



Pages 14-16



Scan the QR code to access
the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025 / MUHARRAM 25, 1447 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 18952

16 PAGES

150 FILS



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE rain starts with a few drops, and then it starts pouring heavily – this perfectly describes the recent developments within the Council of Ministers, which is actively working to fulfill the aspirations of a new era; I emphasize ... the aspirations of this era. It is true that the burden of a long legacy is heavy. The chaos inherited over more than 30 years has left

behind deep-rooted negative effects that cannot be undone overnight. State institutions have suffered from fragmented opinions, rampant opportunism, and blatant corruption, including the buying of loyalties not only through financial means but also by granting senior positions to inefficient individuals, which arguably is the most destructive form of corruption.

Most ministries to date are staffed with employees who face many criticisms, especially those occupying those offices via “parachute appointments” through parliamentary interference. Many hold academic degrees, some of which are fake PhDs, and have assumed important positions. This has negatively impacted salaries, as state funds are being drained by individuals holding forged certificates.

Consequently, the workforce has grown beyond the state’s capacity.

For over 16 years, salaries have not been increased, while inflation has steadily eroded citizens’ purchasing power.

On this basis, Kuwait has fallen behind in development, infrastructure projects, and public services. This is why we have witnessed power outages during the hottest summer days. We have repeatedly emphasized that energy projects require a comprehensive review and serious action. Public services and the lengthy, frustrating documentation processes also need urgent reform.

While many problems and crises stem from administrative chaos, electoral interference, and other factors negatively affecting life in the country, the

most alarming consequence is the persistent underdevelopment of education. This major problem has lasted for years due to the lack of a clear strategy to establish an advanced education system aligned with labor market demands. Instead of real education, students are often subjected to indoctrination that promotes ignorance rather than real knowledge.

Continued on Page 5

Follow me on:

@Ahmedaljarallah

Ahmed aljarallah

ahmed@aljarallah.com



Scan QR code
to visit the
website:



Scan Me aljarallah.com



Kuwait Fire Force personnel, under the supervision of Chief Maj. Gen. Talal Al-Roumi, tames huge Amghara blaze on Friday. No casualties were reported. – See Page 3

Hide it, lose it

Kuwait enforces strict cash, gold declarations

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: The Center for Government Communication (CGC) announced the regulations that travelers must adhere to for carrying cash and valuable items while traveling, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

On its X account, the center explained that, according to the Customs Inspection Procedures Guide, travelers must declare cash amounts equivalent to KD 3,000 or more, whether in foreign or local currency, upon departure or arrival. Valuables such as watches, jewelry, and high-value devices should be carried in

Continued on Page 5

KD 87,609 collected in traffic fines

Courts handled 5,234 traffic cases in Q1

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Official statistics issued by the Statistics and Research Department at the Ministry of Justice revealed that courts in various gover-

norates handled 5,234 traffic cases in the first quarter of 2025; indicating that 2,906 of these cases were adjudicated, while 2,328 cases were postponed.

The statistics revealed that Hawally Court topped the list in terms of the number of adjudicated cases with 597,

followed by Farwaniya Court with 552 and Capital Court with 491.

In contrast, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Court recorded the lowest number of resolved cases with 404.

Continued on Page 5

Visa-free travel spurs Kuwaiti visits

Celebrating 50 years, Kuwait and South Korea strengthen relations

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Kuwait Park, Chongsuk has affirmed that South Korea and Kuwait are working together in many sectors like airport operations, smart agriculture, smart cities, health-care and renewable energy.

In an interview with the newspaper, Ambassador Park stated that both countries aspire to become reliable strategic partners to jointly prepare for the future. He said South Korea remains committed to actively support the realization of Kuwait Vision 2035; particularly in the areas of economic diversification, renewable energy and housing development.

He asserted “we will continue our close cooperation in pursuit of peace and stability regionally and globally, as two peace-loving countries and active members of the international community. There is strong coordination between South Korea and Kuwait on the international stage, based on mutual trust. Kuwait has consistently provided humanitarian aid, prompting the United Nations to declare it as a ‘Humanitarian Center’ and HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad as a Humanitarian



Photo by Mohammad Morsi
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Kuwait Park, Chongsuk highlights 50 years of ties and stronger Kuwait-South Korea partnership during an interview.

Leader in 2014.”

He also disclosed that “South Korea contributed significantly during the Gulf War, donating \$500 million and sending medical and air units.”

Continued on Page 5

Cancer, cardiac and transplant care get global upgrade

Kuwait, France ink MoUs to boost healthcare cooperation

PARIS, July 19, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi on Friday signed memorandums of understanding with French medical institutions aimed at boosting cooperation in the sector with the European nation.

In a statement to KUNA and Kuwaiti Television, the minister affirmed that signing the memoranda of understanding is a new step on the path of executing vision of the sagacious political leadership, led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, designed to strengthen cooperation with leading French institutions.

It is a new chapter in the medical relations between Kuwait and France and is aimed at overhauling the medical services through know-how exchange and cooperation in training and specialized scientific research.

The inked MoUs cover treatment of tumors, cardiac diseases and organs transplant, he said.

For his part, Dr. Hisham Kalendar, the assistant undersecretary for external medical services at the Ministry of Health, said the memos also aim at offering specialized medical consultation by elite experts, thus patients in Kuwait would no longer need to travel abroad to get the aspired high-level medical treatment.



Kuwait and France strengthen healthcare ties as Kuwait's Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi signs agreements with leading French hospitals to elevate cancer, cardiac, and transplant services.

The memos, he has added, envisage advanced training programs including international fellowship, medical remarks programs, indicating that doctors from France would visit Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the State of Kuwait Ambassador to France Abdullah Al-Shahin said in a statement to KUNA that the signing of the MoUs between the MoH and five of the most prominent medical institutions in France mirrors depth of the bilateral relations and the mutual keenness on develop-

ing the cooperation in the vital sectors namely the health realm.

These memos constitute “the direct fruit” of the visit that has been paid by His Highness the Amir to Paris early this week -- marked with a boost to the bilateral relations between the two countries at diverse levels.

Moreover, Ambassador Al-Shahin has affirmed that the involved French institutions are famous of global expertise.

The involved institutions include

Alamviva group, Curie Hospital, Foch Hospital, Montessori Institute and Rothschild institution.

The signing ceremony was held earlier today at the State of Kuwait Embassy building in Paris, with attendance of the Minister of Health Dr. Al-Awadhi, the Kuwaiti Ambassador, Dr. Kalendar, the head of the Kuwaiti Medical Office in France Dr. Ali Al-Musawi and representatives of the concerned French medical institutions.

Kuwait key peace and trade partner: Koistinen

‘Visa waiver for Kuwaitis a top EU priority’

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: European Union (EU) Ambassador to Kuwait Anne Koistinen said the relationship between Kuwait and the EU witnessed remarkable development in recent years; stressing this relationship is based on the foundations of friendship, mutual understanding and shared values including peace, diplomacy and international cooperation.

In an interview with the newspaper, Koistinen affirmed that Kuwait is a reliable partner of the EU; and that the relationship between the two sides is distinguished by its diversity and breadth of areas covered – from politics and economics to education, energy and security.

She highlighted the depth of these relations and the great potential for developing bilateral cooperation in a number of strategic areas; particularly renewable energy, digital innovation and maritime security.

She disclosed that the goal for the next phase is to transform visions into realistic initiatives that result in



Anne Koistinen, EU Ambassador to the State of Kuwait

cooperation in serving the interests of both parties. She stressed that the EU positively views the efforts of Kuwait to promote regional and international dialogue, specifically under its current presidency of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

She said “Kuwait is a key partner in supporting peace and humanitarian action, and in building bridges of dialogue and understanding between Europe and the region. We are preparing to hold a series of high-level meetings in the coming period, within the framework of strengthening the strategic partnership between the EU and the Gulf.”

She stressed the importance of the upcoming 29th EU-GCC Ministerial Meeting, which will be held in Kuwait in October, as it will tackle issues that are considered regional priorities and are withing the geopolitical context. She revealed that “Kuwait will host the EU-GCC Business Forum later this year, which will provide companies with the opportunity to build cooperative networks with their European counterparts.”

Continued on Page 5

NewsWatch

DEIR AL BALAH, Gaza Strip:

Israeli troops opened fire Saturday toward crowds of Palestinians seeking food from distribution hubs run by a U.S.- and Israeli-backed group in southern Gaza, killing at least 32 people, according to witnesses and hospital officials.

The shootings occurred near hubs operated by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which launched operations in May. The U.S. and Israel seek to replace the traditional U.N.-led aid distribution system in Gaza, asserting that Hamas militants siphon off supplies. The U.N. denies the allegation.

While the GHF says it has distributed millions of meals to hungry Palestinians, local health officials and witnesses say that Israeli army fire has killed hundreds of people as they try to reach the hubs. GHF’s four sites are in military-controlled zones.

Israel’s army, which is not at the sites but secures them from a distance, says it only fires warning shots if crowds get too close to its forces. (AP)

Kuwait condemns Israel takeover of Ibrahimi Mosque

KUWAIT CITY, July 19, (KUNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed on Friday Kuwait’s strong denunciation and condemnation of the Israeli occupation plans to transfer the administrative powers of Ibrahimi Mosque from Palestinian Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs to the so-called the Jewish religious council in Kiryat Arba settlement.

In a statement, the ministry affirmed that such step is a flagrant violation of international law and provokes Muslims’ feelings across the world.

It stressed Kuwait’s categorical rejection of such unilateral measures that affect the current legal and historic status of religious sanctities in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Kuwait called on the international community and the Security Council to bear their legal and moral responsibilities to deter such practices that underestimate international efforts aiming to achieve inclusive and just peace, according to the statement.



8 NBK marks milestone with \$800 million Additional Tier 1 bond listing on the London Stock Exchange



10 Burgan Bank honors Kuwait’s top-ranking graduates – class of 2025 in collaboration with Ministry of Education

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:28	Asr	15:29
Sunrise ..	05:00	Maghrib ..	18:48
Zohr	11:54	Isha	20:17

Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-40 km/h.			
By Night: Hot to rather hot			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	47	36	
Kuwait Airport	47	33	
Abdaly	48	29	
Jahra	49	33	
Salmiyah	45	36	
Ahmadi	45	32	
Nuwaisib	44	32	
Wafra	48	34	
Salmly	47	30	
Managish	49	33	

Young entrepreneurs to run tire shop

Business opportunities created for Kuwaitis in co-ops: Al-Dhafiri

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Director of the Cooperative Development Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs Hamad Al-Dhafiri stated that the number of commercial activities in 73 cooperative societies has exceeded 8,800.

In a press statement, Al-Dhafiri disclosed that the sale of snacks is the most popular of the above-mentioned commercial activities; indicating this expansion reflects the commitment of the ministry to diversify services and boost economic activity in the country.

He said Sabah Al-Ahmad Cooperative Society leads the cooperatives in terms of the number of invested shops, as it is considered a modern area. He revealed that 340 out of 396 shops in the cooperative are operational with an occupancy rate of 90 percent. He added the remaining shops are being offered for

investment gradually, with more than 40 new shops offered in the last six months alone.

He confirmed that in Northwest Sulaibikhat, the occupancy rate of the invested shops reached about 90 percent as well; while West Abdullah Al-Mubarak is witnessing progress, with 50 percent of the total 61 shops being offered for investment and 31 of these shops have been invested in so far.

He revealed that from the beginning of this year until mid-July, more than 200 shops in various co-operative societies were offered for investment, as part of a systematic plan to accelerate the provision of diverse commercial services and expand the scope of cooperative activity.

In the context of supporting small enterprises, Al-Dhafiri stated that the department is working hard to implement the 10 percent allocation for these projects within the invested shops. He confirmed that in addition to the shops previously invested in this area, around 25 shops have also been offered for small enterprises since the beginning of the year, in line with the government's policies to support entrepreneur-

ship and provide business opportunities for young people.

He added that all activities are available to entrepreneurs within this quota, including tire repair. He said the tire repair branch at Salmiya Cooperative Society was allocated to a small enterprise, thereby, enhancing the role of youths in various commercial and service sectors.

He asserted that the department -- under the directives of Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila and acting Undersecretary of the ministry Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, as well as the close monitoring of Assistant Undersecretary for Financial, Administrative and Cooperative Affairs Dr. Sayed Issa Mahmoud -- is continuing to implement the plan to launch shops in various areas.

He said the tender envelopes for about 50 shops are expected to be opened in the coming days in several areas like Zahra, Kaifan, Jabriya, Sabah Al-Ahmad, Al-Naeem, Wafra, Qadisiya, Ali Sabah Al-Salem Suburb and others. He added these shops are

engaged in different activities; such as retail sales, gifts and luxuries, men's barbershops, men's salons, laundry, juice shops and tailoring.

Regarding the Mutlaa Cooperative Society, Al-Dhafiri affirmed that the ministry -- after forming a temporary council for the cooperative -- is currently working toward the opening of a number of branches in various residential areas; in addition to preparing to offer the shops there for investment soon, in a manner that meets the needs of the residents and enhances the cooperative's readiness to serve them.

He disclosed that the department has completed more than 20,000 transactions through automation since the beginning of January last year until mid-July this year, confirming the development of services and the speed of completion of transactions.

He pointed out this reflects the ministry's commitment to provide a flexible and comprehensive cooperative investment environment in all areas; through clear plans that integrate efforts in terms of development and support.

Minister congratulates Kuwait Disabled Sport Club

Kuwait proud of 'less privileged' team's achievement

KUWAIT CITY, July 19, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah congratulated on Friday Kuwait Disabled Sport Club on winning the title of the 9th West Asia Wheelchair Basketball Championship, held in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

In a statement to KUNA,



Dr Al-Huwailah

Minister Al-Huwailah affirmed that this remarkable achievement reflects the strong determination and perseverance of Kuwaiti athletes, highlighting their distinguished representation of Kuwait's sports community in regional and international forums.

The minister expressed deep appreciation for the efforts exerted by the club's players, administrative, and technical teams, stressing that this victory would not have been achieved without the con-

tinuous support and care from Kuwait's wise political leadership for people with disabilities in various fields.

She emphasized that Kuwait is proud of this outstanding sports achievement, which represents a significant addition to the record of Kuwaiti sports, wishing Kuwait Disabled Sport Club further success and accomplishments in the future.

— See Also Page 16



KUNA photo

Kuwait Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Sadeq Marafi and Estonian Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Political Affairs Martin Roger with Kuwait Ambassador to Germany Reem Al-Khaled and Estonia's Kristi Karelsohn.

Kuwait, Estonia ink MoU to up political correlation

BERLIN, July 19, (KUNA): Kuwait Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Sadeq Marafi and Estonian Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Political Affairs Martin Roger signed on Friday a memorandum of understanding to establish regular political consultations.

The first round of those consultations was co-chaired by Marafi and Roger in Tallinn, capital of Estonia, this midday, according to a statement from Kuwait Embassy in Berlin. Both sides explored ways for strengthening the bilateral relations in such areas as governance,

digital transformation and cybersecurity in keeping with Kuwait Vision 2035.

They also discussed the prospects of economic and investment cooperation as well as regional and international issues of common concern, the statement noted.

Today's round of the consultation gathered also Kuwait Ambassador to Germany Reem Al-Khaled and Estonian Director-General of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Asia and the Pacific, Middle East and Africa Kristi Karelsohn.

Other Voices

Child abuse in our societies

By Ahmad alsarraf

THE definition of a "child" varies from country to country. According to the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, anyone under the age of 18 is considered a child, unless a country's law defines adulthood as occurring at a younger age.

This means a child is entitled to a range of rights, protections, and care appropriate for their age, through their growing awareness of the world around them. This awareness serves as the first gateway for a child to enter a world of knowledge and skills.

The more effective a child's sensory integration is, the better their ability to learn, adapt, and develop physically, mentally, and socially. However, achieving this requires providing both psychological and physical care, an important concept that many people overlook.

In our culture, it is often considered necessary to hit a child if they fail or neglect to perform a religious duty, for example. This hinders their development and constitutes a violation of their human rights, given the child's complete inability to defend themselves. It also has a profoundly negative impact on their psychological well-being and overall future.

Therefore, civilized countries do not hesitate to punish parents, guardians, or teachers who hit a child under the pretext of discipline or for making a mistake. The laws in these countries also prohibit harming animals, as the sophistication and civilization of a nation are measured by how it protects the weak.

Serious studies have shown that many hardened criminals and mentally ill individuals were often subjected to beatings during childhood. Likewise, those who inflict such violence

on children, whether parents, guardians, or teachers, were frequently victims of severe beatings themselves.

Proper child-rearing requires skills that many lack, which are love, appreciation, encouragement, as well as a deep understanding of the child's needs and true abilities, coupled with patience as their minds mature into adulthood.

As children and even teenagers, many of us were accustomed to seeing teachers carrying sticks and using them as threats. Unfortunately, teacher violence has caused many students to drop out of school. It is encouraging to see that international agreements have since worked to eliminate this abusive practice in some countries, though it sadly still persists in many others, including much of our own region.

I have often heard stories, especially from the 1970s and earlier, about friends returning from abroad, often from Western countries, complaining that schools and even security authorities warned them they could face legal action if they physically discipline their children, or if the children reported parental mistreatment to teachers.

I vividly remember my late friend Salem Zabal, the chief photographer for Al-Arabi magazine, when he returned from Australia. He felt that his right to raise his daughters according to the devout Christian upbringing he had received was being restricted. For that reason, he chose to return to the Arab Middle East, what he called "paradise".

Therefore, it is essential to enforce laws that protect our children. Children are not the property of their parents but belong to society as a whole. Their behavior, good or bad, reflects on everyone, whether parents like it or not.

In this context, former Al-Azhar cleric and professor Mustafa Rashid highlighted that an Eastern man often feels no shame in beating his wife in front of his children, yet is embarrassed to show affection by kissing her in their presence.

□ □ □

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw



PAFN inspectors taking out the rotten fish as workers taking out baskets of shrimp from the truck.



KUNA photos

PAFN destroys 10 tons of unfit to eat fish & shrimp

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) has announced the seizure and destruction of 10 tons of fish and shrimp found to be unfit for human consumption before they reached the market, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Violations were recorded and those responsible were referred to the Public Prosecution for legal action.

Director of the Capital Governorate Inspection Department Ali Al-Kandari told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that this action was taken after a surprise inspection of fish transport vehicles near Sharq Market recently. The campaign led to the confiscation of the entire contents of four refrigerated trucks.

Al-Kandari stated that legal measures were taken immediately to destroy the spoiled goods and prevent their sale. He reaffirmed the commitment of PAFN to

protect public health and ensure food safety. "We take firm action against anyone attempting to sell adulterated or expired food," he said, emphasizing that the authority enforces the law rigorously at every stage of inspection.

He added that inspection teams -- under the direction of the chairman of the Board of Directors, the director general and the deputy director for Inspection and Control Affairs -- continue to conduct field visits in the six governorates to prevent spoiled food from reaching consumers.

He stressed that these proactive inspections are in line with Cabinet directives aimed at strengthening national food security, ensuring products meet safety standards, and continuously monitoring expiration dates. He warned that the harshest penalties will be imposed on violators who endanger public health.

Legal Dept nods in-kind compenstaion

Kuwaiti apartment owners to get alternative housing

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: The Legal Advice and Legislation Department has approved an in-kind compensation plan for Kuwaitis who own apartments in Sabah Al-Salem Residential Complex, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Under this plan, eligible owners will be granted alternative housing units in Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 33/1964 concerning expropriation and temporary seizure for public benefit and its amendments. The final decision is now pending approval by the Council of Ministers.

A reliable source confirmed that during its session on March 26; the Cabinet reviewed the request of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) regarding the expropriation of Sabah Al-Salem Residential Complex for public use. As part of this move, the authority proposed compensating the eligible owners with residential units located in PAHW-owned housing buildings in Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City.

The PAHW will oversee the implementation of this project, in coordination with the relevant government agencies. Temporary residents of the complex, who meet eligibility criteria, will be allowed to rent alternative housing units at subsidized rates, as determined

by the authority. The rent will vary based on the size and type of the housing unit and the associated service charges.

The Cabinet has also instructed the PAHW to coordinate with the Legal Advice and Legislation Department, Ministry of Finance, Expropriation for Public Benefit Department, and other concerned entities to study the legal aspects of the expropriation request and present recommendations accordingly.

In a letter sent to the acting director general of PAHW, the Expropriation for Public Benefit Department outlined its vision for the execution of the project and the necessary legal procedures. It highlighted the major challenges and recommended steps in compliance with Law No. 33/1964 and Decree No. 131/1986.

One of the important recommendations is the issuance of a Cabinet resolution to formalize the expropriation process for Sabah Al-Salem apartments. This resolution must be requested by the Minister of State for Housing Affairs and must specify the implementation mechanisms for resettling the current residents.

The initiative is part of a government effort to address the housing needs of vulnerable groups, particularly divorced and widowed Kuwaiti women living in

the complex. The Women's Housing Affairs Team has recommended relocating residents to PAHW housing projects to ensure their safety and improve their living standards.

The proposed plan includes the following:

- 401 tenants will be relocated to alternative apartments in Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City
- 123 owners, who hold official ownership documents, can choose between cash compensation or allocation of alternative housing in Sabah Al-Ahmad or other PAHW-designated locations, provided the compensation amount is waived and all outstanding financial obligations are settled.

- In the case of 16 owners currently in the process of obtaining ownership documents, they will be treated under the same terms as full owners if the documents are issued before the Cabinet decision is finalized; otherwise, they will be compensated accordingly.

To move forward, the Expropriation for Public Benefit Administration emphasized the need for a Cabinet decision to form the Valuation Committee and Objections Committee, which will be responsible for assessing property values and handling appeals from affected parties.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Rational freedom ... a healthy phenomenon

“DEMOCRACY is built upon the foundation of freedom. Without it, the mechanisms that restore human dignity are lost, and in their place emerge the fortified vaults of oppression and repression, and subjugation takes hold.” Lebanese writer and university professor **Dr. George Shibli** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Dr. George Shibli

“A person deprived of freedom becomes either shackled by fear or reduced to a mere biological entity performing the basic functions common to all living beings, no more and no less. This reality raises a critical question - What value is there in reason and foresight if a person is unable to make decisions, take a stand, or express their views? If freedom is placed under the guillotine, what remains? Isn't it true that decisions will be dictated by the voices of intimidation, tyranny, and domination? These are the true poisons that erode both individual identity and the collective spirit.

“Freedom rejects domestication, oppression, and the imposition of pre-packaged opinions. It resists the erosion of human dignity when individuals are denied their right to live freely. Freedom is not a vague or fluid concept but it is a philosophy of presence, survival, and purpose. Belonging to it is an act of independence and a fundamental right, not a privilege granted by anyone.

“A look back at human history reveals that freedom has always been surrounded by a halo of sanctity. Countless struggles have been waged in its name, lives have been sacrificed on its path, and revolutions have upheld it as a core strategy for strengthening both social and moral existence. It has also been codified as an ideological pillar within constitutions.

“To understand freedom is to reach the pinnacle of human knowledge. It is a way of life and an existential pursuit, not a slogan paraded by those who cloak themselves in titles of moral authority, seeking applause from crowds that cheer it without reflection, often revealing a deep intellectual void.

“However, the so-called brilliant and exceptional are often the quickest to abandon their true principles, resorting to the most insidious forms of suppressing freedom and restricting its expression. Their actions are nothing more than manifestations of deep-seated, pathological instincts. If all people are equal in rights, despite their differences in abilities and levels of awareness, then true balance among them can only be achieved through their equal enjoyment of freedom. Freedom is the great common denominator, and one of profound significance.

