorer," Gray said.

She noted that during the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic, South Africa played a crucial role by testing the Johnson & Johnson and Novavax vaccines, and South African scientists' genomic surveillance led to the identification of an important variant.

A team of researchers at the University of the Witwatersrand has been part of the unit developing the HIV vaccines for the trials.

Inside the Wits laboratory, technician Nozipho Mlotshwa was among the young people in white gowns working on samples, but she may soon be out of a job.

Her position is grant-funded. She uses her salary to support her family and fund her studies in a country where youth unemployment hovers around 46%.

"It's very sad and devastating, honestly," she said of the US cuts and overall uncertainty. "We'll also miss out collaborating with other scientists across the continent."

New tech tracks brain drug delivery in real time

SYDNEY, July 13, (Xinhua): Scientists in Australia have developed an innovative device that integrates ultrasound and advanced imaging to enhance the safe delivery of drugs into the brain.

The technology could transform treatments of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, where effective drug delivery to targeted brain regions remains a major challenge, said researchers at Australia's University of Queensland (UQ).

The technology allows real-time imaging of brain cells after ultrasound, enabling targeted drug delivery across the blood-brain barrier

to allow researchers to identify and map changes in treated cells and observe how they respond and recover, according to a UQ statement released on Friday.

The blood-brain barrier blocks most drugs from entering the brain, but the device uses sonoporation -- ultrasound-activated microbubbles -- to briefly open tiny pores, allowing drug delivery to brain tissue, said the study's lead author Pranesh Padmanabhan.

"The goal is really to improve the rate of uptake of drugs into the brain, as currently only about 1-2 percent of small molecule drugs actually

reach it," said Padmanabhan from UQ's School of Biomedical Sciences and Queensland Brain Institute.

The custom-built system, developed over five years, enables scientists to track cellular changes at the single-cell and molecule level after ultrasound, providing insights to optimize protocols for safer and more effective drug delivery to the brain, said the study published in the Journal of Controlled Release.

Beyond neurology, the technology could offer new possibilities for sonoporation-based therapies in fields like cardiology and oncology, researchers said.

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Messi extends historic streak as Miami stops Nashville

Columbus digs out of early hole

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., July 13, (AP): Lionel Messi extended his historic streak to five straight multi-goal games, and Inter Miami snapped Nashville SC's 15-match unbeaten streak with a 2-1 win on Saturday night.

Miami (11-3-5) won its fifth straight match and moved to fifth in the Supporter's Shield standings as it aims to win the title for the second-straight season.

Messi entered Saturday's match as the only player in Major League Soccer history with four straight multi-goal games after scoring two in Miami's win over the New England Revolution on Wednesday.

And he wasn't done. Messi opened the scoring Saturday on a free kick in the 17th minute. Then after Nashville tied it early in the second half, Messi put his side back on top with a steal and score in the 62nd.

Messi now has 16 goals in 16 MLS matches this season, which is tied with Nashville's Sam Surridge (16 goals in 21 matches) for most in the league.



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi (10) reacts after scoring a goal during the first half of an MLS soccer match against Nashville SC in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (AP)

On his first goal, Messi bent a low free kick through Nashville's wall of defenders - a spectacular kick from the nine-time Ballon d'Or winner that gave him 55 goals in 66 Inter Miami matches.

Hany Mukhtar scored the equalizer early in the second half. Andy Najar sent a cross into the box that Mukhtar headed past Oscar Ustari to tie the match in the 49th.

Messi then scored with ease after capitalizing on a gaffe by Nashville goalkeeper Joe Willis, who mistakenly made a pass directly to Messi for the go-ahead score.

Columbus rallied from an early two-goal deficit to defeat Cincinnati 4-2, with Taha Habroune scoring the final goal in second-half stoppage time.

After trailing 2-0 in the first five minutes, Columbus tied it late in the first half and took a 3-2 lead with an own goal by Cincinnati's Miles Robinson who was trying to defend a cross by Columbus. Habroune wrapped it up when he scored on a right-footed shot from the center of the box in the third minute of second-half stoppage time.

