



Scan the QR code to access the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Palestine ... The case of lost opportunities

ARAB and Islamic history is full of setbacks whenever their compass strays from the right path. That is why revisiting history is essential, especially when it comes to a fateful issue like the Palestinian cause. Whatever is written falls short compared to the depth of its related disappointments.

Since 1936, the Arab and Islamic compass has shifted direction multiple times. The first uprising was transformed by Palestinian leaders into a form of compromise, even as Jewish settlement on the other side reached its peak. Indeed, some parties targeted the wrong goals, which only deepened the losses.

In 1947, the Arabs rejected the UN partition resolution. When British forces withdrew in 1948, the State of Israel was declared, and its forces began taking control of villages and cities, while the Arab armies retreated in a humiliating manner.

Using their eloquence as their most powerful weapon, the Arabs labeled the 1948 defeat “Na-

kba” to soften its impact. Yet again, the compass was pointed in the wrong direction. Four years after that failed war, the Egyptian Free Officers, led by Jamal Abdel Nasser, falsely claimed that King Farouk’s government had supplied the army with defective weapons.

Similar patterns unfolded in many Arab countries. Notable military coups followed in Iraq, then Syria, Libya, Yemen, Sudan, and a failed coup attempt in Lebanon.

The “Egyptian Revolution” changed its course, adopting the argument that “overthrowing reactionary regimes is a higher priority than liberating Palestine.”

Continued on Page 5

Follow me on:  
@Ahmedaljarallah  
Ahmed aljarallah  
ahmed@aljarallah.com

Scan QR code to visit the website:  
aljarallah.com



Amiri Diwan photo  
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud's invitation to attend the Future Investment Initiative (FII9).

Amir receives Saudi Crown Prince's invitation to attend '25 FII9 confab

KUWAIT CITY, July 22, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Tuesday at Bayan Palace an invitation to the Future Investment Initiative (FII9), to be held in Riyadh on October 27-30, 2025.

The invite, which was included in a written letter by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud, was delivered by Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Khaled Al Saud. Senior state officials attended the meeting.

Implement 2030 SDGs urgently: Gulf Group

NEW YORK, July 22, (KUNA): The Gulf Group at the United Nations has called for urgent effort to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda by turning agreed commitments into actions that support developing nations.

The call came in a statement delivered Kuwait's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Minister Plenipotentiary Faisal Al-Enezi on behalf of the Group at the of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) held Monday evening at the UN headquarters.

Al-Enezi warned that progress had been made only 17 percent of the 2030 goals, while many other remain stagnant, or have been relapsed below the 2015 starting points.

He pointed out that the annual global financing gap to meet these goals has exceeded USD four trillion, with only five years left until 2030, this shortfall threaten progress on critical issues.

Developing countries, he stressed, face intertwined challenges including widening inequalities, rising debt burdens, and worsening impacts of climate change, all hinder the progress.

He called for strengthening international cooperation, global solidarity, and multilateralism to overcome these challenges.

He emphasized the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries' focus on this year's SDGs review themes.

Regarding the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Al-Enezi noted that 2024 statistics show global marine reserves cover 8 percent of oceans, while the Middle East -- including the GCC -- has protected 36 percent of biologically important marine areas.

Al-Enezi praised progress made in development policy over the past two years and stressed the need for stronger regional and international collaboration to address cross-border challenges.

He concluded by reaffirming the Group's firm commitment to joint action and mobilizing available resources to achieve the 2030 goals, calling for partnerships and fair international cooperation that meets the aspirations of all peoples and future generations.

IDF TANKS ROLL INTO DEIR-AL-BALAH FOR FIRST TIME

Kuwait reiterates strong rebuke over unjust Israeli siege of Gaza

‘Halt genocide , systematic starvation’

KUWAIT CITY, July 22, (Agencies): The State of Kuwait reiterated its condemnation and denunciation of the unjust blockade imposed by the Israeli occupation on Gaza Strip, a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Monday.

The statement added the unjust blockade is a flagrant violation of international law and international humanitarian law, and disregards relevant international legitimacy resolutions, particularly Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 2417, which condemns the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare in conflict situations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the State of Kuwait's condemnation of these grave and brutal crimes, including the killing of food seekers.