“Hence, freedom must be a weapon of moderation. When embraced by a society, it overcomes extremism, suppresses oppression, and eliminates violence, thereby resolving internal conflicts. Upholding freedom as a noble human principle, or adopting it as a universal identity, prevents stagnation, isolation, and the entrenchment of false beliefs. It transforms societies into civilized, progressive, and evolving environments for the better.

“Since freedom is the true measure of will, which is undeniable, there can be no genuine, uncorrupted will without it. Likewise, great achievements and outstanding intellectual contributions arise only when freedom serves as their driving force. What hope is there for any nation shackled by ignorance, fanaticism, tyranny, and reactionism, a nation divided and lifeless, to make a meaningful leap forward toward civilization and away from its decline?

“Neither magic, nor sorcery, nor hidden strings, nor empty illusions, these are nothing but grasping at the wind. They can never serve as the true remedy that eases life, nurtures hope, and strengthens faith in the future. The force that carries within it the sublime power to help peoples overcome decadence, injustice, and bondage, to free their voices from oppression, and to unshackle freedom, is freedom itself, and freedom alone.

“As Rousseau said, “Man was born to be free.” Kant added, “And responsible, because freedom springs from the rational will.” Indeed, freedom is neither absolute nor unchecked, nor is it governed by instincts or questionable desires. Otherwise, chaos, violations, barbarism, violence, rigid fanaticism, and destructive authoritarianism would prevail.

“All of these threaten the sovereignty of freedom, the very sovereignty that allows freedom to resonate deeply within people's consciences, to powerfully mobilize their values, to move their souls profoundly, and to take root firmly in their noble human behavior.

Freedom is awakening, inner awareness, and the dispelling of isolation. It is not a system bound by rules; rather, it empowers people to question, choose, doubt, express opinions, and discern. Most importantly, it frees thought from mere imitation.

“Accordingly, freedom is beyond the logic of impotence, as it is a driving force of progress that ignites a love of life, liberates humanity from isolation, and stimulates the values of truth,

justice, ambition, and creativity. Materialist philosophy emphasizes that the essence of the human self is rooted in freedom and reason, which means they are inseparable. True freedom cannot exist without awareness, and rational understanding is meaningless unless it serves freedom and human dignity.”

Also:

“Not every act of giving brings comfort or mercy. Some hands may help the body but burden the soul by offering food with words that turn it bitter, and lifting a load only to place a heavier one on the heart,” Kuwaiti writer **Jaber Al-Tamimi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“My child, a kind word can replace the greatest gift. A harsh word can erase the most beautiful favor. The true value of giving lies in preserving the dignity of the one receiving it, without humiliation, insult, or shame.

“What good is a helping hand if the other hand brings you down with a word? What is the worth of a smile if it is followed by complaints and a tongue that lists its sacrifices, as though kindness were a debt no time can repay? Your parents need your heart more than your hand, and your compassion more than your wealth.

“Don't let your giving become a reason to reproach them for their weakness, their circumstances, or their need. Sometimes, being left in their struggle would be easier than enduring the sting of your words that make them feel small in your eyes. When a heart is humbled, it breaks, and once broken, no number of gifts can truly mend it.

“As God Almighty said: “A kind word and forgiveness are better than charity followed by injury.” This is a way of life. A kind word that accompanies giving elevates your status, both with God and with those you treat with compassion. If giving is tainted with hurt or reminders of favor, it weighs heavily on the recipient's heart and becomes a burden they may carry forever, no matter how much time passes.

“My child, your parents need your words before your wallet. They need to hear, “I am here for you, don't worry about me.” They need your mercy more than your money, and your kindness before your speech. Not every gift burdens you, but hurtful words always do. Remember, some people want nothing more than a heart that won't fail them and a word that won't wound them. And if your giving lacks mercy and tenderness, then spare them your gifts. By God, the pain of their need is easier to bear than the pain of having their dignity broken in your presence.

“And never forget that God bestows double blessings on a hand that gives with discretion, kindness, and silence. But when giving is followed by complaints, sighs, or resentment, you withhold God's blessing from your hand, even if it remains outwardly full of wealth and goodness. God does not bless a hand devoid of mercy, nor a tongue that exposes the weaknesses of His servants whom He, in His wisdom, has chosen to conceal.

“My child, if you truly knew how heavy the heart feels when closeness becomes more painful than distance, you would never hurt those you love with a word, even if you gave them your very life. A kind word is a bridge that connects hearts, while giving without compassion builds walls that may never come down.”

“Farmers in Wafra and Abdali continue to face several problems, the most prominent of which is the weak flow of treated water to their remote border farms. Also, the poor condition of the roads connecting the agricultural areas in Wafra poses serious risks to both farmers and their vehicles, day and night,” former Deputy Chair of the Kuwait Farmers Union Eng. **Majed Khaled Al-Huwaila** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Eng. Al-Huwaila

“How long will this situation continue? In Block 6 of the modern Wafra Farming area, for example, there are still no paved roads connecting the hundreds of impressive farms. In many blocks, both old and new, of Abdali, treated water barely reaches any of the farms, despite a major public project that cost the state millions of dinars with the goal of supplying treated water to vital farms in both the north and south of the country.

“I must also highlight the serious danger posed by the potholes along the main Abdali road, particularly for farmers traveling from their northern border farms toward Jahra City and then on to Kuwait City.

“I hope this message reaches the relevant authorities responsible for treated water and road infrastructure, so they can take necessary action as soon as possible. Supporting the productive farmers of Abdali and Wafra, and ensuring their safety, as well as the safety of those using the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Expressway toward northern Kuwait, must be a top priority.”

— Compiled by Mahmoud Attiyeh/Simi K. Kutty



KUNA photo

KFF struggle to tackle massive fire in Amghara scrapyard.

Fire-fighters toil to contain Amghara scrapyard fire

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Nine firefighting teams, supported by the National Guard of Kuwait and the Kuwait Army, contained a massive fire that broke out at a wood scrapyard in Amghara on Friday. No injuries were reported.

In a press statement, the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) explained that its teams managed to control the blaze, which had spread across multiple scrap wood plots in the area. Approximately 180 fire-

fighters took part in the operation, using intensive efforts with specialized machinery and equipment to prevent the fire from spreading to neighboring plots.

The firefighting operation was led on the ground by KFF Chair Major General Talal Mohammed Al-Roumi and Acting Deputy Chief of the Fire-fighting Sector Brigadier General Omar Hamad.

KFF Director of the Public Relations and Media Department Brigadier General Mohammed Al-Gharib confirmed that nine fire stations, along with the National Guard and the Kuwait Army,

successfully brought the fire under control. The blaze covered an area of approximately 70,000 square meters that contained wood and scrap materials.

He explained that firefighting teams made great efforts to fully extinguish the fire, and worked diligently to isolate the flames and prevent them from spreading to adjacent plots. Strong winds had contributed to the rapid spread of the fire, which broke out on Friday afternoon. Security forces and emergency medical teams were also present at the scene to ensure safety and provide support.



KFF employs jet skis for rescue operations.

‘KFF rescue squad on 24/7 vigilance’

Lives saved: Col Al-Kadam

By Hammad Al-Mutairi

KUWAIT CITY, July 19, (KUNA): **Colonel Bader Al-Kadam, Director of Kuwait Fire Force Marine Fire-fighting Department, has declared that the division has received, since January 1st, up to 813 calls for help due to boats' malfunction, fires and drowning cases.**

In a statement to KUNA, Col. Al-Kadam said the marine rescue personnel have been responding to the distress calls with utmost seriousness before rapidly engaging, particularly in cases where human lives are at risk.

The marine rescue teams are profession-

ally trained to respond to various emergency situations such as drowning, fires on ships or missing cases, Col. Al-Kadam said, noting that the squad is ready round the clock for intervention and saving lives.

The rescue teams employ speedboats and wireless communication equipment to deal with emergencies, he said, pointing out that the operations are coordinated with the coast guards and other concerned authorities via a joint operation room.



Col Al-Kadam

Car broken into

Duo caught red-handed buying and selling drugs

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Officers at Jleeb Police Station arrested two expatriates for trading in drugs, with 22 bags containing hashish and shabu in their possession, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, the operation began after police received tip-off from a confidential informant. The informant reported that an Arab was planning to sell a quantity of hashish to an Asian for KD40.

A delivery was scheduled to take place in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, specifically in the parking lot of a private school. In response, a task force was quickly assembled and deployed to the location.

Both the seller and buyer were apprehended at the scene in possession of multiple bags containing shabu and small pieces of hashish. During questioning, the suspects admitted they were there to complete a drug transaction.

The two expatriates were referred to the Drug Control General Department for investigation and other legal action.

Car broken into: Authorities launched a criminal investigation after unknown thieves broke into a vehicle parked in a shopping mall lot in Jahra and stole personal belongings, reports Al-Anba daily.

Forensic teams examined the vehicle and collected evidence left behind by the perpetrators. Based on initial findings, the Public Prosecutor ordered the case to be classified as a felony and instructed Jahra detectives to take all necessary steps to identify and apprehend the culprits.

The victim, a Kuwaiti born in 1991, reported to the Jahra Police Station that an unknown individual smashed the rear window of his vehicle and stole his wallet containing KD85, official documents and the car's registration book.

Investigations are ongoing.

Drugs in suspect's car: A police patrol in Saad Al-Abdullah tried to arrest an individual on suspicion of drug use, but the suspect fled on foot, reports Al-Anba daily.

Upon searching the vehicle that the suspect used, the security officers discovered 981 Lyrica pills and KD1,420 cash. The vehicle was impounded and the General Traffic Department is working hard to identify the registered owner through official records.

The Drug Control General Department was notified and it is now following up the case.

Kuwaitis, expats held

31 caught with drugs, arms in massive raids

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: The Drug Control General Department, affiliated with the Criminal Security Sector, carried out intensive campaigns in various areas of Kuwait, during which 31 individuals were arrested in possession of huge quantities of drugs, drug paraphernalia and firearms, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release, the Ministry of Interior explained that the arrested individuals include Kuwaiti citizens, Arab and Asian residents, as well as illegal residents (Bedoun).

The seized items included the following:

- 7.1 kilograms of hashish
- 5.35 kilograms of shabu
- 3.8 kilograms of marijuana
- 2.1 kilograms of heroin
- 570 grams of chemicals
- 273 grams of cocaine
- 250 grams of Lyrica powder
- 500 ml of chemical oil
- 25,000 Lyrica capsules
- 2,000 psychotropic pills
- 17 sensitive scales
- Several empty sachets
- 8 firearms
- A quantity of live ammunition

The suspects were referred with the confiscated items to the drug and alcohol prosecution authority for necessary legal action.

Reports denied: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) has denied reports of the presence of impurities in table salt, reports Al-Seyassah daily. It confirmed that samples were collected and tested in a laboratory, the results of which showed that the product is safe and free from any contaminants, glass particles, or harmful substances.

افتح عروض الذكرى السنوية المميزة - إمسح هنا

UNLOCK SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY DEALS - JUST SCAN!

Dine-in & Delivery

الطعام داخل المطعم والتوصيل

1800 188 / 5501 1985

www.mughalmahal.com

Other Voices

Judicial Specialization: The missing pillar in Kuwait’s economic reform vision

By Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb
Managing Partner, Taher Group Law Firm

Visiting Professor of Law, Kuwait International Law School

Adapted and expanded from an original interview conducted by journalist Abdullah Othman and published in Al-Nahar on July 18, 2025. This version has been updated to reflect current legal developments and strategic judicial reform initiatives.

In a progressive move aimed at accelerating the resolution of commercial disputes and enhancing Kuwait’s competitiveness, Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumeit recently issued a ministerial decision forming a specialized committee to draft a decree-law for the establishment of specialized economic courts, along with its explanatory memorandum.

The committee, chaired by Counselor Abdullah Al-Qusaimi, includes representatives from key national institutions such as the Central Bank, the Ministry of Commerce, the Kuwait Bar Association, and Kuwait University. It is tasked with delivering a framework that reflects international best practices while addressing the complex realities of Kuwait’s evolving economy.

This governmental initiative is both timely and visionary. However, to truly transform the justice system and support economic moderniza-

tion, Kuwait must go beyond establishing a single economic court. What is required is a fully integrated system of specialized courts structured by value, subject matter, and legal complexity. This will ensure that commercial and financial disputes are resolved swiftly, competently, and in line with global standards.

Why Judicial Specialization Is Strategic

Specialized courts are no longer an administrative preference. They are a structural necessity. In modern economies, disputes span a wide range of sectors including taxation, customs, capital markets, insolvency, anti-money laundering, intellectual property, cross-border finance, and complex commercial fraud. Each domain carries unique legal and regulatory requirements that demand judicial expertise.

Placing all these matters under one general economic court risks jurisdictional overlap, inefficiency, and procedural delay. A segmented and specialized judiciary, on the other hand, empowers judges to build sectoral depth, improves case flow, and enhances investor confidence. This is a key driver behind the Minister’s initiative.

Global Best Practices and Local Relevance

Kuwait’s proposed judicial reform should mirror the legal sophistication of mature economies. Models such



Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb

as the UK’s Business and Property Courts and the Delaware Court of Chancery in the United States provide strong benchmarks. These systems offer specialized procedures, expert judges, and value-based jurisdiction. This leads to faster litigation cycles, improved consistency, and greater legal certainty for commercial actors.

Kuwait must now build a framework that translates those advantages into its local context.

A Framework for Kuwait’s Specialized Judiciary

In response to the Ministry’s directive, the following structural proposal is recommended:

- 1. Value-Based Specialization
- High-Value Commercial Court: Jurisdiction over disputes exceeding KD 5 million, or those involving

- cross-border or institutional finance.
- 2. Subject-Matter Specialization
- Tax and Customs Court
- Capital Markets and Investment Court
- Insolvency Court (with separate civil and criminal divisions)
- Economic Crimes Court
- Intellectual Property and Technology Court
- Competition and Consumer Protection Court

This segmentation ensures that each dispute is handled by a judiciary with domain-specific competence and procedural impact.

Anticipated Impact on Kuwait’s Investment Climate

The Minister’s initiative reflects a broader realization. A modern economy requires a modern judiciary. If properly implemented, judicial specialization will yield profound benefits, including:

- Faster resolution of commercial and investment disputes
- Reduced reliance on international arbitration
- Greater legal certainty for investors and businesses
- Alignment with global standards in dispute resolution
- Direct support for Kuwait Vision 2035 as a legal and financial center

Kuwait’s message to the global investment community will be unmistakable. This is a jurisdiction that protects capital through competence,

speed, and legal clarity.

Legislative Feasibility and Institutional Readiness

Kuwait’s constitutional and legal framework fully supports this direction. Articles 164 and 166 of the Constitution grant the legislature authority to structure the judiciary, provided that the principle of dual-instance litigation is upheld.

Additionally, the newly enacted Judicial Fees Law No. 78 of 2025 introduces a proportional fee of 1 percent for cases exceeding KD 5 million. This serves as a significant policy tool supporting the creation of value-based judicial channels.

The Ministry’s inclusive committee, comprising stakeholders from the judiciary, academia, financial regulators, and investment authorities, provides a strong foundation for building consensus and shaping a specialized court system rooted in Kuwait’s legal identity.

Academic and Comparative Insights

Legal education in Kuwait has long acknowledged the importance of specialization. At Kuwait International Law School, advanced courses such as Economic Crimes I and II reflect the layered complexity of modern litigation, where financial understanding and legal analysis intersect.

Assigning such cases to general criminal courts or bundling them into a single economic court undermines

their intricacy. Instead, they must be addressed within specialized judicial tracks, managed by judges trained in both law and financial systems.

Internationally, Egypt’s experience with economic courts offers valuable lessons. While pioneering in the region, Egypt’s model faces challenges from jurisdictional overlap and the merger of civil and criminal cases into a single court. Kuwait should avoid this approach.

Conclusion: Aligning Legal Reform with Economic Ambition

The decision to establish specialized courts is a critical and welcome milestone. But Kuwait must now look beyond a single economic court and embrace a full architecture of judicial specialization. It must be modular, expert-driven, and tailored to the modern business environment.

This is not merely a reform of the courts. It is a structural investment in Kuwait’s economic future.

A truly competitive economy is built on three pillars: sound regulation, business-friendly policy, and judicial certainty. Kuwait is now poised to lead by building a legal infrastructure that reflects its aspirations, supports its investors, and upholds its role as a regional leader in law, finance, and governance.

□ □ □

For inquiries or comments:
Fawaz@tahergroup.org

Kuwait, Latvia hold 1st round of political consultations



KUNA photo
Sadiq Marafi Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs and Ivars Lasis Latvia’s Under-Secretary of State and Political Director.

BERLIN, July 19, (KUNA): The first round of political consultations between Kuwait and Latvia was held in the capital Riga, on Thursday.

A statement received by KUNA from the Kuwaiti Embassy in Germany revealed that the two sides discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations at all levels, especially the economic one, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.

The statement added that the fields of logistics, technology, and food security were also discussed, in addition to key regional and international issues, as well as opportunities for cooperation in international forums.

The Kuwaiti delegation was headed by Sadiq Marafi, Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs, while the Latvian side was represented by Ivars Lasis, Latvia’s Under-Secretary of State and Political Director.

The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Germany Reem Al-Khaled and Latvia’s Ambassador to the UAE and non-resident Ambassador of Latvia to Kuwait, Dana Goldfinca.

Council member flags inaction on school projects in Jahra and Fintas

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Municipal Council member Abdullah Al-Enezi on Thursday forwarded questions to the executive body of Kuwait Municipality regarding the two decisions of the council related to allocating two sites for the establishment of an integrated complex to manage special education schools and their facilities in various governorates.

Al-Enezi stated that the first site is in South Al-Oyoun in Jahra Governorate with

an area of 150,000 square meters. It is designated to serve the Capital, Farwaniya and Jahra governorates. The second site is in West Fintas with an area of 100,000 square meters; designated to serve the Hawally, Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Ahmadi governorates.

Based on these facts, he inquired about the steps taken regarding the two sites; such as receiving the land, establishing boundaries and issuing building permits. He also asked about the coordination mechanism between the Municipality and the Ministry of Education in this regard.

Co-op’s supervisor hiring goes digital

E-testing begins Sept 9 at GUST

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi announced that the submission of applications for supervisory positions in cooperative societies will start on July 27, in coordination with the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM).

Al-Ajmi said this step is part of the efforts of the ministry to develop the employment system by using digital tools and modern mechanisms that ensure transparency and professionalism in the selection of qualified national personnel.

He disclosed that for the first time since the start of recruitment in cooperative societies, the ministry will adopt an electronic test for candidates in line with its commitment to modernize recruitment procedures. He said the electronic test will be conducted in cooperation with the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), as part of an effective partnership aimed at building a modern assessment system.

He explained that passing the electronic test is a prerequisite for nomination for the personal interview to be conducted at the ministry. He stated that the success rate for this test is 80 percent or higher, which qualifies the applicant to advance to the next stage of the evaluation. He said the



Dr. Al-Ajmi

personal interview accounts for 15 percent of the final evaluation, while the results of the electronic test constitute the most important criterion in determining eligibility for admission to ensure fair competition based on competence and professionalism. He added the electronic test will be held in GUST on Sept 9; while affirming that the ministry will provide a free and optional training course for applicants wishing to better prepare for the test.

He revealed that applications for the positions are in accordance with Ministerial Resolution No. 68/2023 and its amendments, and include the following supervisory positions -- director, deputy director and department head. He said the salaries for these positions range from KD1,000 to KD 2,000; depending on the nature of each position and its administrative and professional requirements.

Meanwhile, Musaed Al-Mutairi, Deputy Director General of the Labor Affairs Sector at PAM, confirmed that PAM has activated an integrated system for registering job vacancies in cooperative societies. He said the first step is receiving an official letter from the ministry; followed by entering data into the electronic job opportunities system, including the job title, required specialization, experience, vacancies and target group.

He indicated that PAM will publish the employment opportunities on ‘Fakhruna’ platform for the recruitment of national workers after setting an appropriate timeframe for the announcement.

He added that applications should be submitted through the official electronic portal of PPAM or the Sahel application.

He said the applicants must authenticate their data through Kuwait Mobile app and upload the required documents; such as the civil identification card, educational qualification, experience certificates from the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) and curriculum vitae.

PAAET hosts skill-building sessions

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) recently organized awareness and training activities; such as a lecture titled, “The Compass of Success: How Organizing Your Time Leads You to the Peak of Focus and Achievement,” and a workshop titled “Infographics in the Administrative Work Environment.”

Both the lecture and workshop are aimed at developing skills and adopting effective tools to improve the quality of work and communication within institutions.

The authority disclosed that the lecture, presented by Shaima Al-Jatili, tackled ways to understand the relationship between time management and focus. It also addressed how to acquire practical time management strategies, in addition to ways to enhance the ability to achieve success at work.

It added that the Center for Program and

Curriculum Development organized the workshop titled “Infographics in the Administrative Work Environment,” which was conducted by Dr. Rabaa Al-Fahd. The workshop highlighted the importance of employing visual design as a supportive tool for improving administrative work outcomes.

Al-Fahd indicated that that Infographics is no longer just a presentation method, as it is rather a strategic tool for conveying information and making decisions.

According to the authority, this workshop included an introduction to the basics of Infographic design and an explanation of the mechanisms for converting data into professional visual content that can be used in reports and presentations. It indicated that the aim is to develop the skills of employees in using Infographics as a tool for presenting data in the administrative field in a visual manner that facilitates the delivery of messages and enhances the quality of communication within the workplace.

JULY

Room Promotion

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

Promo period from 1st July to 31st July 2025

Terms & conditions apply*

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351

Email: reservation@albander.com

www.albander.com

@albanderhotelandresort

Continued from Page 1

Under its

There is much to be said about the deep-rooted problems caused by this system, which fueled sectarian, tribal, and even regional fanaticism, producing generations that lack a true sense of national patriotism. No one paid attention to the dangers these conditions posed or their negative impact on Kuwait’s future.

It is important to note that the National Assembly does not bear sole responsibility. The Council of Ministers also shares the blame, having long been subject to the control of certain deputies, especially regarding development projects, which were managed according to a corrupt quota system. If an influential figure’s share was deemed insufficient, their representatives in the National Assembly would obstruct the project.

If there was a disagreement between the minister and the contractor, the minister would obstruct the project’s progress. I will not even delve into the exchange of private interests, as one article would hardly be enough to cover it.

Undoubtedly, this situation does not build a state of strong institutions; rather, it seems more suited to establishing private fiefdoms.

Meanwhile, it saddens us to watch neighboring countries advance technologically and achieve remarkable feats. Although some of these countries are larger than Kuwait, that should not prevent us from having the capacity to implement similar projects and to rely on experienced professionals.

While we import approximately 95 percent of our food, China has successfully cultivated areas dozens of times larger than Kuwait with productive trees, which have helped reduce both import costs and temperatures. We could have benefited greatly from replicating such successful initiatives if the obstacles had been removed.

Today, under the guidance of the political leadership, the Council of Ministers is making progress. Positive signs are emerging, including the recently launched visa platform. Kuwait has begun boosting its gross domestic product and encouraging domestic spending, following the example of its sister countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

There is no doubt that this step is welcomed by all, given its positive impact on stimulating the national economy, strengthening family stability, and encouraging growth in various sectors.

