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## Opinion

■ Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

## Make things easy, not difficult, for borrowers

IT is strange how our society often calls for social justice, yet contradicts itself when it comes to helping those in need.

Here, I am talking specifically about loans, especially those taken out of necessity due to financial hardship, not out of vanity or show.

As the saying goes, "The pain of the eye is easier than the pain of debt". Borrowing is never a source of joy for those who are forced into it. That is why this issue must be viewed not through the lens of suspicion or the fear that someone may covet another's wealth, but through the lens of real justice and compassion.

Some argue that if a debtor's problem is resolved, they will simply repeat it. But this view is based on assumptions that have little to do with reality. An insolvent borrower is someone in pain who needs help.

For this reason, many voices have called for ensuring a dignified life for citizens by realizing social justice in a meaningful way above narrow-mindedness and envy.

In this context, it is worth recalling Article 20 of the Constitution - "The national economy is based on social justice. Its foundation is fair cooperation between public and private activities. Its goal is to achieve economic development, increase production, raise the standard of living, and achieve prosperity for citizens."

Achieving prosperity for citizens fundamentally depends on ensuring a decent life, which

cannot be achieved without true social solidarity. This is clearly reflected in Article 25 of the Constitution, which states - "The State guarantees the solidarity of society in bearing the burdens resulting from disasters and public calamities."

Does the plight of more than 120,000 citizens facing the harsh reality of social and legal consequences due to their inability to repay debts not amount to a public ordeal and indeed, a national crisis? Can the government not step in to correct this imbalance among families by upholding justice and alleviating the burden on insolvent borrowers?

On the other hand, some argue that if the crisis of insolvent borrowers is alleviated, then those who did not borrow should be granted non-refundable sums to ensure equal treatment.

This view, however, is entirely unrealistic and has no connection to the principles of social justice. It reflects short-sightedness and is driven by entitlement rather than fairness.

I must reiterate that those who borrowed and defaulted

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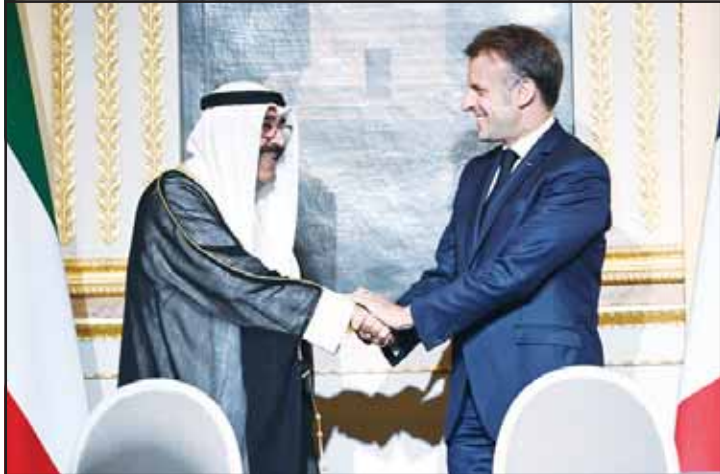
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📧 ahmed@aljarallah.com



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Amiri Diwan photo  
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and French President Emmanuel Macron shake hands during Monday's signing ceremony at the Elysee Palace.

## Amir returns home, invites Macron for reciprocal visit

KUWAIT CITY, July 15, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his accompanying official delegation arrived home after an official visit to France.

Upon arrival, His Highness the Amir was received by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Sabah and Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir's delegation included Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ab-

dullah Al-Yahya, and Director-General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, along with a number of senior state officials.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday evening a cable to French President Emmanuel Macron, voicing thanks and gratitude to him for the amicable reception and warm welcome that reflected the depth of close historic relations that span over 60 years, see steady and continued successes and are based on mutual trust and respect.

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# Kuwait drafts 2 laws on humanitarian protection

Legal reforms safeguard relief work, global justice

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Minister of Justice and Chairman of the Permanent National Committee for International Humanitarian Law Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait announced on Tuesday the completion of two draft national laws aimed at strengthening Kuwait's commitment to international humanitarian law, in preparation for their incorporation into the country's legislative system, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Sumait explained that the ministry,



Minister of Justice and Chairman of the Permanent National Committee for International Humanitarian Law Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait.

in cooperation with the committee, has prepared a draft law on

the protection of the Red Crescent emblem and humanitarian symbols, as well as another draft law on international crimes. Both drafts have been referred to the Fatwa and Legislation Department for review and finalization before being submitted to the Council of Ministers and, subsequently, to His Highness the Amir.

The draft law on humanitarian labels strengthens legal protection for the Red Crescent emblem and other humanitarian symbols during conflicts and disasters, in line with the Geneva Conventions, to prevent misuse and ensure the neutrality of relief and medical work.

The draft law on international crimes grants Kuwait's judiciary jurisdiction over serious crimes,

based on the complementarity principle of Article 17 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The minister emphasized that preparing these drafts is a priority for the National Committee for Harmonizing National Legislation with International Humanitarian Law, reinforcing Kuwait's humanitarian commitments.

He said the drafts were developed by a national legal team in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as part of a strategic partnership.

Al-Sumait expressed gratitude to all involved and reaffirmed Kuwait's dedication to upholding international humanitarian law within its legal framework.



PM Diwan photo  
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

## Ambassador Sheikh Al-Zain hails KAF vital role in promoting peace

WASHINGTON, July 15, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador to the US Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah praised on Monday the important role played by the Kuwait-America Foundation (KAF) in raising awareness among youth about the dangers of violence and promoting peace and understanding between individuals in communities.

This came during a ceremony by the Kuwaiti embassy in Washington to honor 28 middle school students from across the US, who were selected as Ambassadors of Peace for the 2025 "Do the Right Thing" program, established and sponsored by the KAF since 1991.

In her speech, Sheikh Al-Zain said

that the KAF provides students with a platform to express themselves through writing on how violence affects their lives, its causes, and what can be done about it "not through revenge, but through voice."

She added that the program "represents a tribute to the strong friendship between our countries, which has been strengthened over decades of mutual respect, shared values, and lasting goodwill."

In a statement to KUNA, Sheikh Al-Zain said that the program gives students the opportunity to share their

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## Erdogan visit post-summer

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sonmez has confirmed that no new date has been set yet for the visit of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Kuwait, indicating the visit was being rescheduled and expected to take place after summer this year.



Sonmez

Sonmez made the announcement during the celebration organized by the Turkish Embassy on Tuesday to mark the ninth Democracy and National Unity Day, with Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah and a number of members of the diplomatic corps in attendance.

This is in addition to the inauguration of a photo exhibition documenting the events of July 15, 2016.

Sonmez praised Kuwait's clear and forthright stance in support of legitimacy regarding the failed coup attempt, noting the distinguished and

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United front against narcotics, organized crime

## Kuwait, Syria agree to boost security cooperation

AMMAN, July 15, (KUNA): Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah held talks on Tuesday with Syrian Interior Minister Anas Khattab, focusing on efforts to ratchet up security cooperation.

Bilateral security cooperation includes greater information exchange in a bid to bolster the fight against narcotics and organized crime, said a Kuwaiti interior ministry statement. The Kuwaiti interior minister, who arrived in the Syrian capital Damascus earlier on Tuesday after concluding an official visit to neighboring Lebanon, also discussed bilateral relations with his Syrian counterpart, agreeing that greater security cooperation bodes well for the region's security and stability, added the statement.

Earlier, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, along with his accompanying delegation, wrapped up an official

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KUNA photo  
Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah with Syrian Interior Minister Anas Khattab.

## Lifesaving AED devices installed across Kuwait airport terminals

KUWAIT CITY, July 15, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Health has installed 20 Automated External Defibrillators (AED) at Kuwait International Airport across Terminals T1, T4, and T5, in addition to the Airport Health Center, under the direction of the Public Health Sector, the ministry's spokesperson Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad said on Monday.

In a press statement, Al-Sanad said that this is part of the ministry's efforts to strengthen preparedness and rapid emergency response in high-density vital locations.

He noted that the initiative comes as part of the ministry's approach to en-

hance public safety and improve the capacity to handle emergency health incidents, particularly sudden cardiac arrests.

The AED device is a life-saving tool that enables trained individuals - even non-specialists - to provide immediate intervention through integrated audio and visual instructions, he elaborated.

Al-Sanad further said that the ministry has launched a specialized training program to qualify a number of staff at Kuwait International Airport on the proper use of AEDs, in coordination with authorities, to ensure swift response and high-quality performance in critical, life-threatening moments.

He expressed the Ministry's appreciation to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for its continued cooperation and facilitation of the necessary infrastructure to distribute

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## UK work, study visas now digital

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: The British Embassy issued an update regarding work and study visas in the United Kingdom.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the update, stating that starting

Wednesday, electronic visas will be issued only to approved main applicants for certain work and study visa categories, without the need to put a visa sticker on the passport.

This step is part of the United Kingdom's plan to fully transition to a digital immigration system.



KUNA photo  
Kuwait Ambassador to the US Sheikh Al-Zain delivers remarks during the KAF's youth awards ceremony.



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	03:25	Asr .....	15:28
Sunrise ..	04:58	Maghrib ..	18:49
Zohr .....	11:54	Isha .....	20:19

# Local

**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 10-40 km/h and some scattered

Weather		
clouds will appear.		
<b>By Night:</b> Hot to rather hot and relatively humid especially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.		
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait Airport	50	32
Abdaly	50	33
Jahra	51	35
Salmiyah	45	35

Demand for Czech products growing: envoy

## ‘Economic cooperation pillar of ties with Kuwait’

By Fares Ghaleb  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Kuwait Juraj Chmiel affirmed that economic and commercial cooperation is the pillar of bilateral relations between the Czech Republic and Kuwait.

In his speech on the occasion of the end of tenure of Economic and Commercial Section Head at the Czech Embassy Dr. Tereza Valášková, Chmiel reiterated the embassy’s commitment to advance this cooperation and expand it toward broader horizons that serve the interests of both nations.

He expressed deep appreciation for Valášková’s vital role during her service in Kuwait, highlighting her dedication and contributions in forging strong partnerships with local entities and promoting Czech products and companies in the Kuwaiti market. He asserted that her efforts yielded substantial results and enhanced the visibility and trust in Czech products.

He confirmed that the demand for Czech products in Kuwait has been growing in recent years -- a reflection of the high quality of these products and the confidence of Kuwaiti consumers and businesses in such products.

He stressed that the Czech Embassy remains committed to expanding economic cooperation and attracting more Czech companies interested in investing and exporting to Kuwait.

Describing Valášková as a model of professionalism, determination and commitment; Chmiel wished her success in her upcoming post at the Czech Embassy in Amman, Jordan. He expressed hope that their paths will cross again, whether in Kuwait or elsewhere.

In conclusion, Chmiel underscored his country’s strong commitment to deepen its relations with Kuwait in all fields, particularly in trade and investment. He expressed confidence that this positive momentum will continue, thanks to the steadfast support of local partners and institutions that have played -- and continue to play -- a crucial role in realizing shared goals.



Ahmadi Governorate photo  
Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Kuwait Juraj Chmiel and the Head of the Economic and Commercial Section Dr. Tereza Valášková at his office.

## Ahmadi Gov, Czech envoy hold talks on ways to boost relations

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Kuwait Juraj Chmiel and the Head of the Economic and Commercial Section Dr. Tereza Valášková at his office in the Ahmadi Governorate General Diwan on Tuesday morning.

According to a press release issued by Ahmadi Governorate, the governor welcomed the ambassador, and wished him

success in his duties and in strengthening relations between the two countries.

During the meeting, both parties engaged in friendly discussions on bilateral relations and ways to enhance cooperation in various fields.

Ambassador Chmiel expressed his gratitude for the warm reception, and appreciated the care extended to the diplomatic mission and Czech citizens at both official and popular levels in Kuwait.

# Report to work if you want allowances, Info tells staff

‘New rules apply to all external stations’

By Mohammad Al-Enezi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: The Ministry of Information issued a new directive requiring its employees to record attendance using the fingerprint system at their workplaces, including the external stations and centers in the Printing and Publishing Sector.

Sources told the newspaper that this measure is in response to the comments of regulatory authorities, which recently pointed out the lack of adherence to fingerprinting, particularly at external stations. “This resulted in the disbursement of allowances and financial benefits to some employees despite their lack of entitlement due to the absence of proof that they were present at the work-

place,” sources explained.

Sources disclosed that the ministry resolved this issue after repeated comments, by issuing an internal circular stipulating the need for fingerprint attendance at external stations for employees who are actually assigned to each station, effective July 1. Sources said this also applies to all other external centers.

Sources confirmed that the decision aims to ensure the protection of public funds and avoid recurring comments that could lead to administrative or financial litigation.

Moreover, another circular was issued to the employees at the Ministry of Information complex; emphasizing the importance of ensuring attendance registration by using both the old and new fingerprint devices. The two systems will continue to operate simultaneously during the trial period, pending a technical performance evaluation before fully adopting the new system.

The ministry urged all employees to visit the

fingerprint office located next to the general registry if they encounter any technical problems related to attendance.

Meanwhile, sources also revealed that the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) approved the request of the ministry to reconsider the annual renewal of the contract to provide video news reports in Arabic for Kuwait State Television, in cooperation with an international media agency. Sources said the contract is valid from July 1, 2025 until June 30, 2026 at a total value of \$1.5 million.

Sources indicated that the ministry justified its request by citing an urgent need to continue this contract in light of the demands of media work and the need to update video news content to keep pace with regional and international developments. They said the ministry is in the process of completing the remaining oversight procedures with the relevant authorities to ensure the integrity of financial and legal procedures.

## ‘Type 3 asphalt used on 5th Ring Road repairs’

By Mohammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan confirmed that the ministry teams are continuing the implementation of new contracts for radical road maintenance.

In a press statement Monday, Al-Mashaan disclosed this is included in the plan of the ministry to enhance the efficiency of the road network and improve its infrastructure according to the highest technical standards.

She affirmed that the technical and engineering teams at the ministry are conducting periodic inspections to monitor the progress of work and ensure adherence to the specified timetables and quality of implementation. She said the ministry remains committed to the development of the quality of roads to better serve the public and keep pace with the infrastructure development goals of the State.

In a related development, Deputy Engineer supervising Contract No. 11 in the Capital Governorate Abdullah Bu Hamad revealed that the ministry teams are present on the Fifth Ring Road, near the Passports Roundabout towards Jahra, to follow up the latest developments in the radical road maintenance work. Bu Hamad said the work being done on the site includes laying Type 3 asphalt, which is included in the road rehabilitation stages in line with the safety and technical quality requirements.



KUNA photo  
Road repair teams on 5th Ring Road near the ‘Jawazat Roundabout’.

## Drainage project vital to tackle floods: official

By Mohammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) Khaled Al-Osaimi has inspected the project to construct and maintain a drain and a rainwater drainage tank in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak.

This is one of the vital projects implemented by the authority to overcome the challenges of dealing with floods that may result from rain during winter.

The project includes the construction of a new drain -- 2,450 meters long -- linking the rainwater drainage network in the area to the main network through the Seventh Ring Road at its intersection with Kabad Road. It is part of proactive plans aimed at protecting residential areas from the effects of rain accumulation, ensuring the safety of citizens, and protecting the environment by draining rainwater away from residential areas and vital roads in and outside these areas.

## Plan on anvil to tackle jump in 2026 power consumption

By Mohammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: The expected maximum power consumption in the summer of 2026 is about 19,441 megawatts -- an increase of 872 megawatts (about 4.7 percent) compared to the expected consumption in the summer of 2025, which is approximately 18,569 megawatts; say sources from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

Sources affirmed that the ministry will address the challenges posed by increased consumption next summer through medium-term plans in coordination with various government agencies, such as Kuwait Industries Union, to prevent wastage and to rationalize energy consumption.

Sources added that the plan includes

coordination to rationalize energy usage during peak hours, as well as continuing the campaigns to raise public awareness about the importance of rationalization, and carrying out the necessary maintenance of units on time and with high quality.

Sources said the plans include continuing to leverage cooperation and coordination with the GCC Interconnection Authority (GCCIA), as needed, in order to provide the necessary energy to overcome any challenges that the network may face.

Sources disclosed that the ministry has so far been able to avoid the planned power outage over the past period despite the rise in temperatures, which confirms the success of the urgent measures implemented by the ministry, such as combating digital currency mining.

telligence and business administration.

Following are the added specializations:

- Civil Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Information Technology
- Software Engineering
- Cybersecurity
- Artificial Intelligence
- Interior Design
- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Management Information Systems
- Human Resources Management
- Marketing and Digital Media

### Other Voices

## Abu Shukri, Türkiye & Özal

By Ahmad alsarraf

MY friend and colleague, the banker Ibrahim Dabdoub, known affectionately as Abu Shukri, is perhaps the most renowned bank manager in Kuwait.

Abu Shukri led the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) under the most difficult circumstances, delivering outstanding results for shareholders and mentoring a remarkable generation of leaders, including NBK’s CEO Issam Al-Saqr and CEO of Boubyan Bank Adel Al-Majed.

He began his career at NBK after completing his studies at a Turkish institute in Kuwait in 1961. Thanks to his exceptional skills, he quickly rose to become Director of the Loan Department. In 1980, he was appointed Deputy Chairman of the General Managers, and three years later, he became the CEO. After more than thirty years at the helm, he stepped down from daily management to serve as Secretary of the bank’s Board of Directors for a period.

In 2014, he graciously invited me and others to a celebration honoring his retirement.

During his tenure as CEO, Abu Shukri skillfully steered the bank through two of the most severe crises any financial institution could face. The first came in 1982 during the stock market collapse, known as the “Souq Al-Manakh” crisis, and the second during the devastating invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein in August 1990.

At the time, he was leading a workforce of over 1,500 employees, overseeing 50 local branches and a wide international network that extended across the Gulf, Hong Kong, Lebanon, London, New York, Geneva, and beyond.

He rightfully earned numerous accolades for his leadership, most notably the “Best Banker of the Year” award in 1995, presented by both the Arab Bankers Association and the Union of Arab Banks.

Speaking about Abu Shukri is not merely a tribute to someone I have always enjoyed knowing, but also to his deep experience, sharp wit, and ever-present smile, even in the face of difficult personal and family circumstances.

I sincerely hope he is doing well. What prompted today’s discussion is an old interview that recently resur-

gled online. It highlighted our mutual friendship with the late President of Türkiye Turgut Özal, the architect of Türkiye’s modern renaissance after Atatürk. I first met Özal when he was Türkiye’s ambassador to Kuwait. At the time, he lived near our old family home.

During his ambassadorship in the early 1980s, Özal actively encouraged me and a group of Kuwaiti businessmen, including Yaqoub Al-Jouan, Yassin Al-Enezi, and Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem to invest in Türkiye.

He later returned to Türkiye where he went on to serve as Minister of Planning, Prime Minister, and ultimately President of the Republic. During his rise, Özal extended an invitation to us, offering free government land in exchange for building tourism projects.

He also proposed buying back Türkiye’s European loans at a 45 percent discount and using the proceeds, converted into lira, to fund local construction materials and labor costs.

It was an enticing offer. I traveled to Türkiye with one of the investors to explore the opportunity. However, we couldn’t agree on a plot of land due to security concerns. The available sites were either next to the presidential palace, near the army commander’s residence, or overlooking the intelligence headquarters.

Compounding our hesitation were Türkiye’s precarious economic conditions at the time, debt defaults, soaring inflation, and banks offering deposit interest rates nearing 90 percent. These factors led us to decline the offer. In hindsight, it became clear that our decision was a missed opportunity. Under Özal’s leadership, Turkey rose, advanced, and achieved remarkable economic transformation.

In the interview, Abu Shukri recalls meeting Turgut Özal at the Turkish ambassador’s residence during Özal’s official visit to Kuwait. At the time, Özal appealed for support to help ease Türkiye’s economic hardship, as global banks had ceased lending to the country. While Abu Shukri declined direct investment, he proposed purchasing Kuwaiti oil with financing provided by the National Bank of Kuwait.

That is exactly what happened. The initial purchase order amounted to \$60 million, which Türkiye repaid a few months later. The contract was renewed several times. NBK’s initiative was highly appreciated by the Turkish government and played a pivotal role in restoring confidence among international banks in the Turkish economy.

□ □ □

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw



# Hormuz Strait and the Carter Doctrine ... ‘True power in economic strength’

“IN previous articles, we stated that Iran is unlikely to close the Strait of Hormuz to maritime traffic due to the implications of the so-called “Carter Doctrine.” This doctrine was declared by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in 1980 following the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union,” columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Carter had issued a strong warning to the Soviet Union, stating that any attempt by an external power to gain control over the Gulf region would be regarded as an attack on the vital interests of the United States, and that such an attack would be met with all necessary measures, including the use of military force.

“In August 2018, then-U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo responded quickly to statements by Iranian official Ali Tangsiri, stating, “The Strait of Hormuz has not and will not be under Iran’s control. It is an international waterway, and the United States will continue to work with allies in the region to ensure freedom of international navigation in international waters.”

“American oil analyst Peter Beutel commented, “If we assume that Iran attempted to close the strait, it would mean halting the export of 19 million barrels per day, or one-fifth of the world’s oil needs, and would anger the international community. The global economy would be severely affected by the shortage of oil imports from the Gulf, prompting oil-consuming countries to immediately mobilize an opposition coalition against Iran. America and its allies might be forced to use military force to keep the Strait of Hormuz open. Iran understands the danger of such a move and would never take it.”

“During the “Tanker War” between Iran and Iraq in the 1980s, both countries attempted to cut off each other’s oil revenues by targeting oil tankers, including those of neutral nations. The conflict resulted in hundreds of deaths over the course of eight years, and although oil flows were disrupted, they eventually returned to normal. However, the Strait of Hormuz was never closed.



Ahmad Al-Dawas

“According to political science, when Iran threatens to close the Strait of Hormuz, it may have an undeclared objective, which is to distract its population from domestic hardships and rally support around its leadership.

“If I were the president of Iran, I would form a committee of qualified experts to harness the country’s natural and tourism resources, as well as its vast geographic potential. I would open the door to Arab, European, and American investments to help transform Iran into a modern, advanced nation. I would seek to turn the page with neighboring Arab countries by respecting their sovereignty and ending the wasteful policy of funding proxy wars.

“If I were the president of Iran, I would adopt a forward-thinking, civilized approach rooted in the lessons of history. But Iran does not, and likely will not, think this way.

“Iranian officials might argue that their country is militarily strong and has great industrial capabilities. However, North Korea offers a cautionary example, as it prioritized military weapons and missile systems but neglected its people, leading to widespread starvation and transformation of the country into an isolated and backward dictatorship.

“Today, true power lies in economic strength, not military might. South Korea, for instance, has advanced by investing in its citizens and focusing on development rather than engaging in proxy wars or squandering national resources on foreign interventions, as Iran is currently doing.

“Iran has missed many opportunities. We wish Iran well, not out of admiration, but in the hope of avoiding the consequences of its harmful actions.”

**Also:**

“Whenever I speak of the late Dr. Bader Jassim Al-Yaqoub (May God have mercy on him), I cannot do so without mentioning his lifelong companion and devoted partner Hessa bint Mubarak Al-Hasawi “Umm Jassim” (May God protect her). She was far more than a wife... she was a true partner in building a life rooted in love, generosity, and a deep sense of social responsibility,” **Abdulrahman Sahoud Al-Fadhli** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“In a moment of sorrow, Kuwait bid farewell to one of its icons of giving and patriotism. Dr. Bader Jassim Al-Yaqoub departed this world after leaving an

indelible mark on the memory of Kuwait and in the hearts of its people through his exceptional work and rare achievements.

“He was a man of remarkable character, born of Kuwait’s soil, shaped by its authentic values of generosity, courage, and relentless dedication.