The statement stressed the need for the international community and the Security Council to fulfill their legal and moral responsibilities and work to ensure the implementation of UN



KUNA photo  
The Arab League held an extraordinary session at the level of permanent representatives to address the ongoing starvation siege imposed on the Gaza Strip.

resolutions, lift the blockade imposed on the people in Gaza Strip, and to allow the immediate entry of humanitarian aid.

The ministry also called to halt the genocide and systematic starvation on the Palestinian people.

Meanwhile, the Arab League held an extraordinary session at the level of permanent representatives on Tuesday to address the ongoing starvation siege imposed on the Gaza Strip.

The session, chaired by Jordan and requested by Palestine, focused on the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, particularly the Israeli occupation's deliberate starvation of Gaza's population.

Discussions also addressed Israeli occupation plans to establish a so-called “humanitarian city” in southern Gaza, described during the session as a closed, racially segregated detention zone, which is a continuation of forced mass displacement and genocide.

The session further highlighted the grave repercussions of the Israeli occupation's targeting of mosques and churches, particularly efforts to strip the Hebron Municipality of its authority over the Ibrahimi Mosque in favor of a so-called “religious council” affiliated with illegal settlements.

The Council also reviewed possible political, legal, and diplomatic measures at both the Arab and international levels to confront these serious violations.

Continued on Page 5

Petitions to combat land monopoly filed

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: The Constitutional Court on Tuesday decided to hold a session on Sept 24 to deliberate on two petitions regarding the constitutionality of certain provisions of Law No. 126/2023 on combating the monopoly of vacant land.

The first petition -- numbered 15/2024 -- was filed by a member of the ruling family and others against HH the Prime Minister and a number of officials, challenging the constitutionality of several articles of the aforementioned law.

Continued on Page 5

Day by Day

SMILE ... You have nothing to lose. Your Lord is always with you, your provision is already destined, and your lifespan has been written by God from the beginning.

Be beautiful in spirit, so you can see the beauty in everything around you. Optimism is the key that clears away the clouds of sorrow.

The wise agree that nothing in life is perfect. It is a balance of good and evil. Contentment brings true happiness.

... Yet tomorrow is a new day.

Zahed Matar

DGCA to revamp T4 investment zone, duty-free shopping area

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: In line with its plan to develop Kuwait International Airport and modernize its investment and service infrastructure, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has started preparing for the implementation of an integrated project to develop and reshape the investment zone and duty-free shopping area in Terminal Four (T4) as per the latest international standards for airport operations and passenger service.

Reliable sources informed the newspaper that this radical change is in compliance with the directive of DGCA President Eng. Sheikh Ham-



Al-Sabah

oud Al-Sabah who prioritizes the development of airport facilities to be on par with international airports in terms of form, content and services provided, in accordance with the requirements of international civil aviation organizations.

Sources said the DGCA stressed the need for T4 to become an ideal environment that meets the aspirations of travelers, especially during peak travel seasons. Sources pointed out this will make the airport not just a transit station, but an integrated destination offering world-class commercial and investment services.

Sources revealed the directorate has launched dozens of investment tenders aimed at attracting major international and local companies to contribute to enriching the investment environment at the airport. Sources believe this will support the State budget through the revenues generated by these partnerships.

Continued on Page 5

8,957 travel bans issued in one month

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: The statistical report issued by the Department of Statistics and Research at the Ministry of Justice revealed that the Judicial Rulings Enforcement General Department recorded more than 1.35 million transactions in May.

This is a clear indication of the effectiveness of the new enforcement procedures, particularly the application of bank account seizure orders and the activation of arrest warrants against those who fail to pay their debts;

prompting thousands of people to expedite the settlement of their debts to avoid such strict measures.

According to the statistical report, the number of procedures completed by the department during the month reached 1,359,044. The highest number of these procedures are the requests for executive seizure of debts owed by third parties with 725,398 or 53.4 percent of the total transactions; while the debtor's presentation report procedures recorded the lowest percentage ever -- 0.0001 percent.

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

Census tops 5 mn

KUWAIT CITY, July 22, (KUNA): The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) declared on Tuesday that the population until June 30 reached 5,098,539. PACI said in a press statement on its official X account that the number of Kuwaiti nationals reached 1,550,547 and non-Kuwaitis 3,547,992.