Tani Oluwaseyi had a goal and two assists, Anthony Markanich scored a goal for the third consecutive game and Minnesota United beat the San Jose Earthquakes 4-1.

Minnesota (11-4-7), which also beat the Earthquakes 1-0 on the road on March 8, is unbeaten in four straight.

Oluwaseyi redirected a header into the net from point-blank range to open the scoring in the third minute.

Marco Reus and Diego Fagúndez scored goals and L.A. Galaxy defeated D.C. United 2-1.

Reus scored in the 23rd minute with a right-footed shot from the right side of the box to the lower left-central zone and the Galaxy carried the 1-0 advantage into the halftime break.

LA outshot United 9-3 overall and 2-0 on goal in the first half. For the game, LA outshot United 13-11 overall and 5-3 on goal.

Fagúndez made it 2-0 for the Galaxy early in the second half when he scored with from the center of the box to the bottom left corner.



Vancouver Whitecaps midfielder Sebastian Berhalter, left, controls the ball with Colorado Rapids midfielder Cole Bassett in pursuit in the first half of an MLS soccer match in Commerce City, Colo. (AP)

Idan Toklomati and Kerwin Vargas each scored a goal to help Charlotte FC beat New York City FC 2-0 to snap a four-game winless streak.

Kristijan Kahlina had three saves for Charlotte (9-11-2).

Idan Toklomati tapped in a first-touch shot - off a cross played by Pep Biel - from point-blank range to give Charlotte a 1-0 lead in the 14th minute.

Toklomati has three goals in the last four games.

Anders Dreyer scored two goals to help San Diego FC beat the Chicago Fire 2-1.

San Diego's Pablo Sisniega made his first start of the season and had three saves.

Jordan Morris, Albert Rusnák and Jesús Ferreira each scored a goal to

help the Seattle Sounders beat Sport-ing Kansas City 3-2.

Seattle (9-6-6) took a 1-0 lead in the 15th minute when Morris scored his first goal since March 8 with a header from the center of the box to the middle-left zone. Paul Rothrock assisted.

Calvin Harris had a goal and an assist and the Colorado Rapids defeated the Vancouver Whitecaps 3-0.

Colorado's Zack Steffen made two saves for the clean sheet.

Harris gave Colorado a 1-0 lead in the 12th minute when he scored with a right-footed shot from the center of the box to the bottom right corner.

Indiana Vassilev and Bruno Damiani scored in the first half and the Philadelphia Union went on to defeat the New York Red Bulls 2-0.

Reese and Cardoso record double-doubles in Sky win

Stevenson defends title

Wilson, Young combine for 64 as Las Vegas holds off Golden State

LAS VEGAS, July 13, (AP): A'ja Wilson scored 34 points, Jackie Young added 30, including her team's final 10 points and the Las Vegas Aces beat the Golden State Valkyries 104-102.

The score was tied at 94 with 1:49 remaining before Young scored on the next five possessions for Las Vegas. She hit a mid-range pullup jumper for a two-point lead and made a driving layup to make it 98-94. She made two free throws on each of the Aces' next three possessions to seal the win.

While Young was in control on the Aces' offensive end, the Valkyries kept it close with a 3-pointer by Cecilia Zandalasini with 17 seconds left and another by Tiffany Hayes with 7 seconds left, making it 102-100.

Young's final pair of free throws made it 104-100 and the Valkyries' Kayla Thornton made a long two-pointer for the final score.

Young, an 89% free-throw shooter coming in, was 11-for-11 from the line. The Aces made 30 of 35 as a team.

Wilson, who injured her wrist earlier in the week, returned to the lineup and made 12 of 16 shots to go with 9 of 12 free throws. She added 16 rebounds. Jewell Loyd scored 15 points.

All five Golden State starters scored in double figures, led by Hayes and Janelle Salaun with 16 points each. Temi Fagbenle scored 13, Veronica Burton 11 and Thornton 10. Zandalasini scored 12 off the bench.

It was the expansion Valkyries' first trip to Las Vegas. Golden State head coach Natalie Nakase was an Aces assistant in their championship seasons of 2022 and 2023.

The Valkyries (10-10) had won five of eight coming in. The Aces (10-11) had lost three of their last four.