“The name of the late Dr. Bader Al-Yaqoub was tied to every serious endeavor and honorable cause. At the heart of all he believed in was his virtuous and philanthropic wife Hessa Mubarak Al-Hasawi, who was the driving force behind his values and commitments. She stood by him through life’s toughest challenges, fully aligned with his vision. Both believed that goodness is not simply given, but cultivated in the soul and expressed through meaningful action.

“Hessa Mubarak Al-Hasawi was the driving force behind every humanitarian project he initiated, from spreading knowledge, such as his legal encyclopedia, to various charitable efforts. Her name is present in every initiative he championed.

“The legacy of Bader Al-Yaqoub and Hessa Al-Hasawi is inseparable. Together, they created an unforgettable humanitarian portrait defined by loyalty and benevolence.

“In every crisis Kuwait faced, he was among the first to step forward and offer support, most notably after the liberation of Kuwait, when he served as Minister of Information. Dr. Bader Al-Yaqoub proved that true patriotism is not defined by titles or positions, but by the selfless contributions one makes to their nation.

“We hope this approach continues through his family, led by the virtuous mother Hessa bint Mubarak Al-Hasawi, who instilled in all those around her a deep loyalty to his memory and a commitment to continue the path he so faithfully charted.

“Our heartfelt condolences go to Umm Jassim, and her honorable sons - Jassim, Mubarak, and Abdulaziz. We pray to Almighty God to forgive the deceased, grant him His mercy, and bless him with a place in Paradise. May He also grant his family patience and comfort in this time of sorrow.”

— Compiled by Mahmoud Attiyeh/Simi K. Kutty



KUNA photo  
Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), Major General Talal Al-Roumi, and Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam during the meeting.

## KFF, PAAET stress need to boost training cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, July 15, (KUNA): Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), Major General Talal Al-Roumi, and Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, underscored the importance of facilitating the registration process for KFF personnel enrolling in technical and specialized programs at the Applied Training College (ATC).

In a press statement issued by the KFF, both leaders emphasized the need to enhance coordination between their institutions to ensure high-quality education and training that align with the operational needs of the Fire Force in technical and professional fields.

The meeting, held at KFF headquarters, focused on reinforcing collaboration—particularly in scientific areas—and improving procedures related to student enrollment in KFF-related specializations.

The statement also highlighted a shared commitment to expanding cooperation and knowledge exchange between the two entities. This partnership aims to prepare a qualified national workforce capable of effectively serving in firefighting and civil protection roles.

The meeting was attended by several senior officials from both organizations.

## Child rapist sent for evaluation of his mental status to hospital

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: The Criminal Court Tuesday ordered a citizen, accused of kidnapping and sexually assaulting an Arab child in Maidan Hawally on the first day of Eid al-Fitr, to be referred to a psychiatric hospital for evaluation of his mental condition.

Security forces arrested the suspect after receiving a report from the child’s family and locating his whereabouts. The child was rescued just hours after his disappearance.

Preliminary investigations indicated that the suspect suffers from psychological disorders. As a result, the court ordered his referral to a specialized psychiatric hospital to evaluate the extent of his criminal responsibility.

**Embezzler jail upheld:** The Court of Cassation, presided over by Judge Abdullah Jassim Al-Abdullah, upheld the Criminal Court’s ruling which sentenced an Arab individual, who worked as a food and beverage cost controller at Kuwait Towers under the Tourism Enterprises Company, to seven years in prison with hard labor.

The defendant was also dismissed from his position, fined KD 89,000, and ordered to return the embezzled amount along with an additional fine equal to twice its value.

Investigations revealed that the employee embezzled approximately KD 29,000 by printing counterfeit tickets and selling them to visitors at Kuwait Towers, without depositing the proceeds into the state treasury.

It was confirmed that the defendant abused his official position by designing and printing fake tickets identical to the official ones, which were then sold without being recorded as official revenue.

The Public Prosecution charged him with embezzlement, forgery, and misappropriation of public funds, and had called for the maximum penalty.

**Case hearing continues:** The Court of Appeals has referred the case filed against several members of the Kuwait Fencing Federation for money laundering and embezzlement of more than KD 1 million, to the Department of Experts at the Ministry of Justice to determine the role of the primary defendant in authorizing and disbursing the disputed funds.

The court’s decision followed a request by the lawyer representing the president of the Kuwait Fencing Federation Mohammed Al-Yabsi, who asserted that his client had no connection to the alleged actions.

He emphasized that Al-Yabsi was not serving as president at the time the checks were issued and the budgets approved.

Al-Yabsi’s legal team called for a re-examination of all related documents, checks, and financial records by the Experts Department to establish the actual responsibility of those involved in the transactions.

The case includes allegations against multiple individuals for abusing their positions to embezzle federation’s funds, followed by laundering the money through financial transfers and real estate acquisitions.

# PACI staffer jailed 5 years for taking bribe to alter address

Expat aides to be deported after time in prison

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

**KUWAIT CITY, July 15: The Criminal Court, headed by Counselor Mubtab Al-Ardi, sentenced an employee at the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) to five years in prison for receiving bribes from expatriates in exchange for changing their residence addresses to fictitious ones.**

The court also sentenced the expatriates involved in the case to five years in prison each, fined all defendants an amount equivalent to twice the value of the bribes seized, and ordered deportation of the expatriates after serving their prison sentence.

Security officers at the Ministry of Interior arrested the defendants in a well-planned entrapment, made after receiving confidential information about the employee who exploited his position to disrupt the civil data system in exchange for money.

**Husband ‘wins’ divorce:** The Family Court ruled to divorce a Kuwaiti woman, stripping her of all financial and legal rights after it was proven that she had severely abused her husband, caused conflicts, and violated the marital covenant.

Lawyer Enaam Haider represented the husband and presented a comprehensive case supported by

audio recordings, messages, and testimonies that proved the repeated insults her client was subjected to, threats of abandonment, and defamation of his reputation within both the family and workplace. She highlighted that the wife deliberately mistreated the husband’s family and refused to fulfill her marital duties.

Lawyer Haider explained that the court verified the validity of the evidence and determined that continuing the marriage would cause the husband intolerable harm. The court was convinced that the wife had crossed the boundaries of decency and Islamic law, thus forfeiting all her rights.

Lawyer Haider affirmed that the ruling is a victory for every wronged husband who has been unjustly accused.



Enam Haidar

**Life-term to acquittal:** The Court of Appeals overturned the life sentence ruling on a Bedoun and an Iraqi and acquitted them of smuggling 158 kilograms of hashish by sea for the purpose of trafficking.

The court made the decision after Attorney Enaam Haider, lawyer for the defendants, exposed gaps in the evidence and fundamental contradictions in the statements of the arresting officers.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendants with smuggling drugs through a cruiser that entered

Iranian territorial waters, based on Coast Guard and radar surveillance reports. The cruiser was stopped and its occupants were arrested. Eight bags containing 158 nylon packs of suspected hashish were found inside. The charges were also based on confessions attributed to the defendants, who claimed they received the drugs from a person named ‘Abu Sajjad’ to deliver them to another party in Kuwait.

Haider countered these allegations with a series of strong legal defenses, arguing that the arrest procedures were flawed and the confessions were made under illegal circumstances. She argued that there was no conclusive evidence linking her clients to the crime, considering the absence of fingerprints or technical reports confirming their knowledge of the nature of the seized substances.

In her pleadings, Haider described the case as an example of an accusation based on ‘suspicion and conjecture’, asserting that the defendants were victims of malicious reports and inaccurate investigations; especially in light of the conflicting statements of prosecution witnesses and the multiple accounts of how the arrests were made.

The court also lacked any material link proving the intent to traffic or even the defendants’ knowledge of the presence of narcotics. The court was convinced by the lawyer’s arguments and found that the case lacked conclusive evidence, and that any doubt about the veracity of the accusation should be interpreted in favor of the defendant, especially given the absence of a real case of flagrante delicto and the lack of evidence confirming the intent to smuggle or traffic drugs.

## CID nabs trio for stealing sheep from Jahra stables

By Munif Naif  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Taima detectives arrested three young men suspected of stealing sheep from multiple stables in Jahra Governorate.

According to a security source, following several reports of sheep theft, detectives acted swiftly to identify and apprehend the three suspects specialized in these crimes. They have been handed over for further investigation to determine the total number of stolen sheep.

**Cigarettes seized:** The General Administration of Customs (GAC) thwarted an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of cigarettes concealed in innovative ways inside specially designed flour bags at the Salmi border checkpoint, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, during the exit procedures for a vehicle, a GAC inspector became suspicious of several bags inside the vehicle that appeared to contain flour. Upon inspection, the bags were found to contain 22 cartons of cigarettes, approximately 440 packets, hidden inside tightly packed, professionally sealed packages that were difficult to detect.

The ministry confirmed that all necessary legal measures were taken and the entire seized quantity was confiscated. It also announced ongoing coordination with the General Department of Criminal Investigations to complete the investigation and apprehend those responsible for preparing the shipment using this innovative method, with the suspects to be referred to the relevant authorities.

**Soldier violates rules:** Security personnel at the Central Prison referred a soldier, assigned at the prison security, to the Sulaibiya Police Station on charges of attempting to smuggle a mobile phone into the prison, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source confirmed that criminal investigation officers will conduct intensive investigations to determine whether the soldier was involved in previous attempts to smuggle phones, prohibited substances or drugs; and to identify any inmates he may have had contact with.

The source revealed that the soldier arrived for duty late on the day of the incident and was asked to pass through the metal and prohibited substance detector, in line with standard procedures. The detector signaled the presence of a foreign object, so the soldier was searched, leading to the discovery of a smartphone in his possession.

The director general of the Correctional Institutions General Department was immediately informed about the incident. He issued a directive to take legal and administrative measures. The soldier was referred to the competent authorities for further investigation. It is worth noting that strict inspection protocols are enforced at the Central Prison, so no staff is allowed to enter the facility without undergoing comprehensive screening in order to prevent the smuggling of any prohibited materials.



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Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Society for the Prevention of Family Disintegration, Khaled Al-Mutairi, including Major General Ibrahim Al-Dai, Dr. Mona Al-Azmi and Alaa Al-Nassar at Farwaniya Governorate.

## Farwaniya Governor pledges support for family society, endorses youth programs

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah on Monday met with Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Society for the Prevention of Family Disintegration Khaled Al-Mutairi at his office in Farwaniya Governorate.

Aside from Al-Mutairi, a number of society members attended the meeting as well; including Major General Ibrahim Al-Dai, Dr. Mona Al-Azmi and Alaa Al-Nassar.

During the meeting, the delegation explained their goals and activities; such as organizing seminars, awareness sessions, and specialized conferences on family issues and social challenges.

They also reviewed the 'First Permanent Harmony' Program that aims to address the causes of family disintegration and divorce, as well as to strengthen family ties.

The Governor praised the positive role played by the society, and affirmed his readiness to cooperate with the latter and support its future programs.

He also met with citizen Omar Al-Enezi as part of the periodic meetings with citizens in response to requests submitted through the Sahel application.

Al-Enezi talked about a number of youth initiatives and proposed making the most of the summer vacation by activating the summer clubs and organizing pur-



Farwaniya Governorate photos Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah with citizen Omar Al-Enezi.

poseful sports activities.

The Governor confirmed his full support for these initiatives, emphasizing his interest in youths and his commitment to support everything that serves the community.

All the visitors expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Governor for his warm welcome and positive engagement with various community initiatives.

# PAAET requires medical exam for health majors

Admissions open Aug 8 for Kuwaitis only

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Acting Dean of Admissions and Registration at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr. Fawzi Al-Doukhi announced the adoption of new health requirements for admission to certain medical and health specializations for the 2025/2026 academic year.

These new requirements were laid down after the identification of infectious disease cases that prevented graduates from being appointed to health agencies despite meeting the academic requirements.

Al-Doukhi revealed that students accepted into the aforementioned specializations must submit a recent medical examination certificate; proving they are free of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and hepatitis B and C.

He indicated that the new procedures apply to all programs in the College of Nursing, in addition to several courses in the College of Health Sciences as follows: Respiratory Therapist, Anesthesia Technician, Medical Laboratory Technology, and Emergency Medical Technician.

He confirmed that the basic admissions plan for the 2025/2026 academic year started as scheduled, and that applications this year will be limited to Kuwaiti students only, as per the directive of the Higher Admissions Committee.

He disclosed that the application period will be from Aug 8-18; with a comprehensive media and advisory campaign in the admissions halls, official social media platforms and Kuwait TV. He added a pavilion will be

established at the Avenues Mall from Aug 2-7 to respond to the queries of students and parents.

He said the new specializations being offered for the first time include Fire Engineering Technology in cooperation with Kuwait Fire Force (KFF). He added the program is for four years and the students will graduate directly as firefighting officers.

**Requirements for this specialization:**

- Applicants must be male (only this year)
- A minimum GPA of 85 percent
- Must hold a recent certificate (issued within the last three years)
- Pass the interview and medical examination
- Meet the requirements of KFF
- Other majors offered last year include:
  - Respiratory Therapist at the College of Health Sciences
  - Energy Efficiency at the College of Technological Studies
  - Applied Statistics, Marketing, Logistics Management, and Human Resources Management at the College of Business Studies.

Al-Doukhi pointed out that the increasing demand for medical majors reflects a growing awareness among students of the importance of these specializations and the labor market's need for them.

He called on all Kuwaiti students to follow the authority's official platforms and benefit from the available support and guidance, emphasizing the authority's commitment to facilitate admission and achieving fairness in educational and employment opportunities.

He revealed that this year's admissions plan includes several categories of Kuwaitis as follows:

1. New students (high school graduates who are not enrolled or employed)
2. Students on study leave from accredited official bodies
3. Employees with a 'no conflict'

certificate (limited to institutes)

4. Employees wishing to combine work and study (providing a certificate proving the combination)

**Basic Admission Requirements:**

- The student must not be enrolled in another university or academic institution.
- The high school diploma must be accredited or officially certified and equivalent.
- A proper academic sequence for the secondary stage must be present.
- For holders of Saudi certificates: A test of academic ability and achievement is required; otherwise, the certificate will not be valid.

**Applications are submitted via:**

- The authority's official website
  - The Sahel government application
- Some categories -- students on study leave, combining work and study and no conflict -- are required to appear in person at the admissions halls.

After the admission results are announced, the students will receive a message confirming their acceptance into a specific major and will be asked to approve or reject their acceptance electronically.

The deadline for approval is Sept 6, 2025; after which admission will be automatically revoked for any student who has not approved the admission.

Al-Doukhi pointed out the difference between the application percentage and the acceptance percentage; explaining that the application percentage is the minimum percentage allowed for admission, while the acceptance percentage is the lowest percentage actually accepted after the competition.

**In health specializations**

- Nursing (Bachelor's): Application percentage is 70 percent
- Nursing Diploma: Application percentage is 60 percent
- Other health sciences: start at 70 percent

Internal staff gets promotion priority

## CSC OKs Director General's new role

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has approved a new set of duties and responsibilities for the position of Director General; as part of the updated organizational structure for ministries, government departments, and public bodies and institutions governed by the Civil Service Law and its implementing regulations, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the decision, stating that Director General position was established to enhance coordination, strategic implementation, and performance monitoring in various government entities.

Following are the main responsibilities of the Director General:

1. Oversee coordination between departments with similar functions to ensure efficient implementation of policies and operational plans.
2. Monitor the execution of sector strategies and ensure alignment with the overall objectives of the government entity.
3. Track the administrative and technical performance of subordinate departments and submit periodic reports to the sector's undersecretary.

4. Submit comprehensive reports on achievements, challenges and actionable recommendations to enhance administrative and technical operations.
5. Supervise job performance evaluations, identify training and development needs, and recommend improvements to support departmental effectiveness.
6. Ensure all departments adhere to applicable laws, regulations and administrative procedures.
7. Propose measures to develop and streamline administrative processes to boost overall operational efficiency.
8. Supervise the implementation of sector-specific projects and initiatives, ensuring timely and effective execution.

In a related development, the daily reported on July 7 the criteria for promotion to the Director General position. Priority for appointment is given to existing employees in the entity. The Personnel Affairs Committee and the relevant minister are authorized to approve such promotions without the need for CSC review. However, appointments from outside the entity must be presented to the CSC on a case-by-case basis.

## GAC enhances security with training on new pallet inspection technology

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: The General Administration of Customs (GAC) announced that some of its employees have been trained on operating the newly introduced pallet inspection device at the Nuwaiseeb Customs Department, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement, GAC explained that the training is part of its ongoing strategy to equip customs inspectors with the skills needed to operate the latest security inspection technologies, in line

with local, regional, and international standards. It is aimed to enhance the efficiency of detecting and monitoring goods and shipments.

Such training programs are conducted regularly, especially in the use of radiological scanning devices, which mark a significant advancement in customs inspection. These high-precision devices play a vital role in preventing smuggling attempts and protecting Kuwait's security from various threats.

Yacht Club rehabilitation underway

## TEC suspends berth transfers amid crackdown on illegal ads

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: The Tourism Enterprises Company (TEC) has issued a warning regarding the proliferation of unauthorized advertisements on social media platforms and non-governmental websites, particularly those promoting illegal offers to sell or rent berths at locations under the company's management, reports Al-Anba daily.

The company stressed that such practices are considered a violation of administrative decisions and regulations.

In response, the company announced the suspension of all berth transfer procedures starting July. This decision coincides with the launching of an initiative to revise the regulatory framework governing berth usage. The aim is to curb several negative practices that emerged in recent years; such as subleasing, monopolization of berths, and black market trading.

The company affirmed that this step reflects its ongoing commitment to bear the

national responsibility, promote fairness and equal opportunity, and establishment of a transparent berth allocation process.

It also confirmed that rental of available berths will resume once current violations are resolved, based on a clear and transparent mechanism which will be announced at the appropriate time.

In a related development, TEC also revealed that it is in the final stages of completing procedures for the Yacht Club Rehabilitation Project. The project will be implemented in accordance with the highest international standards, reinforcing the company's commitment to develop marine infrastructure and provide a safe and integrated experience for beach and marina visitors.

It then urged the public to avoid responding to unofficial advertisements and to rely solely on its official communication channels for accurate and updated information.



# JULY

## Room Promotion



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

Promo period from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025

Terms & conditions apply\*





Kuwait University honors faculty members for innovations advancing research, sustainability, and Kuwait Vision 2035.



Faculty members honored for innovations advancing research, sustainability

Kuwait University registers multiple patents in 2024/2025 academic year

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Kuwait University registered several patents in the 2024/2025 academic year through the Patent and Intellectual Property Office at the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the efforts of its faculty members.

Vice President for Research Prof. Abdullah Sultan honored the researchers, in the presence of Assistant Vice President for Research Dr. Nasser Al-Tanak.

Sultan congratulated the academic staff who received patents for their outstanding achievement; expressing the pride of the university in this accomplishment and wishing them continued prosper-

ity, excellence, and further scientific achievements and research in the coming years.

Dr. Mabkhoot Al-Dosari, Assistant Vice President for External Research Cooperation and Consultations, stated that scientific progress and sustainable economic development are the results of solid scientific research focusing on finding the best innovative solutions.

He added that scientific research is the primary source for developing new products through patent registration and intellectual property rights. He noted that Kuwait University, represented by the Research Sector, provides the best services to researchers in various disciplines; encouraging them and providing them with continuous support, affirming the implemen-



KU photos

Faculty member honored.

tation of sustainable development and Kuwait's Vision 2035.

He confirmed that these inven-

ranking by achieving excellence in scientific research and community services, in line with the needs of society and the labor market.

**Following are the awardees and their inventions:**

■ Dr. Nawaf Al-Juwaihel from the Department of Mechanical Engineering andacting Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at the College of Engineering and Petroleum, Dr. Nasser Al-Sayegh – a scientific researcher in the Nano Applications Program at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR); Eng Ali Al-Sayegh from the Secretariat General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development; and Engineers Hessa Al-Thalab, Maryam Jamali and Hessa Al-Hamdan, for their invention of a sample container with an adjustable cross-

sectional area

■ Dr. Nawaf Al-Juwaihel, Dr. Nasser Al-Sayegh and Abbas Hamoud -- senior research associates at the Petroleum Research Center in KISR -- for their invention of effervescent tablets enhanced with nanoparticles to increase oil recovery efficiency

■ Dr. Nawaf Al-Juwaihel, Dr. Nasser Al-Sayegh and Eng. Maryam Jamali for their invention of effervescent tablets based on carbon nanoparticles to enhance desalination efficiency in solar distillation plants

■ Prof. Badr Al-Anzi from the Department of Environmental Technology in the College of Life Sciences for his invention of a highly saline brine dispenser using a multi-submersible liquid jet reactor

Physician honored in cancer research

Kuwait's Dr. Al-Kazemi wins 2025 Greatest Minds Award

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: In a remarkable addition to his extensive academic and medical achievements, Kuwaiti physician Dr. Mohammad Hassan Abdul Latif Al-Kazemi has been honored with the 2025 "Greatest Minds in Cancer Research" Award, in recognition of his exceptional contributions to oncology, particularly in the treatment of urinary tract cancer, reports Al-Rai daily.

Dr. Al-Kazemi is the first Kuwaiti physician to receive this esteemed award. He began his distinguished academic journey at Yale University, where he earned a combined bachelor's and master's degree in molecular biophysics and biochemistry.

It is worth mentioning that Yale University, founded in 1701 in Connecticut, is among the most prestigious institutions in the United States and worldwide. A member of the Ivy League, Yale is renowned for its academic and research excellence and has produced a number of prominent leaders and scientists from around the world, including heads of state and Nobel laureates.

Dr. Al-Kazemi continued his medical education at Duke University School of Medicine, one of the most prestigious medical schools in the United States. In 2019,



Al-Rai photo

Dr. Mohammad Hassan Abdul Latif Al-Kazemi

he began his urology residency at Washington University in St. Louis, completing the program in June 2024. He then started his urooncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, a world-renowned leader in cancer research.

This award marks the culmination of a career distinguished by scientific and research excellence, highlighting the advanced standing Kuwaiti physicians and researchers have achieved on the global medical stage.

It is noteworthy that the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), founded in 1964, is the world's leading professional organization for physicians and oncologists specializing in cancer care.

MoHE opens applications for Bahrain scholarship program

90% GPA required to apply

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: The Ministry of Higher Education announced the opening of applications for scholarship seats offered by

the University of Bahrain in the Kingdom of Bahrain for Kuwaiti students wishing to complete their bachelor's degrees for the 2025/2026 academic year.

The ministry revealed that regis-

tration begins Wednesday and will continue until July 22 through its official website e.mohe.edu.kw.

The available courses include: Pharmacy, Medical Laboratory Sciences and Diagnostic Radiology with the following application conditions:

■ The applicant must have a high school diploma with a GPA of not

less than 90 percent.

■ The applicant must pass the tests and personal interview prescribed by the university.

The ministry advised all students wishing to take advantage of these opportunities to register quickly and ensure that the required conditions are met before the application period ends.

CSC secures jobs for ex-citizen women

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) issued a circular affirming the rights of women whose Kuwaiti citizenship was revoked as per Article Eight of the Nationality Law, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the circular; instructing government entities to complete contracting procedures for these women and ensure they receive all employment and financial entitlements granted to female Kuwaiti employees in the public sector.

The directive applies to three categories as follows:

■ Women whose citizenship was revoked under Article Eight,

■ Those registered in the Central Employment Sys-

tem.

■ Candidates who have not finalized their appointment procedures due to the loss of citizenship.

According to the circular, the decision is based on resolutions adopted by the Civil Service Council during its meetings No. 1/2025 (Jan 19), No. 4/2025 (Feb20) and No. 6/2025 (March 16).

Copies of the circular have been distributed to all ministries, government departments, public agencies, and State-owned oil companies to ensure standardized implementation.