RIYADH: Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Jassem Al-Budaiwi, received Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Iraq and Head of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Al-Hassan on Tuesday. According to a statement by the General Secretariat, the meeting discussed UNAMI efforts, in addition to other regional and international issues.

The Secretary General stressed GCC's support of ongoing efforts to achieve security and stability in Iraq, underscoring the importance of preserving its safety, territorial integrity, and full sovereignty. (KUNA)

CAIRO: Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Duaij Al-Sabah stressed Tuesday that v vehemently believes in international human rights conventions and treaties, mainly the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

Speaking to KUNA on the sidelines of her participation in the meeting of the states parties to the charter, which was held at the Cairo-based Arab League to look into a Libyan suggestion to revise Para III of Article 45 of the statute of the charter's committee regarding the mechanism of electing its members. (KUNA)



8 NBK reports KD 315.3 million in net profit for 1H2025



9 stc reports KD 17.3 mln net profit on H1 revenues of KD 174.6 mln

Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	03:31	Asr .....	15:29
Sunrise ..	05:02	Maghrib ..	18:46
Zohr .....	11:54	Isha .....	20:15

# Local

## Collaboration aims to boost Egypt's SMEs

### AFESD and EBRD forge partnership

CAIRO, July 22, (KUNA): The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) signed on Monday a partnership agreement with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) aimed at supporting entrepreneurship, innovation, and business sustainability in Egypt.

The AFESD stated in a statement to KUNA that this partnership is an important step to enhance capabilities of small and medium-sized enterprises by providing tailored consultancy through seminars, workshops, and training sessions.

The partnership focuses particularly on supporting projects led by



KUNA photo  
The Arab Fund and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development sign a partnership to support entrepreneurship in Egypt.

women and the youth with the aim of enabling them to grow and sustain.

Chairman of the Arab Fund Badr Al-Saad said that “small and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of the Egyptian economy as they contribute to creating job opportunities, and represent 90 percent of economic activity in the country.”

He noted that the partnership with the EBRD will provide necessary resources to enable these companies to expand and grow, which aligns with the Arab Fund’s strategy of maximizing developmental impact through jobs, innovation, and entrepreneurship.



Farwaniya Governorate photo  
Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives officials of the Director General of the General Training Department at the Ministry of Interior.

## Farwaniya Governor hosts Mol training officials

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received in his office on Tuesday the Director General of the General Training Department at the Ministry of Interior Brigadier Mohammed Badr Al-Roumi, Assistant Director General Brigadier Mishaal Anwar Al-Foudar, and the Director of the Coordination and Follow-up Department Brigadier General Dr. Anas Mahmoud Al-Qattan, to discuss joint cooperation.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, they discussed the role of the General Training Department, including the qualification and

professional programs it oversees. The discussion also covered the department’s main responsibilities and future plans for development and enhancing job performance.

The governor praised the department’s efforts in supporting the training system, emphasizing the importance of continued coordination and cooperation to achieve development goals.

At the end of the meeting, the guests expressed their gratitude for the governor’s warm welcome and his commitment to strengthening joint cooperation among various entities.

# Armenia eyes stronger Gulf links, lauds Kuwait support

## Envoy backs UAE mediation in peace efforts

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: Amid accelerating regional movements and aspirations to strengthen relations with the Gulf states, Armenian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Arsen Arakelyan affirmed that Armenia continues to toe the path of peace and openness, welcoming the balanced Arab role, especially the Emirati mediation aimed at ending the conflict with Azerbaijan, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Photo by Samer Shaqair  
Armenian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Arsen Arakelyan, during an exclusive interview with the Al-Seyassah daily.

Arakelyan affirmed that his country is open to peace and investment efforts, and puts importance to strengthening its relations with Kuwait and other Gulf states. He praised the strong ties between Yerevan and Kuwait, describing them as “historical relations built

on mutual respect and understanding.”

He added “Kuwait was among the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Armenia following independence, a position highly appreciated by the Armenian leadership and people.”