Ariel Atkins scored 27 points, Angel Reese and Kamilla Cardoso each had a double-double, and the Chicago Sky beat the Minnesota Lynx 87-81.

Reese had 19 points and 11 rebounds - her eighth consecutive double-double and 14th of the season - and Cardoso finished with 17 points



Las Vegas Aces center A'ja Wilson (22) loses control of the ball after being fouled by Golden State Valkyries guard Veronica Burton, left, during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Las Vegas. (AP)

and a career-high 15 rebounds. Rachel Banham hit three 3-pointers and finished with 12 points for the Sky.

Courtney Williams hit two free throws to trim Minnesota's deficit to 75-73 before Cardoso made two foul shots, and Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve was called for a technical foul. Banham hit the ensuing free throw, and Michaela Onyenwere added a pull-up jumper along the baseline to make

it 80-73 with five minutes left in the game.

Napheesa Collier hit a 3 that made it 82-79 with 2:42 to play, but Atkins answered with a pull-up jumper, and the Lynx got no closer.

Chicago (7-13), which is 1-10 this season against teams with a .500 or better record, has won back-to-back games for just the second time this season.

Collier had 26 points, eight re-

bounds, five assists, three steals, and three blocks for the Lynx. Kayla McBride added 17 points, and Williams scored 13 - the duo combined to make 11 of 32 (34%) from the field.

Collier missed the first of two free throws late in the third quarter to break her franchise-record string of 54 consecutive made free throws.

Minnesota (18-4) has lost two of three for the first time this season.

Sheeraz stops Berlanga

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP): Hamzah Sheeraz was the star of boxing's first show at the home of the U.S. Open tennis tournament.

Sheeraz punctuated the card by stopping Edgar Berlanga in the fifth round Saturday night, making a smashing debut in his first time fighting in the U.S.

"Massive performance from myself," Sheeraz said.

The English fighter moved up in weight for his first fight at super middleweight and showed he has plenty of power for it, dropping Berlanga twice in the fourth round and then pouncing quickly to start the fifth before referee David Fields stopped the fight.

Sheeraz (22-0-1, 18 KOs) has been touted as a potential opponent for 168-pound champion Canelo Alvarez and would not only deserve it but have a chance to win if he looked as good as he did against Berlanga (23-2), who went the distance against Alvarez in his only previous loss.

In the co-main event, Shakur Stevenson remained undefeated and defended his WBC lightweight title with a dominant performance, beating William Zepeda by unanimous decision.

Berlanga had boasted that he would have an easy night. But it sure got tough in the fourth round, when Sheeraz dropped him flat on his back. Berlanga raised his arms in the air, perhaps trying to show he wasn't hurt, but Sheeraz knocked him down a second time in the corner before the bell sounded to end the round.

But it didn't take long once the fifth started, as a three-punch combination knocked Berlanga off balance and one of his gloves touched the canvas as Fields waved it off.

"Today there was nothing stopping me," Sheeraz said.



Sheeraz

Stevenson (24-0) won 119-109 on one card and 118-110 on the other two just before Berlanga and Sheeraz fought in the final bout of the night in Louis Armstrong Stadium, the No. 2 venue at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center.

But it was a main event-level performance from the 2016 Olympic silver medalist and the first wide victory of the night after the previous two bouts were close right to the finish.

Zepeda (33-1) landed a left hand shortly after the opening bell that drew a smile from the champion, and he was able to get inside a number of times to unload a series of shots at Stevenson. But he was often powerless to stop the flurries that were coming back at him from Stevenson's hand speed that is up at the top of boxing.

The Ring Magazine held its second fight card in New York after staging one in Times Square in May. Tickets weren't sold then and just a few hundred people were able to see it, creating an atmosphere where the scene was impressive but the sounds were almost non-existent, leaving fighters to say it felt like a sparring session.

This time, seats were sold and many were occupied well into the second deck of the 14,000-seat stadium, which had its retractable roof closed to create comfortable conditions on a humid day.

"Who would have thought of putting boxing here?" promoter Frank Warren said. "The noise, it just seemed to be amplified. I'm sure this is going to be used on many many occasions now for boxing besides tennis."