It is worth noting that the Civil Service Council -- in its meeting No. 13 held on July 3, 2025 -- ap-

proved an amendment extending the contractual employment period for affected women . Under the new policy, contracts will be valid for two years from the day after the revocation of nationality -- double the previous one-year term. The contracts may be renewed by the employing entity without the need to consult the commission.

This development is an important step toward safeguarding the employment rights and financial stability of women affected by citizenship revocation decisions, reinforcing the government's commitment to protect their professional status despite the change in legal nationality.

Continued from Page 1

Make things

are unlikely to repeat the same mistake. In fact, several Gulf countries resolved similar issues by closing the debt file entirely, either through government repayment of citizens' debts or by requiring companies and creditors to collect repayments in installments spread over 20 years.

In addition, a borrower's electronic file is often marked with a "debtor" status, preventing them from applying for any future loans.

There are many alternative measures that could ease people's lives without resorting to imprisonment, travel bans, or the suspension of services. Unfortunately, this last approach is especially damaging. Imagine a citizen being barred from traveling for urgent medical treatment, or unable to renew a driver's license or a domestic worker's residency, all because they missed a single installment, perhaps less than KD 100, to a company.

Once the Gulf states resolved the issue of insolvent debtors and lifted restrictive measures against them, their local economies witnessed a revitalization driven by increased liquidity in the hands of citizens.

Some Gulf countries have amended their laws to stipulate that a bounced check is not a felony and should not be grounds for preventing individuals from working or traveling.

A citizen's homeland is his final refuge, and if he travels, it is often to complete work that could help him repay his debts. A debtor is not a fugitive; he is neither an embezzler nor a serious criminal.

I am aware that the Ministry of Justice is currently studying a proposal to declassify bounced checks as felonies, with the goal of easing burdens on individuals. If this reform is implemented, Kuwait will be on the right path as a humanitarian country.

Easing the burden on indebted citizens is a vital matter that deserves to

be firmly placed on the tables of both the Council of Ministers and the Minister of Justice.

Amir returns

His Highness the Amir also expressed great appreciation to the French president for the friendly and positive atmosphere of meetings and talks held during the visit, creating an opportunity for consultation and exchange of views and visions about various issues of mutual interest.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir voiced confidence that the successful visit to Paris would contribute to promoting strategic partnerships, developing aspects of co-operation and broadening its scope to cover all domains and fields, thus fulfilling both friendly peoples' aspirations of a brighter and more prosperous future.

His Highness the Amir, further, invited the French president to visit the State of Kuwait at a time he sees appropriate, wishing him wellbeing and France and its friendly people further goodness and prosperity.

Ambassador Sheikhha

writing and stories with US Congress decision-makers, and then deposit those writings in the Library of Congress.

The KAF is a non-profit organization established in 1991 with a primary goal inspired by the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion, in recognition of American sacrifices and strong relations between both countries.

The organization's activities focus on education and cultural exchange programs for young people and those in need of care and attention, with the aim of reducing violence in schools and communities across the US.

Lifesaving AED

the devices and support health initiatives with social impact.

Al-Sanad noted that the initiative is grounded in international scientific findings, citing studies that show using AEDs within the first few minutes of cardiac arrest can increase survival rates by up to 70 percent as quick access and activation of the device plays a crucial role in rescue outcomes.

He stressed that the initiative is in line with the Ministry of Health's vision to promote prevention and community protection and reflects the practical implementation of the national strategy "Human First" by enabling immediate life-saving interventions in public spaces and strengthening the capacities of frontline personnel at critical sites.

Erdogan visit

advanced Kuwaiti-Turkish relations and Kuwait's continuous support for her country.

She highlighted the significance of the occasion -- the ninth anniversary of the failed coup attempt launched by the FETÖ terrorist organization. She commemorated the 252 martyrs and more than 2,200 wounded that night, emphasizing the nation's resilience and unity in the face of such threat.

She praised the courageous response of the Turkish people and security forces who thwarted the coup attempt with unprecedented courage and solidarity. She disclosed that "on the night of July 15, thanks to the honorable stance and unprecedented courage of our noble nation and our heroic security forces, a plan hatched for decades by the treacherous FETÖ gang was thwarted."

She pointed out that July 15 is engraved in the nation's memory as a new victory, demonstrating the resolve of the people to defend their democracy and independence. She said the celebration this year is under the

slogan, "The Name of Victory is Türkiye," embodying the eternal spirit of victory of the Turkish nation.

She talked about the ramifications of the coup attempt, stressing that it was not simply an attempt to seize political power, as it was rather part of a larger scheme by external powers to undermine the progress of Türkiye in various sectors.

She added that the Fethullah Gülen organization is a terrorist and criminal organization that poses a threat to every country in which it operates, and called for continuous international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

Kuwait, Syria

visit to Lebanon on Tuesday.

The minister and his entourage were seen off at Rafic Al-Hariri Airport by the Representative of the Lebanese Interior Minister, Brigadier General Sami Nasif, the State of Kuwait Charge d'Affaires in Beirut Yassin Al-Majed and Kuwaiti embassy staff.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef and the accompanying officials had held meetings with President Joseph Aoun, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam and Interior Minister Ahmad Al-Hajjar.

His talks with the Lebanese officials dealt with bilateral relations between Kuwait and Lebanon, particularly in the political, parliamentary, economic and security sectors, aimed at serving common interests and contributing to back up the two States' efforts for stability and development.

On Monday, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef and Lebanese Interior Minister Al-Hajjar discussed on Monday ways and means of promoting bilateral security cooperation.

During the meeting, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef underlined the depth of fraternal relations between Kuwait and Lebanon and the significance of pushing forward security cooperation under the direction of the Kuwaiti leadership for supporting sisterly countries' security and stability.



Farwaniya Governorate photo

Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives the Chair of the Kuwait Society of Agricultural Engineers Abbas Hussein Abdul Redha and the society's Secretary Eng. Salah Jawad Behbehani.

Governor meets agri engineers

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received the Chair of the Kuwait Society of Agricultural Engineers Abbas Hussein Abdul Redha and the society's Secretary Eng. Salah Jawad Behbehani at his office this morning to discuss avenues of joint cooperation.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the meeting included an exchange of views on ways to strengthen collaboration between the governorate and the society in agricultural and environmental fields, with the aim

of expanding green spaces and enhancing overall quality of life.

The governor praised the vital role of the Society of Agricultural Engineers in promoting a healthy, sustainable environment, and affirmed the governorate's full support for developing the agricultural sector.

At the end of the meeting, Abdul Redha and Behbehani expressed their gratitude to the governor for his warm welcome and commitment to strengthening partnerships with civil society organizations.

Zakat House confirms success of 2025 Sacrificial Animal campaign

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: As part of ongoing cooperation among government entities, Zakat House has confirmed the successful implementation of the 2025 Sacrificial Animal Project in the country, reports Al-Anba daily.

The project was made possible through generous funding from the Secretariat General of Awqaf; which contributed around KD79,747 to the initiative.

The funding enabled the purchase, slaughter and distribution of 1,009 sacrificial animals distributed to families registered with Zakat House on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha.

Deputy Director General for Resources and Media at Zakat House Adel Al-Jari stressed that the project would not have been implemented on such a scale without the distinguished and continuous support of the Secretariat General of Awqaf. He confirmed that the Secretariat continues its leadership in supporting community-based endowment initiatives, particularly during important religious occasions.

More than 2,018 families benefited from this year's project, with each receiving a share equivalent to half a sacrificial animal to meet their needs during the holiday.



More than 20 states sue WH over frozen after-school and summer funding

# Supreme Court allows Trump to lay off nearly 1,400 Education Dept employees

WASHINGTON, July 15, (AP): The Supreme Court is allowing President Donald Trump to put his plan to dismantle the Education Department back on track - and to go through with laying off nearly 1,400 employees.

With the three liberal justices in dissent, the court on Monday paused an order from U.S. District Judge Myong Joun in Boston, who issued a preliminary injunction reversing the layoffs and calling into question the broader plan. The layoffs “will likely cripple the department,” Joun wrote. A federal appeals court refused to put the order on hold while the administration appealed.

The high court action enables the administration to resume work on winding down the department, one of Trump’s biggest campaign promises.

In a post Monday night on his social media platform, Trump said the high court “has handed a Major Victory to Parents and Students across the Country.” He said the decision will allow his administration to begin the “very important process” of returning many of the department’s functions “BACK TO THE STATES.”

The court did not explain its decision in favor of Trump, as is customary in emergency appeals. But in dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor complained that her colleagues were enabling legally questionable action on the part of the administration.

“When the Executive publicly announces its intent to break the law, and then executes on that promise, it is the Judiciary’s duty to check that lawlessness, not expedite it,” Sotomayor wrote for herself and Justices Ketanji Brown Jackson and Elena Kagan.

Education Secretary Linda McMahon said it’s a “shame” it took the Supreme Court’s intervention to let Trump’s plan move ahead.

“Today, the Supreme Court again confirmed the obvious: the President of the United States, as the head of the Executive Branch, has the ultimate authority to make decisions about staffing levels, administrative organization, and day-to-day operations of federal agencies,” McMahon said in a statement.

A lawyer for the Massachusetts cities and education groups that sued over the plan said the lawsuit will continue, adding no court has yet ruled that what the administration wants to do is legal.



Children raise their hands while participating in activities during the East Providence Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp at Emma G. Whiteknact Elementary School on July 10, in Providence RI. (AP)

“Without explaining to the American people its reasoning, a majority of justices on the U.S. Supreme Court have dealt a devastating blow to this nation’s promise of public education

for all children. On its shadow docket, the Court has yet again ruled to overturn the decision of two lower courts without argument.” Skye Perryman, president and CEO of Democracy For-

ward, said in a statement.

The Supreme Court has handed Trump one victory after another in his effort to remake the federal government, after lower courts have found the administration’s actions probably violate federal law. Last week, the justices cleared the way for Trump’s plan to significantly reduce the size of the federal workforce. On the education front, the high court has previously allowed cuts in teacher-training grants to go forward.

Separately on Monday, more than 20 states sued the administration over billions of dollars in frozen education funding for after-school care, summer programs and more.

Education Department employees who were targeted by the layoffs have been on paid leave since March, according to a union that represents some of the agency’s staff.

Joun’s order had prevented the department from fully terminating them, though none had been allowed to return to work, according to the American Federation of Government Employees Local 252. Without Joun’s order, the workers would have been terminated in early June.

**Also:**

**EAST PROVIDENCE, RI:** More than 20 states sued President **Donald Trump’s** administration on Monday over billions of dollars in frozen education funding for after-school care, summer programs and more.

Some of the withheld money funds after-school and summer programming at Boys & Girls Clubs, the YMCA or public schools, attended by 1.4 million children and teenagers nationwide. Congress set aside money for the programs to provide academic support, enrichment and child care to mostly low-income families. But Trump’s administration recently froze the funding, saying it wants to ensure programs align with the Republican president’s priorities.

Led by **California**, the lawsuit alleges withholding the money violates the Constitution and several federal laws. Many low-income families will lose access to after-school programs if the money isn’t released soon, according to the suit. In some states, school restarts in late July and early August. The Department of Education did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



This image made from video shows a flooded street in Rahway, NJ on July 14. (AP)

## Heavy rains, flash flooding sweep across US Northeast

Heavy rain swept across parts of the US Northeast on Monday night, inundating sections of New York and New Jersey with flash flooding that stranded vehicles in roadways, closed subway lines and led to a declaration of a state of emergency.

Most flash flood watches and warnings expired in parts of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania as the rain moved on, but some roads and streets were still flooded as of Tuesday morning.

New Jersey Gov Phil Murphy declared a state of emergency due to flash flooding and heavy rainfall, advising people to stay indoors and avoid unnecessary travel. A video posted to social media by CBS showed flood waters bring a major roadway in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, to a standstill, stranding buses.

In one flooded North Plainfield, New Jersey, neighborhood, a house caught on fire and collapsed, possibly due to an explosion, not long after the family inside had evacuated, authorities said. No injuries were reported.

In New York City, some subway service was temporarily suspended while other lines were running with severe delays due to flooding, according to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. New York’s emergency services agency wrote on the social platform X that parts of the city and mid-Hudson were getting hit with flash floods. (AP)

# Cuomo stays in NYC mayor’s race despite losing Democratic primary

NEW YORK, July 15, (AP): Former governor Andrew Cuomo launched an independent run for New York City mayor on Monday, restarting his campaign after a bruising loss to progressive Zohran Mamdani in the Democratic primary.

In a video, Cuomo announced he would remain in the race to combat Mamdani, a democratic socialist state lawmaker, while previewing a strategic reset that would bring a more personal approach to a campaign that had been criticized as distant from voters.

“The fight to save our city isn’t over,” Cuomo said. “Only 13% of New Yorkers voted in the June primary. The general election is in November and I am in it to win it.”

Critics of Mamdani’s progressive agenda, which includes higher taxes on the wealthy, have called on donors and voters to unite behind a single candidate for the November election. Instead, Cuomo joins a crowded field that also includes current Mayor Eric Adams, who is also a Democrat running as an independent. These candidates now face a complex task in cobbling together enough voters in an overwhelmingly Democratic city where Mamdani has amassed significant momentum.

Former New York governor Andrew Cuomo speaks at the New York City District Council of Carpenters while campaigning for mayor of New York City on March 2. (AP)



Former New York governor Andrew Cuomo speaks at the New York City District Council of Carpenters while campaigning for mayor of New York City on March 2. (AP)

In a statement, Jeffrey Lerner, a spokesperson for Mamdani, criticized Cuomo and Adams while emphasizing that the Democratic nominee “is focused on making this city more affordable for New Yorkers.”

Cuomo’s decision to press on is the latest chapter in his comeback attempt, launched almost four years after he resigned as governor in 2021 following a barrage of sexual harassment allegations. He denied wrongdoing during the campaign, maintaining that the scandal was driven by politics.

# US immigration authorities demand tenant information from landlords

ATLANTA, July 15, (AP): Immigration authorities are demanding that landlords turn over leases, rental applications, forwarding addresses, identification cards and other information on their tenants, a sign that the Trump administration is targeting them to assist in its drive for mass deportations.

Eric Teusink, an Atlanta-area real estate attorney, said several clients recently received subpoenas asking for entire files on tenants. A rental application can include work history, marital status and family relationships.

The two-page “information enforcement subpoena,” which Teusink shared exclusively with The Associated Press, also asks for information on other people who lived with the tenant. One, dated May 1, is signed by an officer for US Citizenship and Immigration Services’ anti-fraud unit. However, it is not signed by a judge.

It is unclear how widely the subpoenas were issued, but they could signal a new front in the administration’s efforts to locate people who are in the country illegally, many of whom were required to give authorities their US addresses as a condition for initially entering the country without a visa. President Donald Trump largely ended temporary status for people who were allowed in the country under his predecessor, Joe Biden.

Some legal experts and property managers say the demands pose serious legal questions because they are not



US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers wait to detain a person on Jan. 27 in Silver Spring, Md. (AP)

signed by a judge and that, if landlords comply, they might risk violating the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin.

Critics also say landlords are likely to feel intimidated into complying with something that a judge hasn’t ordered, all while the person whose information is being requested may never know that their private records are in the hands of

immigration authorities.

“The danger here is overcompliance,” said Stacy Seicshnaydre, a Tulane University law professor who studies housing law. “Just because a landlord gets a subpoena, doesn’t mean it’s a legitimate request.”

ICE officers have long used subpoenas signed by an agency supervisor to try to enter homes. Advocacy groups have mounted “Know Your Rights” campaign urging people to refuse entry if they are not signed by a judge.

The subpoena reviewed by the AP is from USCIS’ fraud detection and national security directorate, which, like ICE, is part of The Department of Homeland Security. Although it isn’t signed by a judge, it threatens that a judge may hold a landlord in contempt of court for failure to comply.

Tricia McLaughlin, a Homeland Security spokeswoman, defended the use of subpoenas against landlords without confirming if they are being issued.

“We are not going to comment on law enforcement’s tactics surrounding ongoing investigations,” McLaughlin said. “However, it is false to say that subpoenas from ICE can simply be ignored. ICE is authorized to obtain records or testimony through specific administrative subpoena authorities. Failure to comply with an ICE-issued administrative subpoena may result in serious legal penalties. The media needs to stop spreading these lies.”



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, (center left), and United States Special Envoy for Ukraine and Russia, Joseph Keith Kellogg, (center right), speak during a meeting, in Kyiv, Ukraine on July 14. (AP)

# Ukrainians welcome US aid but see Trump 50-day ultimatum to Putin as too long

KYIV, Ukraine, July 15, (AP): Ukrainians welcomed President Donald Trump’s pledge of more U.S.-made weapons in their fight against Russia’s invasion, even though it is unclear what exactly they will get and how quickly.

The time frame for further arms deliveries that European countries have agreed to pay for is crucial.

Russia is making a summer push to break through along the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, and its drones and missiles are hammering Ukrainian cities more than at any time in the past three years.

Ukrainian officials have made no direct comment about Trump’s decision to allow Russia 50 days to reach a deal to end the war, or face what he said would be “very severe” economic sanctions. While some believe strict tariffs on Moscow could be a game changer, the postponement until September struck others as being too long.

For Russia, Trump’s delay of new sanctions is a reprieve. Senior Russian lawmaker Konstantin Kosachev commented: “Oh, how much can change both on the battlefield and with the mood of those leading the US and NATO in 50 days.”

Russian state television pointed out that Trump’s decision would bring a bigger financial burden for Europe.

Russia currently holds about 20% of Ukraine. Ukraine’s depleted army has recently been losing more territory, but there is no sign of a looming collapse on the front line, analysts say.

Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he spoke to Trump after the Republican leader’s Oval Office announcement Monday, expressing gratitude for the decision to send more Patriot air defense missiles that are vital to defend Ukrainian cities.

“We discussed ... the necessary measures and decisions to provide greater protection for people from Russian attacks and strengthen our positions,” Zelenskyy said on Telegram. “We agreed to talk more often and coordinate our steps in the future.”

Trump and Zelenskyy have had a notoriously fraught relationship, and Washington’s consent to providing more weaponry has eased Kyiv’s worries.

Even so, some Ukrainians felt the US decision won’t alter the course of the war.

“If we take the situation as a whole, it hardly looks like this will fundamentally change anything,” Kyiv resident Oles Oliynyk, 33, told The Associated Press.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, firefighters try to put out a fire following a Russian attack in Kharkiv region, Ukraine on July 15. (AP)

## Europe

**Romanian parliament rejects motion:** Romania’s Parliament on Monday rejected a no-confidence motion filed by the opposition against Prime Minister **Ilie Bolojan’s** government, clearing the way for a major fiscal reform package aimed at reducing the country’s growing budget deficit.

The motion received 134 votes in favor and four against, well below the 233 votes required for it to pass in the joint sitting of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

“Since the motion of censure has been rejected, the law on fiscal-budgetary measures is considered adopted,” said Sorin Grindeanu, president of the Chamber of Deputies.

The motion was backed by 131 member of Parliament (MPs) from the Alliance for the Union of Romanians (AUR), Party of Young People (POT), S.O.S. Romania, and unaffiliated members.

Opposition parties launched the motion after the Bolojan Cabinet used a confidence procedure to push through the first set of fiscal measures without a full parliamentary debate. The package includes a VAT increase and spending cuts to curb the country’s deficit, which exceeded European Union limits last year. (Xinhua)



Bolojan

**4 dead in London Southend Airport crash:** Four people were killed when a plane crashed at London Southend Airport on Sunday, Essex police confirmed on Monday.

Morgan Cronin, chief superintendent of Essex County, confirmed all four passengers were killed in the plane crash, and were believed to be foreign nationals. Efforts are ongoing to confirm their identities.

A “significant air exclusion zone” has been put in place surrounding the crash site, Cronin said.

Lisa Fitzsimons, lead investigator at the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AIB), identified the aircraft involved as a Beech B200 Super King Air. The AIB has launched a safety investigation to determine the circumstances and cause of the tragic incident.

According to local media reports, the victims included three men and one woman.

Video footage captured a massive fireball following the crash, while images posted online showed intense flames and thick black smoke billowing from the wreckage on Sunday afternoon.

Essex Police said officers responded to “reports of a collision involving a 12-meter aircraft” shortly before 4 p.m. local time (1500 GMT).

The aircraft was operated by Dutch firm Zeusch Aviation. It was due to fly to Lelystad Airport in the Netherlands.

Zeusch Aviation confirmed its SUZ1 flight had been “involved in an accident” at the London airport and said its thoughts were with “everyone who has been affected.”

Southend Airport said it would remain closed until further notice due to the “serious incident.” (Xinhua)



## South Korea protests at Japan’s territorial claims to disputed islets

SEOUL, July 15, (Xinhua): South Korea on Tuesday protested at Japan’s renewed territorial claims to the disputed islets lying halfway between the two countries, called Dokdo by South Korea and Take-shima by Japan.

The South Korean foreign ministry said in a statement that the government strongly protests at the Japanese government’s repetition of unjust sovereignty claims over Dokdo, which is clearly an integral part of the South Korean territory historically, geographically and under international law.

The ministry urged Japan to immediately retract its territorial claims, which were made through Japan’s 2025 defense white paper released earlier in the day.

Also:

**TOKYO:** Typhoon Nari crossed the **Hokkaido** coast on Tuesday, the first landfall by a typhoon on **Japan’s** northern main island since 2016, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

The fifth typhoon of the year made landfall near **Cape Erimo** at the southern tip of Hokkaido



Gen Yoshihide Yoshida, (right), Chief of Staff, Joint Staff of Japan and Adm Kim Myung-soo, (second right), chairman of the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff, inspect a guard of honor during a welcoming ceremony at the Ministry of National Defense in Seoul, South Korea on July 10. (AP)

at around 2 a.m. local time, also marking the first to make landfall in Hokkaido during July since records began in 1951, the weather agency said.

**TOKYO:** Four people were injured after a two-storey building being demolished in Fukuoka prefecture, southwestern Japan, collapsed on Tuesday, local media reported.

A passerby made an emergency call at around 1:40 p.m. local time, reporting that the commercial building, which was located in a residential area, had crumbled in the city of Kurume and multiple people were buried underneath, Kyodo News reported, citing local authorities.

The accident left three construction workers and a pedestrian injured, the report said.

## Rescuers search for 11 people missing after speedboat capsized in Indonesia

PADANG, Indonesia, July 15, (Agencies): Indonesian rescuers were searching for 11 people, including three children, still missing Tuesday after a speedboat capsized during a storm the previous day off Indonesia’s Mentawai Islands. Seven people, including the two crew members, were rescued and were in stable condition after drifting in the choppy waters for hours, said Lahmudin, who heads the local Disaster Management Agency.

The boat capsized in the Sipora Strait after leaving Sikakap, a town in the Mentawai Islands district in West Sumatra province, at midday, said Lahmudin, who like many Indonesians uses a single name. It was bound for the neighboring town of Tuapejat, a trip of less than two hours.

The boat was carrying 16 passengers, mostly local administration officials, and two crew members. The 11 people missing included three children and a local parliamentarian.

Also:

**JAKARTA:** Seven people have died after a pickup truck carrying 20 people plunged into a ravine in a hilly area in the Indonesian province of **South Sulawesi** last Saturday, local media reported on Tuesday.



This photo taken with a mobile phone on July 14, 2025 shows a rescuer holding a flashlight during a search and rescue mission after a speedboat capsized off the coast of the Mentawai Islands in Indonesia’s West Sumatra province. (Xinhua)

The truck was carrying people who had attended a nearby funeral ceremony. The vehicle reportedly overturned on a sharp bend in the **Lembang Sereale** area, **Tikala** District, **North Toraja** Regency. Local traffic police were still investigating the case, suspecting that the driver’s fatigue was likely a cause of the accident.