This is what we have been saying for 30 years, yet no one seemed to listen. The real power was never in the hands of the decision-makers, but rather with those who mastered blackmail, the loudest voices, and those most skilled at politically undermining ministers.

While the picture is now improving, the Cabinet must continue on this path and accelerate progress to help the state overcome this heavy legacy.

In administration, it is well understood that only those who do nothing make no mistakes, and the right path is to keep working, knowing that mistakes are easier to correct when you are actively moving forward.

Thanks to the guidance of its ruler, Kuwait has begun moving on the right path. The train may pause at some stations, but it will never reverse course. Kuwait has the potential to achieve a comprehensive renaissance, backed by its financial resources, including the sovereign wealth fund and other financial reserves, as well as its unlimited talented human capital and the capabilities of the private sector.

The important thing is to continue amending and updating laws. We hope that what we are witnessing today are just the first drops before the heavy rain starts falling.

Celebrating 50

He added “the two sides are discussing the amendment of existing agreements, such as the Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement, and the possibility of concluding new memoranda of understanding to promote trade and investment. Discussions are underway to explore potential areas of cooperation in various sectors. A prominent example of this is the smart city project in South Saad Al-Abdullah, where South Korea has been working with Kuwait since 2017 to integrate its expertise in urban development and digital technologies into the planning, design and construction of the city.”

Following are excerpts of the interview:

Question: How do you describe the nature of the relationship between the two countries today?

Answer: This year, the two countries celebrate the 46th anniversary of diplomatic relations and the 50th anniversary of their constructive partnership. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1979, the two countries have been working hard to consolidate a friendship based on trust, which gradually evolved into a comprehensive, future-oriented partnership built on mutual benefit.

Currently, the two countries work together in many sectors like airport operations, smart agriculture, smart cities, healthcare and renewable energy.

The two countries aspire to become reliable strategic partners to jointly prepare for the future. South Korea is committed to actively supporting Kuwait’s Vision 2035, particularly in economic diversification, renewable energy and housing.

We will also continue our close cooperation in pursuit of regional and global peace and stability, as two peace-loving countries and active members of the international community.

Q: Is there a regular political dialogue between South Korea and Kuwait?

A: The two countries meet regularly through political consultations at the Assistant Foreign Ministers level. The fourth round was held in Seoul in May 2023, during which they discussed a wide range of topics, including high-level exchanges, cooperation in various sectors, regional developments, and joint coordination in international forums. The two sides discussed progress made in key areas such as trade, energy, construction, health, agriculture and defense.

The fifth round of political consultations is expected to be held in the second half of this year. There is strong coordination between the two countries on the international stage, based on mutual trust.

Kuwait has consistently provided humanitarian assistance, such that the United Nations declared Kuwait as a ‘Humanitarian Center’ and HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad as a Humanitarian Leader in 2014.

Q: What is the volume of trade exchange between the two countries?

A: South Korea and Kuwait maintain an annual trade volume of \$10 billion. South Korea is Kuwait’s second-largest

energy importer, meaning the two countries have more than six decades of strong cooperation in the energy sector.

Kuwait imports automobiles and industrial equipment for construction projects from South Korea. In recent years, its imports have expanded to include cosmetics and other diverse sectors. South Korean construction companies have entered Kuwait and participated in major national projects.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first South Korean company awarded a construction project in Kuwait -- in 1975. Over the past five decades, South Korean companies have implemented projects valued at around \$50 billion. We look forward to closer and more cooperation in the future.

Q: Are there any new trade agreements currently under negotiation between the two sides?

A: South Korea and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) concluded their negotiations on a free trade agreement in 2023. It is now in its final stages, awaiting official signing and completion of ratification procedures. The agreement, once implemented, will contribute significantly to enhancing economic exchanges between South Korea and the GCC countries, including Kuwait.

The two countries are discussing the possibility of amending existing agreements -- such as the Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement; as well as concluding new memoranda of understanding through the Trade and Investment Promotion Framework (TIPE).

Q: What about cooperation in the digital economy?

A: South Korea and Kuwait are interest in developing the digital economy. Discussions are underway to explore potential areas of cooperation in different sectors. One example is the smart city project in the new South Saad Al-Abdullah City. South Korea has been working with Kuwait since 2017 to integrate its expertise in city development and digital technologies into the planning, design and construction of the city.

A delegation from the Financial Services Commission in South Korea visited Kuwait last year to discuss cooperation in the field of digital government. To further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the digital economy, the South Korean Embassy is currently studying the possibility of organizing a symposium on this topic before the end of this year.

Q: What is the role of South Korean companies in implementing projects within the Kuwait Development Plan?

A: South Korean companies have played a prominent role in implementing many major development projects and have contributed to several projects within Kuwait’s Vision 2035, such as the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway, Al-Zour Refinery, Environmental Fuels Project, and LNG Import Terminal.

In addition, they have also contributed to the construction sector. The South Korean company -- Incheon International Airport Company -- has been operating Terminal Four at Kuwait International Airport since 2018, while Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH) is designing the master plan for the new South Saad Al-Abdullah City. HanmiGlobal is also seeking to participate in the management of one of the new city projects.

Discussions are currently underway in various fields. We hope to expand the scope of cooperation to include new areas, such as renewable energy and high-speed trains.

Q: Is there South Korean interest in participating in housing projects in Kuwait?

A: As previously mentioned, LH is managing the South Saad Al-Abdullah City project and is currently studying the possibility of participating in investment and development opportunities in the city. With the Kuwaiti government recently amending laws allowing private sector participation in housing development, along with work on enacting a mortgage law; the business environment in Kuwait is witnessing a marked improvement. Based on the new cities project, we expect South Korean companies to expand their participation in large-scale projects like the development of the northern areas and other major urban projects.

Q: How can expertise be exchanged in areas such as artificial intelligence or renewable energy?

A: The South Korean Embassy has been organizing the Kuwait-Korea Smart Cities Forum annually since 2017, with the aim of identifying and expanding new areas of cooperation. During the forum, many topics beyond smart cities are discussed, such as renewable energy and smart agriculture. Furthermore, South Korea offers the Knowledge Exchange Program (KSP), which aims to exchange development and policy expertise with partner countries.

Q: What are the current visa procedures for Kuwaitis wishing to visit Korea?

A: Generally, Kuwaiti citizens are permitted to travel to South Korea for tourism, business or international events without a prior visa for a stay of up to 90 days via the Electronic Travel Authorization (K-ETA) system. However, as of 2024, Kuwait has become a country temporarily exempt from the K-ETA requirement. Kuwaitis can now enter South Korea without the electronic travel authorization.

Q: How has the tourism sector between the two countries developed in recent years?

A: Tourism between Korea and Kuwait witnessed steady growth in recent years in light of the success of the ‘Visit Korea 2023-2024’ campaign, which significantly increased Kuwaiti interest in South Korea. This positive trend continued in 2025. More than 4,400 Kuwaitis visited Korea in 2024, and this number is expected to increase with the facilitation of travel procedures. In an effort to enhance this increase, the South Korean government extended the exemption for Kuwaiti citizens from the electronic travel authorization (K-ETA) requirement until 2025.

Q: What is your most memorable humanitarian experience during your tenure in Kuwait?

A: Participating in an annual tree-planting event in Ahmadi, which was organized by the embassy in cooperation with the South Korean community and Kuwait Oil Company. A special area was designated for the South Korean community residing in Kuwait. I watched them voluntarily participate in the event. Working together with our Kuwaiti partners to protect the environment was a deeply moving experience. This initiative also reflects a broader vision I believe in -- establishing joint development cooperation between South Korea and Kuwait to support developing countries.

The embassy is planning initiatives to promote cultural exchange, including the South Korean Food Festival in the second half of 2025.

Q: What is your comment on the prevalence of South Korean language among Kuwaiti youths?

A: A significant increase in interest in learning the South Korean language among Kuwaiti youths was observed in recent years, thanks to the growing popularity of South Korean culture worldwide like K-pop music, drama and South Korean cuisine. Many young Kuwaitis are showing a strong desire to engage with South Korean culture more deeply, and learning the South Korean language has become a natural extension of this interest. The embassy works closely with King Sejong Institute Foundation to offer language courses.

‘Visa waiver

She also touched on the important role that the EU plays in facilitating visa requirements for Kuwaiti citizens and efforts to achieve full Schengen visa exemption, based on the special and distinguished relations between the two parties.

She talked about the support of EU for educational exchange programs for Kuwaiti students and efforts to strengthen cultural and artistic partnerships.

Following are excerpts of the interview:

Question: How do you assess the current level of relations between Kuwait and the EU? What are the most important areas in which Kuwaiti cooperation with the EU can develop in the future?

Answer: Bilateral relations between the EU and Kuwait are excellent. We enjoy a strong and long-standing friendship based on shared values. Kuwait is considered a close and reliable partner in Europe’s eyes. There is tremendous potential to develop our relations. There is much we can accomplish together at the bilateral and regional levels. The European Union views Kuwait as a partner with a shared vision regarding regional issues, particularly the humanitarian issues, the call for peace and diplomacy.

The European Union is Kuwait’s second largest trading partner, but we can still do more. My goal is to turn these

words into action by working collectively and in cooperation with EU member states.

Q: What is new regarding Schengen visa regulations and visa exemptions for Kuwaitis?

A: Tens of thousands of Kuwaitis visit Europe annually. In recognition of this special relationship, the European Union implemented more lenient Schengen visa rules for Kuwaiti citizens in 2023; granting them multiple-entry visas valid for up to five years. Visa exemption for Kuwaitis remains one of my primary goals.

Q: How do you view the humanitarian role that Kuwait plays globally, especially in light of its partnership with the European Union?

A: Both the European Union and Kuwait are major humanitarian actors supporting the most vulnerable groups around the world, in cooperation with the United Nations and multilateral organizations.

Earlier this year, Director General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations at the European Commission Maciej Popowski visited Kuwait. During his meeting with Kuwaiti officials, the two parties agreed to continue cooperation during humanitarian crises and strengthen multilateral action.

Q: Do you see opportunities for new trade or economic agreements between Kuwait and the European Union?

A: The European Union is looking forward to strengthening its economic and trade partnerships with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, including Kuwait. During the first EU-GCC Summit last year, the leaders of the 27 EU member states and the six GCC member states affirmed their shared interest in establishing trade relations. A thriving and mutually beneficial investment relationship is developed through multilateral frameworks as needed.

In this context, the European Union launched the European Chamber of Commerce in the Gulf last year, headquartered in Riyadh. This chamber serves as a platform for enhancing trade cooperation and promoting investment and trade exchange between the EU and the Gulf countries, including Kuwait.

Kuwait is expected to host the EU-GCC Business Forum later this year, which will provide Kuwaiti companies with the opportunity to build cooperative networks with their European counterparts.

Q: How do you describe current cooperation between the GCC and the EU, including security and intelligence cooperation?

A: Cooperation between the EU and the GCC, including Kuwait, has witnessed significant development and expansion in several areas like economics, politics and security. Both parties recognize the strategic importance of cooperation in addressing common challenges; such as trade, energy sustainability, regional stability and security concerns.

On the security and intelligence cooperation front, the two sides expressed a shared interest in strengthening their partnership; driven by a desire to ensure regional stability, combat terrorism and address cross-border challenges like cybercrime, arms proliferation and human trafficking.

Several practical initiatives and dialogue mechanisms have been launched to support this cooperation, including the EU-GCC High-Level Regional Security Dialogue, which was held for the first time last year in Riyadh and is scheduled to be held again this year in Brussels.

As part of joint efforts to address security challenges and promote regional stability, the European Union launched the EUNAVFOR ASPIDES naval operation to protect freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and the Gulf, including vessels using Kuwaiti ports. The mission of this operation, within its defense mandate, is to enhance maritime awareness, escort ships, and protect them from potential attacks at sea.

Q: What are the most prominent issues that will be discussed at the upcoming ministerial meeting between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Kuwait in October? What are the expected challenges at this meeting, especially in light of current regional and international tensions? How can it contribute to strengthening overall cooperation between the EU and the Gulf countries?

A: The agenda for the next ministerial meeting between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), scheduled to be held in Kuwait in October, is still being prepared. I expect the meeting to tackle several vital issues that are considered regional priorities and the broader geopolitical context.

This meeting will build on the success of the first EU-GCC summit held in Brussels last October. During that historic summit, leaders agreed to strengthen trade and investment relations, cooperate in the fields of energy and green transition, expand cooperation in the fields of digitalization and innovation like artificial intelligence, strengthen people-to-people ties, and expansion of academic and research partnerships.

Security discussions also touched on issues such as Ukraine, Gaza, the two-state solution, Lebanon, Iran, and maritime security in the Red Sea. Both sides emphasized the need to strengthen security cooperation and combat terrorism.

Q: What is your assessment of the future of the Gulf-EU Free Trade Agreement?

A: The European Union believes that fair trade is a key driver of global prosperity. The EU-GCC Summit last October affirmed the shared goal of establishing a prosperous and mutually beneficial trade and investment relationship. We intend to continue discussions at the regional level with the aim of reaching a free trade agreement between the EU and the GCC.

At the same time, the EU is open to strengthening its bilateral relations with the GCC countries, including Kuwait, and elevating our strategic partnerships to new levels.

Q: How do you view Kuwait’s role in promoting dialogue between the Gulf countries and the European Union?

A: As the current chair of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Kuwait plays a key role in advancing our strategic partnership, building on the first EU-GCC Summit held in Brussels last year. I am pleased that Kuwait will host the 29th EU-GCC Ministerial Meeting later this year. The Ninth EU-GCC Business Forum will also be held in Kuwait at the end of this year.

Q: Do you believe that cooperation in renewable energy between the Gulf and the EU is progressing at the desired pace?

A: Cooperation between the EU and the Gulf countries in the field of green transition and renewable energy is witnessing significant progress. Relations between the two sides have strengthened through dialogue, partnerships and investments. European companies often cooperate on solar and wind energy projects in the Gulf.

For example, in 2023, the European Union launched the ‘EU-GCC Green Transition Cooperation’ project in order to strengthen cooperation in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable resource management.

Since then, I have been proud of collaborations between the EU and various sectors of government and society in Kuwait, resulting in many successful projects and activities over the past two years. There is a strong desire in Kuwait -- particularly among the business community, civil society and the younger generation -- to accelerate the green transformation process. I am confident that we can do more together.

Hide it,

hand luggage along with their purchase receipts. Also, gold in all its forms must be declared.

Travelers must prepare an outgoing customs declaration upon departure. Upon arrival in Kuwait, they are required to declare any gold and present the purchase receipts.

The center warned that failure to declare gold may result in arrest or confiscation of the money or gold.

It urged travelers to complete the customs declaration form when departing from Kuwait International Airport.

The center stated that further details are available on the official website of the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

Courts handled

For postponed cases, Jahra Court topped the list with 576 cases, followed by Hawally Court with 489 cases; while Farwaniya Court ranked last in terms of the number of postponed cases with 300.

Regarding the total number of cases received, Hawally Court ranked first with 1,086 cases; followed by Jahra Court with 1,050; and Farwaniya Court with 852.


In addition, statistics showed that traffic courts issued 1,524 criminal rulings and penal orders in the first quarter of 2025 -- 70 driving license revocation rulings, 43 prison sentences and 48 traffic fatality cases pending in the courts.

Hawally Court recorded the highest number of criminal rulings and orders issued with 626, followed by the Capital with 304 and Farwaniya with 223.

According to the statistics, the total collected criminal fees in the same period amounted to KD87,609 distributed as follows: Capital Court with KD21,996; Hawally Court with KD15,925; Ahmadi Court with KD12,725; Farwaniya Court with KD16,823; Mubarak Al-Kabeer Court with KD10,600 and Jahra Court with KD9,540.

Commenting on the figures, Attorney Hussein Al-Asfour stated “the issuance of this large number of rulings within a short period reflects the seriousness of the courts in addressing the traffic problem, and confirms the role of the judiciary in protecting lives and properties.”


Al-Asfour stressed that “the fine and imprisonment rulings send a firm legal message to those who act recklessly and contribute to enforcing the rule of law, especially in light of the unfortunate increase in accidents resulting from speeding or driving under the influence of drugs.”



JOINT OPERATIONS

SAUDI ARABIAN CHEVRON INC. (SAC)

KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)



Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company), announces the under-mentioned Public Tenders for procurement of materials.

Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in any of the under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from **20 JULY 2025** up to **12 AUG 2025** for a non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender.

Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tenders will be on **Tuesday, 19 Aug 2025 @ 09:00 A.M.**

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES (IN KD)
1	038177	ELECTRICAL CROSS ARM	15
2	039315	PRESSURE TRANSMITTERS	5
3	039317	CHEMICAL INJECTION SKID PACKAGE	50
4	039334	PIPES CARBON STEEL, SMLS	35
5	039335	PIPE FITTINGS	15
6	039336	GATE & BALL VALVES	15

Notes:

Gate Passes are required for Suppliers entering JO-Wafra Administrative Offices to collect the tender document and gate pass processing time is 48 hours. Please fill request for gate pass along with legible copies of Authorization letter, Civil ID, Car Registration, Supplier Registration (KGOC or SAC) to e-mail HBJH@chevron.com and CBMS@chevron.com at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

For additional information, you may contact:

Telephone No.: **23983639** – Ext. : **2502 - 3477**



Medical examiner vans are driven along a procession route near where an explosion at a training facility killed three sheriff's deputies on July 18, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Training facility blast kills 3

A blast at a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department training facility killed three members of its arson and explosives unit Friday, marking one of the department's worst losses of life from a single incident, authorities said.

All three were veteran deputies. The department has not said what they were doing at the time or what caused the explosion.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said the arson and explosives team undergoes in-depth training and responds to more than 1,000 calls a year. Those killed were identified Friday evening by the department as Detective Joshua Kelley-Eklund, Detective Victor Lemus and Detective William Osborn. They served 19, 22 and 33 years in the department respectively, Luna said. (AP)

Hill OKs \$9b cut to public broadcasting, foreign aid

WASHINGTON, July 19, (AP): The House gave final approval to President Donald Trump's request to claw back about \$9 billion for public broadcasting and foreign aid early Friday as Republicans intensified their efforts to target institutions and programs they view as bloated or out of step with their agenda.



Johnson

The vote marked the first time in decades that a president has successfully submitted such a rescissions request to Congress, and the White House suggested it won't be the last. Some Republicans were uncomfortable with the cuts, yet supported them anyway, wary of crossing Trump or upsetting his agenda.

The House passed the bill by a vote of 216-213. It now goes to Trump for his signature.

"We need to get back to fiscal sanity and this is an important step," said House Speaker **Mike Johnson**, R-La.

Opponents voiced concerns not only about the programs targeted, but about Congress ceding its spending powers to the executive branch as investments approved on a bipartisan basis were being subsequently canceled on party-line votes. They said previous rescission efforts had at least some bipartisan buy-in and described the Republican package as unprecedented.

No Democrats supported the measure when it passed the Senate, 51-48, in the early morning hours Thursday. Final passage in the House was delayed for several hours as Republicans wrestled with their response to Democrats' push for a vote on the release of Jeffrey Epstein files.

America

NY agrees to settle suit from Cuomo's ex-aide: The state of New York agreed Friday to pay \$450,000 to settle a lawsuit from an ex-aide to former Gov. **Andrew Cuomo** who alleged Cuomo harassed and groped her while he was in office.

The former aide, Brittany Comisso, had sued Cuomo and the state, alleging sexual harassment from the then-governor and retaliation against her after reporting the incidents. The allegations were part of a barrage similar misconduct claims that forced Cuomo to resign as governor in 2021.

Comisso's lawyers said the settlement "is a complete vindication of her claims" and that Comisso is "glad to be able to move forward with her life."

The settlement came as Cuomo is in the midst of a so-far bruising political comeback with a run for mayor of New York City. Cuomo lost the Democratic primary to Zohran Mamdani by more than 12 percentage points and this week relaunched his campaign to run in the general election as an independent candidate, beginning a potentially uphill battle in a heavily Democratic city where support is coalescing behind Mamdani. (AP)



Cuomo

Vehicle plows into crowd in LA; 30 injured: A vehicle rammed into a crowd of people waiting to enter a nightclub along a busy boulevard in Los Angeles early Saturday, injuring 30 people.

Victims were transported to local hospitals and trauma centers, according to Capt Adam Van Gerpen, public information officer for the Los Angeles City Fire Department. At least three were in critical condition after being injured along Santa Monica Boulevard in East Hollywood, the Fire Department said in a statement.

Van Gerpen told ABC that a line of people - the majority female - were waiting to enter a nightclub when they were struck by a vehicle that also hit a taco truck and valet stand.

Paramedics discovered that one of the patients had a gunshot wound, Van Gerpen said. (AP)

'Benign condition common in people over age 70'

Trump diagnosed with chronic venous insufficiency after mild swelling in legs

WASHINGTON, July 19, (AP): US President Donald Trump recently had a medical checkup after noticing "mild swelling" in his lower legs and was found to have a condition common in older adults that causes blood to pool in his veins, the White House said.

Press secretary Karoline Leavitt said tests by the White House medical unit showed that Trump has chronic venous insufficiency, which occurs when little valves inside the veins that normally help move blood against gravity gradually lose the ability to work properly.

Leavitt also addressed bruising on the back of Trump's hand, seen in recent photos covered by makeup that was not an exact match to his skin tone. She said the bruising was "consistent" with irritation from his "frequent handshaking and the use of aspirin." Trump takes aspirin to reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke.

She said during her press briefing that her disclosure of Trump's medi-

cal checkup was meant to dispel recent speculation about the 79-year-old president's health. Nonetheless, the announcement was notable given that the Republican president has routinely kept secret basic facts about his health.

Trump in April had a comprehensive physical exam with more than a dozen medical specialists. The three-page report released then by the White House did not include a finding of chronic venous insufficiency. At the time, Trump's doctor, Sean Barbabella, determined that the president's joints and muscles had a full range of motion, with normal blood flow and no swelling.

Leavitt did not say when Trump first noticed the swelling in his lower legs. As part of the president's routine medical care and out of an "abundance of caution," she said he had a "comprehensive exam" that included vascular, lower extremity and ultrasound testing.

She noted that chronic venous insuf-



White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt speaks with reporters in the James Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House on July 17, in Washington. (AP)

ficiency is a benign condition that is common in people over age 70.

She said the tests revealed no evidence of deep vein thrombosis, a more serious medical condition in which a blood clot forms in one or more of the deep veins in the body, usually in the legs. Nor was there any evidence of arterial disease, she said, reading a letter from Barbabella.

People often are advised to lose weight, walk for exercise and elevate their legs periodically, and some may be advised to wear compression stockings. Severe cases over time can lead to complications including lower leg sores called ulcers. Blood clots are one cause, but was ruled out, Leavitt said.

Leavitt said the condition wasn't causing the president any discomfort. She wouldn't discuss how he was treating the condition and suggested those details would be in the doctor's letter, which was later released to the

public. But the letter was the same as what she read, and it did not include any additional details.

Dr. Anahita Dua, a vascular surgeon at Mass General Brigham who has never treated Trump, said there is no cure for chronic venous insufficiency.

"The vast majority of people, probably including our president, have a mild to moderate form of it," Dua said.

People with the condition can reduce the swelling by wearing medical-grade compression socks or stockings, to help the blood circulate back to the heart, or by walking, she said.

The exam the White House disclosed Thursday included other testing that found no signs of heart failure, renal impairment or systemic illness in Trump, Leavitt said.

"The president remains in excellent health, which I think all of you witness on a daily basis here," she told reporters.