The fans saw good action early in a brilliant performance from Stevenson, who has been criticized at times for a style that seems too dependent on avoiding pain and not dishing it out.

But he seemed happy to trade Saturday and most times came out ahead when he did.

"At the end of the day, I told you all, whatever it takes to get the job done," Stevenson said. "I got dog in me. I'm not a puppy. I'm not a poodle, I'm a tough guy, so I got dog in me."

Belgrano goes top of league, Di Maria scores on comeback

BUENOS AIRES, July 13, (Xinhua): Belgrano moved to the top of Argentina's Primera Division Clausura standings with a 3-0 away win over Huracan in their season opener.

Franco Jara and Lucas Zelarayan netted either side of halftime before Lucas Passerini completed the rout with a stoppage-time penalty.

Despite having 67 percent of the possession, Huracan rarely threatened in attack and only managed one shot on goal.

"We defended a little low at times but we had them under control and we know that at some point we were going to break them," Belgrano manager Ricardo Zie-linski said.

"The idea was to have more of the ball and while there are areas where we need to improve, it was a good collective performance. The most important thing is that we were able to overcome a good opponent." Meanwhile, Angel Di Maria scored on his return to Argentine football as Rosario Central were held to a 1-1 home draw with 10-man Godoy Cruz.

Di Maria, who rejoined his boyhood club during the week, gave Rosario Central the lead by converting a 78th-minute penalty before limping off in the 89th minute with an apparent ankle injury.

The visitors were reduced to 10 men in the 91st minute when Daniel Barrea was shown a second yellow card for a bad challenge.

Despite the numerical disadvantage, the Mendoza outfit equalized through Vicente Poggi's 95th-minute strike.

Elsewhere in Argentina's top flight on Saturday, Barracas Central won 1-0 at Racing Club and Instituto Cordoba prevailed 1-0 at Gimnasia.

Chuqin outlasts Lebrun, Lin falls to Harimoto

WASHINGTON, July 13, (Xinhua): China's world champion Wang Chuqin edged out France's Felix Lebrun in full sets while world top-ranked Chinese Lin Shidong fell to Japan's Tomokazu Harimoto in the men's singles semifinals of the WTT US Smash in Las Vegas.

Wang, world No. 2, cashed in on his experience and determination at clutch moments to outlast the sixth-seeded Frenchman 11-9, 5-11, 11-6, 7-11, 12-10, 9-11, 11-9.

"This is the closest match that I have ever played against Felix," said Wang. "We haven't met for a year, and he has raised his game to a new level. He is now able to beat any top players in the world. I feel lucky to emerge as a winner. As a matter of fact, there is no loser in this game." Harimoto, widely tipped as a top threat to Chinese men, started well, stumbled mid-game and fought back

in the end, winning over the 20-year-old Chinese 11-7, 11-9, 10-12, 9-11, 7-11, 11-5, 11-6.

Lin has faltered in big events despite the top ranking, losing his World Cup game to eventual winner Hugo Calderano of Brazil and falling to teammate Liang Jinkun in the Doha World Championships.

In the women's singles action, Chinese Chen Yi continued her giant-killing spree, defeating more favored teammate Kuai Man to reach her first Smash final.

The unseeded 20-year-old from the southeastern province of Zhejiang, who had eliminated China's world No. 1 and world champion Sun Yingsha and Japan's ninth seed Hina Hayata, overcame fifth-seeded Kuai 4-3 (6-11, 11-3, 3-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-1, 11-9) to set up a title clash against former Chinese national team star Zhu Yuling.

"Kuai Man and I know each other very well," said Chen. "We both know whoever is more determined and decisive would win this game." Kuai made up for her loss by winning the women's doubles gold with Wang Yidi. They beat more fancied teammates Sun Yingsha/Wang Manyu over 46 minutes.

Zhu, a former World Cup winner who now plays for Macao, China, swept seventh-seeded Japanese Mima Ito 4-2 (11-6, 11-9, 6-11, 4-11, 11-6, 11-8) in the other semifinal.

The 30-year-old Zhu previously stepped away from China's national team to recover from cancer, pursue her studies, and later become a professor at Tianjin University. She joined the Macao team last year.