**HONG KONG:** An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 jolted Tanimbar Islands Region, indonesia at 0549 GMT on Monday, the GFZ German Research Center for Geosciences said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 10.0 km, was initially determined to be at 6.35 degrees south latitude and 131.35 degrees east longitude.

### Xi meets Russian FM in Beijing

## China and India should adhere to good-neighborliness, friendship, says Wang

BEIJING, July 15, (Xinhua): Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Monday that China and India should adhere to the direction of good-neighborliness and friendship, and find a way for mutual respect and trust, peaceful coexistence, common development and win-win cooperation.

Wang made the remarks when holding talks with Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in Beijing.

As two major Eastern civilizations and major emerging economies living adjacent to each other, the essence of China-India relations lies in how to live in harmony and achieve mutual success, said Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

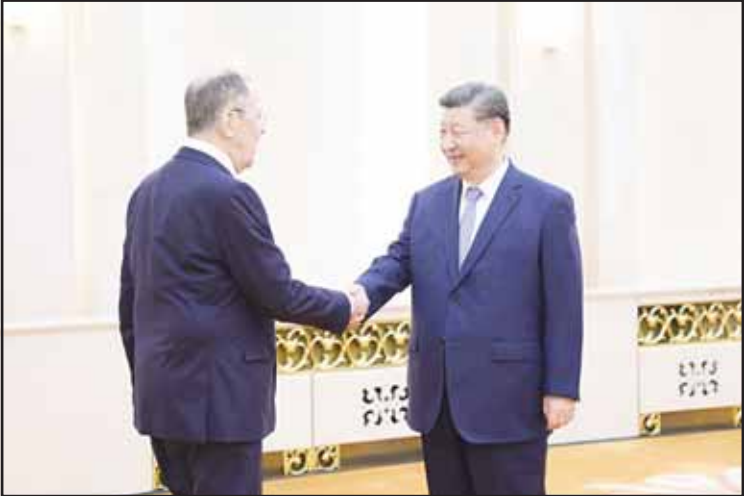
Last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached important consensus during their meeting in Kazan, pointing out the direction for the improvement and development of China-India relations, Wang said. Wang called on both sides to aim high, plan for the long term, adhere to the direction of good-neighborliness and friendship, and realize the “Dragon-Elephant Tango.”

Wang said that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India, and the sustained improvement and growth of bilateral relations have not come easily, making them more valuable to cherish.

Noting the relationship between the two countries is not directed against any third party, nor should it be disrupted by any third party, Wang called on both sides to build mutual trust rather than suspicion, pursue cooperation rather than competition, and seek mutual success rather than mutual attrition.

China is willing to work with India to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, consistently enhance political mutual trust, meet each other halfway to expand exchanges and cooperation, act with consideration for the bigger picture to properly manage differences, and strengthen coordination via multilateral platforms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), to promote the sustained, healthy, and steady development of China-India relations, Wang said.

Wang said that President Xi proposed the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, and Prime Minister Modi advocated that “the world is



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China on July 15. (Xinhua)

one family,” noting that these concepts are interrelated.

Both sides support multilateralism and hope that the international order will develop in a more just and reasonable direction, Wang said.

He added that China is willing to enhance communication and coordination with India, and jointly safeguard the multilateral trading system, the stability of the global industrial and supply chains, and an international environment of openness and cooperation.

China is willing to work with India to promote an equal and orderly multipo-

lar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and safeguard the common interests of the Global South to promote regional peace, stability, development and prosperity, Wang said.

For his part, Jaishankar said that the Kazan meeting between the leaders of the two countries has provided important guidance for India-China relations, with bilateral exchanges and cooperation across various fields being normalized.

Also:

**BEIJING:** Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday that **China** and **Russia** should bolster mutual support within multilateral frameworks, safeguard their development and security interests, unite the countries of the Global South, and push the international order toward a more just and equitable direction.

Xi made the remarks during his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister **Sergey Lavrov** in Beijing, calling on both sides to support each other in steering the development direction of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), injecting new momentum into the SCO, and making the strategic platform more substantive and stronger.

Xi asked Lavrov to convey his cordial greetings to Russian President **Vladimir Putin**. Calling on both sides to follow through on the important understandings reached with Putin, Xi said China and Russia should advance their comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination.

The SCO, jointly established by countries including China and Russia as a comprehensive regional cooperation mechanism, plays a vital role in safeguarding peace, stability, and development across Eurasia, Xi noted.

Lavrov conveyed President Putin’s sincere greetings to President Xi, adding that under the strategic leadership of the two heads of state, Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination has developed in depth.

Russia places great importance on its relationship with China and looks forward to maintaining high-level exchanges with China in this significant year that marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in the World Anti-Fascist War, said Lavrov.

He added that Russia will work with China to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, maintain communication and coordination in international and regional affairs, and promote regional and global peace and stability.



Protesters celebrate at the Parliament House premise after news of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s resignation, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Aug 5, 2024. (AP)

## Bangladesh struggles to contain fallout of uprising that toppled leader last year

DHAKA, Bangladesh, July 15, (AP): Bangladesh was on the cusp of charting a new beginning last year after its former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was removed from power in a student-led uprising, ending her 15-year rule and forcing her to flee to India.

As the head of a new interim government, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus promised to hold a credible election to return to democracy, initiate electoral and constitutional reforms and restore peace on the streets after hundreds were killed in weeks of violence that began on July 15, 2024.

A year later, the Yunus-led administration has struggled to contain the fallout of the uprising. Bangladesh finds itself mired in a growing political uncertainty, religious polarization and a challenging law-and-order situation.

Uncertainty about the future of democracy looms large in Bangladesh.

The student protesters who toppled Hasina formed a new political party, promising to break the overwhelming influence of two major dynastic political parties - the Bangladesh Nationalists Party, or BNP, and Hasina’s Awami League.

But the party’s opponents have accused it of being close to

the Yunus-led administration and creating chaos for political mileage by using state institutions.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh’s political landscape has further fragmented after the country’s largest Islamist party, the Jamaat-e-Islami, returned to politics more than a decade after it was suppressed by Hasina’s government.

Aligned with the student-led party, it’s trying to fill the vacuum left by the Awami League, which was banned in May. Its leader, Hasina, is facing trial for crimes against humanity. The strength of Jamaat-e-Islami, which opposed Bangladesh’s independence from Pakistan in 1971, is unknown.

Both BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami party are now at loggerheads over establishing supremacy within the administration and judiciary, and even university campuses.

They are also differing over the timing of a new parliamentary election. Yunus has announced that the polls would be held in April next year, but poor law and order situation and a lack of clear-cut political consensus over it have created confusion. The chief of Bangladesh’s military also wanted an election in December this year - a stance Yunus didn’t like.

## Coup plot trial a ‘witch hunt’: Bolsonaro

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 15, (AP): Brazil’s chief prosecutor has called for a guilty verdict in the case of far-right former president **Jair Bolsonaro**, who is on trial accused of leading an alleged coup plot.

“The evidence is clear: the defendant acted systematically, throughout his mandate and after his defeat at the polls, to incite insurrection and the destabilization of the democratic rule of law,” Prosecutor-General Paulo Gonet said in a 517-long page document released late on Monday.

Bolsonaro is accused of seeking to



Bolsonaro

overturn the 2022 election in which he was defeated by a left-wing rival.

“All the accusations are false. I never violated democracy or the constitution,” Bolsonaro said on X hours before Gonet submitted his final allegations. He said the trial was a “witch hunt,” echoing a term used by US

President Donald Trump when he came to his South American ally’s defense last week.

The prosecution accuses Bolsonaro of leading an armed criminal organization, attempting to stage a coup and attempting violent abolition of the democratic rule of law, aggravated damage and deterioration of listed heritage. The defence will present its case shortly. Then the panel of Supreme Court justices that opened a trial against the former president will vote on whether to convict or acquit him. Experts expect that to happen in the second half of the year.

## Mexico’s president urges US to do more to curb drug, arms trafficking

MEXICO CITY, July 15, (Xinhua): Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has called on the United States to do more to curb drug and arms trafficking across the border as Washington threatens tariff hikes on Mexico.

US President Donald Trump on Saturday threatened to impose a 30-percent tariff on Mexican imports starting from Aug. 1 in a letter addressed to Sheinbaum, accusing Mexico of failing to stop drug trafficking and illegal immigration to the United States.

Sheinbaum on Monday hit back at the criticism, calling on the United States to redouble its efforts to curb drug and arms trafficking on its own turf.

“We do our part and they also have to do their part,” she said at her daily press conference. “There is collaboration. There is coordination.”

Sheinbaum noted she hopes to reach a deal with the United States to avoid Trump’s proposed 30 percent tariff.

“We believe ... that we will reach an agreement with the United States government -- and that we will, of course, reach better terms,” Sheinbaum said.

Mexico sent a government delega-



Mexico’s President Claudia Sheinbaum waves to supporters at a rally she convened to welcome US President Donald Trump’s decision to postpone tariffs on Mexican goods for one month at the Zocalo, Mexico City’s main square on March 9. (AP)

tion to the United States on Friday to begin talks with Washington on trade, energy, immigration and crime.

Sheinbaum said she would meet later in the day with Mexican Economy Sec-

retary Marcelo Ebrard and other representatives involved in the talks, noting that any deal with Washington will be based on respect for Mexico’s sovereignty “as a non-negotiable principle.”

## With temporary protections for some Afghans set to expire, US court steps in

WASHINGTON, July 15, (AP): An appeals court late Monday stepped in to keep in place protections for nearly 12,000 Afghans that have allowed them to work in the US and be protected from deportation after they were set to expire as part of the Trump administration’s efforts to make more people eligible for removal from the country.

The Department of Homeland Security in May said it was ending Temporary Protected Status for 11,700 people from Afghanistan in 60 days. That status had allowed them to work and meant the government couldn’t deport them.

CASA, a nonprofit immigrant advocacy group, sued the administration over the TPS revocation for Afghans as well as for people from Cameroon - those expire August 4. A federal judge last Friday allowed the lawsuit to go forward but didn’t grant CASA’s request to keep the protections in place while the lawsuit plays out.

CASA appealed the case Monday and won a stay keeping in place the temporary status for Afghans that was set to expire Monday. The appeals



Afghan refugees who returned after fleeing Iran to escape deportation and conflict line up at a UNHCR facility near the Islam Qala crossing in western Herat province, Afghanistan, on June 20. (AP)

court gave no reason for its decision, but indicated it would be deciding what to do swiftly. The stay is in place for one week, and the court has asked both sides to file briefs this week. The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

The number of Afghans protected

by TPS is relatively small compared to the overall number of Afghans - about 180,000 - who have fled Afghanistan and come to the U.S. since the Taliban retook control of the country in 2021. It’s also not clear how many of those 11,700 covered by TPS have applied for or received other forms of protection, like asylum.



## Kuwait oil price up \$2.18 to \$72.79 pb

KUWAIT CITY, July 15, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by USD 2.18 to USD 72.79 per barrel on Monday in contrast to USD 70.61 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on

Tuesday.

The prices of the Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate went down respectively by USD 1.15 and USD 1.47 to settle each at USD 69.21 per barrel and USD 66.98 pb.

# Business



Zain's young ambassadors helped supervise the workshops.



Fun educational experiences on the fundamentals of technology.



Zain continues its efforts to digitally empower the next generation.

Another milestone reinforcing company's role as a key enabler of Kuwait's digital future

## Zain concludes Innovation Nation Summer Camp, empowers 2,600 children

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Zain Kuwait has successfully concluded the third edition of its Innovation Nation Summer Camp, held in collaboration with Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity – a Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) center – and Assima Mall. The program successfully empowered nearly 2,600 boys and girls to explore the worlds of technology and digital innovation, creating unforgettable memories that pave the way for their future ambitions.

Over the course of ten days, the camp provided an inspiring, interactive space for children aged 7 to 14 to engage in exciting educational experiences across innovative fields such as robotics, artificial intelligence, 3D

printing, electronics, and renewable energy.

The success of this year's camp marks another milestone in Zain's ongoing journey to empower future generations, reinforcing its role as a key enabler of Kuwait's digital transformation through educational and community initiatives that open doors to innovation and knowledge.

The workshops were led by a team of certified trainers from the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center, in addition to engineering students from GUST (the Innovation Nation Leaders) and part-time members of Zain's FUN program. The team developed interactive educational content using non-traditional methods that encouraged children to experiment, discover, and learn through hands-on practice.

Activities included fun learning experiences that focused on practical, interactive components, such as building pet-shaped robots and delivery bots, learning the basics of AI, exploring 3D printing and electronics, and understanding concepts in renewable energy and smart innovation. These experiences enriched the children's passion for technology and science.

This camp was part of the wider Innovation Nation initiative, which embodies Zain's strategy to support and empower the next generation by offering inspiring educational opportunities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. It reaffirms Zain's commitment to playing a vital role in shaping a promising digital future for Kuwait.

### Main market index gains 0.42%

## Boursa Kuwait general index dips 0.17% on active trading

KUWAIT CITY, July 15, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed lower on Tuesday, with its general index slipping by 14.93 points, or 0.17 percent, to settle at 8,607.54. The session saw active trading, with a total of 946.8 million shares exchanged through 35,507 cash transactions. The overall market value of these trades reached approximately 115.8 million Kuwaiti dinars, equivalent to around 379 million US dollars.

Despite the broader market dip, the Main Market Index recorded a gain of 30.70 points, or 0.42 percent, ending the session at 7,373.44 points. Trading activity on this index was particularly strong, with 815.6 million shares traded through 28,000

transactions, valued at 73.8 million dinars, or about 241.5 million dollars.

In contrast, the Premier Market Index finished in negative territory, losing 27.05 points, or 0.29 percent, to close at 9,340.82. It saw a total volume of 131.2 million shares traded in 7,507 transactions, with a turnover of 42 million dinars, equivalent to roughly 137.4 million US dollars.

Meanwhile, the Major 50 Index managed a slight uptick, rising 4.76 points, or 0.06 percent, to end the session at 7,427.08. Trading on this index totaled 558.4 million shares across 16,967 transactions, with a market value of approximately 54.6 million dinars, or about 178.7 million dollars.



CINET and Mala'a formalize Gulf credit data partnership.

Partnership to boost GCC credit integration

## CINET and Oman launch GCC cross-border credit exchange

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Kuwait Credit Information Network Company (CINET) has announced the launch of a new credit information exchange with the Oman Credit and Financial Information Centre (Mala'a), marking a strategic milestone in the implementation of the GCC Supreme Council's resolution to strengthen financial and credit integration among member states. This was formalized during a launch ceremony at CINET's headquarters in Kuwait, attended by senior executives from both institutions.

This step represents a pivotal advancement in establishing a unified Gulf framework for cross-border credit information exchange. The initiative provides financial institutions in Kuwait and Oman with secure, institutionalized access to real-time credit data, to facilitate intelligent financial decisions and navigate risk with confidence. It is also in alignment with the directives of the GCC Financial and Economic Committee and adheres to the Unified Banking Supervision Standards.

The collaboration also serves as a foundation for sharing expertise and promoting best practices within the credit information industry. Both parties are working jointly to develop innovative solutions, striving for excellence in products, services, and performance while adhering to privacy laws and regulations, and maintaining strong data protection and security standards.

Commenting on the launch, Mai B. Al-Owaish, CEO of CINET, stated: "This integration contributes to expanding access to accurate and reliable data, which empowers financial institutions to make in-

formed lending decisions on credit risk. It also promotes deeper integration within the regional credit ecosystem. This partnership aligns with our strategic vision to build bridges and partnerships within Kuwait and outside to achieve shared goals and deliver value for customers and support the broader economy."

For her part, Manahil Jaffar, Mala'a's Acting General Manager, stating: "This collaboration marks a significant milestone in the journey toward Gulf financial integration and reflects Mala'a's commitment to enhancing transparency and expanding access to accurate and reliable credit information. Through this linkage with CINET, we are enabling financial institutions to make informed decisions that support economic growth and stability across the region. It also paves the way for knowledge exchange and the development of a unified digital infrastructure that supports the future of the Gulf financial sector."

CINET continues to lead as the sole provider of credit information and scoring services in Kuwait, expanding its regional partnerships to foster transparency and support the GCC's vision of building a more connected and sustainable economic ecosystem.

### About CINET

Kuwait Credit Information Network (CINET) seeks to provide inquiry services, credit score, and credit information in an innovative manner and with the highest levels of professionalism and trustworthiness. The company contributes to strengthening the credit system, improving the credit culture, and raising the degree of trust among clients in the credit community.

Kuwait sees \$696 mln net foreign buying

## Foreign investors net buyers of GCC stocks for six consecutive quarters

By KAMCO Invest

Foreign investors, including institutional and retail investors, were net buyers on GCC stock markets during Q2-2025 with net buying at USD 4.2 Bn as compared to USD 2.8 Bn in net buying during Q1-2025. The trend remained positive, with buying recorded in four months and net selling in two months during the 1H-2025 to reach USD 7.0 Bn vs USD 5.0 Bn in 1H-2024 up by 39.8% y-o-y. The biggest buying was seen in Saudi Arabia with total net buying of USD 1.40 Bn. UAE was next with Abu Dhabi exchange also seeing consecutive buying by foreigners that reached USD 1.33 Bn in Q2-2025. Kuwait was next with net buy of USD 696.5 Mn by foreigners followed by Dubai and Qatar exchanges with net buy of USD 462.0 Mn and USD 333.6 Mn, respectively. Meanwhile, foreign investors were biggest sellers of Omani stocks with net sales of USD 29.6 Mn during the quarter followed by USD 459.2 Mn in net sell trades during the previous quarter. Data for Bahrain showed net selling at USD 27.9 Mn for Q2-2025.

The 1H-2025 data of trading activity on GCC exchanges indicated that net buying at the aggregate level, although the trend differed at the country level due to net sales during Q1-2025 for some of the exchanges. The 1H-2025 showed foreign investors as net sellers for Qatar, Oman and Bahrain to the tune of USD 580.7 Mn, partially offsetting the overall net buy trades. Foreign investors were the biggest buyers of UAE stocks during 1H-2025, with net buying reaching USD 4.5 Bn followed by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait at USD 1.6 Bn and USD 1.4 Bn, respectively. Recently, Saudi Arabia's Capital Market Authority (CMA) has announced a landmark regulatory shift by opening the Kingdom's main stock exchange, the Tadawul, to direct investment by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) citizens and residents. For the first time, these investors can access the market without intermediaries significantly easing market access for regional investors, including current and former residents of Saudi Arabia and other GCC countries. These reforms are expected to promote the openness of the Saudi market internationally, while at the same time building long-term investment relationships with wider segments of investors around the world.

Meanwhile, the monthly trend (Excluding Bahrain due to unavailability of data) data showed Boursa Kuwait, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Qatar witnessed consecutive buying by foreigners during the three months of the quarter. Conversely, Saudi Arabia recorded net selling by foreign investors during the April-2025, which was followed by net buying in the next two months. Oman was the only exchange in the GCC that witnessed net sale by foreign investors during all the three months of the quarter. Some of the key factors that affected the flow of foreign money in the region included regional market trends, IPOs, geopolitical issues, economic health of the individual countries and crude oil prices.

The quarter saw a mixed trend in the equity market that favored gainers as five out of seven exchanges reported gains during Q2-2025. Investors remained cautious as the U.S. Federal Reserve is widely expected to keep interest rates unchanged, opting to assess the potential impact of newly announced tariffs on inflation and overall price pressures. Investors are also seeking clarity on the direction of U.S. trade policy, following U.S. President's latest round of tariff threats. The U.S. government recently announced a 30% tariff on imports from both Mexico and the European Union, set to take effect on August 1, 2025 in addition to the 35% duty on Canadian imports, also beginning on the same date. In addition, U.S. government has proposed raising the baseline tariff rate on goods from other countries from 10% to a range of 15%-20%.

In terms of m-o-m performance, net buying value by foreign investors peaked during June-2025 with aggregate monthly net buying at USD 2.4 Bn. In the month of May-2025 registered net buying at USD 1.9 Bn, while April witnessed a decline with net selling at USD 65.7 Mn. Historical trend for trading by foreigners in GCC listed stocks showed declines merely in one quarter over the last five years. Foreigners bought the most stocks during Q1-2022 with net buy transactions of USD 11.0 Bn, reflecting steep increase in buying mainly in Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

In the Saudi market, local Saudi investors were net sellers on Saudi stock market during Q2-2025 at



SAR 5.2 Bn as compared to SAR 945.6 Mn in net selling during Q1-2025. However, Saudi Individuals were net buyers of Saudi stocks to the tune of SAR 8.2 Bn that was more than offset by net sell trades by Saudi Institutions at SAR 13.3 Bn. On the other hand, buying was seen in trades by non-GCC foreigners and GCC investors to the tune of SAR 4.9 Bn and SAR 369.7 Mn, respectively. In the 1H-2025, foreign investors were net buyers in the Saudi market, with total purchases amounting to SAR 7.3 Bn. This marks a 37% decline compared to SAR 11.5 Bn in the same period of 2024. The highest level of foreign purchase occurred in June, reaching SAR 3.64 Bn. Similarly, Saudi individual investors recorded net buying of SAR 7.1 Bn during 1H-2025, down from SAR 11.0 Bn in the corresponding period last year. April saw the peak in retail investor activity, with net purchases totaling SAR 3.51 billion.

Trading by GCC investors (Excluding Bahrain due to unavailability of data) in GCC exchanges showed net selling during Q2-2025. During Q2-2025, net sell trades by GCC investors reached USD 50.5 Mn, reflecting a decline from the USD 482.3 Mn in net sell trades recorded in Q1-2025. Abu Dhabi witnessed the biggest net buying by GCC investors during Q2-2025 at USD 48.4 Mn followed by Dubai exchanges at USD 23.0 Mn. Saudi Arabia followed with a net buy of USD 4.0 Mn. On the other hand, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman exchanges recorded net sales by GCC investors in Q2-2025 partially offsetting the overall buying by GCC investors.

In terms of the aggregate trading activity, total GCC volume traded increased by 9.1% y-o-y to reach 94.73 Bn shares in Q2-2025 as compared

to 86.8 Bn shares in Q1-2025. Most of the GCC Exchanges reported a q-o-q gain in volume during the quarter barring Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Qatar topped the list with a gain of 39.4% to record 12.5 Bn in Q2-2025 compared to 8.9 Bn in Q1-2025, followed by Dubai with 21.0% to record 16.3 Bn in Q2-2025 vs. 13.4 Bn in Q1-2025. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain declined by 5.0% and 61.5% in Q2-2025, respectively.

Meanwhile, the total value of shares traded declined during Q2-2025. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain declined in value traded while the rest of the markets gained during Q2-2025. Aggregate value traded reached USD 151.8 Bn in Q2-2025 vs. USD 157.5 Bn in Q1-2025. Abu Dhabi reported the biggest increase in trading activity with value traded increasing from USD 20.3 Bn in Q2-2025 to USD 22.5 Bn in Q1-2025 resulting a share of 14.9% vs. 12.9% in Q1-2025. Trading activity on the Saudi Arabia Exchange declined q-o-q from USD 95.7 Bn in Q1-2025 to USD 89.0 Bn in Q2-2025.

### Top 10 GCC Stocks by Trading value

Six Saudi-listed stocks ranked among the top 10 most traded GCC stocks by trading value in Q2-2025. The aggregate traded value of the top 10 stocks listed in the GCC stood at USD 34.7 Bn, accounting for 36.6% of the total value traded on the GCC exchanges during the quarter. Al-Rajhi Bank topped the list by recording USD 5.8 Bn in trades followed by Saudi Arabian Oil Co. (Aramco) at USD 5.1 Bn and International Holdings Co. at USD 4.0 Bn. In addition to the Saudi stocks, the most actively traded stocks during the quarter included Adnoc Gas, Emaar Properties Co. and Kuwait Finance House.