He also praised the tolerant environment that Kuwait has been providing for the Armenian community since the 1950s. He asserted that “Kuwait has embraced our citizens for decades and provided them with an environment conducive for living and working. We are always appreciative and grateful for this.”

Regarding the economic situation, he cited the successful investment experiences of Kuwaiti and Gulf investors in his country. He stressed that Armenia welcomes more economic partnerships, especially in agriculture, industry and trade sectors; which are promising areas within the national development plans.

On the launching of direct flights between Kuwait and the Armenian capital -- Yerevan, Arakelyan believes this step will contribute to ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation, expand the horizons of tourism and trade

exchange, and facilitate the movement of businesspersons between the two countries. He added “Armenia is an attractive destination that welcomes Kuwaiti investors and tourists.”

Talking about the regional issue, he confirmed the diplomatic efforts led by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with the aim of reaching an inclusive peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan. He stated “there are serious efforts to end the tension and open a new page. We hope that they will result in the signing of a final peace agreement through the fair Emirati mediation. We highly value this responsible role and the balanced approach of the UAE in supporting regional stability.”

On his country’s relations with neighboring countries, Arakelyan emphasized that the relationship between Armenia and Iran is “stable and it is managed rationally and responsibly in the interest of both parties.” He denied the existence of hostile practices from the Iranian side toward his country, underscoring the importance of dialogue as a means of maintaining regional stability.

## 128 students join values-based contest

### Kuwaiti charity supports Arab learners in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, July 22, (KUNA): The International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) has provided educational support to 100 students in eight Arab schools across Malaysia, as part of the second edition of the “My Right to Learn” project, which aims to help struggling students continue their education.

The Insan Foundation for Relief and Development in Malaysia said in a statement on Tuesday that the project, implemented in cooperation with IICO, targeted 100 students selected from eight partner Arab schools across the country.

It added that the second edition of the “My Right to Learn” project concluded with an educational competition titled “Our Life is More Beautiful with Values”, in which 128 students participated. The competition featured categories in the Holy Quran, Hadith, recitation, and essay writing.

IICO, in partnership with licensed institutions, implements educational and relief projects in Malaysia targeting struggling students, orphans, and



KUNA photo  
During the delivery of support from the International Islamic Charitable Organization in the State of Kuwait to empower struggling students in partner schools in Malaysia.

refugee families of various nationalities. Its activities include supporting tuition fees, distributing food aid, and organizing educational competitions -- all within a comprehensive development vision aimed at human development and promoting core values.

The closing ceremony of the “My Right to Learn” project was attended by the Dean of the Arab Diplomatic Corps in Malaysia, Yemeni Ambassador Dr. Adel Bahumid; First Secretary at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Malaysia, Abdulrah Al-Rashidi; Director of Educational

Programs at the International Islamic Charitable Organization in Kuwait, Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Maamari; and President of the Insan Foundation for Relief and Development, Professor Dr. Hosni Al-Joushei, along with several principals from the partner schools.

## Weather

**Expected weather for next 24 hrs:**  
**By Day:** Very hot with moderate to fresh northwesterly wind, with speeds of 20-50 km/h causing rising dust and some scattered clouds will appear.  
**By Night:** Hot to rather hot with

light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-40 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	48	37
Kuwait Airport	49	34

Abdaly	49	31
Jahra	50	33
Salmiyah	45	36
Ahmadi	44	33
Nuwaisib	48	32
Wafra	48	30
Salmiy	48	29

## Talks cover investment and global issues

# Kuwait and Lithuania sign MoU to strengthen political consultations

BERLIN, July 22, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait and Lithuania signed Monday a memo of understanding (MoU) aiming at holding political consultations between both countries.

Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Sadiq Marafi and Lithuanian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Audra Plepyte signed the MoU in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, the Kuwaiti Embassy in Germany said in a press release, a copy of which was obtained by KUNA.



Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Sadeq Maarafi and Lithuanian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Audra Plepyte sign the MoU in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius.

Following the signing, both sides held the first round of political consultations about bilateral economic and investment relations, according to the release.

They also looked into the exchange of expertise in scientific, medical and governance fields, along with major regional and international issues.

The Kuwaiti Embassy in Germany said in a statement obtained by Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the MoU was signed in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, by Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Sadiq Marafi and Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Audra Plepyte.