A firework explodes low near spectators at the final fireworks display of the Rhine funfair on July 18, 2025, in Duesseldorf, Germany. (AP)

19 injured after fireworks show goes awry at fair in Germany

German authorities say at least 19 people were injured, four seriously after a fireworks show went awry at a fair in the western city of Dusseldorf.

Fire squad and emergency services deployed after the incident late Friday at the Rheinkirmes event along the Rhine river, where images from the scene showed fireworks going off nearly at ground level along its banks.

A child was among the injured, the DPA news agency reported.

Dusseldorf fire services said police were investigating the cause of the accident.

"Our thoughts are with those affected and their fami-

lies. We wish all those affected a speedy recovery from the consequences of the accident. We deeply regret the accident," said Peter Dietlmaier, a spokesman

Organizers ended the fair early for the day, and were deciding whether to continue the traditional fireworks at next year's event, he said.

The 10-day fair features amusement park rides, drone and fireworks shows, and other entertainment by hundreds of staff along the left bank of the Rhine, opposite the city's historic district. The fair is organized by the St. Sebastianus Rifle Club, which traces its history to the year 1316. (AP)

Moscow pounds Kyiv with over 300 drones

EU, UK hit Russia with new sanctions

BRUSSELS, July 19, (AP): The European Union and Britain on Friday ramped up pressure on Russia over its war on Ukraine, targeting Moscow's energy sector, shadow fleet of aging oil tankers and military intelligence service with new sanctions.

"The message is clear: Europe will not back down in its support for Ukraine. The EU will keep raising the pressure until Russia ends its war," EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said after the bloc agreed its new measures, including a new oil price cap.

Kallas said it's "one of its strongest sanctions packages against Russia to date" linked to the war, now in its fourth year. It comes as European countries start to buy U.S. weapons for Ukraine to help the country better defend itself.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, a residential building burns following a Russian air attack in Odesa, Ukraine on July 19. (AP)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy welcomed the new measures, describing them as a "timely and necessary" step amid intensified Russian attacks.

"All infrastructure of Russia's war must be blocked," Zelenskyy said, adding that Ukraine will synchronize its sanctions with the EU and introduce its own additional measures soon.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov brushed off the EU move, saying that "we consider such unilateral restrictions unlawful."

"At the same time, we have acquired certain immunity from sanctions. We have adapted to living under sanctions," Peskov said in a conference call with reporters. "We will need to analyze the new package in order to minimize negative consequences from it."

The U.K., meanwhile, imposed sanctions on units of Russia's military intelligence service, GRU. Also added to the list were 18 officers the U.K. said helped to plan a bomb attack on a theatre in southern Ukraine in 2022 and to target the family of a former Russian spy who was later poisoned with a nerve agent.

Hundreds of civilians sheltering in the theatre in Mariupol were killed in March 2022, shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine.

"GRU spies are running a campaign to destabilize Europe, undermine Ukraine's sovereignty and threaten the safety of British citizens," U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy said.

NATO also condemned Russia's cyberattacks, saying in a statement that "we will respond to these at a time and in a manner of our choosing, in accordance with international law, and in coordination with our international partners including the EU."

The European Commission, the EU's executive branch, had proposed to lower the oil price cap from \$60 to \$45, which is lower than the market price, to target Russia's vast energy revenues. The 27 member countries decided to set the price per barrel at just under \$48.

The EU had hoped to get major international powers in the Group of Seven countries involved in the price cap to broaden the impact, but the Trump administration could not be brought onboard.

Oil income is the linchpin of Russia's economy, allowing President Vladimir Putin to pour money into the armed forces without worsening inflation for everyday people and avoiding

a currency collapse.

A new import ban was also imposed in an attempt to close a loophole allowing Russia to indirectly export crude oil via a number of non-EU countries.

Also:

MOSCOW: Russia launched a massive attack on Ukraine overnight into Saturday with hundreds of drones, killing at least one person, part of a stepped-up bombing campaign that has dashed hopes for a breakthrough in efforts to end the more than 3-year-old war.

Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** posted on X, saying Russia fired over 300 drones, along with more than 30 cruise missiles.

One person died when Russian forces attacked the Black Sea port city of Odesa with more than 20 drones and a missile, the city's mayor, Hennadii Trukhanov, said Saturday on Telegram, while five people were rescued when a fire broke out in a residential high-rise building.

According to Zelenskyy, six other people were wounded in the attack on Odesa, including a child, and critical infrastructure was damaged in Ukraine's northeastern Sumy region.

Ministers from six EU nations vow tougher migration policy

BERLIN, July 19, (Agencies): Ministers from six EU nations convened at Germany's highest peak, the Zugspitze, on Friday and issued a joint declaration aimed at curbing irregular migration.

The declaration reaffirmed "a common commitment to work together on reducing illegal migration effectively," stressing that effective returns are essential to maintain public trust in a balanced European migration policy.

It also underscored the importance of protecting the EU's external borders and called on the European Commission to provide sufficient funding in this regard.

Acknowledging the pressure that large numbers of illegal migrants place on national asylum systems, the ministers also pledged stronger and coordinated efforts to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

The meeting was hosted by German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt and attended by his counterparts from France, Poland, Austria, Denmark, and the Czech Republic. EU Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner was also present.

The gathering on Germany's highest peak aimed to chart a path towards a tougher European migration policy and to draw up an agenda to accelerate migration reform across Europe, according to a statement from Germany's interior ministry.

Meanwhile, Germany deported dozens of Afghan men to their homeland on Friday, the second time it has done so since the Taliban returned to power and the first since a new government pledging a tougher line on migration took office in Berlin.

German authorities said a flight took off Friday morning



People board a Qatar Airways plane, with federal police vehicles in front of it, on the apron at Leipzig/Halle Airport on July 18, Saxony, Schkeuditz. (AP)

carrying 81 Afghans, all of them men who had previously come to judicial authorities' attention and had asylum applications rejected.

Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the deportation was carried out with the help of Qatar and was preceded by weeks of negotiations. He also said there were contacts with Afghanistan, but didn't elaborate.

More than 10 months ago, Germany's previous government deported Afghan nationals to their homeland for the first time since the Taliban returned to power in 2021. Then-Chancellor Olaf Scholz vowed to step up deportations of failed asylum-seekers.

Europe

Slovenia scraps defense spending referendum: The Slovenian parliament on Friday voted to cancel a proposed referendum on increased defense spending, defusing



Golob

from NATO unless the defense spending vote was scrapped.

Friday's parliamentary decision, passed by 44 votes against 7, effectively shelved both referendums.

Under government plans, Slovenia aims to raise defense spending to 2 percent of GDP this year, up from 1.37 percent in 2024, before reaching 3 percent by 2030. (Xinhua)

8 officers injured during England protest: Eight police officers were injured during clashes with protesters outside a hotel in Epping, Essex, on Thursday night, local media reported on Friday.

Essex Police Assistant Chief Constable Stuart Hooper told a press conference that the officers injured suffered hand injuries, along with cuts and grazes.

The Bell Hotel is reportedly used to accommodate asylum seekers. Footage from the scene showed protesters approaching a police van parked outside the hotel and hurling objects at it. Eggs were also thrown, and fireworks were set off during the unrest.

According to Sky News, the demonstration was the latest in a string of nightly protests that erupted after a 38-year-old man was accused of sexual assault last week. The allegations stem from claims that he attempted to kiss a 14-year-old girl. (Xinhua)

Japanese PM faces uphill battle in upper house election with US tariffs

TOKYO, July 19, (AP): Japan’s Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba faces an increasingly uphill battle in Sunday’s upper house election, and a loss could worsen political instability at a time of daunting challenges, such as rising prices and high US tariffs.

A poor performance would not immediately trigger a change of government but it would deepen uncertainty over his fate and Japan’s future path.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party suffered a humiliating loss in a lower house election in October as its usual supporters registered their unhappiness over past corruption scandals and high prices. Ishiba is struggling to regain voter confidence.

His minority government has since been forced into making concessions to the opposition to get legislation through the Diet, or parliament. That has hindered its ability to quickly deliver effective measures to curb rising prices and win wage increases. On top of shortages and soaring prices for rice, a traditional staple, Ishiba has been stymied by President Donald



Japan’s Prime Minister and Liberal Democratic Party President Shigeru Ishiba, (center right), attends an election campaign event in support of his party’s candidates on the eve of the July 20 Upper House election, in Tokyo on July 19. (AP)

Trump’s tariff demands.

Frustrated voters are rapidly turning to emerging populist parties, including one that is promoting anti-foreign policies and backpedaling on gender

equality and diversity.

Here’s a look at Sunday’s election: Ishiba has set a low bar for the vote - a simple majority. Half of the 248 seats for six-year terms in the upper house are being decided, and the LDP and its junior coalition partner Komeito would need to win a combined 50. Added to the 75 coalition-held seats that are not being contested in this election, it would be a big retreat from the 141 seats the coalition held before the election.

If the ruling coalition fails to secure a majority, “there will be a move within the LDP to dump Ishiba,” said Yu Uchiyama, a University of Tokyo professor of political science. “It makes a leadership very unstable.” Under any successor, the ruling coalition would be a minority in both houses, he said.

If Ishiba’s coalition secures a majority and he stays on, his leadership will remain weak, with little hope of improved support ratings, Uchiyama said. “Either way, it is essential for the minority government to seek opposition parties’ cooperation to achieve any policy.”



Workers dismantle a toppled electrical post in Quezon city, Philippines due to torrential winds and rain as Tropical Storm Wipha, locally called Crising, exits the northern portion of country on July 19. (AP)

Tropical storm Wipha threatens China after battering Philippines

A tropical storm that prompted flight and ferry cancellations in Taiwan is forecast to reach typhoon strength before hitting the southern China coast on Sunday.

The storm earlier crossed the Philippines, where a parked truck was crushed by a billboard-like structure that was toppled by high winds in Quezon City, north of Manila.

Wipha had maximum sustained winds of 101 kph (63 mph) and gusts up to 126 kph (78 mph) as it passed south of Taiwan on Saturday, the island’s Central News Agency said.

More than 20 centimeters (8 inches) of rain was recorded in Hualien and Taitung counties on Taiwan’s east coast, the news agency said. Several domestic flights were canceled and service on 14 ferry routes was suspended because of rough seas and strong winds.

On the other side of the Taiwan Strait, many ferries suspended service in Fujian province on China’s east coast.

The storm, the sixth of the season in the western Pacific, is forecast to reach typhoon strength before passing near Hong Kong overnight. It is expected to bring heavy rain along China’s southern coast and then weaken as it heads west to Vietnam and Laos. (AP)

Congo, M23 rebels sign declaration of principles for permanent ceasefire

DAKAR, Senegal, July 19, (AP): Congo and Rwanda-backed rebels on Saturday signed a declaration of principles in Qatar to end decadeslong fighting and commit to a comprehensive peace agreement that would include a withdrawal of the insurgents from key eastern cities.

Congo and the M23 rebels committed to “building trust” through various measures, including an exchange of prisoners and detainees as well as restoring state authority in rebel-held areas, Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh Al-Khulaf, Qatar’s minister of state, said at a briefing.

Backed by neighboring Rwanda, the M23 is the most prominent of more than 100 armed groups fighting for control in Congo’s mineral-rich east. With 7 million people displaced in Congo, the U.N. has called the conflict in eastern Congo “one of the most protracted, complex, serious humanitarian crises on Earth.”

Saturday’s signing is the first direct commitment by both sides since the rebels seized two key cities in eastern Congo in a major advance early this year. A final peace deal is to be



M23 rebels stand with their weapons in Kibumba, in the eastern of Democratic Republic of Congo, Dec 23, 2022. (AP)

signed no later than Aug. 18, and it “shall align with the Peace Agreement between Congo and Rwanda” facilitated by the U.S. in June, according to a copy of the declaration seen by The Associated Press.

M23 had been pushing for the release of its members held by Congo’s military, many of them facing the death sentence. Congo had requested the withdrawal of the rebels from seized territories.



Colombian President Gustavo Petro, center, leaves after his meeting with members of the Haitian government, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on July 18. (AP)

Colombia’s Petro visits Haiti

Colombian President Gustavo Petro arrived Friday in Haiti for the second time this year in a show of support as gangs in the troubled Caribbean country continue to gain ground.

Petro announced the opening of a Colombian embassy in Haiti and pledged to help Haiti strengthen its security.

Petro met with Haiti’s prime minister and its transitional presidential council, which is under pressure to hold general elections before February 2026.

While officials met behind closed doors, a statement from Colombia’s government noted they would review bilateral projects focused on security, commerce, education, agriculture and the fight against drug trafficking. (AP)



Rescuers work at the capsizing site of a cruise ship in Ha Long Bay, northern Vietnam’s Quang Ninh province on July 19. (Xinhua)

Tourist boat capsizes during thunderstorm in Vietnam; 18 dead

A tourist boat capsized during a sudden thunderstorm in Vietnam on Saturday afternoon during a sightseeing excursion, killing 18 people and leaving nearly two dozen others missing, state media reported.

The Wonder Sea boat was carrying 48 passengers and five crew members during the tour of Ha Long Bay, a popular destination for visitors, according to the reports.

Rescue workers saved 12 people, and recovered the 18 bodies near the site of the capsizing, VNExpress newspaper said. Twenty-three people remain missing.

The boat turned upside down because of strong winds, the newspaper said. A 14-year-old boy was among the survivors, and he was rescued four hours after being trapped in the overturned hull.

The newspaper said that most of the passengers were tourists, including about 20 children, from Hanoi, the country’s capital. A tropical storm is also moving toward the area. A national weather forecast said that Storm Wipha is expected to hit Vietnam’s northern region, including Ha Long Bay’s coast next week. (AP)

S.Korea’s Yoon indicted on additional criminal charges over martial law

SEOUL, South Korea, July 19, (AP): South Korea’s ousted conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol was indicted Saturday on additional criminal charges related to his ill-fated imposition of martial law, about three months after he was formally thrown out of office.

Yoon’s additional indictments mean he will remain in jail for up to six months as he faces a trial at the Seoul Central District Court on his Dec. 3 martial law declaration that plunged South Korea into huge political turmoil. Yoon was sent back to prison last week after the Seoul court approved his arrest warrant requested by a team of investigators headed by independent counsel Cho Eun-suk.

Cho’s team indicted Yoon on abuse of power that obstructed the rights of some of his Cabinet members. The charge was imposed because Yoon summoned only select Cabinet members to approve his emergency martial law when South Korean law requires approval of all Cabinet members for such a measure, Park Ji-young, a senior investigator at Cho’s team, told a briefing.

Park said Yoon was also charged with fabricating an official document in an attempt to satisfy a formal requirement for a martial law declaration before he eventually destroyed it.

State prosecutors have already indicted Yoon on other criminal charges including masterminding a rebellion, a grave charge whose conviction carries only two sentences - capital punishment or life imprisonment.

After declaring martial law, Yoon sent troops and police officers to the opposition-controlled National As-



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

sembly, but enough lawmakers managed to enter an assembly chamber and voted down his decree, forcing his Cabinet to lift it. Yoon was later impeached by the assembly, with some of his ruling party lawmakers also voting to suspend his presidential powers.

Yoon has argued his decree was a desperate attempt to draw public support of his fight against the “wickedness” of the main liberal opposition Democratic Party, which had obstructed his agenda, impeached top officials and slashed the government’s budget bill. He earlier called the National Assembly “a den of criminals” and “anti-state forces.”

In January, Yoon was arrested by state prosecutors. But in March, he was released from prison after a judge at the Seoul district court canceled his arrest to allow him to stand trial without being held in custody.

In April, the Constitutional Court formally dismissed Yoon as president, prompting a snap election to choose his successor. After winning that election, new President Lee Jae Myung, a former Democratic Party leader, approved legislation to launch independent investigations to uncover fuller details of Yoon’s martial law stunt and delve into other criminal allegations involving his wife and administration.

Bolsonaro ordered to wear ankle monitor

Trump’s tariff threat pushes Lula’s popularity

SAO PAULO, July 19, (AP): US President Donald Trump may have thought that pressuring Brazil with higher tariffs would help his ally, the country’s former president Jair Bolsonaro, but the move apparently backfired.

Last week, Trump sent a letter to Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva threatening a 50% import tax and directly linking the decision to Bolsonaro’s trial, which he called a “witch hunt.”

“This trial should end immediately!” Trump wrote Thursday evening in a second letter, this one addressed to Bolsonaro. He added that he had “strongly voiced” his disapproval through his tariff policy.

Rather than backing down, Brazil’s Supreme Court escalated the case, worsening Bolsonaro’s legal troubles. On Friday morning, federal police raided Bolsonaro’s home and political office. The former president was ordered to wear an ankle monitor, banned from using social media, and hit with other restrictions.

Meanwhile, President Lula - who was facing higher unpopularity, growing opposition in Congress and increasing risks to his likely reelection bid - seems to have gained politically from the situation.

Now the 79-year-old leftist Lula, in office for the third non-consecutive term of his long political career, is seeing renewed acceptance, congressional support against Trump and pleas to run one last time to defend Brazil’s sovereignty.

Lula has appeared more energized



Brazil’s former president Jair Bolsonaro speaks to the press outside the Secretariat of Penitentiary Administration where he arrived after the Supreme Court ordered him to be fitted with an electronic ankle monitor in Brasilia, Brazil on July 18. (AP)

in public since Trump’s announcement. At a national students assembly Thursday, he wore a blue cap reading “Sovereign Brazil Unites Us” - a contrast to MAGA’s red cap.

“A gringo will not give orders to this president,” he told the crowd, and called the tariff hike “unacceptable blackmail.”

Violence escalating in Kordofan, Darfur

Humanitarian crisis worsens in Sudan

CAIRO, July 19, (AP): Fighting in Sudan’s Kordofan region that has killed hundreds and ongoing violence in Darfur - the epicenters of the country’s conflict - have worsened Sudan’s humanitarian crisis, with aid workers warning of limited access to assistance.

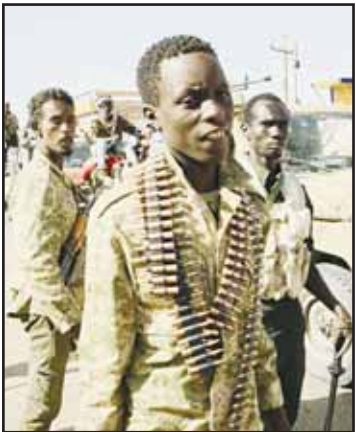
The United Nations said more than 450 civilians, including at least 35 children, were killed during the weekend of July 12 in attacks in villages surrounding the town of Bara in North Kordofan province.

“The suffering in Kordofan deepens with each passing day,” Mercy Corps Country Director for Sudan, Kadry Furany, said in a statement shared with The Associated Press. “Communities are trapped along active and fast changing front lines, unable to flee, unable to access basic needs or lifesaving assistance.”

Sudan plunged into war after simmering tensions between the army and its rival, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, escalated to fighting in April 2023. The violence has killed at least 40,000 people and created one of the world’s worst displacement and hunger crises, according to humanitarian organizations. In recent months, much of the fighting has been concentrated in the Darfur and Kordofan regions.

On Thursday, the UN human rights office confirmed that since July 10, the RSF has killed at least 60 civilians in the town of Bara, while civil society groups reported up to 300 people were killed, the office said.

A military airstrike on Thursday in Bara killed at least 11 people, all from the same family, according to the U.N. office. Meanwhile, between July 10 and 14, the army killed at least 23 civilians and injured over two dozen others after striking two villages in West Kordofan.



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

its rival, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, escalated to fighting in April 2023. The violence has killed at least 40,000 people and created one of the world’s worst displacement and hunger crises, according to humanitarian organizations. In recent months, much of the fighting has been concentrated in the Darfur and Kordofan regions.

On Thursday, the UN human rights office confirmed that since July 10, the RSF has killed at least 60 civilians in the town of Bara, while civil society groups reported up to 300 people were killed, the office said.

A military airstrike on Thursday in Bara killed at least 11 people, all from the same family, according to the U.N. office. Meanwhile, between July 10 and 14, the army killed at least 23 civilians and injured over two dozen others after striking two villages in West Kordofan.

Subcontinent

India’s 40 schools get bomb threat emails:

At least 40 schools across India’s southern city of Bengaluru on Friday received bomb threats via email, prompting the worried administration of these institutions to alert police.

The threatening messages claimed that explosive devices had been planted inside classrooms in black plastic bags.

Police swiftly rushed their teams, along with the bomb disposal squads and sniffer dogs, to these institutions to carry out search operations. However, no explosives were found during these searches. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Pakistan extends ban on Indian flights: Pakistan has extended an airspace ban on Indian-registered aircraft, including those operated by Indian airlines as well as military and civilian aircraft owned or leased by India, the Pakistan Airports Authority said in a notification.

The authority said on Friday that all aircraft used by Indian airlines will not be permitted to transit through Pakistani airspace under the extended restrictions. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Afghanistan traffic accident kills 4: Four commuters were killed as their car collided with a truck in the eastern Afghan province of Ghazni on Saturday, the state-owned Bakhtar news agency reported.

The deadly mishap took place in Ab Band district on a road linking Ghazni to neighboring Kandahar province in the wee hours of the day, the official media outlet added. (Xinhua)

Kuwait oil price up \$1.30 to \$71.42 pb

KUWAIT CITY, July 19, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by USD 1.30 to US 71.42 per barrel (pb) in Friday's trading, compared with USD 70.12 pb on Thursday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation

(KPC) on Saturday.

Globally, the price of Brent crude fell by 24 cents to USD 69.28 pb, and West Texas Intermediate crude went down 20 by cents to USD 67.34 pb.

Business

The largest issuance within the Bank's Tier 1 Additional Capital Instruments

NBK marks milestone with \$800 mln Additional Tier 1 bond listing on the LSE



NBK celebrates landmark bond listing in London.

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) celebrated the listing of its US\$800 million Additional Tier 1 bond on the London Stock Exchange.

This milestone highlights the Bank's strong and growing presence in global capital markets and reaffirms NBK's expansive global footprint, with a branch network spanning four continents across 13 countries. Among its key international markets, London holds strategic importance through National Bank of Kuwait (International) PLC (NBK - London), which delivers a full spectrum of banking products and services to its clientele.

The listing ceremony took place at the London Stock Exchange – one of the world's leading financial marketplaces – with the participation of senior executives from NBK and NBKI (NBK-London). Leading the occasion were Mr. Zaid Al-Sager, Deputy CEO – International Banking Group, at NBK; Mr. Meshari Bin Salamah, EVP - Global Head of Corporate Banking and Commercial Real Estate and Mr. Bassem Boustany, Managing Director of National Bank of Kuwait, London (NBK International) and Mr. Abdul Amir Fadel EVP - Global Head of Consumer Banking – IBG.

The event underscores the Bank's strategic commitment to diversifying its funding base and reinforcing its footprint across international capital markets.

The listing of the bonds on the London Stock Exchange reinforces NBK's

ongoing commitment to deepening its long-standing relationships with leading global exchanges. It also reflects the growing confidence in the Bank's robust credit profile, as demonstrated by the consistently strong demand for its debt issuances across international markets.

The successful issuance and listing of the bonds on the London Stock Exchange underscores NBK's leadership in the regional banking landscape and reflects its strategic vision for global expansion. It is a testament to the Bank's long-standing legacy of excellence, innovation, and prudent growth.

This issuance marks the Bank's largest to date under this tranche, driven by robust investor demand that enabled an upsizing beyond initial expectations.