In light of NBK’s commitment to enriching the customer experience

# National Bank of Kuwait expands rewards network, adds Abyat to partners

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Reflecting its commitment to enriching the banking experience of its customers by providing exclusive offers and special rewards, National Bank of Kuwait announced the joining of Abyat, a leading company specialized in retail furnishing and finishing materials, to the NBK Rewards Loyalty Program.

This exciting new partnership brings NBK Credit and Prepaid Cardholders an exclusive opportunity to earn 5% or redeem their NBK Rewards Points on their purchases at Abyat when spending KD 100.

Starting today, NBK customers can enjoy benefits when shopping for furniture at Abyat. Whether renovating or simply refreshing a space, customers now have more reason to shop at Abyat with their NBK Credit or Prepaid Cards.

The earned NBK Rewards points can be fully or partially redeemed for purchases at all participating outlets immediately through POS terminals.

On this occasion, Homoud AlNasrallah SVP – Head of Merchant Business and Customer Loyalty Management commented: “We always strive to strengthen our ties with leading companies across different fields and widen our network of partners within the NBK Rewards Program, as we hope to elevate and enrich our customers’ banking experience and enhance the rewards and benefits when they use their NBK Credit and Prepaid Cardholders at their favorite outlets. Therefore, We’re thrilled to welcome Abyat to the NBK Rewards Program. This partnership is a reflection of



Mohammed Al Othman, Chief Executive Officer of Personal and Digital Banking at the National Bank of Kuwait and CEO of Abyat Mohammed Abul.

our commitment to giving NBK customers more value from the brands they already love - and Abyat is a household name when it comes to home solutions in Kuwait.”

AlNasrallah also highlighted that to benefit from this offer, cus-

tomers simply need to spend KD 100 or more using their NBK Credit or Prepaid cards in-store at Abyat. The 5% NBK Rewards points will be automatically credited to the rewards center, making home shopping even more rewarding.



Al Othman and Abul in a photo that brings together the NBK team and Abyat.

The NBK Rewards Program is Kuwait’s largest loyalty program, offering unmatched savings and benefits across more than 800 partner outlets from retail and dining to entertainment and health and wellness centers.

## Investment real estate set to grow

### Al-Hasawy: Real estate remains the safest & most profitable investment

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Executive Manager-Real Estate Valuation at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Eng. Hamad Al-Hasawy, said that real estate investment is one of the most important safe havens and a good opportunity to grow wealth with low risk.

He added that this type of investment has shown significant developments across key sectors in Kuwait. For example, the investment real estate market saw high demand in Q2 2025, and it is expected to continue during the coming period.

Al-Hasawy revealed in a press release that the Real Estate Report, issued quarterly by KFH Real Estate Valuation, showed the value of real estate transactions in Q2 2024 reached KD 1.07 billion, an increase of 19.1% compared to Q1 2024. While this increase was observed in most real estate segments, the number of transactions in Q2 2024 rose to 1,463, an increase of 12.4%.

“The value of investment real estate transactions increased to KD 482.6 million in Q2 2025, an increase of 39.7%. Concurrently, the number of deals saw a QoQ increase of 4.5%, reaching 351. This upward trend is likely to continue in the coming period, given investors’ withdrawal from alternative investment opportunities and the current economic and geopolitical developments impacting the markets. Investment real estate in Kuwait continues to offer competitive returns compared to other investment avenues. During Q2, return rates ranged between 6.40% and 7.30%, varying based on distinguishing factors across Kuwait’s governorates,” he added.

Al-Hasawy highlighted the real estate sector’s substantial contribution to Kuwait’s economy, often second only to the oil sector in terms of GDP. This vital sector is constantly evolving, encompassing residential, commercial, and investment properties. The second quarter of 2025 saw remarkable activity in real estate transactions across all governorates. The KFH Real Estate Report further supports this, indicating an increase in real estate



Hamad Al-Hasawy

transactions across most sectors, with others remaining stable. This trend underscores the Kuwaiti real estate market’s consistent and sustainable growth.

“The increase in real estate development projects and the government’s interest in enhancing the sector’s activities position Kuwait as one of the most attractive real estate markets in the region,” He added.

He also emphasized that real estate valuation is vital to the sector. “It smoothes financing processes and guarantees transparent and organized market transactions. This is achieved through a combination of professional expertise and fair assessments that genuinely reflect current market realities and evolving conditions.”

Al-Hasawy stressed that KFH’s outstanding staff and expertise in real estate valuation are what continuously build significant customer confidence in their appraisal work.

He also noted that KFH’s strong organizational framework leads to exceptional market performance, making it the preferred provider for real estate appraisals across all sectors. This strong preference is rooted in KFH’s extensive experience, reliability, integrity, and transparency within the real estate sector.

It’s worth noting that KFH is an accredited evaluation provider, featuring an extensive database and a specialized technical team with expertise in engineering, law, and accounting.

# US inflation may have worsened last month as Trump’s tariffs start to bite

Rising prices challenge Fed’s rate-cut plans

WASHINGTON, July 15, (AP): Inflation likely accelerated in June as sweeping tariffs on nearly all imports may have pushed up prices for electronics, appliances, and other goods, economists forecast.

Consumer prices probably rose 2.6% last month from a year ago, up from an annual increase of 2.4% in May, according to data provider FactSet. The Labor Department will issue its inflation report at 8:30 a.m. eastern. On a monthly basis, prices likely rose 0.3% from May to June, the largest increase since January, economists project.

Worsening inflation could pose a political challenge for President Donald Trump, who promised during last year’s presidential campaign to immediately lower costs. The sharp inflation spike of 2022-2023 was the worst in four decades and soured most Americans on former president Joe Biden’s handling of the economy.

Faster price increases would also likely underscore the Federal Reserve’s reluctance to cut its short-term interest rate, as Trump is loudly demanding.

Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, inflation is forecast to have risen 3% in June from a year earlier, up from a 2.8% rise in May. On a monthly basis, it is also expected to have picked up 0.3%

from May to June, according to FactSet. Economists closely watch core prices because they typically provide a better sense of where inflation is headed.

Trump has imposed sweeping duties of 10% on all imports, plus 50% levies on steel and aluminum, 30% on goods from China, and 25% on imported cars. Just last week the president threatened to hit the European Union with a new 30% tariff starting Aug. 1.

So far, the tariffs haven’t noticeably pushed up inflation, which has been mild for the past four months. Core inflation has fallen from 3.3% in January to 2.8% in May, though that is still above the Fed’s 2% target. If inflation in June is much weaker than economists forecast, Trump will likely renew his demands that Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell immediately reduce borrowing costs.

Powell and other Fed officials have emphasized that they want to see how the economy evolves as the tariffs take effect before cutting their key short-term rate. The Fed chair has said that the duties could both push up prices and slow the economy, a tricky combination for the central bank since higher costs would typically lead the Fed to hike rates while a weaker economy often spurs it to reduce them.

Trump on Monday said that Powell has been “terrible” and “doesn’t know what the hell he’s doing.” The president added that the economy was doing well despite Powell’s refusal to reduce rates, but it would be “nice” if there were rate cuts “because

people would be able to buy housing a lot easier.”

Last week, White House officials also attacked Powell for cost overruns on the years-long renovation of two Fed buildings, which are now slated to cost \$2.5 billion, roughly one-third more than originally budgeted. While Trump legally can’t fire Powell just because he disagrees with his interest rate decisions, the Supreme Court has signaled, he may be able to do so “for cause,” such as misconduct or mismanagement.

While inflation was mild in May, there were already signs in last month’s report that tariffs were starting to have some impact. The cost of furniture, appliances, toys, and tools rose, though those increases were offset by falling prices for airfares, hotels, and muted rises in rental costs.

Some companies have said they have or plan to raise prices as a result of the tariffs, including Walmart, the world’s largest retailer. Automaker Mitsubishi said last month that it was lifting prices by an average of 2.1% in response to the duties, and Nike has said it would implement “surgical” price hikes to offset tariff costs.

But many companies have been able to postpone or avoid price increases, after building up their stockpiles of goods this spring to get ahead of the duties. Other companies may have refrained from lifting prices while they wait to see whether the U.S. is able to reach trade deals with other countries that lower the duties.

Nvidia shares jump after US OKs China chip sales

Biggest financial reform in a decade

# Global markets mostly up despite tariff concerns

TOKYO, July 15, (AP): Shares were mostly higher in Europe on Monday following gains in Asian markets despite lingering worries about President Donald Trump’s latest updates to his tariffs.

Shares in tech giant Nvidia jumped 5.2% in pre-market trading after its CEO said the Trump administration will let it sell to China its advanced H20 chips used to develop artificial technology.

Germany’s DAX gained 0.3% to 24,222.95 and the CAC 40 in Paris was up less than 0.1% at 7,812.14. Britain’s FTSE 100 was nearly unchanged at 8,996.90.

The future for the S&P 500 gained 0.4% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 0.1%.

In Asian trading, Japan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 0.6% to finish at 39,678.02.

A nationwide election for the upper house of Japan’s Parliament, set for Sunday, also added to the wait-and-see attitude among market players. Analysts say the ruling pro-business Liberal Democratic Party may face an uphill battle and will likely need coalition partners, including possibly new ones, to keep its grip on power.

Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 added 0.7% to 8,630.30. South Korea’s Kospi edged up 0.4% to 3,215.28. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng rose 1.6% to 24,590.12, while the Shanghai Composite dipped 0.4% to 3,505.00, after the government reported that China’s economy slowed in the last quarter as Trump’s trade war escalated.

Tuesday’s data showed the econ-



A currency trader works near a screen showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI), top left, and the foreign exchange rate between U.S. dollar and South Korean won, top center, at the foreign exchange dealing room of the Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, July 15, 2025. (AP)

omy expanded at a robust 5.2% annual pace, compared with 5.4% annual growth in January-March. In quarterly terms, the world’s second-largest economy expanded by 1.1%, according to government data.

Despite worries about the damage Trump’s tariffs may have on the region’s exporters, speculation continues that he may ultimately back down on them. They don’t take effect until Aug. 1, which leaves time for more negotiations.

On Wall Street Monday, the S&P 500 edged up by 0.1%, the Dow added 0.2% and the Nasdaq composite rose 0.3%.

If Trump were to enact all his proposed tariffs on Aug. 1, they would raise the risk of a recession. That would not only hurt American consumers but also raise the pressure on the U.S. government’s debt level relative to the economy’s size, particularly after Washington approved big tax cuts that will add to the deficit.

For the time being, the uncertainty around tariffs could help keep markets unsteady. This upcoming week has several potential flashpoints that could shake things up.

The latest reading on inflation across the U.S. comes Tuesday, with

economists expecting it to show inflation accelerated to 2.6% last month from 2.4% in May.

Companies are also lining up to report how they performed during the spring. JPMorgan Chase and several other huge banks will report their latest quarterly results Tuesday, followed by Johnson & Johnson on Wednesday and PepsiCo on Thursday.

Fastenal, a distributor of industrial and construction supplies, reported Monday a stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected. Its stock rose 2.9%, though it also said that market conditions remain sluggish.

Shares of Kenvue rose 2.3% in shaky trading after the former division of Johnson & Johnson said CEO Thibaut Mongon is stepping down. Kenvue, the maker of Listerine and Band-Aid brands, is in the midst of a strategic review of its options, “including ways to simplify the company’s portfolio and how it operates,” according to board chair Larry Merlo.

Some of the biggest moves in financial markets were for crypto, where bitcoin continues to set records. This upcoming week is Crypto Week in Washington, where Congress will consider several bills to “make America the crypto capital of the world.”

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude fell 18 cents to \$66.80 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, declined 9 cents to \$69.12 a barrel.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar inched up to 147.73 Japanese yen from 147.72 yen. The euro cost \$1.1685, up from \$1.1666.

## UK Treasury to ‘slash’ bank regulations to boost growth

LONDON, July 15, (AP): U.K. Treasury chief Rachel Reeves said Tuesday that she’ll cut red tape for banks and finance firms so that “informed risk-taking” can help kickstart Britain’s sluggish economy.

The government is trying to regain the economic initiative after rocky weeks of costly U-turns and figures showing the British economy contracted for two months running.

Reeves announced plans to pare back some of the regulations introduced after the 2008 global financial crisis, which was triggered by risky lending. That includes reforms to “ring-fencing” rules enacted to separate banks’ retail and investment banking activities, and a review of the amount of capital banks must hold.

She said it was the widest set of reforms of financial services in more than a decade.

“We are fundamentally reforming the regulatory system, freeing up firms to take risks and to drive growth,” Reeves said on a visit to Leeds in northern England.

Reeves will outline the changes later at the annual Mansion House speech to finance bigwigs in London, the Treasury said. She plans to say that financial services are “at the heart of the government’s growth mission ... with a ripple effect that will drive investment in all sectors of our economy and put pounds in the pockets of working people.”

The Treasury said Reeves also

will hail the “instant impact” for prospective homebuyers of new Bank of England guidance allowing mortgage-lenders to loan more than 4.5 times a buyer’s income.

The center-left Labour Party won a landslide election victory in July 2024, but has struggled to deliver on its pledge to boost economic growth.

Efforts to soothe markets and demonstrate fiscal prudence have proved unpopular with voters. A decision to end winter home heating subsidies for millions of retirees, announced soon after the election, was reversed last month. Earlier this month the government ditched planned cuts to welfare spending after an outcry from Labour lawmakers.

The U-turns have reduced the Treasury’s future income by several billion pounds, increasing the likelihood of tax increases in the fall. But the government has boxed itself in by ruling out hikes to sales tax or to income tax for employees.

Questions swirled about Reeves’ future earlier this month when she appeared in tears in the House of Commons during the weekly prime minister’s questions session. The Treasury said Reeves was dealing with a “personal matter.”

The cost of government borrowing spiked at the sight of Reeves’ tears, but settled down after Prime Minister Keir Starmer gave her his full backing.

# Tesla debuts in India, but its cars likely cost too much for most Indians

NEW DELHI, July 15, (AP): Tesla Inc. opened its first showroom in India on Tuesday, marking the electric vehicle maker’s long-anticipated debut in the world’s third-biggest automotive market.

Located in the Bandra-Kurla Complex, an upscale business center in the financial capital Mumbai, the showroom will serve as Tesla’s flagship retail and experience outlet as the company introduces its EV lineup to Indian customers.

Tesla’s entry to India comes after years of delays and policy friction, marking a pivotal expansion in a fast-growing consumer base while global sales are plunging and the company faces challenges in its two core markets, China and the U.S.

Sales of Tesla electric cars fell sharply from April to June as boycotts over Elon Musk’s political views continued keeping buyers away.

For India, Tesla’s entry signals rising investor confidence and strengthens its move towards clean mobility, although Tesla’s higher pricing is likely to make its cars unaffordable for most Indians.

The country’s nascent electric vehicle market made up a little more than 2% of total car sales last year. But the government wants to change that and increase the electric vehicle share to 30% by 2030.

Tesla will begin by importing and selling its popular Y model cars in India. The base price would be 6.78 million rupees (\$79,089) for the long-range, rear-wheel drive vehicle, according to a presentation by the company during the showroom launch Tuesday. Delivery is expected to start from the third quarter, Tesla officials said.

By comparison, the price tag is around \$44,990 in the U.S. without a federal tax credit. Tesla will compete mostly with German luxury carmakers such as BMW and Mercedes Benz Group AG, and not budget Indian players like Tata Motors Ltd. and Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. The luxury car market makes up just about 1% of total vehicle sales.

The debut by American EV giant, however, would bring in world class technology to the country, auto analyst Gaurav Vangaal said.

“With deeper local investments, Tesla can accelerate India’s EV ecosystem, drive innovation and support the government’s goal of higher EV penetration,” said Vangaal, an associate director with S&P Global Mobility.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government has wooed Tesla for years for its global brand value and to boost the country’s clean energy endeavors.

CEO Elon Musk invited Indians in April 2016 to preorder the upcoming Tesla Model 3. Several customers placed an order but the cars never arrived and the booking amount had to be refunded.

Despite his earlier enthusiasm, in 2019 Musk expressed concern in a post on his social media platform X that import taxes could double prices of Tesla cars, making them “unaffordable.”

Tesla pressed Indian authorities to cut import taxes on EVs, which were up to 100%, to be able to test the local market. New Delhi, however, wanted Tesla to set up manufacturing facilities so a comprehensive policy could benefit all the players in the sector.





H.E. Ghanshyam Lamsal and other Nepalese diplomats join Lulu officials at the launch.

Himalayan flavors mark agri-trade boost

# Lulu launches premium fresh produce from Nepal to Kuwait



Nepal's envoy, embassy staff and Lulu management attend the launch.

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Lulu Hypermarket has officially launched a premium range of fresh produce from Nepal, with a special inauguration event held at Lulu Hypermarket, Al Rai. The launch was graced by H.E. Ghanshyam Lamsal, Ambassador of Nepal to Kuwait, Mr. Giri Acharya, Labour Attaché, and Mr. Ram Punit Yadav, Third Secretary, Embassy of Nepal in Kuwait, along with senior management from Lulu Hypermarket. This event marks a significant step in strengthening agri-trade relations between Nepal and Kuwait. The newly introduced range features a carefully curated selection of vegetables such as French Beans, Long Beans, Bitter Gourd, Akabare Chilli, Bullet Chilli, Chayotte (Iskush), and Bamboo Shoot—all freshly sourced from Nepal's nutrient-rich, high-altitude farmlands. Renowned for their authentic flavor, vibrant appearance, and exceptional freshness, these vegetables are now available across all Lulu Hypermarket stores in Kuwait.

This launch is part of Lulu's ongoing commitment to offering high-quality international produce to its customers while promoting sustainable sourcing from diverse agricultural regions. The availability of Nepalese vegetables in Kuwait not only introduces local consumers to the rich flavors of Himalayan agriculture but also creates new market opportunities for farmers in Nepal.

Customers are invited to visit any Lulu store in Kuwait to experience the authentic freshness and distinctive taste of Nepal's finest farm produce.

## Revival of forgotten documents

# Seefi Festival features lecture on Kuwait and Gulf's historical roots

KUWAIT CITY, July 15, (KUNA): Independent researcher and PhD holder in modern history, Dr. Mohammed Al-Kharshan, delivered a distinguished lecture titled "Primary Sources in the History of Kuwait and the Modern Gulf" at the Kuwait National Library Theater on Monday.

The lecture was part of the 17th edition of the Seefi Thaqafi Festival, organized by the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL).

During the lecture, moderated by history researcher Nader Al-Watheer, Dr. Al-Kharshan explored the concept of "primary sources," which refers to unconventional primary materials within traditional academic fields. These sources serve as a fundamental knowledge base that enhances the understanding of history in the Gulf region and Kuwait.

He highlighted the three main questions framing the study - How can the presence of primary sources be identified? What is the ideal methodology for diagnosing their elements alongside the mechanisms of their initial transmissions? And do primary sources have the ability to adapt to the records of other historical periods, such as the modern era?

His analysis relied on documentary examples and records related to the history of the Gulf and modern Kuwait.

Using a critical dialectical approach based on deduction and induction, Dr. Al-Kharshan scientifically critiqued previous academic traditions, classifying researchers into three groups based on how they engage with the concept of primary sources.

Dr. Al-Kharshan presented important conclusions and recommendations, including the reclassification of historical references to recognize primary sources as fundamental assets, the revival of previously unknown documents, and the emphasis on the



Researcher Nader Al-Watheer moderates the session.



Dr. Mohammed Al-Kharshan delivers a lecture.

need to explore primary sources deeply rooted in original materials. The 17th Seefi Thaqafi Festival be-

gan last Wednesday and will run for seven weeks, featuring a diverse array of cultural and artistic events.



Lecture on 'Primary Sources in the History of Kuwait and the Modern Gulf'.

## 'Little Potter's Creations' inspires budding artists at Seefi Thaqafi Festival

# Young hands mold clay and creativity at NCCAL pottery workshop

KUWAIT CITY, July 15, (KUNA): Several young participants showcased their creativity by shaping various ceramic pieces in the "Little Potter's Creations" workshop, organized by the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) as part of the 17th Seefi Thaqafi Festival.

Workshop instructor Dalal Al-Saeed told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the workshop aims to introduce children to the art of pottery and unlock their creative potential.

She explained that working with clay is not only an artistic activity but also helps strengthen children's hand muscles and improve their fine motor skills.

The workshop provides children with a space to express themselves and develop their talents through molding clay and ceramics, while also fostering concentration, patience, and precision. It is in line with the festival's goal of productively engaging children's free time during the summer vacation, offering them cultural and artistic benefits.

Meanwhile, Head of Photography and Artistic Direction at NCCAL Sarah Khalaf told KUNA that the Museum of Modern Art hosts this workshop along with several other artistic workshops included in the festival's program.

Khalaf affirmed that "Little Potter's Creations" is designed for children aged 7 to 14 and has attracted strong participation.

She emphasized NCCAL's commitment to organizing purposeful activities that elevate the audience's taste and cater to the interests of different age groups, stating, "We always strive to offer programs that enrich the imagination of children and youth and nurture their artistic and cultural talents." Reem Abdul Latif, guardian of participant Fatima Al-Mutairi, expressed her happiness



Sara Khalaf, Head of the Photography and Art Direction Department at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters



Dalal Al-Saeed, Workshop presenter



A young participant sharing her ceramic work.



A child displays her artwork.



Ceramic piece by one of the participating children.



A colored ceramic piece made by a workshop participant.



Children participating in the workshop.

with her daughter's involvement in the workshop.

She said Fatima has a passion for pottery and was inspired to register enthusiastically after following

NCCAL's social media accounts.

Abdul Latif described the workshop as "very beneficial", praising its high level of organization and the excellent care provided to the

children, which encourages parents to participate regularly.

It is worth noting that the 17th Seefi Thaqafi Festival began last Wednesday and will continue for

seven weeks, offering a diverse array of cultural and artistic events for the entire family.

Through this festival, NCCAL aims to provide quality programs

that nurture creativity among youth and create a unique educational and entertaining environment throughout the summer season.



## Streaming powerhouses to dominate 2025 Emmy nominations

# 'Severance,' 'White Lotus,' poised for big Emmy moments

LOS ANGELES, July 15, (AP): "Severance" could separate itself from the competition and reach the upper echelons of the Emmy Awards when nominations are announced Tuesday morning.

The dystopian workplace drama from Apple TV+ achieved a convergence of acclaim and audience buzz for its second season that often leads to the kind of Emmy dominance enjoyed in recent years by "Succession" and "Shogun."

But a flowering of Emmys tends to follow HBO's "The White Lotus" wherever it goes, and HBO Max's newcomer "The Pitt" could challenge for nominations and for wins when the trophies are handed out in September.

All will benefit from the absence of "Shogun," which last year led all Emmy nominees with 25 and set a record for wins in a season with 18. Its second season is still in the early stages of production and it shouldn't be around for next year's Emmys either.

"Severance" has become a signature show for Apple TV+. The streamer has gotten plenty of Emmy nominations for dramas including "The Morning Show" and "Slow Horses," and "Ted Lasso" was downright dominant on the comedy side.

But Apple has lacked the kind of breakaway prestige drama that HBO seems to produce perennially.

Adam Scott and Britt Lower are virtual locks for lead acting nominations for what amounted to dual roles as their characters' "innie" work selves and "outie" home selves. Tramell Tillman is just as likely to get a nod for playing their tone-shifting, pineapple-wielding supervisor, and Ben Stiller is bound to get a directing nomination.

"Severance" got 14 nominations for its first season in 2023, but won just two, for its music and its title sequence.