The statement added that following the signing, the two sides held the first round of consultations, with the Kuwaiti side headed by Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Sadiq Marafi and the Lithuanian side led by Deputy Foreign Minister Audra Plepyte.

According to the statement, the two sides discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations at all levels, especially in the economic and investment sectors, in line with Kuwait’s Vision 2035.

The meeting also covered opportunities for exchanging expertise in the scientific, medical, and governance fields, as well as key regional and international issues, including opportunities for cooperation in international forums.



KUNA photos  
Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Sadiq Mohammed Marafi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Audra Pilpeti, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Germany assigned to the Republic of Lithuania Reem Mohammed Al-Khaled, and Romanos Davidonis, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Arab Emirates.

The Kuwaiti side was represented in the consultations by Reem Al-Khaled, the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Germany and non-resident Ambassador to the Republic of

Lithuania, and Ramunas Davidonis, the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Arab Emirates and non-resident Ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

## Other Voices

### Mizrahi Jews speak out

By Ahmad alsarraf

JEWS from the Middle East and North Africa are commonly referred to as “Mizrahim”, a term derived from the Hebrew word “mizrah”, meaning “east”, with some identifying as Arab Jews.



alsarraf

The Mizrahim trace their roots to some of the world’s oldest Jewish communities, dating back to the Babylonian and Roman exiles. Historically, they lived in countries such as Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Syria, Egypt, and Morocco.

Over centuries, the Mizrahim developed unique traditions, languages, and customs shaped by the diverse societies in which they lived.

Nearly all Mizrahi Jews immigrated to Israel before, during, and after 1948, and today they make up nearly half of the country’s population.

However, as Eastern Jews, they faced discrimination similar to that experienced by Sephardic Jews, whose roots trace back to Spain and Portugal, at the hands of the Ashkenazim, the upper class of Israeli society whose origins lie primarily in Russia, Ukraine, Eastern Europe, and to a lesser extent Western Europe.

Prominent anti-Zionist political commentator Alon Mizrahi, who identifies as an Arab Jew, recently offered his perspective on developments concerning the relationship

between Lebanon and Syria, and the roles the United States and Israel are playing in them.

Mizrahi claimed that the recent aggressive rhetoric and actions toward these two countries stem from a simple reason - The Israelis realize, and can feel, that the era of Zionism is rapidly nearing its end, both in American public opinion and in the Middle East.

He described the current efforts as a last-ditch attempt to secure short-term gains in the hope that the existing political structure might somehow survive. However, he suggested that such hopes are unlikely to materialize. The remainder of his commentary focused on what he views as the looming decline of the Israeli state.

Mizrahi’s words may strike some as overly optimistic. After all, who would have imagined that Iran, isolated under a harsh American-Western blockade for over 40 years, lacking even a single operational warplane, and governed by a hardline religious regime, could partially breach Israel’s defenses and inflict any level of disruption? Yet it has managed to do so. While the situation remains complex, the long-elusive dream of peace may now be closer than ever.

But what about Israel’s nuclear arsenal? Some may point to Ukraine, which once gave up its nuclear weapons, as a precedent. Neutralizing Israel’s nuclear capabilities is not impossible, especially as other regional powers now possess comparable strategic assets. However, achieving such an outcome remains highly unlikely in the near future.

Email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

## Energy Ministry plans expansion of combined-cycle power plants

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy is moving toward expanding the use of combined-cycle turbine units in power plants planned for construction in the coming period.

Reliable sources explained that the ministry relies on three types of unit technologies with varying productivity: steam turbines with an installed capacity of around 8,970 megawatts; gas turbines with an installed capacity

of about 8,116 megawatts; and combined-cycle units with a capacity of 3,094 megawatts. Sources said this is according to the latest statistics of the ministry.

Sources indicated that the largest proportion of installed capacity in all power plants is in steam turbine units; disclosing one of the major drawbacks in this regard is the high construction and maintenance costs. Sources added these units require a long period to operate -- around five hours, making them unsuitable for sudden power surges.

# diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## ‘Foreigners keep away from land brokerage’

“TO date, despite the efforts of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare, the number of housing applications continues to rise rather than decline. While certain nationalities are being reviewed for eligibility, properties are being offered for sale and prices are dropping to unprecedented levels... Yet the housing crisis continues,” Kuwaiti journalist **Hassan Ali Karam** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Thousands of young Kuwaitis are still waiting for housing allocations, and many more are lining up to submit new applications.”

“Kuwait’s habitable land has been shrinking due to urban and service-related expansion, making it increasingly difficult to find suitable plots for residential development. As a result, horizontal expansion now often means carving out minimal living space, barely enough for a single home or a small family, along with limited services.

“Some real estate developers, whether owners or brokers, seem more focused on amassing wealth than protecting the future of the country and the next generations. Securing the future is not about hoarding money in banks or stuffing pillows with dinars, dollars, pounds, and euros.

“As for the notion of contentment, it holds little meaning for those whose true devotion is to the dinar, which for them is as essential as a hearty meal at lunch or dinner. When the government lends an ear to such voices, they tell the wealthy that their money is theirs by right, while telling the poor to rely solely on divine mercy.

“Allowing foreign ownership or trade in real estate is nothing short of a blow aimed at breaking the backs of Kuwaiti brokers. Foreigners should neither be permitted to engage in real estate trading nor allowed to profit from property ownership.

Real estate brokerage is a Kuwaiti profession, and it should remain so. The livelihoods of citizens must not be compromised, only for someone to later claim that Kuwaitis are not fit for this line of work.”

### Also:

“After a long wait, the Ministry of Higher Education has finally announced a new scholarship program targeting Kuwaiti high school graduates to study Entrepreneurship and Artificial Intelligence (AI) at top international universities,” **Dr. Hanan Yousef Al-Sharrah**, an academic professor specialized in entrepreneurship and artificial intelligence, wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“This initiative marks a strategic shift toward building a knowledge-based economy founded on innovation and technology. The decision comes at a time when the world is undergoing unprecedented transformations driven by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, with AI emerging as the main engine of economic growth. Meanwhile, entrepreneurship has become an essential catalyst for stimulating innovation and job creation.

“Therefore, investing in these fields has become an urgent necessity, especially in light of the challenges facing the Kuwaiti labor market, including disguised unemployment and an excessive reliance on the public sector.

“Artificial Intelligence serves as a powerful tool for modernizing the traditional sector by sending specialized graduates abroad to gain expertise. This comes as the state aims to introduce AI technologies into vital sectors such as oil, healthcare, education, and financial services.

“These technologies have the potential to revolutionize operations, enhance efficiency, and reduce costs, thereby boosting competitiveness and productivity across these sectors. For many years, Kuwaiti youth have depended on government jobs as their primary source of employment.

“By promoting a culture of entrepreneurship through these scholarships, a new generation of ambitious youth can be developed, capable of creating jobs for themselves and others, and establishing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This will contribute to economic diversification and reduce reliance on oil.

“The impact of this decision is expected to become evident in the coming years, as scholarship graduates begin introducing new ideas into the Kuwaiti work environment that will contribute to the development of digital infrastructure and launching innovative technology projects.

“This initiative will play a vital role in strengthening partnerships between the public and private sectors and encouraging investment in artificial intelligence and advanced technologies.

“I commend the Ministry of Higher Education for this ambitious step, which represents a wise investment in the minds of young Kuwaitis. If implemented thoughtfully and comprehensively, it will have a profoundly positive impact on reshaping the Kuwaiti labor market and transitioning the national economy from dependency to innovation, especially in an era where innovation is accelerating and the labor market is undergoing radical change.

“It is now imperative to reevaluate traditional academic disciplines and introduce educational programs that align with global digital transformations. The integration of entrepreneurship and AI is not merely a complementary approach,

as it forms the foundation for cultivating leaders who can develop technological solutions and turn creative ideas into entrepreneurial projects that make a meaningful impact on society.”

“Based on what has been published in some local newspapers, it appears that the standards for conducting surveys have strayed significantly from professionalism and scientific methodology, particularly when the objective is selective rather than neutral,” columnist **Khaled Ahmad Al-Tarrah** writes for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“This is evident from the lack of clarity regarding professional and scientific standards in the results of a recent poll published by a daily newspaper on the writers whose articles are most widely read. The poll claimed that 60 percent of respondents read the articles of a columnist from the same newspaper that is conducting the survey.