Earlier in the day, South Korea's An Jae-hyun/Lim Jong-hoon beat France's Alexis Lebrun/Felix Lebrun 3-1 to win the men's doubles title.

Kuwaiti Ambassador commends swimmers for strong GCC Swimming Championship showing

MANAMA, July 13: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain, Sheikh Thamer Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, lauded the achievements of Kuwait's national swimming team following its impressive showing at the 29th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Swimming Championship, which concluded in Manama.

During a reception for the Kuwaiti delegation, Sheikh Thamer praised the athletes for their honorable performance, emphasizing

that their efforts reflect the pride and strong spirit of Kuwaiti youth in regional and international sporting events.

He commended both the swimmers and the administrative and technical teams for their dedication, noting that their results embody positive competition, athletic excellence, and the values of Kuwaiti sportsmanship.

"This achievement demonstrates the Kuwait Swimming

Federation's commitment to nurturing national talent and preparing players to compete at the highest levels," Sheikh Thamer stated.

The Kuwaiti team delivered an outstanding performance at the two-day championship, hosted in Bahrain on Friday and Saturday, winning a total of 21 medals – seven gold, 11 silver, and three bronze – solidifying Kuwait's position as a leading force in Gulf swimming.



Sheikh Thamer receives the swimming team delegation.

Perfect Sweden secures top spot



Sweden's Jonna Andersson (2) and Nathalie Bjorn, battle for position with Germany's Sjoeko Nuesken, front, Rebecca Knaak, right, during the Women's Euro 2025, Group C, soccer match between Sweden and Germany at Stadion Letzigrund in Zurich, Switzerland. (AP)

Poland beats Denmark for first ever Euros win

ZURICH, July 13, (AP): Sweden put down a statement 4-1 win over Germany at the Women's European Championship on Saturday and secured a potentially easier route to the final.

This could be the year Sweden shakes off its 'bridesmaid' reputation.

Sweden won the first Women's Euros in 1984 and has finished as runner-up three times since then. In coach Peter Gerhardsson's eight-year tenure, Sweden was twice a World Cup semifinalist, took the silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics and reached the Euro 2022 semifinals.

Record eight-time champion Germany was dominated, and Sweden's task was made easier after German forward Carlotta Wamser was sent off - barely half an hour in - for swatting a ball away from the goal-line with her arm.

By that point Sweden was up 2-1 after goals from Stina Blackstenius and teenager Smilla Holmberg canceled Jule Brand's early opener for Germany.

Fridolina Rolfö calmly slotted the penalty after Wamser's red card and substitute Lina Hurtig wrapped up the scoring to cap a miserable night for Germany, which conceded four goals for the first time in any Euro match, including qualifiers.

It also was the first time Sweden beat Ger-

many at the Euros and ensured it topped Group C with maximum points and avoided the possibility of facing World Cup champion and Euro 2025 favorite Spain in the semifinals.

Sweden will face the runner-up of Group D in the quarterfinals, with Germany facing the team that tops that group. That will be France, England or the Netherlands.

Germany and Sweden had already qualified for the knockout stages but their match was decisive for top spot in the group, with a draw being enough for Sweden thanks to a better goal difference.

There were four good chances in the opening five minutes and Germany took the lead in the seventh when Brand ran onto a smart throughball from Wamser and fired in.

It was the first goal Sweden conceded in the tournament but it recovered from that setback just five minutes later. A rapid counterattack saw Blackstenius collect the ball near the half-way line and race into the area before slotting calmly past Ann-Katrin Berger.

Sweden led in somewhat fortunate circumstances in the 25th. Holmberg sprinted into the area and was tackled by Germany defender Sarai Linder, who inadvertently kicked the ball off the Swedish teen's shin and it ricocheted into the net.

It was a first international goal for the 18-year-old Holmberg, who recently graduated from high school.

It got worse for Germany when Wamser was shown a straight red card for blocking a

shot by Rolfö with her arm. Wamser was in the team in place of Giulia Gwinn, and the injured Germany captain put her arm around the young defender when she left the pitch in tears.

Rolfö dispatched the penalty into the bottom left corner.