Following a brief pause in GCC bond activity within the first tranche of additional capital – after a wave of issuances in May – NBK's transaction drew robust interest from a globally diversified investor base.

Investor appetite for the issuance was exceptionally strong, with subscription orders reaching US\$2.2 billion, representing a 2.75x oversubscription rate. Demand was driven by a broad and diversified base of global investors and financial institutions, with private banking platforms playing a pivotal role in the placement process. The results underscore investor confidence in NBK's robust credit profile and reaffirm Kuwait's standing as an appealing investment destination.



MENA-based investors represented the largest share of the allocation, accounting for 47% of total demand, followed by investors from the United Kingdom at 19%, the United States at 18%, Europe at 13%, and Asia at 3%.

By investor type, asset managers and investment funds accounted for 48% of total demand, followed by banks and private banking services at 44%, while sovereign entities, insurance companies, and pension funds represented the remaining 8% of total subscription applications.

Robust investor demand enabled NBK to achieve highly favorable pricing for the issuance, with the final yield set at 6.375% (% (equivalent to UST+240.3bps), representing a 50 basis point tightening from the initial price thoughts (IPTs) of 6.875%.

The investment-grade credit rating of the issuance, including a Baa3 rating from Moody's, further enhanced its appeal – driving strong interest from international private banking platforms and global asset managers.

Citigroup, J.P. Morgan, HSBC, and Standard Chartered acted as Global Coordinators for the issuance, while the Joint Lead Managers included Citigroup, J.P. Morgan, HSBC, Standard Chartered, First Abu Dhabi Bank, Emirates NBD, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, KAMCO Investment Company, and National Bank of Kuwait.

As part of its dedicated summer campaign

'Talabat' relaunches free vending machines for rider summer relief

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: As part of its summer campaign for riders and broader commitment to their wellbeing, talabat, the region's leading on-demand online ordering and delivery platform, has relaunched its "Vending Machines for Summer Relief" initiative for the second consecutive year. With temperatures on the rise, an exclusive vending machine has been installed in a high-traffic rider zone, offering talabat riders access to essential hydration and light snacks to help them stay safe, nourished, and energized on the job.

This initiative reflects talabat's continued efforts to provide on-the-ground, people-first solutions that support rider health and safety all year long, especially during summer.

Commenting on the initiative, Bader Al-Ghanim, Vice President and Managing Director of talabat Kuwait, said: "After receiving positive feedback from riders last year, we're excited to reintroduce this initiative for the second year in a row as part of our summer campaign for the riders. It's designed to support their health, comfort, and efficiency. We've strategically placed a vending machine that provides riders with quick and easy access to water, refreshments, and snacks – all free of cost – to help them stay hydrated and well-nourished during their working hours."

To further strengthen its rider support initiatives, the company continues to invest in rider safety and education, offering regular multilingual workshops and training sessions in collaboration with government bodies and leading institutions in Kuwait. These sessions cover key topics including traffic regulations, vehicle safety, and health tips to help riders manage blood pressure and sugar levels during their shifts. By equipping riders with this knowledge, talabat aims to ensure they adopt healthy coping approaches to the job requirements.

Building on the success of last year's rollout, talabat remains committed to enhancing its summer campaign for riders and other rider-focused efforts that reflect its long-term corporate social responsibility (CSR) strategy. With initiatives like these, talabat continues to set a benchmark for how



talabat riders vending machine

companies can support those at the heart of the on-demand delivery ecosystem through inclusive, human-centered programs that prioritize health, safety, and wellbeing in this fast-paced line of work.

Project aligns with Kuwait's Vision 2035 ambitions

Shadadiya Zone aims to enhance industry and innovation: Al-Bahar

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Real estate expert and owner of Sabeekah Al-Bahar Real Estate Brokerage Company, member of the Kuwaiti Union of Real Estate Brokers, and member of the Kuwait Association of Evaluators, Sabeekah Al-Bahar, stated that in light of the rapidly evolving global economic landscape and the increasing geopolitical and energy challenges, it has become essential for countries to build resilient economies based on local production and industrial diversification.

In this context, the Shadadiya Industrial Zone is one of Kuwait's key initiatives to transition from a rent-based economy reliant on oil to a productive economy based on industry, knowledge, and innovation.

Al-Bahar pointed out that Shadadiya is no longer merely a project for developing industrial land, but has become a strategic symbol of a new economic phase that reflects Kuwait's ambitions under its national vision, "New Kuwait 2035."

A World-Class Industrial City

Al-Bahar emphasized that Shadadiya is located in a strategic central area of Kuwait and spans over 5 million square meters, making it one of the largest industrial cities in Kuwait and the region. The area includes over 1,036 industrial plots, distributed through a carefully designed allocation system that meets economic development needs.

■ 299 plots have been allocated to food industries due to their importance in achieving national food security.

■ 242 plots are designated for chemical industries, which are essential for key sectors like cleaning, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture.

■ 495 plots are allocated to diverse industries such as plastics, aluminum, textiles, electrical and pharmaceutical industries.

1. Food Industries

■ Number of plots: 299 (approx. 28.9% of total)

■ Main activities: Food manufacturing and packaging, vegetable oils and derivatives, dairy and juice factories, food preservation and canning, bakeries, bottled water, and beverages.

2. Chemical Industries

■ Number of plots: 242 (approx. 23.3% of total)

■ Main activities: Detergents and disinfectants, pharmaceuticals and medical products, fertilizers and pesticides, paints and coatings, light petrochemicals, insulation and industrial chemicals.

3. Diverse Industries

■ Number of plots: 495 (approx. 47.8% of total)

■ Main activities: Plastic and rubber products, aluminium and metal manufacturing, woodwork and furniture, textiles and garments, electronics and appliances, medical supplies and healthcare products, paper and packaging, construction materials and support industries.

Al-Bahar explained that this diversity creates an integrated productive environment that enables domestic supply chains, enhances Kuwait's export capabilities, and reduces reliance on imports.

One of the most significant features of the project is the allocation of 20%



Sabeekah Al-Bahar

of the total plots (around 207 plots) to be managed by two key national entities:

1. The Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA)
2. The National Fund for SME Development

This distribution aims to balance major global private sector investments with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) led by Kuwaiti youth, creating a comprehensive national industrial ecosystem that allows all investor categories to participate in production and development.

Attracting Global Companies

Al-Bahar noted that KDIPA has played a pivotal role in attracting a number of leading global companies to the Kuwaiti market by offering advanced investment incentives such as customs and tax exemptions, 100% foreign ownership, streamlined procedures, and dedicated industrial land.

Among the major companies brought in:

■ Amazon Web Services: Specializing in cloud computing and digital infrastructure.

■ Google Cloud: Focused on AI and government digital transformation.

■ Huawei: Contributed to the development of 5G networks and training Kuwaiti talent.

■ General Electric: Participated in energy and infrastructure projects and local workforce training.

■ Johnson & Johnson: Active in healthcare and pharmaceuticals.

■ Siemens (Germany) and CCC (China): Engaged in energy, industry, and infrastructure projects.

KDIPA's approach focuses on attracting companies that commit to hiring Kuwaitis, transferring knowledge, and utilizing environmentally friendly technologies.

The Role of the National Fund

Al-Bahar added that the National Fund for SME Development serves as a developmental arm that empowers young Kuwaitis to enter the industrial sector. It provides:

■ Up to 80% financial support for industrial project costs.

■ Training, consultancy, and follow-up support.

■ Assistance in allocating ready industrial plots.

■ Help in feasibility studies and operational and administrative support.

■ Facilitation of integration into supply chains with major companies.

This role not only supports entrepreneurship but creates a new generation of Kuwaiti industrialists capable of competing, innovating, and adding value to the national economy.

Key Features of Shadadiya Industrial Zone

The zone has several exceptional characteristics:

■ First industrial area in Kuwait designed based on sector specialization and industrial integration.

■ Advanced infrastructure: electricity, water, industrial drainage, and high-quality telecom networks.

■ Strategic location close to ports, highways, and GCC markets.

■ Up to 10 years of tax and customs incentives.

■ Streamlined legal and administrative processes through a "One-Stop-Shop" system.

■ Commitment to environmental standards, including industrial waste treatment plants.

■ Availability of logistics and transport services to enhance supply chain efficiency.

■ Potential to designate free industrial zones in the future.

Estimated Economic Impact (Medium-Term)

■ 18,000+ job opportunities (direct & indirect) in the next 5 years.

■ Increase industrial sector's GDP contribution to over 14%.

■ Reduce imports of essential goods by up to 35%.

■ Open new export markets for Kuwaiti products in the GCC, Iraq, and North Africa.

■ Position Kuwait as a nascent industrial hub in the Gulf.

The government also aims to transform Shadadiya into a regional launchpad for attracting factories from China, Turkey, and India, and localizing advanced production lines in areas like food processing, pharmaceuticals, and high-tech industries.

Recommendations for Success.

To ensure the success of the zone and fulfill its vision:

■ Complete direct logistics links between Shadadiya and ports.

■ Develop a comprehensive digital platform for managing licensing, data, and performance.

■ Establish a specialized industrial training institute within the zone.

■ Encourage large firms to create R&D centers inside Shadadiya.

■ Expand National Fund financing to include export and technology development.

Al-Bahar concluded that the Shadadiya Industrial Project is a comprehensive national economic vision aimed at building a productive, effective, and sustainable economy. It is a sovereign national project, not just land allocation or investment attraction—it's an investment in land, in the Kuwaiti people, in industrial knowledge, in strategic positioning, and in economic justice.

She emphasized that this project, with the collaborated efforts of KDIPA, the National Fund, and the Public Authority for Industry, marks the beginning of a new era of real economic development, where factories are built as once oil wells were, and Kuwaitis are invested in as once oil was relied upon.

Job Vacancy

A 1st Grade Road

Contracting Company

Requires

the following employees :

3 (Nos.) – Civil Engineering

• Holding a Project Management Certificate (PMP)

• Work Experience - Minimum 5 yrs

For those interested to apply, Kindly send your CV to :

admin@copri.com



Khaled AlShamlan with the executive management and officials of Headspring.



Panel discussion.



Part of the audience.

A strategic investment in human capital

KFH launches 4th cohort of Leadership Academy in collaboration with Headspring

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the opening ceremony of the 4th cohort of its Leadership Academy, a pivotal initiative designed to elevate the capabilities of KFH’s leaders.

The Academy is a strategic collaboration with Headspring, the renowned joint venture between IE Business School and the Financial Times, underscoring KFH’s unwavering commitment to fostering continuous learning and professional growth among its leadership ranks. This comprehensive program includes the Enterprise Leadership Program (ELP) for Executive Managers and the Building Leadership Excellence (BLE) for senior managers.

The opening ceremony was attended by KFHH Group CEO Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, CEO of Headspring, Antonio Montes, Headspring’s Vice President, Corporate Partnerships – MEA, Bassem Banna, and other officials from the executive management at KFHH group.

A New Era of Leadership Development
KFHH Group CEO, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, welcomed attendees to the opening ceremony, highlighting that this program is meticulously designed to equip leaders with the essential skills, knowledge, and insights required to navigate today’s business environment and to effectively implement KFH’s strategic vision.

AlShamlan proudly acknowledged the diverse participation of 52 leaders from across the KFHH Group, including colleagues from Turkey, Bahrain, and Egypt. He underscored that this broad representation reflects the strong spirit of collaboration that defines the Group, asserting that “Together, we will achieve great things to maintain our position as the leader in the Islamic finance industry.”

A significant announcement from AlShamlan was the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in banking as a dedicated component of the programs. This forward-looking step signifies KFH’s commitment to preparing future leaders for technological advancements. Concluding his address, AlShamlan reiterated KFH’s core belief: “Investing in our people is the key to our success, and we recognize the great potential in each one of our leaders”. He urged participants



Khaled Yousef AlShamlan



Antonio Montes



Group executive management with participants.

to fully engage, share experiences, and support one another, and expressed excitement for the positive impact the program will have on performance across the KFHH Group.

A Deep-Rooted and Mutually Beneficial Alliance
CEO of Headspring Executive Development, Antonio

Montes spoke to the enduring and robust partnership between Headspring and KFHH, which commenced in 2019. He elaborated on how this collaboration has involved close engagement with KFHH’s Talent Development Department to deeply understand their challenges, objectives, and values.

This understanding has enabled the co-design of exclusive executive programs specifically crafted to support KFHH’s leadership in shaping the future of the bank and its strategy to lead the Islamic finance industry.

Montes lauded KFHH as an entity that genuinely offers personal and professional growth opportunities to its leaders, stating that the two current programs powerfully underscore this commitment. He emphasized Headspring’s appreciation for institutions like KFHH that believe in and invest in talent. This shared philosophy, he noted, elevates their relationship beyond usual approach executive training, aiming to cultivate and develop not only individuals but also institutions and the broader region, expressing pride in being part of Kuwait and the Gulf countries’ transformational process.

Highlighting the program’s pedagogical approach, Montes detailed the Headspring methodology, which seamlessly combines in-person sessions held in both Kuwait and Madrid with virtual components. He assured participants that all sessions would be led by renowned academics from IE University.

Shared Purpose and Collective Empowerment
Headspring’s Vice President, Corporate Partnerships – MEA, Bassem Banna articulated that the partnership between Headspring and KFHH is fundamentally built upon a profound alignment of purpose and a shared belief in the power of leadership. He explained that the Leadership Academy’s design extends beyond individual development, aiming to “empower a collective force of leaders prepared to navigate complexity and drive meaningful change.”

Banna further elaborated on the program’s broader impact, noting that “Each new cohort strengthens a growing, purpose-driven leadership community that plays a vital role in advancing KFHH’s strategic vision.”

“Throughout the learning journey, participants across both levels of the Leadership Academy will engage in immersive, challenging, and inspiring experiences carefully designed to equip them with the tools, mindset, and strategic clarity needed to support KFHH’s bold ambitions. Together, we are building a leadership culture that evolves with the organization and is ready to lead the future of Islamic finance,” Banna concluded.

Regional geopolitics pressure KNPC earnings

KNPC expands Mina Al-Ahmadi & Mina Abdullah refinery capacities

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) aims to increase the production capacity of Mina Al-Ahmadi and Mina Abdullah refineries from 798,600 barrels per day to about 825,000 barrels per day this year.

Sources told the newspaper that this step is crucial, considering that the refined products of both refineries contain materials, which meet most international environmental requirements; hence, the global markets prefer KNPC products.

Sources confirmed that KNPC has completed numerous maintenance operations on several units in the two refineries and is currently undertaking comprehensive maintenance to increase their production capacity. Sources said the company utilizes the most advanced smart digital technologies to continue production operations optimally, especially since these technologies have a high capacity to predict breakdowns.

Sources stated that to increase the production capacity of Mina Al-Ahmadi Refinery, the company will

focus on increasing the operating capacity of the atmospheric distillation residual sulfur removal unit; thereby, raising its production from 50,000 barrels per day to 55,000 barrels. Sources revealed this is in addition to increasing the operating capacity of the atmospheric distillation residual sulfur removal units at Mina Abdullah Refinery to reach 50,000 to 55,000 per unit. Sources disclosed that the target expansion plan includes increasing the operating capacity of the naphtha processing unit from 23,000 barrels to 25,800 barrels per day at the Mina Abdullah Refinery. Sources also cited the ongoing efforts to increase the operating capacity of the gasoline production unit at Mina Abdullah Refinery from 18,000 to 20,000 barrels per day. Sources added that the production capacity of the petroleum coke production unit at Mina Al-Ahmadi Refinery will be increased from 37,000 barrels to around 44,400 barrels per day. Sources affirmed as well that evaluations are underway for several other units at the two refineries in preparation for increasing their production capacity.

Sources said KNPC is currently

leading an ambitious plan to increase the production of clean refining materials through various means in order to protect the environment. “Therefore, it is working diligently to reduce emissions through the use of alternative energy. It is expanding the use of alternative energy through solar panels at its fuel stations – both the existing ones and those to be built in the coming years. The company intends to implement several projects in the coming years to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050,” sources added.

Moreover, sources attributed the decline in the profits of the company for fiscal 2024/2025 to several factors; particularly the geopolitical factors in the region, entry of new African refineries into service, and resumption of Russian refineries, some of which ceased operations some years ago due to the Russian-Ukrainian war.

Sources also cited the official launching of the Kuwaiti-Omani Duqm Refinery in February 2024 as one of the factors, as most global markets relied on it, especially during the intensification of geopolitical crises, as well as the recession that accompanied product purchases.

Showing its commitment to efficient, sustainable operations

Zain continues to uphold the data center M&O certification from Uptime Institute

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Zain Kuwait announced that its headquarters data center (Shuwaikh HQ) has successfully renewed its Management & Operations (M&O) certification from Uptime Institute, further cementing its position as one of a select group of organizations in the region that have continuously maintained this global recognition since 2019.

The M&O certification is one of the industry’s most prestigious recognitions awarded to data centers that adhere to best practices in management, business continuity, risk mitigation, and operational efficiency. The certification process involves a thorough evaluation covering multiple aspects including maintenance, staff training, safety procedures, and operational readiness. This achievement reflects Zain’s ongoing commitment to delivering secure and reliable digital infrastructure that supports national and regional digital transformation goals.

In parallel, Zain continues to maintain the Tier III Certification of Constructed Facility for its two data centers located in South Subahiya. The certification was originally awarded in 2022 by Uptime Institute following a comprehensive audit conducted by experts from the United States and the United Kingdom.

This certification confirms Zain’s ability to provide resilient and reliable



Zain Data Center M&O 2025

infrastructure by enhancing availability, improving operational redundancy, reducing risks, and expanding capacity for colocation and data hosting solutions.

Through these international certifications, Zain reaffirms its position as a pioneer in delivering advanced data center solutions and its serious commitment to implementing the highest standards of sustainability and efficiency in its infrastructure, thereby contributing to the development of critical sectors in the country.

Uptime is the Global Digital Infrastructure Authority. For over 25 years, the company has established industry-leading benchmarks for data center performance, resilience, sustainability, and efficiency, which provide custom-

ers assurance that their digital infrastructure can perform across a wide array of operating conditions at a level consistent with their business needs.

Uptime’s Tier Standard is the IT industry’s most trusted and adopted global standard for the design, construction, and operation of data centers. With its Tier Standard and Certifications, Management & Operations reviews, SCIRA-FSI financial sector risk assessment, a broad range of additional risk and performance assessments, intelligence research service, and training courses completed by over 10,000 data center professionals, Uptime has helped thousands of companies in over 114 countries to optimize critical IT assets while managing costs, resources, and efficiency.

Baghdad, Irbil sign deal on oil exports

EU extends gas storage filling rules for two additional years

BRUSSELS, July 19, (KUNA): The Council of the European Union announced on Friday the adoption of a legislative amendment extending the current gas storage filling rules for an additional two years.

In a statement, the council explained that the extension seeks to reduce the EU’s exposure to gas price fluctuations, particularly in light of Russia’s ongoing war against Ukraine, while maintaining a balance between energy security and a gradual return to market-based economic principles.

The new amendment would maintain the binding target of filling 90 percent of gas storage capacity, while granting member states greater flexibility to meet this target between 1st October and 1st December instead of the previous deadline of 1st November.

It would also allow for a 10 percent flexibility margin in the event of difficulties in filling storage, with the possibility of increasing this margin by an additional 5 percent through a delegated act by the European Commission, should unfavorable market conditions persist.

The amendment would render intermediate gas storage targets indicative rather than binding, allowing market actors more freedom to purchase gas when prices are most favorable throughout the year, while still maintaining safe storage levels.

Today’s adoption by the council marks the completion of the legislative process, with the regulation set to enter into force the day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Also:

BAGHDAD: Iraq’s government announced on Thursday reaching an agreement with the Kurdistan region on oil exports from the region and salaries of its staff. It is a move aiming to end the crisis of salaries and enhance federal control over oil resources, Iraq’s government said in a statement.

Under the deal, Kurdistan’s government hands over immediately its oil output to Iraq’s State Organization for Marketing of Oil (SOMO) for export, in exchange for giving a loan estimated at USD 16 (in kind or cash) for every delivered barrel to the region.

The delivered quantity shall not be less than 230,000 barrels per day, along possible additions in the future, it said.

The current output is about 280,000 barrels per day, 50,000 of them are allocated to local consumption, according to the region’s report.

Regarding non-oil revenue, the two sides agreed that the region’s government delivers USD 92 million to Iraq’s ministry of finance for May, and this will be settled later, it stated.

Al-Najem highlights strategic importance of AIIB membership

Kuwait joins AIIB as board member

BEIJING, July 19, (KUNA): Kuwait’s flag has been hoisted at the headquarters of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in the Chinese capital of Beijing on Friday, proclaiming Kuwait a constituent member of the bank’s board of governors.

An official ceremony on the occasion was held in the presence of AIIB President Jin Lique and Kuwait Ambassador to China Jassem Al-Najem, according to a statement from Kuwait Embassy.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Najem said the step is the culmination of efforts made for this goal.

Completing the procedures of this step was supported by the supreme political leadership due to the

strategic importance of boosting sustainable development partnership, he added.

The ceremony witnessed Al-Najem’s delivery of full membership as a step that shows Kuwait’s commitment to backing development projects in Asia, mainly in infrastructure and energy fields in a way that enhances carbon-neutral lifestyle and combat climate change in the Gulf region.

Meanwhile, Lique welcomed Kuwait’s joining and referred to its expected role in proceeding with efforts of sustainable development, and supporting smart infrastructure projects and renewable energy.

The bank is an international cooperation platform

based on reciprocal trust, he said, extolling active partnerships with GCC states.

He said that he looks forward to visiting Kuwait soon to meet with senior officials and discuss means of boosting collaboration.

He suggested enhancing coordination on holding official meetings to bolster Kuwait’s role inside the bank and benefit from its experience in funding strategic schemes.

Established in 2014, the bank has 103 member states, and it supports sustainable infrastructure projects in a number of vital sectors, including energy, transport, communications, urban development and logistic services.



Kuwait’s Ambassador to Beijing, Jassem Al-Najem, and the AIIB President, Jin Lique, during the flag-raising ceremony of the State of Kuwait at the Bank’s headquarters in Beijing, in celebration of its full membership.



KUNA Photos

in celebration of its full membership.

Reflecting bank’s ongoing dedication to educational sustainability, community integration and national resource development

Burgan Bank honors Kuwait’s top-ranking graduates – class of 2025 in collaboration with Ministry of Education

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Stemming from its firm belief in the importance of education as a core pillar of community building and sustainable development, Burgan Bank, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, organized a special ceremony for honoring the nationwide top-achieving graduates 2025 in Kuwait, in recognition of their academic achievement and outstanding performance in both the science and arts sections and the special education schools affiliated with the Ministry.

The ceremony was attended by Ms. Maryam Al-Enezi, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities at the Ministry of Education, alongside Mr. Fadel Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer – Kuwait at Burgan Bank, Mr. Naqeeb Amin, General Manager – Human Resources and Development for the Group at Burgan Bank, members of the Bank’s top management, and the graduates’ parents. The event was marked by a joyful atmosphere among the students and their families, in appreciation of the exceptional efforts they made during the 2025 academic year, which culminated in their excellence.

The ceremony began with a welcoming speech by Mr. Fadel Abdullah, Ms. Maryam Al-Enezi, and Mr. Naqeeb Amin, followed by the official honoring of students who received symbolic trophies, and commemorative gifts. The students also contributed a few heartfelt words expressing their ambitions and future plans, amidst the encouragement and joy of the attendees for this achievement and excellence.