Nominations will be streamed live beginning at 11:30 a.m. Eastern at Emmys.com/nominations. The reality competition series and talk series nominees will be announced earlier on "CBS Mornings" at around 7:45 a.m. Eastern.

Apple TV+'s Hollywood satire "The Studio" could draw a host of comedy



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Adam Scott in a scene from 'Severance.' (AP)

nominations for its first season as it takes on previously dominant Emmy veterans like "Hacks" and "The Bear."

"The Studio" star and co-creator Seth Rogen could get nods for acting, writing and directing, and the show's all-star guest stars, including Zoë Kravitz, Martin Scorsese and Ron Howard, may also add some novelty to the nominations.

"Hacks" star Jean Smart has won best lead actress in a comedy for all three pre-

vious seasons of the HBO Max series, and is the favorite for the fourth. The show won best comedy series last year too.

"The Bear" set a record for comedy nominations with 23 last year for its acclaimed second season. This year, its third season is up for Emmys (even though its fourth has already aired). It got a more lukewarm reception, leaving its status coming into the nominations murky.

"The White Lotus," HBO's darkly comic resort drama, submits all the members of its big ensemble cast in supporting categories, which they tend to dominate. Its Thailand-set third season included ballyhooed performances from Walton Goggins, Carrie Coon, Parker Posey and Sam Rockwell among several others.

"The Pitt," HBO Max's prestige medical procedural starring "ER" veteran Noah Wyle, had reached the top tier of most prognosticators' Emmy prediction lists by the time its first season ended in April. Wyle, who was nominated five times without a win for "ER," could join Scott to make best actor in a drama a two-man race. And the show's other doctors and nurses, played by lesser known actors, could draw nominations if "The White Lotus" cast leaves them any room.

Last year, the British Netflix production "Baby Reindeer" was surprisingly dominant in the limited series categories. This year, it will surprise no one if the Netflix British crime drama "Adolescence" does the same in the same categories. It was probably the most acclaimed show of the year. Fifteen-year-old Owen Cooper, who plays the 13-year-old accused of a killing at the center of the story, is likely to get one of several acting nominations.

All the shows are living in the splintered world of the streaming era, and the like the Oscars its most acclaimed nominees rarely have the huge audience they once did. While an impressive average of 10 million people per episode watched Wyle on "The Pitt" at some point on HBO Max, according to Warner Bros. Discovery, 30 years ago an average of 30 million sat down on the same night and watched him on "ER" on NBC.

### Variety

**LONDON:** The two men who long denied cutting down England's beloved Sycamore Gap tree changed their tune Tuesday as they faced several years in prison for the crime.

Daniel Graham and Adam Carruthers previously testified at trial that they had nothing to do with the vandalism, but a prosecutor said that the two convicts now blame booze for the act as they admitted before sentencing that they had been on what he termed a "moronic mission" to topple the tree.

Prosecutor Richard Wright said that it was a "fanciful proposition" that they didn't intend to cut down the tree along Hadrian's Wall or realize what they were doing until it was too late.

"The court can be sure they were sober, prepared and planned to do what they did," Wright said. He said the pair should serve prison sentences between 18 months and 4 years.

Justice Christina Lambert was due to sentence the pair later in the afternoon at Newcastle Crown Court.

Graham, 39, and Carruthers, 32, were each convicted in May of two counts of criminal damage - one for killing the tree, and the other for damaging the ancient wall.

The illegal felling in Northumberland National Park on Sept. 28, 2023, caused instant outrage and news quickly spread beyond the ancient wall built by Emperor Hadrian in A.D. 122 to protect the northwest frontier of the Roman Empire.

It wasn't Britain's biggest or oldest tree, but the sycamore was prized for its picturesque setting, symmetrically planted between two hills along the wall that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The tree had long been known to locals but became famous after a cameo in **Kevin Costner's** 1991 film "Robin Hood: Prince Of Thieves." It drew tourists, lovers, landscape photographers and even those who spread the ashes of loved ones. It was voted English "Tree of the Year" in 2016. (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** Sesame Workshop regained control of its Elmo account on the X platform Monday after a hacker gained access and posted a string of racist and antisemitic messages.

"Elmo's X account was compromised by an unknown hacker who posted disgusting messages, including antisemitic and racist posts," Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit behind "Sesame Street" and Elmo, said in a statement Monday.

The account was compromised over the weekend and instead of the usual posts of encouragement and kindness, Elmo's 650,000 followers were given antisemitic threats and a profane reference to the Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking investigation. Those tweets were soon deleted.

X did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Elmo's social media account has lately become a place for mental health awareness. Last year, the red fuzzy monster, eternally 3 1/2, caused a sensation when he asked: "Elmo is just checking in! How is everybody doing?" It prompted responses from then-President Joe Biden and Chance the Rapper. (AP)

### Film



This image released by A24 shows Joaquin Phoenix, (left), and Pedro Pascal in a scene from 'Eddington.' (AP)

Joaquin Phoenix stars in a puzzle of paranoia, madness

# Aster's 'Eddington' divides and disturbs

LOS ANGELES, July 15, (AP): You might need to lie down for a bit after "Eddington." Preferably in a dark room with no screens and no talking. "Eddington," Ari Aster's latest nightmare vision, is sure to divide (along which lines, I'm can't fathom) but there is one thing I think everyone will be able to agree on: It is an experience that will leave you asking "What?" The movie opens on the aggravated ramblings of an unhoused man and doesn't get much more coherent from there. Approach with caution.

We talk a lot about movies as an escape from the stresses of the world. "Eddington," in which a small, fictional town in New Mexico becomes a microcosm of life in the misinformation age, and more specifically during the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter protests, is very much the opposite of that. It is an anti-escapist symphony of masking debates, conspiracy theories, YouTube influencers, TikTok trends and third-rail topics in which no side is spared. Most everyone looks insane and ridiculous by the end, from the white teenage girl (Amélie Hoeferle) telling a Black cop (Michael Ward) to join the movement, to the grammatical errors of the truthers, as the town spirals into chaos and gruesome violence.

Joaquin Phoenix plays the town sheriff, a soft-spoken wife guy named Joe Cross, who we meet out in the desert one night watching YouTube videos about how to convince your wife to have a baby. He's interrupted by cops from the neighboring town, who demand he put on a mask since he's technically crossed the border.

It is May 2020, and everyone is a little on edge. Joe, frustrated by the hysterical commitment to mandates from nowhere, finds himself the unofficial spokesperson for the right to go unmasked. He pits himself against the slick local mayor Ted Garcia (Pedro Pascal), who is up for reelection, in the pocket of big tech and ready to exploit his single fatherhood for political gain. At home, Joe's mother-in-law Dawn (Deirdre O'Connell) spends all day consuming internet conspiracy theories, while his wife Louise (a criminally underused Emma Stone) works on crafts and nurses unspoken traumas.

Joe's eagerness to take on Ted isn't just about masking. Years ago, Ted dated his now-wife, a story that will be twisted into rape and grooming accusations. Caricatures and stereotypes are everywhere in "Eddington," but in this world it feels like the women are especially underwritten - they are kooks, victims, zealots and the ones who push fragile men to the brink. But in "Eddington," all the conspiracies are real and ordinary people are all susceptible to the madness. In fact, insanity is just an inevitability no matter how well-intentioned one starts out, whether that's the woke-curious teen rattled by rejection, or the loyal deputy Guy (Luke Grimes) who is suddenly more than happy to accuse a colleague of murder. Louise will also be swayed by a floppy-haired internet guru, a cult-like leader played with perfect swagger by Austin Butler.

The problem with an anarchic satire like "Eddington," in theaters Friday, is that any criticism could easily be dismissed with a "that's the point" counterargument. And yet there is very

little to be learned in this silo of provocations that, like all Aster movies, escalates until the movie is over. There are moments of humor and wit, too, as well as expertly built tension and release. "Eddington" is not incompetently done or unwatchable (the cast and the director kind of guarantee that); it just doesn't feel a whole of anything other than a cinematic expression of broken brains.

Five years after we just went through (at least a lot of) this, "Eddington" somehow seems both too late and too soon, especially when it offers so little wisdom or insight beyond a vision of hopelessness. I wonder what world Aster thought he'd be releasing this film into. Maybe one that was better, not cosmically worse.

It's possible "Eddington" will age well. Perhaps it's the kind of movie that future Gen Alpha cinephiles will point to as being ahead of its time, a work that was woefully misunderstood by head-in-the-sand critics who didn't see that it was 2025's answer to the prescient paranoia cinema of the 1970s.

Not to sound like the studio boss in "Sullivan's Travels," trying to get the filmmaker with big issues on the mind to make a dumb comedy, but right now, "Eddington" feels like the last thing any of us need.

"Eddington," an A24 release in theaters Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "for strong violence, some grisly images, language and graphic nudity." Running time: 148 minutes. Two stars out of four.

## Police seek suspect

# Unreleased Beyoncé music, luxury items stolen during tour

LOS ANGELES, July 15, (AP): Unreleased music by Beyoncé along with footage, show plans and concert set lists were stolen from a car in Atlanta rented by the singer's choreographer and one of her dancers, according to a police incident report.

The theft of the materials, stored on five thumb drives, happened on July 8, two days before Beyoncé began a four-day residency at Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Beyoncé was set to take the stage Monday evening for her last night in the city.

The Atlanta Police Department said in a news release Monday it has secured an arrest warrant for a suspect whose identity was withheld.

Two MacBook laptops, Apple headphones, as well as luxury clothing and accessories were also reported stolen, according to the incident report.

Beyoncé's choreographer, Christopher Grant, and dancer Diandre Blue told police they parked their rental car, a 2024 Jeep Wagoneer, at a food hall in the city at about 8:09 p.m. The pair returned to the car just after 9 p.m. to discover the trunk window had been damaged and two suitcases had been taken.

Grant told officers that "he was also carrying some personal sensitive information for the musician Beyoncé," the police incident report stated.

The report identifies a possible suspect vehicle as a 2025 red Hyundai Elantra. Responding officers were able to identify "light prints" at the scene, and security cameras in the parking lot captured the incident, according to the report.

Officers canvassed an area where the stolen laptop and headphones were tracked by using the devices' location services, the report stated.

Beyoncé kicked off her highly-anticipated tour in late April, taking her Grammy-winning album, "Cowboy Carter," to stadiums in the US and Europe. The singer will end her tour with two Las Vegas nights in late July.



Beyonce, (left), accepts the Innovator Award during the iHeartRadio Music Awards, April 1, 2024, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)





Artists J. Laitinen and Jouni J. perform at the Loktafeasta rap festival in Utsjoki village, north of the Arctic circle, Finland, Sunday, July 6. (AP)

Unique festival brings Indigenous voices to the stage

Arctic Ocean rap festival rocks under midnight sun

UTSJOKI, Finland, July 15, (AP): It was well past midnight when Mihkku Laiti appeared on stage to perform at an open-air music festival in the Finnish village of Utsjoki, north of the Arctic circle.

Despite the time, Lapland’s famous midnight sun was still up. During the summer months the sun doesn’t go down at all in Utsjoki, which is less than 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the Arctic Ocean.

In the glow of blue spotlights, Laiti rapped while a crowd of more than 300 listened, some of them singing along and dancing. Like the majority of Utsjoki’s residents, Laiti is a member of the Sámi - Europe’s only recognized Indigenous people - and he rapped in his native Sámi language.

Laiti, also known by his stage name “Yungmiqu,” is the founder of the Loktafeasta rap festival. He first found fame on the television show Talent Finland, where he surprised the judges by rapping in the gákti, the traditional dress of the Sámi. It is brightly colored and often characterized by plaits, pewter embroidery and a high collar.

The festival brought Laiti’s Indigenous culture to the spotlight, though some of his fans could not understand what he was saying. That didn’t seem to bother anyone at the Loktafeasta as the festival mixed performances from artists in both Sámi language and Finnish.

The crowd seemed to enjoy the summer festival atmosphere despite spells of rain.

“When I rap about my culture ... I want to show how being Sámi is like from my point of view,” Laiti told The Associated Press.

“Because there are many stereotypes about Sámi people and I want to like normalize ... the basic stuff we do and not romanticize those things,” he said. He added that he has not worn the gákti for performances for about a year now to show people that it is possible to be Sámi and wear whatever you want.

The Sámi traditionally live in Lapland, which stretches from northern parts of Norway to Sweden and Finland to Russia. However, of the roughly 10,000 Sámi people living in Finland, the majority now live outside their

homeland.

The Sámi people were oppressed for centuries by the powers that ruled and exploited their lands, including bans of the use of their native tongues and efforts to suppress their culture. In the past decades, there have been efforts to reestablish their rights, including the right to use Sámi languages which is now guaranteed in the Finnish constitution.

Today, the historically semi-nomadic Sámi people have modern lifestyles. The few who still tend reindeer do so with modern vehicles, digital tools and regulated land use.

However, there is an effort to preserve the Sámi’s cultural identity. Distinctive Sámi clothing was worn by many at Loktafeasta, as is typical on special occasions.

At the festival, Laiti mostly wanted his fans to be happy and enjoy the music.

“I want people to feel joy, of course, and I just want people to be happy that we have this kind of festival here in Utsjoki,” he said with a smile.

Tradition

Find equality

Few women brave Pamplona bull run

PAMPLONA, Spain, July 15, (AP): Dressed in the traditional bull runner’s garb of a white shirt and red neck-scarf, Yomara Martínez, 30, sprinted in the death-defying morning run or “encierros” taking place this week in the northern Spanish city of Pamplona.

Yet despite being in a crowd of thousands, Martínez was among only a handful of women daredevils running with the stampeding bulls at the San Fermín Festival.

“At the end of the day, the bull doesn’t know about sexes, age or body shape,” Martinez said. “It doesn’t matter if you are woman.”

Every year, thousands of people line the medieval streets of Pamplona to witness the centuries-old tradition of running with bulls. Many watch from balconies and wooden barricades along the course. Millions more follow the spectacle on television.

Women bull runners are rare, though Martínez and other women taking part in the adrenaline-fueled tradition as more than mere spectators say it’s growing in popularity.

“There are times I feel small. And ask myself ‘what am I doing here?’ Because, although you may not want to, you do feel slightly inferior because of your physique,” said 32-year-old Sara Puñal, an administrator who took part in Sunday’s run.

“But in the moment, you are all equal,” Puñal said of the run.

Injured

The bulls pound along the twisting cobblestone streets after being led by six steers. Up to 4,000 runners take part in each bull run, which takes place over 846 meters (2,775 feet) and can last two to four minutes.

The expert Spanish runners try to sprint just in front of the bull’s horns for a few seconds while egging the animal on with a rolled newspaper. Goring is not rare, but many more people are bruised and injured in falls and pileups with each other.

“I think many have a desire to see what it feels like but they don’t try because of fear,” said Paula López, 32, a shop assistant who also took part in a run earlier in the week. López said she grew up in the masculine world of bull fighting. She wasn’t fazed by how few women take part in the event.

“It’s complicated, but it is pretty exciting,” López said.

The event’s reputation took a hit years ago following complaints by women about having suffered sexual harassment and abuse from revelers.

In 2016, five men raped an 18-year-old woman during the festival in an infamous case that sparked an outcry across Spain. The men, who had a WhatsApp group named “La Manada,” or “The Animal Pack,” were imprisoned for 15 years by the Supreme Court in 2019.

Since then, organizers have said they’ve stepped up security measures.

Women didn’t participate in the bull runs until 1975 due to a decree repealed one year earlier that prohibited women, children and the elderly from being in the streets where the bulls run during the festival.

The spectacle was made internationally famous by Ernest Hemingway’s classic 1926 novel “The Sun Also Rises,” about American bohemians wasting away in Europe.



Bull-runner Yomara Martinez poses for a portrait during the San Fermín festival in Pamplona, northern Spain, on Friday, July 11. (AP)

Music



Singer Jarvis Cocker from the British music group Pulp performs on the Lake stage during the 59th Montreux Jazz Festival (MJF), in Montreux, Switzerland, Monday, July 14. (AP)

A quiet meditation on success

Cult hero Alex G reflects on fame, identity in new album ‘Headlights’

LOS ANGELES, July 15, (AP): Fame is a double-edge sword. Though it comes with obvious perks - money, opportunity, praise - it can also prompt a kind of existential reckoning. Now what? Is this all there is? Am I changed because of it and, if so, for better or for worse?

This is the kind of wrestling Alex Giannascoli, better known as the influential indie rocker Alex G, performs on “Headlights,” his 10th album and first on a major label. “Has your wish come true?” he asks, perhaps of himself, on the aptly titled “Is It Still You In There?”

Although Giannascoli achieved quiet success early in his career - collaborating with Frank Ocean on his critically acclaimed 2016 album “Blonde” and joining the R&B superstar on tour - Giannascoli has, until recently, been more frequently labeled a cult indie figure than a household name.

But the 32-year-old has risen to prominence in recent years, particularly after his 2022 album, “... Save the Animals,” which marked a distinct shift from his austere, lo-fi sound to more robust production and instrumentation. He has since collaborated with the pop star Halsey on her latest record and scored filmmaker Jane Schoenbrun’s A24 horror hit, “I Saw the TV Glow.”

That trajectory informs Giannascoli’s contemplative poignancy on “Headlights,” releasing Friday. “Some things I do for love / Some things I do for money / It ain’t like I don’t want it / It ain’t like I’m above it,” he admits on the “Beam Me Up,” his whirling guitars strumming mesmerizingly against airy background vocals.

Many of his lyrics here, like in the past, are poetically inscrutable. But there are also moments of explicit frankness about ambition, self-doubt, transition and success. “Hoping I can make it through to April / On whatever’s left of all this label cash / No I never thought I was the real thing,” he croons on “Real Thing,” as a pan flute synthesizer whistles underneath him.

With “Headlights,” Giannascoli continues further down



This album cover image released by RCA shows ‘Headlights’ by Alex G. (AP)

his “... Save the Animals” sonic pivot to higher fidelity - perhaps to be expected on an album coming from a major label like RCA Records - recording in studios in lieu of his home for a more ornate sound.

Think dreamy synths and reverb-soaked riffs. Subdued lyrics and a distorted guitar solo almost turn “Louisiana” into a shoegaze track. “Louisiana / Wild and Free / The only one who wanted me,” he repeats with distorted vocals.

If there is a central message to “Headlights,” it appears on the song “Bounce Boy.” “I’m up in the clouds and I pray,” he sings with pitched-up vocals, one of his signature effects. “Say goodbye / To the life / That you knew for so long.”

For better or for worse, there is no turning back.

Obituary

Poet Gibson dead

Mystery writer Martin Cruz Smith dies at 82

NEW YORK, July 15, (AP): **Martin Cruz Smith**, the best-selling mystery novelist who engaged readers for decades with “Gorky Park” and other thrillers featuring Moscow investigator Arkady Renko, has died at age 82.

Smith died Friday at a senior living community in San Rafael, California, “surrounded by those he loved,” according to his publisher, Simon & Schuster. Smith revealed a decade ago that he had Parkinson’s disease, and he gave the same condition to his protagonist. His 11th Renko book, “Hotel Ukraine,” was published this week and billed as his last.

“My longevity is linked to Arkady’s,” he told Strand Magazine in 2023. “As long as he remains intelligent, humorous, and romantic, so shall I.”

Smith was often praised for his storytelling and for his insights into modern Russia; he would speak of being interrogated at length by customs officials during his many trips there. The Associated Press called “Hotel Ukraine” a “gem” that “upholds Smith’s reputation as a great craftsman of modern detective fiction with his sharply drawn, complex characters and a compelling plot.”

Smith’s honors included being named a “grand master” by the Mystery Writers of America, winning the Hammett Prize for “Havana Bay” and a Gold Dagger award for “Gorky Park.”

Born Martin William Smith in Reading, Pennsylvania, he studied creative writing at the University of Pennsylvania and started out as a journalist, including a brief stint at the AP and at the Philadelphia Daily News. Success as an author arrived slowly. He had been a published novelist for more than a decade before he broke through in the early 1980s with “Gorky Park.” His novel came out when the Soviet Union and the Cold War were still very much alive and centered on Renko’s investigation into the murders of three people whose bodies were found in the Moscow park that Smith used for the book’s title.



Smith

Thriller

“Gorky Park,” cited by the New York Times as a reminder of “just how satisfying a smoothly turned thriller can be,” topped the Times’ fiction bestseller list and was later made into a movie starring William Hurt.

“Russia is a character in my Renko stories, always,” Smith told Publishers Weekly in 2013. “‘Gorky Park’ may have been one of the first books to take a backdrop and make it into a character. It took me forever to write because of my need to get things right. You’ve got to knock down the issue of ‘Does this guy know what he’s talking about or not?’”

Smith’s other books include science fiction (“The Indians Won”), the Westerns “North to Dakota” and “Ride to Revenge,” and the “Romano Grey” mystery series. Besides “Martin Cruz Smith” - Cruz was his maternal grandmother’s name - he also wrote under the pen names “Nick Carter” and “Simon Quinn.”

Smith is survived by his brother, Jack Smith; his wife, Emily Smith; three children and five grandchildren.



Andrea Gibson, a celebrated poet and performance artist who through their verse explored gender identity, politics and their 4-year battle with terminal ovarian cancer, died Monday at age 49.

Gibson’s death was announced on social media by their wife, Megan Falley. Gibson and Falley are the main subjects of the documentary “Come See Me in the Good Light,” winner of the Festival Favorite Award this year at the Sundance Film Festival and scheduled to air this fall on Apple TV+.

“Andrea Gibson died in their home (in Boulder, Colorado) surrounded by their wife, Meg, four ex-girlfriends, their mother and father, dozens of friends, and their three beloved dogs,” Monday’s announcement reads in part.

The film - exploring the couple’s enduring love as Gibson battles cancer - is directed by Ryan White and includes an original song written by Gibson, Sara Bareilles and Brandi Carlile. During a screening at Sundance in January that left much of the audience in tears, Gibson said they didn’t expect to live long enough to see the documentary.

Tributes poured in Monday from friends, fans and fellow poets who said Gibson’s words had changed their lives - and, in some cases, saved them. Many fans said Gibson’s poetry helped them learn to love themselves. People with cancer and other terminal illnesses said Gibson made them less afraid of death by reminding them that we never really leave the ones we love.

In a poem Gibson wrote shortly before they died, titled “Love Letter from the Afterlife,” they wrote: “Dying is the opposite of leaving. When I left my body, I did not go away. That portal of light was not a portal to elsewhere, but a portal to here. I am more here than I ever was before.”

Linda Williams Stay was “awestruck” when her son, Aiden, took her to hear Gibson perform at a bar in San Francisco a decade ago. Their poetry was electrifying, lighting up the room with laughter, tears and love. Gibson’s poetry became a shared interest for the mother and son, and eventually helped Stay better understand her son when he came out as transgender.

Variety

**NEW YORK:** Percival Everett’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel “James” is up for another literary honor.

Everett’s dramatic retelling of Mark Twain’s “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” is a fiction nominee for the 20th annual Dayton Literary Peace Prize, which comes with a \$10,000 cash award. Besides the Pulitzer, “James” has also won the National Book Award and Kirkus Prize.

David Greenberg’s “John Lewis,” a biography of the late civil rights activist and congressman, is a nonfiction finalist, the Dayton prize foundation announced Monday.

Winners in both categories will be announced in September.

The other fiction contenders are Priscilla Morris’ “Black Butterflies,” Alejandro Puyana’s “Freedom Is a Feast,” Kristin Hannah’s “The Women,” Helen Benedict’s “The Good Deed” and Kaveh Akbar’s “Martyr!”

Besides “John Lewis,” the nonfiction nominees are Sunil

Amrith’s “The Burning Earth,” Leah Hunt-Hendrix and Astra Taylor’s “Solidarity,” Annie Jacobsen’s “Nuclear War,” Lauren Markham’s “A Map of Future Ruins” and Wendy Pearlman’s “The Home I Worked to Make.” (AP)



**LONDON:** Scarlet uniforms flashed against the riverbank. Wooden skiffs glided in formation. A young swan, gently lifted from the water, was measured, inspected and released.