Sweden's attack was relentless in the first half but, with the result seemingly decided, it slacked off after the break, although Hurtig tapped in another in the 80th.

Natalia Padilla scored one goal and set up the others for Poland's first ever Women's European Championship win, 3-2 over Denmark in their final group game.

Poland is appearing in the tournament for the first time and the Spanish-born Padilla got the country's first ever goal when she opened the scoring in the 13th minute, pouncing on a rebound to fire past Maja Bay Østergaard after Ewa Pajor's initial effort was blocked at the right post.

Padilla followed her goal by crossing for Pajor to head in the second in the 20th.

Denmark suffered another blow five minutes later when captain Pernille Harder went off with what looked like a hamstring injury. Denmark was already without Emma Snerle, who suffered a head injury during Tuesday's 2-1 loss to Germany.

Denmark players paused during their pre-game warmup to pose with Snerle's jersey, while Danish fans also displayed a large banner wishing her well.



Players preparing for the World Cup.

Kuwait U-19 handball team heads to Europe for WCup preparations

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The delegation of Kuwait's junior national handball team departed this morning for Croatia and Slovenia to begin an external training camp in preparation for the 2025 IHF Men's Youth (U-19) World Championship set to take place in Cairo, Egypt from August 6 to 16.

The delegation is led by Kuwait Handball Association Secretary General Qaid Al-Adwani, and includes Board Member Mishaal Al-Qabandi, National Teams Technical Director Faisal Saywan, Team Manager Yousef Al-Shaheen, and the full technical staff headed by Danish coach Heine, along with assistant national coach Saud Mu-

freh and goalkeeper coach Marwan Maqayez. The camp includes 22 players.

Speaking ahead of departure, Faisal Saywan praised the players for their dedication during the first phase of preparation, which took place locally through intensive training sessions. He also highlighted the inclusion of several younger players into the junior squad—a move aimed at nurturing talent and strengthening the overall development pipeline for Kuwaiti handball across all age groups.

The European training camp is expected to play a key role in sharpening the team's competitive edge ahead of the World Championship in Cairo.

Yarmouk signs Tunisian Haj Hassan

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: Yarmouk Club has bolstered its squad by signing Tunisian professional player Hazem Haj Hassan, marking the club's third foreign acquisition ahead of the upcoming Zain First Division League season.

Haj Hassan, 29, joins Malian Moriba Dialli and Ghanaian Robin Akwa as Yarmouk's foreign reinforcements. The club is focused on reclaiming its competitive edge through a comprehensive preparation plan and strategic player signings before the league kicks off on September 14.

The newly signed midfielder brings valuable experience, having played for prominent Tunisian clubs Etoile du Sahel and Club Sportif Sfaxien. Over his career with these teams, Haj Hassan has made 124 appearances and scored 19 goals.

Yarmouk also recently signed former Al-Salmiya player Othman Al-Dosari and, under the guidance of Zahir Al-



Hazem Haj Hassan

Adwani, aims to further strengthen the squad with quality talent.

In a strategic move, Yarmouk decided not to renew contracts with five of its previous foreign professionals: Mario Pietro (Italy), Ayoub Lakhdar and Habib Dahmani (Morocco), Kayali Kone (Ivory Coast), and Reza Dost (Iran).

'Players' health is a top priority'

FIFA agrees to 72-hour match rest rule and 21-day off-season break for players

WASHINGTON, July 13, (AP): FIFA says players' representatives and the sport's governing body have reached a consensus on the need for a period of rest of 72 hours between matches, and agreed that players should enjoy a minimum of 21 days of holidays at the end of each season.

The discussions took place before the Club World Cup final between PSG and Chelsea. The tournament was held during the European off-season and has faced criticism from unions, as an increased focus on player welfare has been leading to calls for mandatory rest periods and a greater emphasis on player safety during matches.