Honoring Top Achievers and Outstanding Performers

In a celebratory ceremony, the Bank recognized exceptional students from the science and arts departments, as well as high-achieving children of Burgan Bank employees. This meaningful gesture reflects the Bank’s steadfast commitment, as a certified Great Place to Work®, to fostering a culture of recognition, inclusion, and appreciation. It also highlights its appreciation for its people and reinforces its aspiration to be an employer of choice—one that celebrates the accomplishments of its extended family and values the contributions of employees in shaping a knowledgeable and empowered generation.

Further underscoring its commitment



Mr. Fadel Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer - Kuwait, giving his speech at the event.



Students and their families along with Burgan Bank employees during the event.



Ms. Maryam Al-Enezi, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities at MoE during her speech.



A group photo of the Burgan Bank team with all graduates and top-achievers.

ment to its sustainability pillars and its dedication to supporting all youth without exception, the Bank honored the top-achieving students from the special education schools affiliated with the Ministry who have overcome personal and academic challenges to achieve excellence.

Additionally, as part of Burgan Bank’s vision and strategy to enhance employee competencies and invest in human capital, a select group of dedicated employees were honored at the ceremony for receiving their master’s degree under the umbrella of the Kafa’a program and bachelor’s degree as part of the Burgan Cares program, in recognition of their dedication to professional development.

On this occasion, Mr. Fadel Abdullah congratulated the outstanding students on the impressive results they achieved during their academic year, expressing the Bank’s pride in this achievement, which stands as the fruit of years of hard work and perseverance to bring honor to Kuwait.

For her part, Ms. Al-Enezi, expressed the Ministry of Education’s pride in this fruitful cooperation with Burgan Bank, emphasizing that the partnership between the public and private sectors sets an example for serving the community and advancing the education sector.

She said: “We thank Burgan Bank for organizing this wonderful ceremony for our top-achieving students

in Kuwait. The support of Kuwaiti banking institutions for outstanding students reflects a sense of national responsibility and fosters an environment for excellence and progress. It also serves as a strong incentive for other students to follow in their footsteps. We appreciate this role, which supports and complements our efforts to establish a stimulating and productive educational environment.”

Meanwhile, during his speech Mr. Naqeeb Amin stated: “This honoring ceremony comes as an extension of the Bank’s unwavering efforts to support education as a fundamental pillar for building prosperous societies,” noting that Burgan Bank, through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) and

sustainability strategy, is committed to launching a wide range of initiatives that aim to enable youth in achieving their ambitions as well as contribute to preparing a distinguished generation capable of leading the future within various fields.

He added: “We also believe that empowering youth energies is a true investment in Kuwait’s future. Through our effective partnerships with the government sector, we strive to support national development objectives and promote a culture of excellence and innovation among students.”

Social Responsibility and Sustainability Principles

Mr. Naqeeb Amin emphasized that this initiative falls within the Bank’s

social responsibility program and sustainability principles, empowering young national cadres, and supporting the education sector in line with the New Kuwait Vision 2035. He emphasized that top-achieving students are a national asset that must be invested in and provided with all necessary support and attention to prepare a cultured and promising generation for Kuwait’s future.

Throughout the year, the Bank welcomes school and university students as part of its professional training programs presented by a select group of the Bank’s employees, designed to prepare young talents and help them understand the job market requirements they need to prepare for before graduating, enhancing their chances of employment as fresh graduates, which Mr. Naqeeb described as a national and social duty and a true investment in the future generation.

Training the Top-Achievers

As an extension of Burgan Bank’s appreciation for the efforts of outstanding students and its commitment to empowering them with future skills, the Bank announced during the ceremony that it will organize an educational workshop dedicated to the honorees in cooperation with Coded Academy. The workshop aims to focus on AI & coding, as well as motivating the younger generation to explore modern educational and technical opportunities that qualify them to enter various industries in the job market, including the banking industry. The workshop will also include awareness session about “Let’s Be Aware” (Diraya) campaign to foster a sound banking culture and financial awareness among students, as part of the Bank’s commitment to supporting digital education, financial literacy, and developing future skills among Kuwaiti youth.

In conclusion, everyone expressed their pride in the top-achieving students and wished them continued success in their academic and university journeys. Furthermore, Burgan Bank affirmed its ongoing commitment to adopting and supporting initiatives and partnerships that empower students and youth, while also emphasizing its steadfast investment in what contributes to the development of the education sector and the advancement of society in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.



Honoring the graduates and top-achievers.



Trump inks new stablecoin law, boosts crypto industry

WASHINGTON, July 19, (AP): President Donald Trump on Friday signed into law new regulations for a type of cryptocurrency, a major milestone for an industry that has spent heavily to strengthen its legitimacy and political might.

The GENIUS Act sets initial guardrails and consumer protections for stablecoins, which are tied to assets like the U.S. dollar to reduce price volatility compared with other forms of cryptocurrency. It passed both the House and Senate with wide bipartisan margins.

The new law is meant to bolster consumer confidence in the crypto industry, which has quickly become a major power player in Washington thanks to massive campaign donations and spending on lobbying. Its passage comes as Trump had repeatedly pledged to make the U.S. the “crypto capital of the world.”

GENIUS Act earns bipartisan support



President Donald Trump holds up the signed document after signing the GENIUS Act, a bill that regulates stablecoins, a type of cryptocurrency, in the East Room of the White House, Friday, July 18, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

“For years you were mocked and dismissed and counted out,” Trump told crypto industry executives at a White House bill signing attended by about 200 people, including several

top GOP lawmakers. “This signing is a massive validation of your hard work and your pioneering spirit.”

The crypto industry has long complained it was unfairly targeted by for-

mer President Joe Biden’s administration and spent heavily to help Trump win last year’s election.

The president lavished praise on crypto leaders during his speech Friday, saying “nobody has gained the respect in such a short period of time.”

Trump said helping the cryptocurrency industry was “good for the dollar and it’s good for the country.”

“That’s why I backed you at an early stage,” said Trump, who had previously been a skeptic of cryptocurrency before embracing it. His administration has taken several early steps to boost the crypto industry, including the Securities and Exchange Commission dropping several enforcement actions against large crypto companies.

Trump then added a candid admission about the political calculus of his support for the crypto industry: “And I also did it for the votes,” he said, drawing laughter from the audience.

The president also joked that lawmakers had named the GENIUS Act after him. The acronym stands for “Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins.”

Eye deal before Aug 1 tariffs

Japan, US agree to keep tariff talks going as deadline looms

TOKYO, July 19, (KUNA): Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent agreed to continue tariff negotiations, while the US side is set to implement reciprocal tariffs on August 1.

Their meeting in Tokyo on Friday was joined by Economic Revitalization Minister Ryosei Akazawa, Japan’s chief tariff negotiator, according to Jiji Press.

During the meeting, Ishiba said he expects Bessent and Akazawa to actively engage in tariff talks to reach a mutually beneficial agreement.

Bessent responded that both sides can certainly reach a good agreement, according to Ishiba. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, the premier expressed his willingness to conclude the tariff negotiations at a summit with US President Donald Trump.

“There’ll surely be an opportunity for me to hold direct talks with President Trump, in which our national interests will be at stake,” he said.

Bessent is in Japan to attend the US’ “national day” event at the ongoing World Exposition in the western city of Osaka on Saturday.



Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, right, shakes hands with U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent before their meeting at the prime minister’s office in Tokyo, Japan, Friday, July 18, 2025. (AP)

China’s AI tech boosts global trade efficiency, facilitates supply chain

BEIJING, July 19, (Xinhua): To provide a quick overview of what its digital technology can do for China’s many small and medium-sized exporters, a Nanjing-based software firm put up nine striking Q&A posters at an ongoing trade fair in Beijing.

“Where is my product most in-demand overseas?” “How can I ensure my product passes customs compliance?” “Customers want low carbon and what should I do?” “How can I make global supply chain more cost-effective?” -- SKYTECH’s AI tools can quickly provide tailored solutions to these questions.

During discussions about fragile global supply chains at the third China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE), participants noted that China’s AI technology

is a source of confidence and a promising avenue for building resilience in global trade.

Qiu Weiwen, a manager from SKYTECH, demonstrated the intelligent system in front of a large screen. “China has the most complete industrial chain in the world, which makes its export product system rather complex, and that’s why we’ve designed an AI system,” he explained.

For new energy vehicle products, it is necessary to input the origins of components like tires, bearings, and battery cells. Even small changes in parameters can result in different solutions from the large model.

“The country where the product is assembled might be different from where

its components are produced. We can help you analyze which scenario is more advantageous,” Qiu said.

Another service from the Nanjing firm in east China supports European Union-bound exporters by automating carbon footprint reporting and carbon tariff calculations. Beyond compliance, SKYTECH further delivers strategic guidance enabling clients to capture revenue opportunities through carbon trading schemes.

At a CISCE roundtable on Friday, SKYTECH spotlighted a success story. Under its support, Chinese solar-panel maker Trina Solar built a low-carbon, digitally optimized line that slashes the carbon footprint of its modules well below France’s entry threshold, unlocking instant access to the European market.



KUNA photos

Palestinian music group Ushaq Al-Aqsa delivers a powerful performance during the 17th Summer Cultural Festival at Dasma Theater in Kuwait on Thursday.

Ushaq Al-Aqsa delivers stirring performance

Palestinian identity celebrated with moving, hopeful musical evening at Dasma Theater

KUWAIT CITY, July 19, (KUNA): The 17th Summer Cultural Festival celebrated Palestinian identity in a moving and hopeful musical evening held at Dasma Theater on Thursday.

The event featured a powerful performance by the group “Ushaq Al-Aqsa” (Lovers of Al-Aqsa), blending heartfelt emotion with national pride.

Led by Samer Al-Awni, the group took the audience on a deeply emotional artistic journey, expressing themes of patriotism, the pain of exile, and the hope of return. Through a selection of national and traditional songs, the performance reaffirmed the deep-rooted connection to the land, the people, and the Palestinian cause.

Ushaq Al-Aqsa is more than just a musical group, it is an artistic and cultural movement that, through every

melody and lyric, tells the stories of refugees and keeps alive the dream of return cherished by Palestinians in camps and exile.

The group began informally in 2000, quickly gaining popularity in Palestinian camps before transitioning into a professional ensemble that performed on stages in Lebanon and the Arab world.

Since 2010, Ushaq Al-Aqsa has established a strong institutional presence, producing albums and maintaining regular media appearances. It has since evolved into a full-fledged organization, supported by a young administrative team and talented academic and technical professionals. This growth has allowed the group to expand its reach across the Arab region, receiving both official and grassroots invitations to perform in countries such as Tunisia, Algeria, and Iraq.

This concert is part of the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters’ commitment to hosting meaningful events that highlight just causes, chief among them being the Palestinian cause, and to supporting purposeful artistic voices within the Summer Cultural Festival. The festival is a prominent fixture in Kuwait’s cultural calendar and is part of the activities celebrating Kuwait’s designation as the Capital of Arab Culture and Media for 2025.

Kuwait continues to affirm its steadfast and principled support for the Palestinian cause, based on its historical and humanitarian values. This commitment is reflected in its ongoing cultural and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, as well as its efforts to amplify their voice and share their struggles with the world through various artistic and cultural events.



Kuwait Toastmasters Club members during the first meeting of the new season.

DTM Alnakkas takes the helm as club president

Kuwait Toastmasters Club starts new term with powerful voice and vision

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Kuwait Toastmasters Club, the 1st Toastmasters Club in Kuwait since 1999, kicked off its new Toastmasters year with an energizing meeting held on Saturday, July 12, 2025, in Shaab. Marking the beginning of a fresh leadership term, the event was led under the inspiring guidance of Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) Hebah Alnakkas, who now takes the helm as Club President alongside her newly appointed Executive Committee.

The meeting was a powerful showcase of what Toastmasters is all about: communication, leadership, and community. Members took the stage not only to demonstrate their public speaking skill but also to inspire one another with speeches, evaluations, and impromptu speaking challenges. Special recognition and heartfelt appreciation were given to the outgoing leadership team for their dedicated service during the past year. The New Executive Committee was inducted, which comprises of a powerful team ie, President -DTM Hebah Alnakkas, VP Education, DTM Raymond Pereira, VP Public Relations - TM Tahani Aledian, VP Membership - TM Mohammed Reiad, Secretary - DTM Wafaa Salman, Club

Treasurer - DTM Hazem Ibrahim, and Sergeant at Arms - TM NoorAldin Alayaan

The Toastmasters educational year runs from July 1st to the next year on June 30th, and Kuwait Toastmasters Club meets twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, at York Complex in Shaab, offering an accessible platform for personal and professional development.

The first meeting’s theme, “Small Steps, Big Results,” chosen by Toastmaster of the Day TM Raed AlSaleem, set the tone for the year ahead; reminding members that consistent effort, no matter how small, can lead to transformative growth. It was carefully observed by General Evaluator, TM Abdullah Alhubail. Speeches by TM Shoukry Elmashad, TM Mohammad Rinaz were evaluated by TM Maria Josol and TM Hana Al Otaibi, giving the audience deep learning through observation and feedback. The Word of the day, “Ignite” was embedded into the minds of the audience by the Grammarian of the day, TM Mohammed Reiad, while our nervousness and filler words, were trapped by TM Mohammed Rafique.

Kuwait Toastmasters club has

members representing a wide array of nationalities from across the Middle East, Asia, and beyond, the club is a shining example of cultural unity in diversity. Meetings blend perspectives, traditions, and storytelling styles. Thus creating amazing speakers, but more empathetic, Culture Sensitive, globally-minded leaders and communicators.

As Kuwait Toastmasters Club embarks on this new chapter, it extends a warm invitation to all who wish to become more confident speakers, better listeners, and stronger leaders. The club is open to guests and first-timers who are curious to explore what this global movement, with over 270,000 members worldwide, has to offer. The Public can reach out to our VP Membership on 90923423.

Hence, Whether you’re a student, entrepreneur, corporate leader, or lifelong learner, Kuwait Toastmasters Club provides a supportive environment to enhance your public speaking skills, grow in confidence, and practice leadership in real-world roles. The club’s structured yet flexible program allows individuals to set their own goals and progress at their own pace – guided by mentorship and constructive feedback.

A taste of Bangladesh blooms in desert

Bangladeshi ‘fruits festival’ held in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Fruits are imported to Kuwait from different parts of the world. This time, the juicy fruits of Bengal, including mango, jackfruit, pineapple, guava, amra, papaya, latkan, litchi, dragon fruit and various other fruits, have been added to that list. A special ‘fruit festival’ was held in Kuwait with the seasonal fruits of Bangladesh’s honey month. This exceptional fruit festival was jointly organized by the Bangladesh Cricket Association, Kuwait, and the Bangladesh Press Club Kuwait.

The fruit festival held on Friday night was presided over by the President of Bangladesh Cricket Association Kuwait, Jahangir Khan Palash. The chief guest was the Head of Shuwaikh Municipality, Khaled Sultan Al Uchaimi. The special guests were the President of Bangladesh Press Club Kuwait, Senior Journalist Moin Uddin Sarkar Sumon, Senior Vice President of Cricket Association, Sarowardi, Engineer Atiqur Rahman, Engineer Zulfikar Pathik. The overall supervision of the fruit festival was provided by the General Secretary of the Cricket

Association, Moazzem Hossain, Ismail Hossain, and Organizing Secretary Anwar Kalam.

For the first time, the guests at the Bangladesh Fruit Festival tasted the juicy fruits of Bangladesh. The guests were full of praise for the best Amrapali mango of Bangladesh. Khaled Sultan Al Uchaimi said, “this is the first time I am eating the national fruit of Bangladesh, jackfruit, in Kuwait. And the mango is, in a word, amazing! 100% pure, full of flavor. If these fruits are imported to Kuwait all the time, I am sure everyone will love them and want more.

Imports

“If the governments of Bangladesh and Kuwait come together and make arrangements to officially import fruits and serve these fruits in big markets, then if someone eats them once, they will want to eat them again and again. Bangladeshi fruits are truly world-class. If Kuwait-Bangladesh advance in agricultural trade, the people of both countries will benefit”. Senior journalist Moin Uddin Sarkar Sumon, president of Bangladesh Press Club Ku-

wait, spoke to Bangladeshi fruit importers in Kuwait.

Moin Uddin Sarkar Sumon said that after talking to importers, he learned that many businessmen have improved the quality of packaging on their own initiative. Due to the low airfares of different airlines, the price of the products fluctuates a lot. If high-level officials of the two countries pay attention to the issue, it is possible to improve a lot. Expatriate Bangladeshis are happy to come to the seasonal fruit festival in the desert country, they say that such an event should be held every year, and on a large scale. The organizers say that their aim is not only to display the fruits, but also to showcase Bangladeshi agricultural products in the international market. If there is regular supply in a market like Kuwait, this will be a huge opportunity for farmers. If these fruits of Bangladesh are regularly available in the Kuwaiti market, the demand will increase manifold. Those concerned believe that this will not only be a sweet example of trade, but also of friendship between the people of the two countries.



A photo from the Bangladeshi fruit festival in Kuwait.



The Tafsilul Quran Mahfil took place with the Bangladeshi community in Kuwait’s Hasawi area. Hafiz Ruhul Amin Mustafa delivered the Tafsir, while Sirajul Islam presided over the Mahfil. The special guest was Shahidullah from the Hasabia Eastern Region Quran Training Center, Kuwait. This event was organized by the Bangladesh Quran Training Center, Kuwait, Hasabia Eastern Region, Al Motairi Branch.



Al Habtoor Palace Dubai a haven of timeless elegance.

A seamless luxury escape connecting Dubai and Budapest

Al Habtoor Palace unveils ‘The Palace Journey’

DUBAI, UAE & Budapest, July 19: Al Habtoor Palace, a distinguished collection of luxury properties, is thrilled to announce the launch of “The Palace Journey,” an exclusive new offer inviting discerning travelers to experience the grandeur of two iconic cities: Dubai and Budapest. This unique promotion seamlessly blends vibrant Middle Eastern hospitality with historic European elegance, providing an unparalleled multi-destination luxury escape.

“The Palace Journey” allows guests to extend their experience of opulence. When booking a minimum of two nights in a lavish suite at either Al Habtoor Palace Dubai or Al Habtoor Palace Budapest, guests will receive a complimentary night’s stay at the sister property. This initiative is designed to reward high-value bookings by offering an exclusive opportunity to explore distinct luxury destinations under the trusted Al Habtoor Palace brand.

“I am thrilled to witness the synergy between Al Habtoor Palace Dubai and Al Habtoor Palace Budapest. These two iconic destinations, each boasting a unique blend of heritage and modernity, are now more connected than ever with two daily flights. This connection not only bridges geographical distances but also unites our shared spirit of true hospitality. It’s a testament to our commitment to providing world-class experiences for our guests, no matter where they choose to stay,” Said Soufiane El Allam, Complex Operations & Commercial Director, Al Habtoor City Hotel Collection.

Whether commencing their journey amidst the dynamic energy of Dubai or the imperial charm of Budapest, guests are assured a consistent standard of lavish accommodations and personalized service. Al Habtoor Palace Dubai, nestled within the Al Habtoor City vibrant Hotel Collection, offers magnificent suites embodying Arabian splendor. Meanwhile, Al Habtoor Palace Budapest, residing in the historic Adria Palace, presents exquisitely designed suites



Al Habtoor Palace Budapest, where Emirati luxury meets European grandeur.

that reflect classic European grandeur.

The offer is a reflection of a truly effortless booking experience:

- From Dubai to Budapest: Book two nights in a magnificent suite at Al Habtoor Palace Dubai and receive one complimentary night at Al Habtoor Palace Budapest.
- From Budapest to Dubai: Book two nights in an exquisite suite at Al Habtoor Palace Budapest and receive one complimentary night at Al

Habtoor Palace Dubai.

This exclusive offer is valid for bookings made until September 30, 2025, applicable for stays in suites (basic category or higher) at both hotels. The complimentary night, based on double occupancy on a Bed & Breakfast basis (exclusive of taxes and VAT), upon the materialization of the initial suite booking.

This cross-continental promotion underscores Al Habtoor Palace’s commitment to creating bespoke and

memorable experiences for its global clientele.

To embark on “The Palace Journey” and make a reservation, please visit the official offers pages of Al Habtoor Palace Dubai or Al Habtoor Palace Budapest.

About Al Habtoor Palace Dubai, Preferred Hotels & Resorts:

Al Habtoor Palace Dubai is a haven of timeless elegance, set along Sheikh Zayed Road with views of the Dubai Water Canal. Showcasing

majestic Beaux-Arts architecture, the hotel features 234 opulent rooms and suites – including the iconic Bentley and Sir Winston Churchill Suites – each with 24-hour bespoke butler service. Guests can indulge in exceptional dining at World Cut Steakhouse, BQ, or Sidra Lounge, renowned for its grand afternoon tea. The Silk Spa offers tranquil Hammams, steam rooms, and indulgent treatments, while a rooftop pool provides a serene escape. Ideally locat-

ed next to La Perle by Dragone, the hotel also offers access to the private beach at one of our affiliated hotels on Palm Jumeirah. From its grand interiors to its curated experiences and chauffeured Bentley service, Al Habtoor Palace is more than a hotel – it is an extraordinary expression of luxury in the heart of Dubai.

About Al Habtoor Palace Budapest, Preferred Hotels & Resorts:

Al Habtoor Palace Budapest is where the esteemed Al Habtoor Group, a name synonymous with Emirati vision and luxury, marks its European debut within the iconic Adria Palace. This architectural gem, dating back to the early 20th century, has been reimagined to blend its historical grandeur with Dubai’s renowned hospitality.

More than a hotel, it’s a cultural bridge, offering 200 elegant rooms and suites, exceptional butler service, and exclusive Club Lounge access for signature suite guests. Arrive in style with our Bentley transfer and savor exquisite dining across three distinct venues. Al Habtoor Palace Budapest is a testament to a global vision, offering an unparalleled experience in the heart of Hungary’s captivating capital.”

About Preferred Hotels & Resorts

Preferred Hotels & Resorts is the world’s largest independent hotel brand, representing more than 600 distinctive hotels, resorts, residences, and unique hotel groups across 80 countries. Through its four global collections, Preferred Hotels & Resorts connects discerning travelers to the singular luxury hospitality experience that meets their life and style preferences for each occasion. Every property within the portfolio maintains the high-quality standards and unparalleled service levels required by the Preferred Hotels & Resorts Integrated Quality Assurance Program. The I Prefer™ Hotel Rewards program, Preferred Residences, Preferred Pride, and Preferred Golf™ offer valuable benefits for travelers seeking a unique experience. For more information, visit PreferredHotels.com.



Architectural gem, dating back to the early 20th century.



Unwind in style – suites designed for the discerning traveler.

Effectiveness of anti-choking devices remains unclear

Elderly choking deaths rise – how to prevent them

NEW YORK, July 19, (AP): It was the scariest choking incident David Palumbo had ever seen.

The 88-year-old man had been dining at a Providence, Rhode Island, Italian restaurant in September 2019. Now he was unconscious, with a piece of bread lodged in his windpipe. Precious minutes went by as first responders were unable to help him with CPR or the Heimlich maneuver.

In an ambulance on the way to the hospital, the elderly man's skin was blue, and firefighters worried he was going to die. Palumbo - a fire department captain - used a scissors-like device called Magill forceps to pull the bread from the man's throat.