The annual five-day census of swans belonging to **King Charles III** - known as Swan Upping -- began Monday on the River Thames to assess their health.

One of the British monarch’s less-known titles is Seigneur of the Swans - Lord of the Swans - and according to ancient lore, he or she owns all members of the mute swan species found in Britain’s open waters.



King Charles



Rising meningitis cases in Gaza raise alarm

One in ten children in Gaza suffer from severe malnutrition: UNRWA

GENEVA, July 15, (Agencies): The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) warned on Tuesday of rising malnutrition rates among children in the Gaza Strip confirming that one in every ten children is currently malnourished, according to data from its clinics and medical points across the strip.

Speaking from the Jordanian capital Amman during a press briefing in Geneva, UNRWA's Director of Communications Juliette Touma said malnutrition rates have increased in Gaza especially since the siege tightened four months ago, adding that UNRWA health teams have screened over 240,000 boys and girls across the Gaza Strip since January 2024.

Touma warned that therapeutic supplies to combat malnutrition among children are almost non-existent as UNRWA is facing severe shortages in medicines, nutritional supplies, fuel and hygiene materials, confirming that the agency ran out of food stocks late April.

She noted that nearly 60 per cent of essential medicines have depleted from UNRWA's warehouses since Israeli forces banned the agency from bringing in any humanitarian aid including food and medicines on March 2.

On the occupation's aggression on the occupied West Bank, Touma described it as a silent war that continues to escalate in parallel with what is happening in Gaza, particularly amid severe restrictions on freedom of movement, imposed by the occupation Israeli forces, rising poverty and unemployment due to loss of livelihoods.

She added that military operations by the occupation forces and settler violence have forcibly displaced more Palestinians noting that this ongoing military campaign is the longest since the early 2000s and has affected several refugee camps in the northern West Bank causing the largest Palestinian displacement in the area since 1967.

Touma stressed that despite these challenges, UNRWA continues its operations across the occupied Palestinian territory through a 14,000-strong local workforce, delivering essential services particularly in the fields of healthcare and education to Palestinian refugees and others in need.

An alarming rise in meningitis infections among children in the Gaza Strip has triggered deep concern among families and healthcare workers, as the region's already crippled medical infrastructure struggles to cope with the consequences of prolonged conflict and systemic collapse.

At Al-Nasr Children's Hospital in Gaza City, hundreds of meningitis cases have been recorded in recent weeks, according to Ragheb Agha, head of the paediatrics department at the hospital.

"The lack of clean water, personal hygiene products, and basic public health infrastructure is contributing to the daily increase in infections," Agha said. He warned that the cramped, unsanitary conditions in makeshift shelters, where multiple families live in close quarters, significantly raise the risk of rapid transmission.

One such patient is Sham Al-Rukkab, a five-year-old girl currently receiving treatment at the hospital.

"Sham had a sudden high fever and stiffness. We had to act quickly and place her under cold water," her grandmother, Umm Mohammed, told Xinhua. "Life in Gaza has become extremely difficult. We live in tents, suffer from heat, and lack food and healthcare."

In another ward, Salwa Abu Aser, a mother of two-month-old boy Hani from Gaza City, uses cold compresses to reduce his fever.

Hani has been diagnosed with meningitis, as well as malnutrition and anemia.

"There is almost no food. We rely on one meal a day, usually lentils. Even breastfeeding is a challenge, as



A Palestinian child waits for donated food at a community kitchen in Gaza City, in the northern Gaza Strip, Monday, July 14. (AP)

many mothers lack sufficient nutrition," she said.

The situation is just as dire in southern Gaza. Ahmad Al-Farra, head of the pediatrics and obstetrics department at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, said dozens of new cases of meningitis have been reported at his hospital recently.

"The spread is related to weakened immunity due to poor nutrition and vitamin deficiencies, as well as contaminated water sources, poor ventilation, and inadequate sanitation," Al-Farra told Xinhua.

He said that the destruction of Gaza's sewage system and ongoing electricity shortages have further strained already limited healthcare resources.

International organizations have expressed concern over the rising number of cases. A total of 484 suspected meningitis cases were reported across the Gaza Strip in June, a UN report said.

"While seasonal peaks in meningitis are typically observed during June and July, the current surge is significantly higher than in previous years. Khan Younis and Gaza City remain the most affected governorates, reporting the highest number of suspected cases," the report said.

Meningitis is an inflammation of the tissues surrounding the brain and spinal cord. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), it can be caused by infectious or non-infectious agents, carries a high risk of death and long-term complications, and requires urgent medical care.

Food industry responds to health calls

US ice cream to go dye-free by 2028

NEW YORK, July 15, (AP): Ice cream makers representing about 90% of the US supply of the frozen treat have pledged to remove artificial dyes from their products in less than three years, federal health officials said Monday.

The move is the latest voluntary effort by food manufacturers to heed calls from the Trump administration to remove synthetic dyes over concerns about potential health effects. In recent weeks, companies including Nestle, Kraft Heinz and General Mills said they would pull artificial colors from their foods, too.

"This is a Renaissance moment for health in America," US Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Marty Makary said at a news conference.

About 40 makers of ice cream and frozen dairy desserts said they would remove seven petroleum-based dyes from their products by 2028, according to Michael Dykes, president of the International Dairy Foods Association. The colors are Red 3, Red 40, Green 3, Blue 1, Blue 2, Yellow 5 and Yellow 6. The trade group wouldn't identify the firms, although Turkey Hill Dairy chief executive Andy Jacobs joined the gathering.

The national focus on artificial food dyes is "a good step to take," but officials should not ignore larger known contributors to chronic disease, including the added sugars and saturated fat commonly found in ice cream, said Deanna Hoelscher, a University of Texas nutrition expert.

"Just taking out or changing the food dye source is not necessarily going to make it a healthy option," she said. "It still is a food that should be consumed in moderation."

However, Makary also hinted that new federal dietary guidelines, expected later this year, would challenge established links between saturated fat and heart disease, ending what he called "a 70-year demonization of natural saturated fat."

The average American eats about 4 gallons of ice cream a year, the IDFA said.

Health advocates have long called for the removal of artificial dyes from foods, citing mixed studies showing that they may cause some neurobehavioral problems, such as hyperactivity and attention problems, in some children. The Food and Drug Administration has maintained that approved dyes are safe and that "most children have no adverse effects" when consuming foods made with them.

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has criticized the dyes and pressured manufacturers to remove them from foods. In their place, manufacturers should use dyes made from fruit juices, plant extracts and other sources, federal officials said.

The FDA has approved new natural color additives in recent months, including a new blue color made from the fruit of the gardenia announced Monday. Gardenia (genipin) blue is approved for use in sports drinks, candies and certain other products, the agency said.

'Safe Under the Sun' campaign launched

Excessive direct sun exposure raises skin cancer risk, warns Kuwait's CAN

KUWAIT CITY, July 15, (KUNA): Kuwait's Cancer Awareness Nation (CAN) warned on Tuesday that excessive, direct sun exposure in summer sharply increases the risk of skin cancer, urging preventive habits and regular skin checks.

Launching CAN's "Safe Under the Sun" drive, Oncologist and CAN Chairman Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh noted that skin cancer is among the world's most common cancers, yet many cases can be prevented or caught early, increasing survival rate.

Official 2020 data showed 24 skin cancer cases in Kuwait --7.3 percent of all cancers-- eight in Kuwaitis and 16 in non-Kuwaitis, Al-Saleh said.

Early warning signs include new moles or spots, changes in existing moles, and non healing sores or scaly patches, he explained.

CAN advises using sunscreen, avoiding peak sun hours, wearing protective clothing, and performing regular self or clinical skin exams, he emphasized.

Treatments vary by type and stage, from local surgery, cryotherapy, and laser procedures to modern immunotherapies and medications, he mentioned.

The campaign will distribute educational materials and hold awareness events in malls with the Health Ministry and other partners, Al-Saleh pointed out.

Vaccine progress stalls as aid plummets

14 million children did not receive a single vaccine in 2024, UN estimates

LONDON, July 15, (AP): More than 14 million children did not receive a single vaccine last year - about the same number as the year before - according to UN health officials. Nine countries accounted for more than half of those unprotected children.

In their annual estimate of global vaccine coverage, released Tuesday, the World Health Organization and UNICEF said about 89% of children under 1 year old got a first dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough vaccine in 2024, the same as in 2023. About 85% completed the three-dose series, up from 84% in 2023.

Officials acknowledged, however, that the collapse of international aid this year will make it more difficult to reduce the number of unprotected children. In January, US President Trump withdrew the country from the WHO, froze nearly all humanitarian aid and later moved to close the US AID Agency. And last month, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said it was pulling the billions of dollars the US had previously pledged to the vaccines alliance Gavi, saying the group had "ignored the science."

Kennedy, a longtime vaccine skeptic, has previously raised questions the diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough vaccine - which has proven to be safe and effective after years of study and real-world use. Vaccines prevent 3.5 million to 5 million deaths a year, according to UN estimates.

"Drastic cuts in aid, coupled with misinformation about the safety of vaccines, threaten to unwind decades of progress," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

UN experts said that access to vaccines remained "deeply unequal" and that conflict and humanitarian crises quickly unraveled progress; Sudan had the lowest reported coverage against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. The data showed that nine countries accounted for 52% of all children who missed out on immunizations entirely: Nigeria, India, Sudan, Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Yemen, Afghanistan and Angola.

WHO and UNICEF said coverage against measles rose slightly, with 76% of children worldwide receiving both vaccine doses. But experts say measles vaccine rates need to reach 95% to prevent outbreaks of the extremely contagious disease. WHO noted that 60 countries reported big measles outbreaks last year.

The US is now having its worst measles outbreak in more than three decades, while the disease has also surged across Europe, with 125,000 cases in 2024 - twice as many as the previous year, according to WHO.

Last week, British authorities reported a child died of measles in a Liverpool hospital. Health officials said that despite years of efforts to raise awareness, only about 84% of children in the UK are protected.

"It is hugely concerning, but not at all surprising, that we are continuing to see outbreaks of measles," said Helen Bradford, a professor of children's health at University College London. "The only way to stop measles spreading is with vaccination," she said in a statement. "It is never too late to be vaccinated - even as an adult."



A healthcare worker prepares a shot of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in La Paz, Bolivia, Jan. 7, 2025. (AP)

General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

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Drug shows promise for aggressive cancer

Anti-nausea drug helps fight breast cancer

SYDNEY, July 15, (Xinhua): A common anti-nausea drug has been linked to improved survival rates in women with early-stage breast cancer, particularly those with more aggressive triple-negative breast cancer, a study said on Tuesday.

Australian and Norwegian researchers studied 13,811 Norwegian women diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer from 2008 to 2020, all of whom received chemotherapy and anti-nausea medication, according to a statement released by the Melbourne-based Monash University on Tuesday.

Women who took aprepitant during chemotherapy had an 11 percent lower risk of cancer recurrence and a 17 percent lower risk of breast cancer death over 10 years, said the study co-led by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.

The benefit was even greater for those with triple-negative breast cancer, a particularly aggressive and difficult-to-treat subtype, with a 34 percent reduced risk of recurrence and a 39 percent lower risk of death, it said.

"Because of the nature of triple-negative breast cancer, there are fewer targeted treatment options, and therefore repurposing of drugs with well-established safety profiles is an attractive path for rapid translation to improve cancer treatment and outcomes," said lead researcher Aeson Chang from the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS).

No similar benefits were observed with other classes of anti-nausea drugs, highlighting aprepitant's unique association with improved outcomes, according to the study detailed in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute published by Oxford University Press.

Professor Erica Sloan from MIPS said the findings could lead to a review of current guidelines, which limit aprepitant use to patients at high risk of severe nausea.

The authors emphasized that more studies and clinical trials are needed to confirm aprepitant's link to improved cancer outcomes.

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# Australia rallies past Japan to secure semis spot

S. Korea edges New Zealand

**SHENZHEN, July 15, (Xinhua): Australia rallied past Japan 79-67 to finish as Group B leader, securing a semifinal spot at the FIBA Women’s Asia Cup here.**

Down by nine points at halftime, Australia bounced back strongly in the second half, outscoring Japan 37-16 to secure a dramatic win.

Four Australian players scored in doubles figures, with Stephanie Reid leading the way with 15 points. Zitina Lusia Aokuso and Sara Blicavs added 14 and 13 points respectively.

“We know how good they are in transition and on the 3-point line. We did a poor job on that in the first half, but holding Japan to 16 points in the second half is a credit to the players’ toughness,” said Australia coach Paul Goriss.

Both teams remained unbeaten after two rounds, and the clash between them lived up to the hype, with a nip-and-tuck first quarter ending in Australia’s favor at 26-22.

The two sides traded baskets from beyond the arc early in the second quarter, with the score knotted at 35-35 at the midpoint of the quarter. Stephanie Mawuli scored seven straight points as Japan began to take a stranglehold of the game en route to a 51-42 halftime lead.

Struggling against the lower-ranked Lebanon and the Philippines in the past two games, Japan rediscovered its offensive groove in the first half, nailing nine 3-pointers on 17 attempts for an impressive 52.9%, compared to Australia’s 3-of-11 effort from beyond the arc.

Australia clawed back into contention after the interval, bringing the game level at 59-59 heading into the final frame.

Australia was not done in its comeback efforts, attacking the basket consecutively to take a firm grip on the game. Leading 65-63 with six minutes remaining, the Opals had a decisive 7-0 run to break the game open and never looked back.

“I’m very proud of my team. They did everything that I asked them to do, they executed, they played very hard,” said Corey Gaines, head coach of Japan.

Mawuli top scored with 19 points for Japan.

In Monday’s group game, 2023 runner-up Japan was given a late scare but held on for an 85-82 win over the Philippines.

Japan appeared to be in control with a 14-point lead with just three minutes remaining, but a late surge from Naomi Natalie Panganiban and Jack Animam narrowed the gap to six points with 15 seconds left. Despite a clutch three-pointer from Vanessa De Jesus, the Philippines ran out of time and fell just short of a dramatic comeback.

Japan, which had edged Lebanon by just four points in its group-stage opener, has yet to fully find its offensive rhythm. Playing against the Philippines, they improved slightly, shooting 44.4% from the field, still below their usual standards. With a crucial matchup against high-flying Australia ahead, Japan will need to tighten up on both ends.

Veteran Maki Takada led Japan with 20 points, while 20-year-old Minami Yabu added 15. For the Philippines, Animam posted a game-high 24 points and grabbed 14 rebounds.

A last-second layup from veteran center Park Ji-su lifted South Korea to a dramatic 78-76 win over New Zealand in a Group A clash.

South Korea had seen its 11-point lead after three quarters evaporate when New



Vanessa De Jesus (left) of the Philippines breaks through during the Group B match between Japan and the Philippines at the FIBA Women’s Asia Cup Division A 2025 in Shenzhen, south China’s Guangdong Province. (Xinhua)

Zealand forward Emilia Shearer hit a jumper with 6.5 seconds remaining. But Park responded with a decisive layup with just 0.5 seconds left, and New Zealand failed to convert its final inbounds play.

The narrow victory, however, was overshadowed by an injury to South Korean sharpshooter Kang Lee-seul late in the third quarter.

Kang, who scored 19 points, exited the game with an apparent leg injury. Choi

I-saem led all scorers with 23 points, while Park Ji-hyun added 20. Kang and Choi combined for 11 three-pointers.

“Before coming into this tournament, I thought the game against New Zealand is the most important one for us, so we focused on training to prepare for them. Our players executed what we had trained, and I’m very glad that we had a good result today,” South Korea coach Park Soo-ho said.

Williams, Collier lead the way as Lynx avenges loss to Sky

# Phoenix ‘survives’ Golden State rally with last-second free throw

**SAN FRANCISCO, July 15, (AP):** Alyssa Thomas made a free throw with a second remaining to give the Phoenix Mercury a 78-77 victory over the Golden State Valkyries.

Janelle Salaun hit a 3-pointer with 10.3 left to get the Valkyries to 76-75 and tied it at 77 on a base-line jumper with 6.8 to go. Thomas was fouled on a drive to the basket and got the second free throw to roll in.

DeWanna Bonner led Phoenix (15-6) with 22 points and 11 rebounds. She made a reverse layup with 51.8 seconds left for a 75-72 lead, but missed two of four free throws in the final 16 seconds to keep Golden State in it.

Veronica Burton led Golden State (10-11) with 17 points and six assists. Tiffany Hayes added 15 points, Salaun scored 12 and Monique Billings had 10 points and nine rebounds.

Phoenix led 36-32 at halftime despite 39% shooting. The Mercury didn’t make their first field goal of the fourth quarter until the 5:38 mark.

Lynx 91, Sky 78

In Chicago, Napheesa Collier had 29 points, five assists and three steals, Courtney Williams added 18 points, eight rebounds, seven assists and four steals and the Minnesota Lynx beat the Chicago.

Minnesota (19-4), which played its fourth game in six days, avenged an 87-81 loss to the Sky on Saturday.

Bridget Carleton opened the third quarter with a 3-pointer to give the Lynx a lead, 47-46, they would not relinquish the rest of the way.

Collier added a 3-pointer with 0.4



Golden State Valkyries’ Janelle Salaun, right, drives to the basket in the second half of a WNBA basketball game against the Phoenix Mercury at Chase Center in San Francisco. (AP)

seconds left in the third, off a nice drive and assist from Williams, to extend Minnesota’s lead to 68-63. Collier also capped an 8-2 run to begin the fourth with two free throws to make it 76-65.

Minnesota forced a turnover on three straight possessions late in the fourth and converted three layups at

the other end for an 87-74 lead with 2:39 left.

Collier was 7 of 14 from the field, including 4 of 7 from 3-point range, and 11 of 11 at the free-throw line.

Kayla McBride added 17 points and Carleton scored 11 for the Lynx, who made 12 of 32 3-pointers.

Angel Reese secured her ninth straight double-double for Chicago (7-14) with 22 points and 10 rebounds. Rachel Banham added 15 points and Rebecca Allen scored 10. Ariel Atkins, who scored 27 points on Saturday, left in the second quarter and did not return due to a leg injury.

George has arthroscopic knee surgery after recent workout injury

# Wemba cleared to return after blood clot scare

**PARIS, July 15, (AP):** San Antonio Spurs star Victor Wembanyama expects to play this coming season and has been fully cleared after dealing with deep vein thrombosis in his shoulder for the past few months, he told the French newspaper L’Equipe in remarks published.

A person familiar with the situation later told The Associated Press that the Spurs have indeed received word that Wembanyama has been cleared to resume play and, barring anything unforeseen, will be able to fully participate in training camp when it opens this fall. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has not revealed that detail publicly.

It has been expected that the team anticipated Wembanyama would be able to start this coming season, though there was no official word until now.

“I’m officially cleared to return. ... I’ll finally be able to play a bit of basketball again,” Wembanyama told the French sports daily.

The fact that Wembanyama has been cleared suggests that his type of DVT was provoked, which would rule out a genetic predisposition to a clot returning. The Spurs have not disclosed specifics of Wembanyama’s shoulder issue, but there is a type of DVT that appears when a blood vessel in someone’s upper arm can be compressed by a rib (the top rib is removed in some cases to relieve the compression, if that is the cause) or a



In this file photo, Philadelphia 76ers’ Paul George plays during an NBA basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets, Feb. 22, 2025, in Philadelphia. (AP)

muscle. Such issues have proven to be treatable in the past.

Many other athletes have dealt with similar

issues. Serena Williams came back to dominate women’s tennis after a clotting issue following the birth of her daughter; Williams needed four surgeries to address the matter. Basketball Hall of Famer Chris Bosh had to eventually retire from the NBA after he was diagnosed with multiple clots. In hockey, Tomas Fleischmann developed clots and went on to play for years afterward; Tomas Vokoun needed surgery to relieve his clotting problem and never played in the NHL again.

“I was afraid of not being able to play basketball anymore,” Wembanyama said in the interview. “I think that we all have thoughts sometimes. Irrational thoughts about the things we care about most. But this type of thinking also changes you as a person, for the better.”

Philadelphia 76ers wing player Paul George had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee Monday to treat an injury that occurred during a recent workout.

The club said the procedure was performed by Dr. Jonathan L. Glasgow at the NYU-Langone Sports Medicine Orthopedic Center.

George’s rehabilitation program is set to begin and he will be re-evaluated prior to the start of training camp, the Sixers said.

The coming NBA season would be George’s 16th since Indiana drafted him 10th overall in 2010 out of Fresno State.

‘Transfer the only solution’

# Ter Stegen’s demotion sparks doubts over Germany future

**BERLIN, July 15, (Xinhua):** Marc-Andre ter Stegen’s reported demotion at Barcelona has raised fresh concerns about his standing in Germany’s national team just a year before the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

According to Spanish and German media reports, including Sport, Mundo Deportivo and Kicker, new Barcelona coach Hansi Flick has informed the 33-year-old goalkeeper that he will serve as third-choice next season, behind new signing Joan Garcia and 35-year-old Wojciech Szczesny.



Ter Stegen

Germany head coach Julian Nagelsmann has publicly sought clarification on Ter Stegen’s future, warning that regular playing time is essential for selection. “Rhythm and consistent match practice are inevitable for anyone wanting to be part of the World Cup squad,” Nagelsmann said.

Garcia, 24, joined Barcelona from local rivals Espanyol for a reported 25 million euros on a contract through 2031, while Szczesny has agreed to a two-year extension. Despite being under contract until 2028, Ter Stegen’s demotion threatens his role with Germany.

Reports indicate that a transfer may be the only solution to safeguard Ter

Stegen’s World Cup hopes. Clubs including Galatasaray, Monaco, and several Premier League sides have reportedly shown interest.

Ter Stegen had previously insisted he would fight for his place at Barcelona. However, Flick’s stance may alter his plans. The German keeper had only recently returned to action after a long-term knee injury, reclaiming the starting spot during last month’s UEFA Nations League Finals.

Kicker described Barcelona’s approach as a clear signal the club wants to move on from Ter Stegen, despite his decade of service, 422 appearances and 19 trophies. Complicating matters further, the goalkeeper recently separated from his wife but remains committed to staying in Barcelona for personal reasons, as his children live there.

Former Germany international and ex-Bayer Leverkusen goalkeeper Rene Adler criticized Barcelona’s treatment of Ter Stegen as disrespectful, given his years of elite performances. Adler advised him to seek a transfer to protect his chances of being Germany’s No. 1 at the World Cup.

Ter Stegen, according to reports, is both surprised and disappointed by the decision, though polls in Spanish media suggest the majority of Barcelona supporters back Flick’s move.

The 2026 tournament represents Ter Stegen’s first chance to start at a major tournament after having spent much of his international career as backup to Bayern Munich’s Manuel Neuer, who withdrew from Germany duty after Euro 2024.

Best of the Rest

**Brentford signs Henderson:** Brentford signed England international Jordan Henderson on a two-year deal and described the midfielder as “one of the most influential leaders” in the Premier League.

Former Liverpool captain Henderson was a free agent after having his contract terminated by Ajax last week.

“When we became aware of Jordan’s availability, it was a pretty simple decision,” said Brentford coach Keith Andrews. “He will drive standards and be a brilliant addition to the squad.”

The 35-year-old Henderson returns to the Premier League after leaving Liverpool for Saudi Arabian team Al-Ettifaq in 2023. He only stayed in Saudi Arabia for six months before moving to Dutch giant Ajax.

It was announced last week that he had requested for his Ajax contract to be terminated with a year remaining on his deal.