Days before the start of the month-long Club World Cup, soccer chiefs faced renewed calls to safeguard players over growing fears of injuries and burnout. Last month, France's union of professional soccer players launched a scathing attack on the competition, saying it is "urgent to stop this massacre" amid ongoing concerns about extreme player workloads.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino and other officials from soccer's governing body met with representatives of players' unions from around the world in



In this file photo, FIFA President Gianni Infantino speaks to the media at a welcoming event for the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup soccer tournament in Philadelphia. (AP)

New York. FIFA hailed the discussions as "progressive," adding that players' health is a "top priority."

"There is a consensus that there must be at least 72 hours of rest between matches, and that players should have a rest period/holiday of at least 21 days at the end of each season," FIFA said. "This period should be managed individually by each club and the respective players, also depending

on their match calendars and taking into account applicable collective agreements."

Enforcing 72 hours strictly could mean big adjustments to some game schedules and TV deals. FIFA didn't indicate how it would work in practice. European teams playing in the Europa League late Thursday evening routinely play domestic league games on the following Sunday. With a strict 72-hour break, they

might have to wait until Monday to play again.

That would be a major headache for the German Bundesliga. It abolished Monday evening games in 2021 after years of protests by fans who wanted easier-to-attend weekend kickoffs. When it introduced the unpopular Monday kickoffs four seasons earlier, the German league argued it would mean more rest for Europa League teams.

The new Bundesliga TV deal starting next season doesn't include any Monday games, either.

FIFA added that a rest day per week should also be allowed and that travel demands as well as climate conditions, will also factor into future competition planning.

The Club World Cup, involving 32 of the world's top teams, has faced pushback since FIFA announced it would be added to an already saturated calendar. The tournament should be played every four years, sandwiched in between the men's World Cup, European Championship, and Copa America. It went ahead against the backdrop of legal challenges in Europe, a strike threat, and repeated concerns over players' mental and physical welfare due to too many games.

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NEWS



Stage winner Belgium's Tim Merlier, in white, crosses the finish line ahead of second place Italy's Jonathan Milan, wearing the best sprinter's green jersey, left, and third place Belgium's Arnaud de Lie, right, during the ninth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 174.1 kilometers (108 miles) with start in Chinon and finish in Chateauroux, France. (AP)

Sports



Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt, Ghanem Saqr Al-Ghanim welcomes the Kuwait delegation.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt hosts U-23 team during Cairo training camp

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, July 13: Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt, Ghanem Saqr Al-Ghanim, hosted a dinner in honor of the Kuwaiti Olympic football team delegation currently participating in a training camp in Cairo, part of its preparations for the AFC U-23 Championship qualifiers.

The dinner was attended by key football officials, including Osama Hussein, Vice Chairman of the Kuwait Football Association for Technical Affairs; Dr. Ahmed Ajab, Board Member of the Association; and Saud Al-Mujammed, Director of National Teams.

In appreciation of the ambassador's warm reception and support, the Kuwaiti delegation presented him with a commemorative shield and a signed Blue Team jersey.

The team is set to resume training this evening after its second friendly match. The technical and administrative staff has focused on ramping up preparations, with more friendly



Kuwaiti delegation presents Ghanem Saqr Al-Ghanim with a commemorative shield.

matches lined up.

As part of their friendly schedule, the Blues will face the Egypt in two matches next Thursday and Sunday.

The Cairo camp is a key component of the team's buildup to the AFC U-23 Championship qualifiers, set to take place in Saudi Arabia in January. Kuwait will compete in Group B, alongside Japan, Afghanistan, and Myanmar,

with matches scheduled from September 1 to 9.

Head coach Dario Pesic and assistant Mohamed Al-Filakawi are aiming to raise the squad's fitness levels and strengthen team chemistry. A reshuffle in the squad is expected during the second preparation phase in August, as they finalize the lineup for the decisive qualifying tournament.

Kuwait Club to host Arab Clubs Championship

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 13: The Arab Handball Federation announced on Saturday that Kuwait Club will host the 40th edition of the Arab Clubs Championship, scheduled to take place from September 12 to 22.

The announcement was made via the federation's official account on the X platform. The decision comes after Kuwait Club previously withdrew from the competition due to the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex being allocated for the Asian Futsal Championship.

This year's tournament is expected to see the participation of three Kuwaiti clubs: Kuwait Club, Kazma, and Burgan.