"We get a lot of calls in the city for choking," many of which are resolved before emergency responders even get there, Palumbo added. "This was by far the worst one I've been on in my career."

Fortunately, the man survived and made a full recovery, he said.

But many elderly people do not. Each year, choking claims the lives of more than 4,100 Americans who are 65 or older. It's the most vulnerable age group, accounting for about three-quarters of US choking deaths, according to federal health statistics.

The death rate has been relatively steady, but the number has risen, as the size of the nation's retirement-age population grows.

In response, a number of companies are marketing antichoking devices to the elderly. Medical professionals have been debating whether to endorse the products, sold under the names LifeVac, SaveLix, VitalVac and the Dechoker.

Dr. Nathan Charlton, a University of Virginia professor of emergency medicine who advises the American Red Cross on first aid, said there is limited evidence for the products and that the Red Cross is still evaluating them.

Here's a look at choking and the best ways to prevent choking deaths.

Choking occurs when food or some other object partially or totally blocks the windpipe, preventing oxygen from



Alaina Lantz, 12, of Bridgeport, W.Va., practices the Heimlich maneuver during a free Safe Sitter course offered by West Virginia University's Center for Rural Emergency Medicine on June 11, 2003, in Fairmont, W.Va. (AP)

reaching the lungs.

Telltale signs include someone reaching for their neck and losing the ability to speak normally. Brain damage can occur after four minutes, and death can come just a few minutes later.

Older adults are at higher risk for a number of reasons. As people get older, mouth and throat muscles can weaken. Older people also make less saliva. Some chronic diseases and medications can make swallowing even harder. Dentures can be a choking risk.

Choking risk can be reduced by cutting food into small pieces, chewing food slowly, drinking plenty of liquids with meals, and not laughing or talking at the same time you are chewing and swallowing.

When someone is choking, you can try perhaps the oldest form of first aid: back slaps.

There's also the Heimlich maneuver, named after the doctor credited with devising it in the 1970s. It involves standing behind the choking

person, wrapping your arms around their abdomen and - with a balled fist - thrusting inward and upward. The idea is that it forces air out of the lungs, and the obstruction with it.

The American Red Cross recommends alternating back blows and abdominal thrusts in sets of five.

That's for situations in which someone is around to help a choking victim. But what if they are alone?

It is possible for someone try to self-administer a Heimlich by thrusting their abdomen against the back of a chair, Charlton said.

Makers of some the newer antichoking devices say that's where their products can make a difference.

"Elderly people probably are not capable of diving on a chair or counter," said Arthur Lih, the founder and chief executive of LifeVac.

They vary in design, but generally the devices look like a face mask attached to a tube or bellows, with a handle at the end. They typically sell for around \$30 to \$100.

A choking person dons the mask,

pushes down on the handle and then pulls up. That is supposed to create a suction that would pull out the blockage.

Some research suggests at least certain devices can injure the tongue or cause bleeding and swelling in the throat. And the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has reports that some products did not generate enough suction and left people with bruising around the face, lips, and mouth.

An injury report led the FDA to do an inspection and issue a warning letter to Dechoker in 2021.

Manufacturers note their products are registered with the FDA, but that's not the same as an endorsement. Indeed, the agency last year issued a notice to consumers that said it has not approved antichoking devices sold over the counter, because their safety and effectiveness haven't been established.

Lih said the FDA action was in response to the proliferation of antichoking devices entering the market that vary in design and quality.

New IVF technique offers hope for families

Healthy babies born in Britain using 3-person DNA to avoid genetic illness

LONDON, July 19, (AP): Eight healthy babies were born in Britain with the help of an experimental technique that uses DNA from three people to help mothers avoid passing devastating rare diseases to their children, researchers reported Wednesday.

Most DNA is found in the nucleus of our cells, and it's that genetic material - some inherited from mom, some from dad - that makes us who we are. But there's also some DNA outside of the cell's nucleus, in structures called mitochondria. Dangerous mutations there can cause a range of diseases in children that can lead to muscle weakness, seizures, developmental delays, major organ failure and death.

Testing during the in vitro fertilization process can usually identify whether these mutations are present. But in rare cases, it's not clear.

Researchers have been developing a technique that tries to avoid the problem by using the healthy mitochondria from a donor egg. They reported in 2023 that the first babies had been born using this method, where scientists take genetic material from the mother's egg or embryo, which is then transferred into a donor egg or embryo that has healthy mitochondria but the rest of its key DNA removed.

The latest research "marks an important milestone," said Dr. Zev Williams, who directs the Columbia University Fertility Center and was not involved in the work. "Expanding the range of reproductive options ... will empower more couples to pursue safe and healthy pregnancies."

Using this method means the embryo has DNA from three people - from the mother's egg, the father's sperm and the donor's mitochondria - and it required a 2016 U.K. law change to approve it. It is also allowed in Australia but not in many other countries, including the U.S.

Experts at Britain's Newcastle University and Monash University in Australia reported in the New England Journal of Medicine Wednesday that they performed the new technique in fertilized embryos from 22 patients, which resulted in eight babies that appear to be free of mitochondrial diseases. One woman is still pregnant.

One of the eight babies born had slightly higher than expected levels of abnormal mitochondria, said Robin



This image from video provided by the Newcastle Fertility Centre shows a nuclear genome from an egg carrying a mitochondrial DNA mutation being inserted into an egg donated by an unaffected woman. (AP)

Lovell-Badge, a stem cell and developmental genetics scientist at the Francis Crick Institute who was not involved in the research. He said it was still not considered a high enough level to cause disease, but should be monitored as the baby develops.

Dr. Andy Greenfield, a reproductive health expert at the University of Oxford, called the work "a triumph of scientific innovation," and said the method of exchanging mitochondria would only be used for a small number of women for whom other ways of avoiding passing on genetic diseases, like testing embryos at an early stage, was not effective.

Lovell-Badge said the amount of DNA from the donor is insignificant, noting that any resulting child would have no traits from the woman who donated the healthy mitochondria. The genetic material from the donated egg makes up less than 1% of the baby born after this technique.

"If you had a bone marrow transplant from a donor ... you will have much more DNA from another person," he said.

In the U.K., every couple seeking a baby born through donated mitochondria must be approved by the country's fertility regulator. As of this month, 35 patients have been authorized to undergo the technique.

Critics have previously raised concerns, warning that it's impossible to know the impact these sorts of novel techniques might have on future generations.

Vapes may benefit adult smokers

Juul gets FDA approval to keep selling tobacco, menthol e-cigarettes in US

WASHINGTON, July 19, (AP): The Food and Drug Administration is allowing vaping brand Juul to keep its e-cigarettes on the market, providing relief to a company that has struggled for years after being widely blamed for sparking the teen vaping trend.

FDA regulators said Thursday that Juul's studies show its e-cigarettes are less harmful for adult smokers, who can benefit from switching completely to vaping.

The FDA decision applies to both tobacco- and menthol-flavored versions of the reusable product, which works with nicotine-filled cartridges sold in two different strengths. Juul previously discontinued several fruit and candy flavors that helped drive its popularity but were favored by teens.

Juul will be one of only two U.S. companies authorized to sell menthol-flavored vapes, which many adults prefer to tobacco flavor.

"This is an important milestone for the company and I think we made a scientifically sound case for the role that menthol can play in e-vapor," Juul CEO K.C. Crosthwaite told The Associated Press.

Parents, politicians and anti-tobacco groups are certain to oppose FDA's decision. They have argued for years that Juul products should be permanently banned due to their role in triggering a yearslong spike in underage vaping.

"It is a big step in the wrong direction to authorize sales of the product that was responsible for this public health crisis in the first place," said



Juul products are displayed at a smoke shop in New York, on Dec. 20, 2018. (AP)

Yolonda Richardson, CEO of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids in a statement.

Juul was once valued at over \$13 billion and its small, sleek e-cigarettes revolutionized the image and technology of the vaping industry. But the company has since been forced to slash hundreds of jobs and pay billions to settle lawsuits over its role in the rise of youth vaping.

The FDA had ordered the company to remove its products from the market in June 2022. But then the agency abruptly reversed course days later and agreed to reopen its scientific review of Juul's application after the company pushed back in court.

Juul said that regulators had over-

looked thousands of pages of scientific data critical to its submission.

Thursday's announcement is not an approval or endorsement, and the FDA reiterated that people who do not smoke should not use Juul or any other e-cigarettes. The FDA determination indicates that smokers who switch completely to Juul can reduce their exposure to deadly carcinogens and other chemicals found in traditional cigarettes.

The FDA decision applies to Juul's original system, which is now roughly a decade old. Crosthwaite said the company hopes to win authorization for its next-generation device and is also considering applying to FDA for more flavors.

Experts find safer path for gene therapies

SYDNEY, July 19, (Xinhua): Scientists in Australia have identified a previously unknown gateway into human cells that could dramatically improve the safety and effectiveness of gene therapies.

Scientists have discovered a new cellular receptor, AAVR2, that enables therapeutic viruses to enter cells through an alternative pathway, which could allow gene therapies to use lower viral doses, researchers at the Centenary Institute, affiliated to the University of Sydney, said on Tuesday.

The discovery reduces the risk of severe immune reactions and expands

the safety and effectiveness of these treatments for serious genetic conditions such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Pompe disease and haemophilia, according to a Centenary Institute statement.

The findings reveal that this newly discovered receptor acts as an alternative entry point for adeno-associated viruses (AAVs) -- the viral vectors commonly used to deliver therapeutic genes.

"We found that certain AAV types can use this newly identified receptor, AAVR2, to enter cells, providing an alternative to the previously known

entry route," said Bijay Dhungel, lead author and researcher at the Centenary Institute.

The research team demonstrated that engineering a miniature version of AAVR2 significantly boosts the uptake of gene therapies in human cells and tissues.

The discovery paves the way for safer, more precise, and cost-effective gene therapies, while deepening understanding of how therapeutic viruses interact with human cells, crucial for advancing next-generation treatments, said the study published in the journal Cell.

Hospitals struggle to treat malnutrition cases

Mass deprivation being normalized in Gaza: UN

UNITED NATIONS, July 19, (Xinhua): The daily onslaught of hostilities, preventable deaths, a worsening fuel shortage, displacement and desperation are normalizing mass deprivation for Gazans, UN humanitarian said Friday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the Israeli authorities issued yet another displacement order, this time for parts of northern Gaza. There are also deeply troubling reports of malnourished children and adults in hospitals with few resources to treat them.

OCHA said that the energy crisis continues to deepen despite the resumption of limited fuel imports, and its depletion has forced a pause in solid waste collection over the past couple of days, and more water wells have been

shut down, mainly in Deir al-Balah.

Specific health services like dialysis have been reduced or shut down, and others will have to end too, due to fuel shortages, while the limited fuel available is being allocated primarily to health, water and telecommunications services, as well as to powering vehicles, it said.

Humanitarian movements inside Gaza continue to be restricted, since only seven out of 13 attempts to coordinate aid workers and supplies movement with the Israeli authorities were facilitated, allowing humanitarian teams to retrieve fuel, collect water, relocate generators, provide supplies related to hygiene and sanitation, and transfer much-needed medical supplies, OCHA said.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

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

For your ads on this page

Call: 69994428

E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

مرکز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي

SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE

الفاحيل FAHAHEEL

Dr. Sabitha Venkitesh MBBS, DNB (Ophthal)

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

Dr. Reshma Ravindra MBBS, MS (Ophthal)

Special package for family available for eye check up

HOTLINE: 65 95 95 34

Comprehensive Eye screening

Paediatric visual assessment

Glaucoma screening

Diabetic Retinopathy Screening

Foreign Body removal

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

Sabrina repeats as 3-point champion

Liberty rules WNBA All-Star events with Ionescu and Cloud victories

INDIANAPOLIS, July 19, (AP): Sabrina Ionescu put on another shooting clinic to win the 3-point contest for the second time at All-Star weekend.

The Liberty's star guard, who also won the title in 2023 with a record performance, had a strong final round, scoring 30 points to beat defending champion Allisha Gray. It completed a New York sweep of the night with Liberty teammate Natasha Cloud winning the skills competition.

Ionescu's effort was less than her record-breaking mark of 37 two years ago when she made 25 of 27 shots - the most ever in either the WNBA or NBA. The total of 30 matched the second-highest in the event, matching Allie Quigley's mark. Quigley is the only other player to win the contest more than once, doing it four times.

Ionescu didn't participate in last year's WNBA All-Star 3-point contest as she was focused on getting

ready for the Olympics. But she was in Indianapolis for the NBA one, competing against Steph Curry in a special shootout. She fell just short then, but wouldn't lose again in Indianapolis.

Atlanta's Gray, who made her own history last year by winning the 3-point shootout and skills competition, fell short in both this time. She had 22 points in the 3-point contest.

Gray went last in the opening round and needed to beat Kelsey Plum's 22 points to reach the final round. Gray hit her final four shots, including the money ball, to tie Ionescu and advance.

Plum, from the Los Angeles Sparks, was looking to become the first player in WNBA history to win an All-Star MVP (2022), skills challenge (2023,) and 3-point contest.

Lexie Hull, who was a fill-in for Indiana teammate Caitlin Clark, who injured her right groin on Tuesday night, scored 20 points to finish



New York Liberty's Sabrina Ionescu, left, holds the 3-point contest trophy while New York Liberty's Natasha Cloud holds the skills challenge trophy during the WNBA All-Star basketball weekend in Indianapolis. (AP)

fourth. Clark hyped up the crowd from the sideline before Hull's turn.

Washington rookie Sonia Citron scored 19 points in the opening round.

Cloud had the fastest time in the first round of the obstacle course that combines passing, dribbling,

and shooting. She needed to beat Seattle's Erica Wheeler's mark of 37.5 seconds in the finals. Cloud won despite missing all three of her shots from the corner over the windmill defender. She was able to get through the obstacle course in 36.4 seconds, 1.1 seconds faster than Wheeler.

After beating Wheeler, Cloud hugged Ionescu. She then picked up her girlfriend and Liberty teammate Isabelle Harrison and gave her a hug and kiss. Harrison had told Cloud that she needed to win so they could put a down payment on a house.

Cloud received \$55,000 from Affac as part of a partnership with the WNBAPA. She also receives \$2,575 from the league for the victory, which was part of the collective bargaining agreement. Ionescu earned \$60,000 for her win from Affac, plus the \$2,575 from the league.

Ionescu said that she was going to give half of her money to Citron, a promise she made to the rookie be-

fore the contest.

This was Cloud's first All-Star weekend appearance in her 11-year career. She had never been invited to compete in the skills contest or play in the All-Star Game.

Wheeler competed a year after missing the competition in Phoenix because of flight issues due to a faulty software update that caused technological havoc worldwide. Wheeler spent a few years in Indiana and received a loud ovation from the fans when she was introduced.

Defending champion Gray, who was wearing custom A'ja Wilson shoes with "money sign" on them, was in trouble after missing all three of the chest passes, which slowed her time and spoiled her bid for a repeat.

She finished the course in 39.4 seconds, which was behind Cloud and Wheeler's opening-round times. Courtney Williams (42.0) and Skylar Diggins (44.3) also didn't make the final round.

McAlister scores debut try as NZ completes 3-0 sweep of France



New Zealand's Brodie McAlister, left, scores a try despite the effort by France's Gael Fickou during their rugby union test match in Hamilton, New Zealand. (AP)

Scotland crushes Samoa in tour finale with seven-try show

HAMILTON, New Zealand, July 19, (AP): Replacement hooker Brodie McAlister scored a 76th-minute try on test debut to seal New Zealand's 29-19 win over France, completing a series sweep 3-0.

The All Blacks rallied from 19-8 down in the first half, taking the lead for the first time in the 59th minute and holding on with 12 unanswered points in the second spell.

A try to center Anton Lienert-Brown three minutes after the halftime siren was crucial to the All Blacks' comeback win, allowing them to go to halftime only two points behind at 19-17.

The All Blacks then played mostly in France's territory in the last quarter to close out the match by adding 12 unanswered points.

Scrumhalf Nolann Le Garrec scored a try among 16 points as France established its 19-8 lead by the 36th minute. He converted his own try and kicked a penalty for France to lead 10-0 after 19 minutes.

He then added two more penalties while France's only other points came from a dropped goal by fly-half Antoine Hastoy.

New Zealand scored a 22nd-minute try through winger Will Jordan to stay in the match, then crucially scored again in the dying moments of the first half to set up a thrilling second spell.

Hastoy missed a dropped goal and Le Garrec a penalty attempt early in the second half before New Zealand gained its first lead with a try to back-rower Du'Plessis Kirifi to start the last quarter.



New Zealand's Fabian Holland, top right, out jumps France's Hugo Auradou, top left, to win the ball during their rugby union test match in Hamilton, New Zealand. (AP)

Winger Emilien Gailleton was forced out in the corner in Jordie Barrett's tackle in the 61st minute, preventing France from immediately regaining the lead.

McAlister's try made the game safe. Center Barrett broke through the French line with a fend, and McAlister was at his hip to take the ball, dive, and slide over the line.

The try denied a brave French team that tested New Zealand to its limits. France named its strongest lineup of the series, while New Zealand made 10 changes to its starting lineup from the second test.

The All Blacks looked good in the short periods of the first half when they were able to lift the tempo of the match, creating opportunities from kicks into an unguarded French backfield, one of which led to Jordan's try.

But France was able to disrupt New Zealand at the breakdown and won numerous turnovers from the All Blacks' lineup.

France's goal line defense was superb and New Zealand players were held up over the line on four occasions. The French were also outstanding in the collision area, causing frequent handling errors which disrupted the All Blacks' continuity.

A fan released a cockerel, the symbol of French rugby, onto the field during the second half as a tribute to the touring team.

Scrumhalf Jamie Dobie played a leading role as Scotland scored seven tries to two to beat Samoa 41-12 in the final match of its Pacific Tour.

Scotland set out to celebrate the end of its three-match tour, on which it beat the New Zealand Maori and lost to

Fiji, by playing attractive, high-tempo rugby. It succeeded despite the loss of several leading players to the British and Irish Lions in Australia.

Dobie was a constant attacking threat in the first half from both set play and in the loose. He moved to the wing in the second half as Scotland ran out of back replacements with a six-two split on the bench, but remained a strong ball-carrier and willing defender.

Samoa was playing its first match in 2025 and had six players on debut, including Niko Jones, son of former All Black Michael Jones, and Jacob Umaga, nephew of former All Blacks captain Tana Umaga.

Hooker Ewan Ashman scored Scotland's first try after eight minutes, and it added others from center Rory Hutchinson and wingers Arron Reed and Kyle Steyn to lead 22-0 at halftime.

Samoa won more possession, had faster breakdown ball, and was more competitive in the second half, scoring tries through lock Ben Petaia Nee-Nee and center Duncan Paia'a who plays for Toulon in France. But Scotland picked up three further tries from lock Grant Gilchrist, fullback Kyle Rowe and replacement hooker George Turner.

"We knew Samoa was going to be really tough opposition today," Scotland captain Rory Darge said. "From our point of view, the things we did better around the breakdown, around the discipline, just made the game so much better for us. We're delighted with the performance."

Ashman's opening try came from a lineout drive, peeling away to the blindside to touch down.

Hutchinson then won the race to Stafford McDowall's kick to score in the 13th minute. The Scotland midfield

Dempsey wants exciting soccer

Success on field will help build pro-American crowds

WASHINGTON, July 19, (AP): Clint Dempsey says success on the field during friendlies over the next year would help the U.S. fill seats with pro-American fans at the World Cup next year, a turnaround from pro-opponent crowds at this year's CONCACAF Gold Cup.

Coach Mauricio Pochettino and current players took note that spectators were overwhelmingly rooting for Guatemala in St. Louis and Mexico in Houston.



In this file photo, Clint Dempsey makes remarks during an induction ceremony for the United States National Soccer Hall of Fame in Frisco, Texas. (AP)

"We were outnumbered in the games that mattered in terms of the semifinal and then final. There were more fans for the opposing team. So it's up to the national team players to put a product on the field that makes people want to go spend their hard-earned money," Dempsey said during an interview with The Associated Press. "I think with everybody being back and having that fight and kind of mixing that together with the quality, I think that will give people motivation to go out there and support this team."

The Americans have 10 friendlies on FIFA international fixture dates, two each in September, October, November, March and June, before opening the World Cup at Inglewood, California, on June 12. They play at Seattle seven days later then close the group stage at Inglewood on June 25.

"I want to see a team that is playing in an exciting style, whether it's defending well, building out of the back, getting forward, creating chances, getting goals," Dempsey said. "I just want to see the fight and the grit that we saw in the Gold Cup, just with more quality. That's what I'm looking forward to, that team that gets you believing again that they can go and win games against top competition."

Dempsey, tied with Landon Donovan for the American record of 57 international goals, is an analyst for CBS soccer coverage and the Men In Blazers Media Network, and he worked for Fox at the 2022 World Cup. He currently is involved in a promotion for the health care company Abbott in which 11 players will be selected to train at Real Madrid with club coaches and with input from Abbott scientists and the club's medical staff.

Now 42, Dempsey played for U.S. teams that were eliminated in the group stage of the 2006 World Cup, reached the round of 16 in 2010 and '14, and failed to qualify for the 2018 tournament. He says the rebuild for 2022, when the Americans again reached the round of 16, was positive with the new energy but came at the cost of veteran expertise. Defender DeAndre Yedlin was the only holdover from 2014.

After winning the CONCACAF Nations League in 2021, 2023 and 2024, the Americans were eliminated in the group stage of the 2024 Copa

America, causing the U.S. Soccer Federation to replace Gregg Berhalter with Pochettino, and lost in the semifinals of this year's Nations League and the final of this year's Gold Cup.

"There wasn't that big mix of a lot of older players kind of passing down lessons that they learned over the years," Dempsey said. "And sometimes it's one of those situations where you need someone to shake things up, right? You don't know if it's egos. You don't know what is the reason for why things don't work out. So I think after Copa America after Nations League, there definitely needed to be some things shook up."

"And I think the more that people kind of look over their shoulder a little bit, their spots are not guaranteed, you have a culture that through training you can fight your way into getting into that starting lineup, I think people can get behind that and believe in that."

Dempsey and wife Bethany have six children that keep them busy, daughters Elyse (16), Fifi (12) and Maevy (2), and sons Jackson (14) and Clay (10) and Linc (4).

Jackson plays for Charlotte's academy. Dempsey doesn't coach, and while he never expected to remain in soccer as a broadcaster, he's pleased with his new roles.

At the World Cup, the U.S. will be seeded as one of the three co-hosts. That means the Americans won't have a top 10 opponent in their group and if they finish first could avoid a strong nation in the new round of 32.

"If you are looking on numbers and looking on paper," Dempsey said, "you have a chance to do something special and hopefully they take advantage of it. I think we need all the best players fit, playing week in, week out. I'm excited to see what they do with mixing a little bit more quality into this fighting and gritty kind of culture that you've seen throughout the Gold Cup."

Di Lollo rescues point for Boca

BUENOS AIRES, July 19, (Xinhua): Lautaro Di Lollo scored late as Boca Juniors salvaged a 1-1 home draw with Union Santa Fe in Argentina's Primera Division.

Cristian Tarragona gave the visitors the lead at La Bombonera with a spectacular close-range volley after Franco Fragapane's floating cross from the right flank.

Lautaro Di Lollo equalized by meeting Leandro Paredes' corner with a powerful header past goalkeeper Matias Tagliamonte.

Boca dominated most of the match, controlling 74 percent of the total possession and completing almost three times as many passes as Union.