“We did our due diligence around his recent games to see where he is: he’s still phenomenally fit and he’s still phenomenally motivated to achieve things in the game, having already achieved a lot,” Andrews said.

Henderson won a full set of trophies with Liverpool, including the Premier League and Champions League.

His arrival comes after Brentford sold midfielder Christian Nørgaard to Arsenal this offseason. (AP)

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**Derwael retires from gymnastics:** Belgian gymnast Nina Derwael, a former Olympic champion on the uneven bars, is retiring from the sport, her national federation said.

The 25-year-old Derwael won the gold medal at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and has decided to call it quits after capturing two more titles at the European Championships in June.

“Winning double gold at the European Championships a month and a half ago was the last highlight of her long and extremely successful gymnastics career, and the perfect time for her to retire,” the federation said.

Derwael won multiple medals at major championships. She was crowned world champion on the uneven bars in 2018 and 2019.

“I have achieved everything I wanted to. I proved what I was capable of,” (AP)

□ □ □

**Barcelona signs Bardghji:** Barcelona is signing 19-year-old Swedish winger Rooney Bardghji from Copenhagen.

The Catalan club said it reached an agreement with the Danish club for the transfer of Bardghji. It called him “one of the most in-demand young players in Europe.” The contract will run until 2029.

Bardghji joined Copenhagen’s youth academy from Malmö in 2020 and moved up to the first team in 2022, going on to play 84 games and score 15 goals.

Barcelona said Bardghji’s rise was temporarily held back by a knee injury that sidelined him for almost a year.

The club said the Kuwait-born player is “known for his skill, speed, and goal-scoring ability, qualities that make him a great prospect for the future.” (AP)



Women’s 10km open water postponed due to water quality

# China falls to Netherlands in women’s water polo at Singapore Worlds

SINGAPORE, July 15, (Xinhua): China lost 13-7 to the Netherlands in their final Group B match of the women’s water polo event at the World Aquatics Championships here on Tuesday.

Both China and the Netherlands entered the match with one win and one loss, and facing the world No. 2, China made a strong start, trading goals with the rival in a closely contested first period.

Yan Siya and Shao Yixin each scored to keep China close within their opponents by 5-3 in the first half, while goal-keeper Shen Yineng made several key saves.

The second half saw intensified physical challenges on both ends of the pool as China struggled to score during the first six minutes of the third period. Dutch captain Sabrina van der Sloot led her team on a scoring run that extended their lead and the Dutch side held firm until the final whistle.

Defending champions the United States beat Argentina 26-3 in the other match to finish atop the group with a perfect 3-0 record, earning direct qualification to the quarterfinals. The Netherlands and China, which finished second and third respectively, will move on to playoffs for berths in the quarterfinals.

“We fight with everything we have, and we’ve been try-

ing very hard,” said China head coach Miki Oca. “We’ve been The women’s 10km open water swimming event at the 2025 World Aquatics Championships has been postponed due to water quality levels exceeding acceptable thresholds, according to World Aquatics and the Singapore 2025 Organizing Committee here on Tuesday.

The water quality review involved representatives from World Aquatics, the Singapore 2025 Organizing Committee, the World Aquatics Sports Medicine Committee, and the World Aquatics Open Water Swimming Technical Committee.

Although recent tests had consistently met World Aquat-

ics’ acceptable standards, analysis of samples collected on July 13 revealed levels that surpassed these thresholds. Out of concern for athlete health and safety, a decision was made to postpone the race by one day, now scheduled for July 16.

Further water sampling and quality review sessions will continue at the competition venue, during which World Aquatics and the Singapore 2025 Organizing Committee will assess whether conditions are safe to proceed with the event at a later date.

The open water swimming event is being held off Sentosa Island in southern Singapore. China has entered six swimmers in the open water competitions.

# Gill: Late rally made India quite optimistic of winning at Lord’s



India’s Ravindra Jadeja plays a shot during the fifth day of the third cricket test match between England and India at Lord’s cricket ground in London. (AP)

## Pant’s run out most decisive moment

**LONDON, July 15, (AP): India was given no chance of winning the Lord’s test at lunch on the last day Monday.**

When Ravindra Jadeja and the tail were still going against England after tea, India captain Shubman Gill believed they could pull off a comeback for the ages.

Chasing 193 for victory, Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah scored 35 runs in 22 overs for the ninth wicket. Then Jadeja and last man Mohammed Siraj added 23 in 13 overs.

Gill believed they needed to get to play the second new ball. They were 5.1 overs from the new ball becoming available to England when Siraj played on and was unlucky to be bowled.

India lost by just 22 runs to trail 2-1 in the five-match series and began to play the “what if” game.

“When Bumrah Bhai and Jaddu Bhai were batting, every five or six runs that we were scoring, we could see there was pressure coming on them (England). Every five or six runs. And that’s all it was,” Gill said.

“A small partnership of 30-40 runs could make such a huge difference. And we were quite optimistic when Siraj was batting that if we just go up to the second new ball, and if we have 12 or 15 runs with the second new ball, you never know. A couple of boundaries here and there and then you’re right back on the top.” Jadeja was unbeaten on 61 off 181 balls - his second half-century of the match - and was praised by Gill for also how he marshalled the tail.

“He is one of the most valuable players in India. The experience that he brings in, the skill-set that he brings with his bowling, batting and fielding is very rare,” Gill said. “And the kind of composure that he showed today, it was just tremendous to watch.

“Batting with the lower order of the tail has been one of the things that we spoke about in the previous two matches - that our lower order hasn’t been contributing as much. But I think the character and the courage that they showed was tremendous.” He believed Rishabh Pant’s run out on Saturday while trying to help Lokesh Rahul reach a century was India’s most decisive moment.

Pant was trying to help Rahul get to 100 in the last over before lunch and was run out for 74. The pair had 141 runs together and Gill thought India could have eclipsed England’s first-innings total. Instead, they tied England’s total of 387.

“We thought we could take the lead by 50 or 100 runs,” Gill said. “We knew it wouldn’t be easy to bat on Day 5. The more lead we get in the first innings, the better for us.

“We talk a lot about keeping the team’s interest ahead of personal milestones. I think it was an error of judgment (by Pant). I think he said it would be better if (Rahul) scored 100 runs before the lunch. A batsman feels pressure at 99 runs.

“Rishabh made the call. I would say it was an error of judgment. It can happen to any batsman.” Pant didn’t keep wicket from after lunch on Day 1 because of an injury to his left index finger. Scans didn’t reveal a major injury, Gill said, and he believed Pant should be okay to play in the fourth test at Old Trafford starting on July 23.

Gill wouldn’t say whether star bowler Jasprit Bumrah, restricted to appearing in three tests for health reasons, would play his third test at Old Trafford.

## ‘Fluminense had a great campaign’

# Ancelotti hails Brazil’s rise at Club World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 15, (Xinhua): Brazil manager Carlo Ancelotti has hailed the performances of the country’s clubs and individual players at the FIFA Club World Cup in the United States.

The Italian said he was impressed by Fluminense while also praising the feats of Palmeiras, Flamengo and Botafogo, saying they showed Brazilian teams could challenge Europe’s best.

“Fluminense had a great campaign, reaching the semifinals, and Botafogo beat PSG,” Ancel-



In this file photo, Fluminense’s Keno, left, and Chelsea’s Reece James battle for control of the ball during the second half of a Club World Cup semifinal soccer match in East Rutherford, N.J. (AP)

lotti told the Brazilian Football Confederation’s official website.

“Palmeiras and Flamengo also proved they can compete with the best European teams,” he added.

Brazilian players also caught the attention of the 66-year-old, who was appointed Brazil manager in May after leaving Real Madrid.

Among those singled out were Chelsea’s Joao Pedro and Andrey Santos, Real Madrid’s Eder Militao and Palmeiras’ Chelsea-bound teenager Estevao.

“They played very well,” Ancelotti said. “Individually, Estevao put in a great showing. Joao Pedro was decisive in the semifinals and final. Andrey Santos played an important role for Chelsea and Militao came back strong [from injury]. He will be an important player for the national team in the next year.” Ancelotti was present at New Jersey’s MetLife Stadium for Sunday’s final, in which Chelsea beat Paris Saint-Germain 3-0. He said the Premier League club deserved to win the first edition of the expanded global tournament.

“Chelsea deserved it for the consistency they showed throughout the competition,” he said. “They showed that they have high-quality young players, like Cole Palmer and Joao Pedro,” he concluded.

## Kenya vows to step up security ahead of delayed CHAN finals

NAIROBI, July 15, (Xinhua): Kenya will step up security ahead of the delayed 2024 CAF African Nations Championship (CHAN) which opens next month, according to a senior government official.

“We want to assure the country that we have put in place elaborate measures to ensure visitors are received well at the airport. They are going to be facilitated at the airport. We have also put security at the airport to ensure visitors are screened,” Kipchumba Murkomen, cabinet secretary at the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, told reporters here on Monday evening.

Murkomen toured facilities that will host the tournament in Nairobi on Monday to assess the security measures in place and he revealed security arrangements would be extended beyond the stadiums to include hotels, major roads, and key tourist destinations.

“This is a moment of national pride for us. We are lucky as a country that we shall be hosting the finals of the CHAN this year. This is a great opportunity for us to rally behind our team so that we shall have our national team playing in the finals at home,” he added.

Both Nyayo and Kasarani stadiums have been upgraded with modern access gates requiring digital entry cards, reducing the risk of overcrowding and potential stampedes, according to Murkomen.

Kenya, along with neighbors Tanzania and Uganda, will co-host the 19-team tournament which is designed for home-based players. The competition will kick off in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on August 2 and conclude in Nairobi on August 30.

The three countries are also set to co-host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations finals.

## Best of the Rest

**LA28 reveals initial schedule:** With three years to go, the organizing committee of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games unveiled the first version of the competition calendar.

The Games will commence on July 12 with events across seven sports, including hockey, handball, and cricket. The opening ceremony will take place two days later on July 14, uniquely split between two iconic venues: the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and the Stadium in Inglewood.

The quest for the first medals is expected to begin early on July 15 with the triathlon held along the shores of Venice Beach.

Organizers have highlighted July 29 as “Super Saturday,” a day featuring 16 team sport gold and bronze medal matches alongside 19 individual sport finals.

A notable change from the Paris 2024 schedule is the concentration of swimming events in the latter half of LA28, while athletics will take place earlier in the program. Despite these adjustments, the marathon races will still be held at the traditional end of the Games.

The closing ceremony is scheduled for 18:00 local time on July 30, bringing the 19-day event to a close. (Xinhua)

**Jessey Sneijder with Utrecht:** Jessey Sneijder, the son of former Dutch soccer star Wesley Sneijder, has signed his first professional contract with FC Utrecht.

The Dutch side said in a statement that the 18-year-old midfielder has been signed until June 2028, with an option to extend the deal for another year.

Wesley Sneijder won Serie A, the Champions League and the Italian Cup with Inter Milan in 2010. He was also part of the Netherlands team that made it to the 2010 World Cup final, losing to Spain.

“This is a dream come true,” said Jessey Sneijder.

His father posted on Instagram a picture of both men holding the Utrecht jersey.

“I am so very proud of you,” Wesley Sneijder wrote. “Go to FC Utrecht at the age of 15 and sign your first contract after three years! Your perseverance and willpower have been rewarded.” (AP)

**US to meet Ecuador, Australia:** The United States will meet Ecuador and Australia in October friendlies as part of preparations for next year’s FIFA World Cup, the U.S. Soccer Federation said .

Mauricio Pochettino’s side will face Ecuador in Austin, Texas, on October 10 and Australia in Commerce City, Colorado, four days later.

The matches will follow September friendlies against South Korea and Japan.

The U.S., currently 15th in the FIFA world rankings, has qualified automatically for the 2026 World Cup as a cohost with Mexico and Canada.

Earlier this month, the team lost 2-1 to Mexico in the final of the CONCACAF Gold Cup. (Xinhua)

**Altman signs extension:** Cavaliers president of basketball operations Koby Altman has signed a contract extension through the 2029-30 season.

The Cavaliers also announced Monday night general manager Mike Gansey, assistant GM Brandon Weems, vice president of basketball operations/general counsel Jason Hillman and vice president of basketball strategy and personnel Jon Nichols received extensions.

“Koby Altman has demonstrated that he is the right person to lead this franchise. He is not only an outstanding team-builder, but he has also created an exceptional culture that transcends the basketball side of our business and serves as a positive foundation and philosophy for the entire franchise,” Cavaliers chairman Dan Gilbert said in a statement. “Koby not only has a great nose for basketball talent, but he has recruited and developed extraordinary front office talent as well. (AP)

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NEWS





New Al-Qadsiya coach Nabil Maaloul arrives at the Kuwait International Airport.

### Kuwait Club sets July 24 training return

## Al-Qadsiya begins new era with Maaloul at the helm

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Al-Qadsiya will kick off its preseason training this evening under the leadership of Tunisian coach Nabil Maaloul, as the team begins preparations for the 2025-2026 Zain Premier League season, set to begin on September 12.

Maaloul and his technical staff arrived in Kuwait yesterday to officially assume their duties. Upon arrival, the experienced coach expressed his excitement about taking charge.

"I'm happy to be in Kuwait," Maaloul said. "I hope this will be a special season for Al-Qadsiya Club, and that we can bring joy to the fans. Our preparations officially begin today."

One of Maaloul's immediate tasks is finalizing the roster of foreign players. This follows the termination of contracts for Moroccan Ismail Khafi, Nigerian Daniel Jibola, and Algerian Hussein Dhiri. Decisions are still pending regarding the futures of Libyan Mohamed Soula and Moroccan Mehdi Berrahma.

Recent media reports have linked Al-Qadsiya with several potential signings, including Tunisian striker Haithem Jouini and Algerian duo

Ayoub Abdellaoui and Ghilas Kenaoui.

Al-Qadsiya has agreed to release player Aziz Nasari, who has opted to continue his career with Al-Tadamon. Nasari had spent last season on loan at the club.

Kuwait Club has announced that its first training session for the upcoming season will be held on July 24. The team will aim to defend its domestic treble, having won the Zain Premier League, the Crown Prince Cup, and the Super Cup last season. Kuwait Club also reached the Amir Cup final, which was originally scheduled for June 16 but postponed due to regional circumstances.

Fahaheel has continued to reinforce its squad with the addition of Algerian striker Zakaria Benchaâ from CS Constantine. Benchaâ becomes the team's fourth foreign player, joining the previously signed Brazilian trio Brendon Lucas, Vitor da Silva, and Carlos.

Algerian forward Ihab Boulahssini has decided to postpone choosing his next club after receiving offers from both Al-Arabi and the National Bank of Egypt. The delay comes amid additional interest from three Algerian clubs, making his final decision uncertain for now.

## Al-Khalidi stays with Kazma as club prepares for season

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Kazma Club has renewed the contract of standout handball goalkeeper Turki Al-Khalidi for another season, the club announced.

Al-Khalidi, regarded as one of the top goalkeepers on the local scene, delivered an impressive performance last season with the team, playing a key role in several critical matches. His consistent form prompted club management to secure his services for another year.

As part of its strategy to ensure team stability and build on recent success, Kazma had earlier extended the contract of Serbian head coach Bozo Rodic, who will now continue into his third consecutive season with the team. Under Rodic's leadership, Kazma claimed the Super Cup title and finished third in the Premier League, capping off a strong campaign.

In line with this continuity, the club has also renewed the contracts of Tunisian imports Anwar Ben Abdullah and Mohamed Farad for a third straight season, rewarding their standout performances over the past two years.

Looking ahead to the 2025-2026 season, Kazma is planning an exter-



Turki Al-Khalidi

nal training camp in Turkey from August 14 to 28. The camp will serve as preparation for the 40th Arab Handball Championship, which will be hosted by Kuwait Club from September 12 to 22. The tournament will feature local clubs Kazma, Sulaibikhat, and the host side, Kuwait SC ("the Whites").

During the camp, Kazma is scheduled to play several friendly matches to sharpen the squad's performance ahead of their Arab Championship campaign.

## Falah Marzouq appointment signals long-term vision for Kuwait squash

KUWAIT CITY, July 15, (KUNA): The Kuwait Squash Association has appointed former national team player Falah Marzouq as the general coach of the national squad across all levels.

Federation Secretary Hamed Al-Omran told KUNA that Marzouq's appointment is based on his extensive experience and distinguished playing career, which included top finishes at the continental level, as well as his impressive coaching record with Burgan Club. Al-Omran noted that Marzouq "possesses all the elements of success and aligns with the federation's strategy to advance the sport."

He added that Marzouq brings a "modern and progressive coaching phi-

losophy," along with proven expertise in developing young talent and elevating the overall standard of players - a key objective in the federation's long-term vision to compete strongly on the international stage.

Al-Omran also stated that the federation's board of directors, chaired by Walid Al-Sumaie, approved Marzouq's appointment for a renewable one-year term. He emphasized that the decision followed the recommendation of the National Teams Committee.

He concluded by thanking the Public Authority for Sports, and its acting Director General Bashar Abdullah, for their full support in facilitating the appointment of the new national coach.



Marzouq standing between Federation President Waleed Al-Sumai and Secretary General Hamed Al-Omran.

# Sports

## Windies bowled out for 27 as Australia sweeps series



Australia players pose with the trophy after day three of their third Test cricket match against West Indies at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica. (AP)

### Starc takes 6 wickets for 9 runs

KINGSTON, Jamaica, July 15, (AP): Mitchell Starc took six wickets for nine runs and Scott Boland claimed a hat-trick as Australia dismissed the West Indies for 27 - the second-lowest total ever in test cricket - to win the third test by 176 runs on Monday.

The West Indies missed the lowest score in test cricket by one run, due to a misfield.

Starc's first 15 balls delivered the fastest five-wicket haul in test history, and his 15th five-wicket innings in tests. The tall left-arm paceman took a wicket with the first ball of the West Indies' second innings and three wickets in that first over - a triple-wicket maiden.

Australia needed only 14.3 overs to rout the home team in the first day-night test at Sabina Park and complete a 3-0 series sweep.

"It's been a fantastic series. I think we've seen some difficult batting conditions throughout," said Starc, who claimed his 400th career test wicket in his 100th test, a memorable milestone. "It's been a good few days, very enjoyable, and I'll go home with a smile on my face."

Starc said he felt like his rhythm had been building for a month.

"Today again just felt like everything was in sync," he said. "Everyone who had the ball in hand today was on the mark straight away."

"I don't think we imagined it was going to happen as quickly as it did, but when you've got an attack like ours, some things can happen like that."



Australia's Mitchell Starc celebrates after dismissing West Indies' Mikyle Louis to claim his 400th wicket in Test cricket on day three of the third Test match at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica. (AP)

Bowlers dominated the series, and the difference was batting, with Australia doing just enough to win the first two tests - by 159 runs in Barbados, then by 133 runs in Grenada - and then sweep the Frank Worrell Trophy.

While Starc missed a hat-trick chance after dismissing Kevlon Anderson and Brandon King with consecutive deliveries, Boland completed his with the wickets of Justin Greaves, Shamar Joseph, and Jomel Warrican. It was the 10th test hat-trick by an Australian, and the first in 15 years.

Boland finished with three wickets for two runs.

The West Indies was out for its lowest test score, eclipsing the 47 against England on the same ground

in 2004. At 11-6 in the sixth over, it was in danger of inheriting the lowest score in test history.

A misfield by 19-year-old opener Sam Konstas in the 14th over allowed the West Indies to take a single and reach 27, narrowly avoiding New Zealand's 70-year-old record of 26 set against England at Auckland in 1955.

Earlier, Alzarri Joseph took 5-27 as the West Indies bowled out Australia for 121 in its second innings, leaving a chase of 204 runs for victory. Australia began Day 3 at 99-6 but lasted only eight more overs.

Cameron Green, who battled hard on Day 2 to reach 42, was out to the first ball of the day, and the Australian lower order followed quickly.

When the West Indies replied,

Starc produced an outstanding display of fast bowling on a responsive pitch.

His first ball of the second innings, he compelled opener John Campbell to play defensively at a ball which moved away, and he was caught by concussion substitute wicketkeeper Josh Inglis. Inglis was keeping in place of Alex Carey, who was struck on the helmet by Alzarri Joseph while batting late on Day 2.

Starc then removed Anderson lbw, bowled King without scoring, and Mikyle Lewis for 4, leaving the West Indies four wickets down for five runs. His fifth wicket was Shai Hope, trapped lbw by a ball that swung in at pace to hit the back pad.

When Josh Hazlewood dismissed captain Roston Chase, caught by Inglis without scoring, the West Indies was 11-6. Taking out extras, the top six West Indies batters collectively scored only six runs. Only four of the 11 batters scored runs.

The West Indies was 22-6 at the dinner break. Shortly after it passed 26, helped by two dropped catches in the slips by Sam Konstas off Starc.

Boland's hat-trick brought the end closer, and Starc's sixth wicket - Jayden Seales bowled by a full delivery for a duck - finished the match inside three days.

West Indies captain Chase said it was a heartbreaking way to finish. He credited his bowlers for troubling the Australians throughout the series but said the batting lineup didn't click.

The West Indies Cricket Board summed up the feeling in the Caribbean in one social media post: "Absolutely gutted by today's result."

## Lopez aims to help Clippers reach new heights

LAS VEGAS, July 15, (AP): Brook Lopez grew up in Southern California. He remembers the days when the Los Angeles Clippers were awful.

Those years are long gone, and Lopez is betting that even better years are ahead.

Lopez discussed his decision to join the Clippers on a two-year contract worth nearly \$18 million on Monday at the NBA Summer League in Las Vegas, raving about how far the once-woebegone franchise has come. The Clippers have posted 14 consecutive winning seasons, the longest active streak in the NBA.

"It's crazy to see, but it's very cool," Lopez told reporters. "Seeing the climb, the ascent, I'm a Cali boy. I grew up in the valley in North Hollywood. Obviously, things were very different back then. And to see where the Clippers have come now, it's just astonishing. It's beautiful. I'm glad to be a part of it. And hopefully, I can help take them even further up."

Lopez was born in 1988, and over the first 25 years of his life, the Clippers had the NBA's worst overall record. In the 12 years since, they

have the league's second-best record behind only Golden State. They play in a new arena, the Intuit Dome, have stars like James Harden and Kawhi Leonard, have a title-winning coach in Tyronn Lue, and have one of the league's biggest-spending and most-committed owners in Steve Ballmer.

If all that wasn't enough, the Clippers' front office is run now by Lawrence Frank, who was Lopez's first NBA coach with the then-New Jersey Nets.

"Definitely a full-circle moment," Lopez said.

Lopez comes back to the Los Angeles area - he played for the Lakers in 2017-18 - after spending seven seasons with Milwaukee and helping the Bucks win a title. He averaged 13 points and 2.1 blocks per game in those seven seasons with the Bucks, and the 37-year-old has averaged 15.9 points in 17 NBA seasons.

He's been a starter for basically his entire career, though he may see a different role with the Clippers, already a staunch defensive team featuring a defensive player of the year candidate

and fellow 7-footer Ivica Zubac as the starting center.

"I think we complement each other extremely well," Lopez said. "Obviously, we'll be very big. I think we'll be great defensively, just dominating the paint, sealing the paint off. And then offensively, we complement each other there as well. Spread the floor for him, give him all the room in the paint for him to go wild."

There are some perks: He's going home, and the well-known Disney enthusiast will be playing his home games about a half-hour drive from Disneyland. But the biggest perk, Lopez thinks, is joining a team that he believes is good enough to contend for a title.

"The money's nice, but that's not what it's about for me," Lopez said. "I love playing, I love hooping, I've loved it since I was a little kid. I watched my older brothers play. I've just always been around it, and I love winning just as much. I just want to keep winning. I got a great taste for it in Milwaukee, and these guys are all about that here, and I'm all about it. So, it's a perfect fit."