Kuwait Club has a strong



A file photo of players fighting for the ball.

won the 38th edition, overcoming Egypt's Zamalek in the final held at Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz Sports City in Qatif, Saudi Arabia.

Historically, Esperance Sportive de Tunis holds the most titles (7), followed by Al-Ahly of Egypt (5), and Etoile Sportive de Tunis and Mouloudia of Algeria with 3 each. Kuwait Club is among several teams that have won the championship twice, alongside Al-Ahly and Al-Nour (KSA), Club Africain (Tunisia), and Naft Oran (Algeria).

Other past champions with one title include Al-Ain (UAE), Tasweeq (Algeria), Sporting and Zamalek (Egypt), Al-Rayyan and Al-Gharafa (Qatar), Al-Ahly (Bahrain), and Sakiet Ezzit (Tunisia).

recent history in the tournament, having hosted and won the 39th edition in September 2024 by defeating Al-Salmiya in the final. The club also

Kuwait U-16 team 'misses out' on Asian Cup spot after loss to Saudis



Kuwait Under-16 team presented with bronze medals.

Bahrain wins championship

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

MANAMA, July 13: The Kuwait junior basketball team finished in third place at the Gulf Under-16 Basketball Championship after falling to Saudi Arabia 73-50 in the final round. The tournament concluded at Zain Hall in Umm Al Hassam, Bahrain.

With this result, Kuwait narrowly missed qualification for the 2025 Asian Cup Finals in

Mongolia, which was secured by the top two teams—champions Bahrain and runners-up Saudi Arabia.

The Bahraini team dominated the tournament, winning all four of its matches to top the standings with 8 points. Saudi Arabia followed with 7 points to claim the second qualifying spot. Kuwait, known as the "Blue Youth," finished third with 6 points, followed by the UAE (5 points) and Oman (4 points).

Kuwait had a promising start with a win over the UAE in their opening match but suffered a setback in the second round against Bahrain. A victory over Oman in the third round kept their hopes alive, but the decisive loss to Saudi Arabia in the final round ended their qualification campaign.

The championship highlighted Bahrain's commanding form, winning every match by a wide margin. Saudi Arabia also impressed, earning a well-deserved spot in the Asian Cup Finals. For Kuwait, the tournament exposed the need for further development to remain competitive in future regional and continental competitions.

At the closing ceremony, Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa—First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority, and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee—joined Kuwaiti Basketball Association President Dhari Barjas and several Gulf federation officials in awarding the top three teams.

Al-Tarmoom shines with silver, record at Swiss Championship

KUWAIT CITY, July 13, (KUNA): Kuwaiti swimmer Rashid Al-Tarmoom, representing Al-Qadisiya Club and the national team, claimed the silver medal in the 50-meter breaststroke at the Swiss World Open Championship.

Al-Tarmoom not only secured a podium finish but also set a new national record for Kuwait, surpassing the previous benchmark in the event.

General Manager, Faisal Abu Al-Hassan, praised Al-Tarmoom's exceptional performance, noting that it marks a significant achievement for Kuwaiti swimming on the international stage.

The Swiss World Open Championship, taking place from July 10 to 13, brings together elite swimmers from around the world to compete across multiple categories.



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti swimmer Rashid Al-Tarmoom.

Daham attracts interest from Ramadi

BAGHDAD, July 13: Iraqi media have reported that Ramadi Club has submitted a lucrative offer to sign Mohammed Daham, the standout player for both Kuwait Club and the Kuwaiti national team ahead of the upcoming season.

Ramadi, which competes in the Iraqi Premier League, is aiming for promotion to the top-tier Professional League (Stars League) and views Daham as a key reinforcement in that pursuit.

Daham joined Kuwait Club two seasons ago from Al-Nasr and has since made a significant impact in the Kuwaiti league. His performances have earned him multiple Best Player of the Round awards, as well as the prestigious Best Player of the Season honor. He has also impressed with Al-Azraq, solidifying his reputation as one of Kuwait's top talents.

Despite Ramadi's strong interest, the offer is expected to be



Mohammed Daham

declined. Daham remains a vital figure for Kuwait Club, especially as the club looks to defend its domestic titles in the upcoming season.