But the Buenos Aires giants managed only two shots on target against Union's disciplined defensive block.

The result leaves Union top of the Group A standings with four points from two games, two points ahead of fifth-placed Boca.

Atletico Tucuman was held to a 1-1 home draw by Central Cordoba.

□ □ □

Sao Paulo has signed Chilean forward Gonzalo Tapia on loan from Argentina's River Plate, the Brazilian Serie A club said.

The 23-year-old will be tied to Sao Paulo until June 2026 under a deal that includes a purchase option.

"I'm very happy and excited," Tapia told Sao Paulo's official website. "When the club approached me about coming here, I had no doubts. The truth is, I really wanted to come. Sao Paulo is one of the biggest clubs in Brazil, and I will always give my all for the shirt." Tapia made just seven appearances for River following his March move from Universidad Catolica.

The Chile international was reportedly a special request of Argentine manager Hernan Crespo, who returned for a second spell in charge of Sao Paulo last month.

Sao Paulo is currently 16th in the 20-team Brazilian top flight standings with just two wins from 14 games so far.

Change Name

I, ROSHAN PERARA, S/o Lawrence pereira, R/at H. No. 146 Church Road Neeragadde have changed my name as ROSHAN LOWRENCE PEREIRA

Arsenal signs England forward Madueke from Chelsea

LONDON, July 19, (AP): Arsenal's transfer spree continued with the signing of England forward Noni Madueke from Chelsea.

He is Arsenal's fourth signing of the offseason after midfielders Martin Zubimendi and Christian Norgard and goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga.

The 23-year-old Madueke's move comes after two and a half years at Chelsea, where he won the Club World

Cup and Conference League.

"Noni already has valuable experience at the top level and we know he will make a big impact at Arsenal," sporting director Andrea Berta said.

Madueke reportedly signed for a fee of 48.5 million pounds (\$65 million) on a five-year contract. Madueke is also a part of Thomas Tuchel's England squad and is in contention to play at next year's World Cup if the team qualifies.

"Noni is an exciting and powerful young player, with his performances and numbers in recent seasons being of consistently high quality," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said. "At just 23, Noni already brings experience of club and international football, and he knows the Premier League very well. Having seen the quality of Noni's performances up close in recent seasons, we're really excited he is joining us."

German completes a clean sweep

Wellbrock, Kajimoto win historic 3km knockout sprint titles in Singapore

SINGAPORE, July 19, (Xinhua): Germany's Florian Wellbrock and Japan's Ichika wrote their names into the history books on Saturday, clinching golds in the inaugural 3km open water knockout sprint events at the World Aquatics Championships on Singapore's Sentosa Island.

The newly introduced event saw swimmers progress through three elimination rounds - 1500m, 1000m, and a final 500m dash - with only the fastest surviving each stage.

Wellbrock, 27, completed a clean sweep of the men's open water titles this week, adding the sprint crown to his earlier victories in the 10km and 5km races. The Olympic champion from Tokyo 2020 looked untouchable from start to finish.

"The strategy was to have a good position in the 1500m and 1km, and being in the top position in the 500m," said Wellbrock. "To be a good open water swimmer, you need the speed from the pool. We can use this speed for the final 500m, and that's so nice." Wellbrock pulled away in the final stretch of the 500m to edge Hungary's David Betlehem by 1.7 seconds. France's Marc-Antoine Olivier, competing at his sixth World Championships, took bronze, matching his result from the 5km event.

With his third gold in Singapore, Wellbrock became the first swimmer in history to win three individual open water titles at a single edition of the World Championships. The German now holds 13 career World Championship medals, including nine golds, across pool and open water disciplines.

"It wasn't my goal to come here for three golds, but it's so nice to be on top of the podium three times in a row," he said.

In the women's event, 21-year-old Kajimoto timed her final sprint to perfection in a dramatic finish, despite losing her swim cap midway through the 500m.

"I lost my cap and I could not see my peripherals, but I just tried my hardest and fastest," she said. "It was a very good result." Australia's Moesha Johnson and



Gold medalist Ichika Kajimoto of Japan poses with her country flag after winning the women's 3km knockout sprint final at the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore. (AP)



Gold medalist Florian Wellbrock of Germany poses on the podium after winning the men's 3km knockout sprint final at the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore. (AP)

Germany's Isabel Gose exchanged the lead throughout the final but got caught in a duel that opened the door for Italy's Ginevra Taddeucci and Kajimoto to surge late.

Kajimoto, who also won bronze in the 5km on Friday and claimed a surprise

World Cup title in Portugal last month, surged through clean water to out-touch the field and claim Japan's first-ever gold in the new event.

Taddeucci, 28, earned her third silver of the meet, while Johnson and Hungary's Bettina Fabian shared bronze after an inseparable finish.

Spain ends Switzerland's 'spirited' run in quarters



Switzerland's Lia Waelti, left, tries to tackle Spain's Alexia Putellas during the Women's Euro 2025 quarterfinals soccer match between Spain and Switzerland at Stadion Wankdorf in Bern, Switzerland. (AP)

Two goals in a five-minute spell

BERN, Switzerland, July 19, (AP): Spain ended Switzerland's dreamy midsummer run through its home Women's European Championship in a 2-0 win in the quarterfinals despite missing two penalty kicks.

Swiss resistance was broken by the world champion's two goals in a five-minute spell midway through the second half.

Athenea Del Castillo slotted in a shot from Aitana Bonmati's flicked assist in the 66th, just four minutes after coming off the bench, and Clàudia Pina curled a shot from the edge of the penalty area in the 71st.

"These players are making history," Spain coach Montse Tomé said.

Her team sang on the field in their celebratory team photo after reaching the semifinals for the first time in 28 years.

Spain has a tournament-leading 16 goals yet could not score from the spot.

Mariona Caldentey skewed her



Spain's Athenea Del Castillo celebrates scoring during the Women's Euro 2025 quarterfinal soccer match between Switzerland and Spain at Wankdorf stadium in Bern, Switzerland. (AP)

penalty badly wide in the ninth minute and Alexia Putellas' shot was saved by Livia Peng in the 88th.

Switzerland's spirited young team gave its noisy home fans hope of a stunning upset, even more so after Caldentey's bad miss was greeted by a grateful roar in the sold-out Wankdorf Stadium.

"We had some luck but the world champions Spain were too good for

us today," Switzerland coach Pia Sundhage said.

Spain also struck the posts of Switzerland's goal three times including in back-to-back chances in a frantic scramble at a corner in the 60th.

"It was a very hard-fought victory," Tomé said. "We expected a game like the one we had, we had to be patient."

Switzerland defender Noelle

Maritz was sent off in stoppage time for a foul as the last defender.

Spain defender Laia Aleixandri is suspended for the semifinals after her second yellow card of the tournament, for a first-half foul on Iman Beney.

The quality of penalty kicks taken in these quarterfinals has been shockingly bad.

Spain's Caldentey joined Norway captain Ada Hegerberg in placing her spot kick low and wide. Hegerberg's miss came when Norway trailed 1-0 in a 2-1 loss to Italy on Wednesday.

With Caldentey off the field, Putellas struck Spain's second penalty hard though at a good height for Swiss goalkeeper Livia Peng to dive to the left and push away.

Just five of 14 penalties were scored on Thursday in the shootout between England and Sweden.

England won the shootout despite four saves by Sweden goalkeeper Jennifer Falk. Sweden struck a post and sent two over the crossbar, including Falk's kick that would have won the game.

"I don't know what happens in other teams" Tomé said, adding "we practiced penalties."

Al-Awadat & Abu Jazar arrive as Tadic leads Kazma training

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 19: Salmiya is nearing the signing of Jordanian player Hussam Abu Dahab to reinforce its squad ahead of the new Zain Premier League season, which kicks off on September 12.

Born in 2000, Abu Dahab previously played for Jordan's Al-Faisaly and has represented his national team in numerous matches. Salmiya's coach, Nasser Al-Shatti, aims to finalize several signings to strengthen the team, which has already renewed contracts with Tunisian Imed Louati, Brazilian Alex Lima, and Libyan Sanousi Al-Hadi.

Kazma began its pre-season training yesterday under the guidance of Croatian head coach Dragan Tadić at their secondary training ground. The team plans to hold an overseas training camp in August, featuring several friendly matches to prepare for the upcoming season.

Tadić arrived alongside his technical team, including assistant coach Zeljko Klaić and fitness coach Milan Staff. The squad also welcomed two new Jordanian signings, Anas Al-Awadat and Youssef Abu Jazar.

Kazma further strengthened its roster by signing midfielder Sultan Al-Enezi, who has previous experience with Qadsia and Al-Arabi and spent last season at Omani club Dhofar. Additionally, Olympic team player Bandar Al-Barazi joined from Al-Nasr. Defender Bader Dhikra and striker Mishaal Al-Shammari renewed their contracts for another season. The club also signed Jordanian professional Ali Al-Azaiza and extended the contract of Nigerian player Samson Enikola.

Media reports indicate that Iraqi striker Ayman Hussein has received two offers



Hussam Abu Al-Dahab

from local clubs following his recent contract termination with Qatari side Al-Wakrah.

Despite showing strong performances with his previous clubs and the Iraqi national team last year, Hussein's form has declined this year, impacting his market value.

Moroccan forward Hamza Khaba is demanding the remaining unpaid wages from his former club Al-Arabi after his contract ended in June.

Khaba stated he has yet to receive his full payments, while an Al-Arabi source claimed the player is only owed one month's salary. Regarding an offer from Qadsia, Khaba passed his medical exam but the transfer stalled due to financial disagreements.

Japan, Australia set up showdown

SHENZHEN, July 19, (Xinhua): Japan upset defending champion China 90-81 in the semifinal at the FIBA Women's Asia Cup on Saturday.

Japan will contend for the title with Australia, who held off South Korea 86-73.

Japan shot an impressive 47.1 percent on 3-pointers. Young point guard Kokoro Tanaka shot 10 of 16 for a game-high 27 points. Yuki Miyazawa added 18 points.

"That was a game that the players followed the game plan. We had a strategy into this game, they executed it. China countered it, then we changed to another plan. The win was for the players. They really did their job," said Japan coach Corey Gaines.

Tanaka, 19, dominated the opening stages, making eight of nine from the floor, including nailing five 3-pointers, for a 21-point first-quarter masterclass, as the

score was knotted at 27-27 at the quarter's end.

A pair of 3-pointers from Nanako Todo gave Japan an early initiative in the second quarter. China's twin towers of Han Xu and Zhang Ziyu featured in the game with 4:49 remaining, while Japan set up an eight-point cushion at 49-41 with 2:29 remaining.

It was where Zhang began to sparkle as the 18-year-old prodigy snatched eight straight points, and Yang Shuyu capped a 10-point run with two free throws that fueled the host to a 51-49 advantage at the break.

Japan rode on a 10-0 surge midway through the third quarter to gain ground, and carried a 73-65 margin entering the fourth quarter.

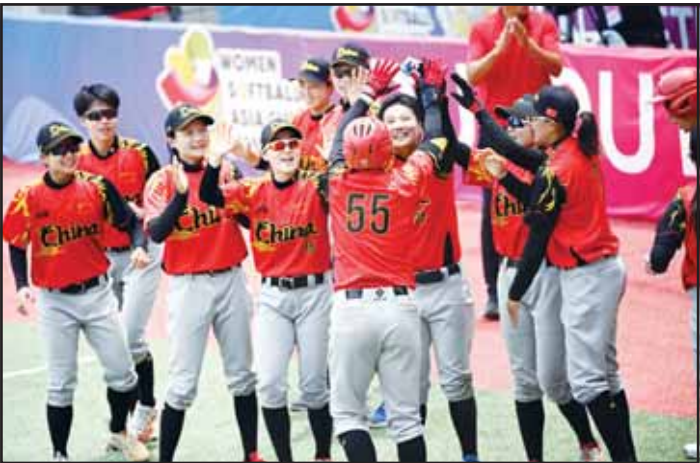
Japan continued its clinical performance from a 3-point range, thwarting China's every comeback effort to secure the win.

Ren powers China into final showdown against Japan

XI'AN, China, July 19, (Xinhua): Two home runs from Ren Min propelled China to an 8-4 victory over Chinese Taipei and a place in the women's softball Asia Cup final against defending champion Japan as the round-robin stage concluded here on Saturday.

"I am satisfied with my performance today," Ren told Xinhua. "I see it as the result of many years of hard work, and it's a kind of recognition for myself." Both teams entered the match tied with a 7-1 record and the winner would earn a spot in Sunday's final against Japan, who topped the standings with a perfect 9-0.

Looking into the second encounter with the world No. 1 after Friday's 10-0 loss, Ren noted: "I hope we can play our game just like we did today, cherishing every pitch and every swing, and doing everything we should do." China took an early lead with Ren's two-run homer in the first inning and extended it to 3-0 in the third, when Yan Siyu's double and Xie Yue's RBI single brought pinch runner Gui Yuanyuan home, prompting Chinese Taipei to



Players of China celebrate during the round robin match between China and Chinese Taipei at the WBSC Women Softball Asia Cup 2025 in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province. (Xinhua)

replace starting pitcher Ke Hsia-Ai with Chu Yi-Shan.

Lin Feng-Chen answered with a solo shot in the bottom of the third, but China restored its three-run cushion in the fourth as Wang Bei singled, Li Jiaqi walked, and He Xiaoyan reached on an error to score

Zeng Zhilin.

In the fifth inning, Ren struck again with her second home run after Xi Kailin's single to widen the gap, and despite Chinese Taipei loading the bases and pushing across a run on a fielder's choice, pitcher Chai Yinan's strikeout ended the

threat at 6-2.

China scored two more points and resisted Chinese Taipei's late comeback efforts in the seventh to seal the 8-4 victory.

"Our offense gave great support to our defense, and our defense also did very well. I'm really grateful to my teammates," said Chai, who pitched the entire match, allowing six hits while making five strikeouts.

With the victory, China finished second on the standings behind Japan with an 8-1 record, enough to secure its berth for the 2026 World Cup. The only remaining ticket will be up for grabs in the bronze medal match between third-placed Chinese Taipei (7-2) and fourth-placed the Philippines (6-4) on Sunday.

"Since May, they've been under intense training. Many players carried injuries but still gave their all at the Asia Cup. Especially in the game against the Philippines, they showed great resilience. They deserve the credits for their resilience and fighting spirit on the field," coach Tang Changdong praised the team's performance after the round-robin matches.

ARAB TIMES

Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call

51508991

51526559

NEWS



Napoli's Kevin De Bruyne, left, and Sports director Giovanni Manna hold a Napoli jersey in Dimaro, Italy. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait Disabled Sports Club wins West Asia Clubs Cup



KUNA photo

Al-Hajri in the middle of wheelchair basketball champions.

Outstanding achievement by the wheelchair basketball team

AMMAN, July 19, (KUNA): The Kuwait Disabled Sports Club's wheelchair basketball team has been crowned champion of the West Asian Clubs Cup after a dominant 74-35 victory over Jordan's Ajjal Al-Ghad in the final held recently in Amman.

Minister of Social Affairs and State Minister for Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, extended her congratulations to the team, hailing the triumph as a reflection of the strong will and determination of Kuwaiti athletes. She noted that the achievement enhances Kuwait's image in regional and international sporting arenas and showcases the nation's commitment to inclusion and excellence.

Club President Shafi Al-Hajri dedicated the win to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Sabah, and the people of Kuwait.

"I congratulate all our players for this outstanding achievement," Al-Hajri said. "They showed true determination and delivered top-level performances through-

out the tournament, winning every match to secure the title."

He also praised the technical and administrative staff, highlighting the contribution of head coach Hosam Ibrahim, who has led the team's development over the past decade. "Coach Hosam has played a crucial role in elevating the team's technical and physical standards," Al-Hajri added.

Kuwait faces a crucial test against Saudis in Volleyball Championship

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

MANAMA, July 19: Kuwait's national volleyball team will take on Saudi Arabia today in its second match of the inaugural West Asia Men's Volleyball Championship, being held at Isa bin Rashid Hall in Bahrain. The Group A clash is scheduled to begin at 1:00 pm, as part of the tournament's second round of fixtures.

Also in Group A, Qatar will take on Oman, while Group B features two matchups: the UAE vs. Jordan and Bahrain vs. Lebanon.

The tournament officially began late last night, with Kuwait facing Oman in its opening fixture.

In preparation for the championship, the Kuwaiti squad held an over-



International referee Hussein Al-Tamimi

seas training camp in Tunisia, where it played four friendlies—winning

two and losing two. Under the leadership of Argentine head coach Julián Alvarez and assistant coach Zaid Al-Kazemi, the team aims to deliver strong performances and secure a spot in the semifinals.

This first-ever edition of the West Asia Championship carries significant weight, as it is held under the umbrella of the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB), and its outcomes will influence international rankings. Being the inaugural tournament, every participating nation is highly motivated to make history by becoming the first champion of the event.

In other news, continental referee Hussein Al-Tamimi has arrived in Bahrain to participate in officiating matches throughout the tournament.

Beirne voted player of the match

Lions roar past Wallabies in series opener

BRISBANE, Australia, July 19, (AP): Finn Russell kicked a penalty, landed three conversions, and set up the first try as the British and Irish Lions led from the first minute on the way to overpowering the Wallabies 27-19 in the series-opening rugby test Saturday.

In their first test match in Australia in 12 years, the Lions were dominant almost from the opening kickoff and led 17-5 at halftime following tries to Australia-born center Sione Tuipulotu in the 9th minute and flanker Tom Curry in the 36th.

"We're delighted with the win," Lions skipper Maro Itoje said. "The game was a tough test match. We started well, first half, we played a lot of good stuff."

Ireland flanker Tadhg Beirne was voted player of the match in a forward pack that set the platform for the Lions.

"Delighted for the team - incredible win," he said. "We knew it would be a battle."

"I thought our defense was very good for the most part. The last quarter there, we started leaking a lot of penalties," Beirne continued. "We're certainly going to have to look at those and fix up those areas."

The Lions will go to Melbourne with a chance to clinch the three-test series and retain the trophy they won here in 2013.

"The goal is to win every game here, and we started off with a win," Beirne said. The goal continues next week. We're competitors, and we want to win every week."



Dan Sheehan of the British & Irish Lions, center, goes past Australia's Tom Lynagh, left, and Jake Gordon during their first rugby union test in Brisbane, Australia. (AP)

The Lions were consistently dangerous in attack and played with much better structure than the Australians, regularly having multiple options with the ball in hand and numbers in defense.

Australia's only points of the first half were against the run of play in the 29th, cutting the margin to 10-5, when winger Max Jorgensen contested Jake Gordon's high box kick in the air, won possession, and sprinted 22 meters to score in the right corner.

Lions hooker Dan Sheehan barged

over in the right corner two minutes after the halftime break, after strong lead-up work from Huw Jones and Russell converted to make it 24-5.

The Australians cut the margin to 12 points with 12 minutes remaining when replacement backrower Carlo Tizzano burrowed over from close range.

Marcus Smith made it 27-12 with a penalty goal six minutes from time before Australia's replacement scrumhalf Tate McDermott scored in the dying minutes to cut the margin to eight points.

The Lions are now 6-0 in their Australian tour after wins over Super Rugby franchises Western Force,

Queensland Reds, Waratahs, Brumbies, and an Australia-New Zealand invitational XV. The Lions scored two tries, had one disallowed, and went close to scoring three other tries in a first half that set the tone.

Australia's new cap Nick Champion de Crespigny bravely took a catch in the air from the kickoff for his first touch in international rugby, but things started going badly for the home team two phases later when center Joseph-Aukuso Sua'ali'i was penalized for not releasing in the tackle.

Russell kicked the goal from 30 meters out to give the Lions a 3-0 and, seven minutes later, the Scottish flyhalf set up the first try for Tuipulotu and converted it for a 10-0 margin.

It looked almost too easy when, after a series of rucks in the attacking quarter, Russell ran left to right and floated a long cut-out pass to Tuipulotu in open space, and the former Australia Under-20 player strolled over to score almost untouched.

The scoreboard briefly registered 15-0 when center Jones crossed in the 19th minute, but the try was disallowed on review when the Television Match Official ruled that the Scottish midfielder didn't release the ball when he was dragged down in a tackle five yards out before regaining his feet to score.

CAIRO, July 19: Kuwait's Olympic national football team is set to play its fourth friendly match today during its training camp in Cairo, Egypt. The Blues will meet Egypt at 8:00 pm. at El-Hadaf Stadium.

In its third friendly, Kuwait fell to Egypt 3-2. Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi and Jasem Al-Matar scored for the Kuwaiti side.

The match was attended by Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt, Ghanem Saqr Al-Ghanem, along with Osama Hussein, Vice President of the Kuwait Football Association for Technical Affairs; board member Dr. Ahmad Ajab; Al-Arabi representative Ali Atsh; and National Teams Director Saud Al-Mujaimmed.

This camp is part of Kuwait's preparation for the AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers, scheduled for January in Saudi Arabia. Kuwait is in Group B alongside Japan, Afghanistan, and Myanmar. The qualifiers will run from September 1 to 9 in Myanmar.

Separately, Kuwait's youth national team played to a 2-2 draw with the



Players celebrate during the first match against Egypt.

Czech youth team Dukla Prague during its ongoing training camp in the Czech Republic. The match was attended by KFA board member Fahad Al-Hamdan and Kuwait's Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Fahad

Al-Hajraf.

Goals for Kuwait were scored by Bader Al-Zanki and Youssef Al-Enezi. The youth team is expected to play more friendlies in the coming days to prepare for upcoming commitments.

China wins first solo technical title

SINGAPORE, July 19, (Xinhua): China's world junior champion Xu Huiyan became a senior world champion on Saturday, capturing the country's first women's solo technical gold medal at the World Aquatics Championships.

Xu, 19, who won four gold medals at the Artistic Swimming World Cup Super Final in China's Xi'an this June, claimed the victory with 272.9917 points. Competing as a neutral athlete, Belarus' Vasilina Khandoshka took silver with 260.5416, and Spain's Iris Tio Casas earned bronze with 260.2917.

Xu also competed earlier in the day in the team free preliminaries, helping China qualify first for the final.

In the men's solo technical event, China's Guo Muye finished fourth with a score of 235.0725. Russia's Aleksandr Maltsev, competing as a neutral athlete, won gold with 251.7133 points in his solo debut. The artistic swimming veteran and multiple world champion in mixed duet was followed by Spain's Dennis Gonzalez with 241.1667 and Mexico's Diego Carrillo with 238.1600.

Maltsev, 30, is Russia's first male artistic swimmer and previously won silver in the mixed duet at the 2015 Kazan World Championships, where male athletes were included for the first time.

Government backs London bid to host athletics worlds

LONDON, July 19, (AP): The British government has announced its support of London's bid to host the 2029 athletics world championships.

London hosted the biannual premier track-and-field event in 2017 at the London Stadium, which also held the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2012 Olympic Games. The plan is to stage the 2029 worlds at the same venue.

Saturday's announcement included the government's support of a bid for Britain to host the 2029 World Para Athletics Championships.

"Subject to funding from partners being confirmed, the government has agreed to provide significant funding for both bids, reflecting the UK's ambition to once again bring the world's greatest athletes to UK shores," it said in a statement.

The announcement came with London hosting a Diamond League event on Saturday.

This year's athletics worlds will take place in Tokyo in September. The 2027 edition will be held in Beijing.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he's "delighted to support the bid." "The event would provide a boost for UK businesses and support jobs as well as bring our communities together," he said in a statement.