“Clearly, conflating the purpose of the poll between the newspaper and one of its columnists reflects a deliberate exaggeration, especially when the spotlight is shifted to a specific columnist in a way that serves the newspaper’s interests. This raises legitimate concerns about the credibility and objectivity of the survey.

“A daily newspaper has strayed from both scientific and journalistic standards by tampering with and distorting news related to official Kuwaiti positions on Palestinian events. This stems from a lack of professional oversight and the undue influence of certain Arab editors who shape and direct content to serve their own agendas.

“It is also worth noting that the same newspaper, which published the questionable poll, had previously interfered with official Amiri speeches. Specifically on October 22, 2023, during coverage of the Cairo Peace Summit, the newspaper inserted the term “Zionism” into the text of the Amiri speech, despite the fact that this word was not included in the original speech.

“A Palestinian editor deliberately replaced the phrase “Israeli occupation authorities” with “Zionist criminals” in the text of the Amiri speech that was delivered on behalf of the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad (May God protect him) when he was Crown Prince.

Has such tampering and distortion of Amiri speeches and official statements occurred in newspapers other than the one that published the poll? The answer is No. Does the distortion of Amiri speeches justify that newspaper’s claim of a 60 percent readership?

“I previously explained these details thoroughly in a recorded program, and the newspaper in question did not respond, because what I presented were indisputable facts and well-documented truths.

As for **Al-Seyassah** daily, it was once alleged by some newspapers, including the one that conducted the survey that **Al-Seyassah** was a pro-government newspaper, implying that it echoed official decisions, positions, and policies. These claims were clearly aimed at undermining the newspaper’s owner and publisher, the esteemed **Ahmed Al-Jarallah**.

“However, **Al-Seyassah** has never changed its stance, nor has it shifted its identity like political and journalistic opportunists often do. The newspaper has consistently hosted columnists with nationalistic, revolutionary, and a wide range of other viewpoints. It has never suppressed intellectual or political diversity.

“Since the newspaper that conducted the survey has always approached this topic in an unprofessional manner, it is important to recall certain facts from a period marked by parliamentary deviation.

“From 2013 through 2020 and beyond, the same newspaper deliberately barred the publication of professional, objective, and non-personal opinions regarding former National Assembly Speaker **Marzouq Al-Ghanim**.

“Is it professionally or politically sound for columnists to devote their platforms solely to serving the interests of the former Speaker, **Marzouq Al-Ghanim**? The answer is No.

“Were the reasons behind the dissolution of the 2020 National Assembly aligned with the interests of that newspaper? Again, the answer is No.

“Did that newspaper overlook the distortion of a solid scientific study titled “A Critical Reading of the Book ‘History Is Not Written Only Once’”? Did it investigate the reasons behind the researcher’s refusal to publish the cultural file after it had been classified and released?

“Of course, we respect all opinions, even when we disagree with them. But is this rule upheld by the newspaper that published the survey and its editors?

“I would like to emphasize that **Al-Seyassah** newspaper has never withheld my name as a writer, nor suppressed my intellectual or political affiliations. It has never deleted or altered the text of my articles, unlike my negative experience with the newspaper that published the survey. I have evidence to support these claims if needed.

“I will stop here and return when I choose, not when the fabricating journalists decide.”

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



KUNA photo

Navy chiefs from the GCC after the preliminary meeting.

## GCC navy chiefs meet, gear up for joint military drill

KUWAIT CITY, July 22, (KUNA): Navy chiefs from within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) bloc gathered in Kuwait for talks aiming to put preparations in place ahead of

a joint exercise, the Kuwaiti military said on Monday.

The talks aim to put in the final touches before the GCC-wide navy drill ensues, it said

in a statement, citing the exercise as part of a series of similar initiatives to boost defense cooperation across the six-member bloc, it added.



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti, Egyptian forces on a naval boat during the exercise.

## Kuwait, Egypt navies close joint exercises

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: The Ministry of Defense recently announced the conclusion of the joint naval exercise “KWT-EGY-2” between the Kuwaiti and Egyptian navies at Mohammad Al-Ahmad Naval Base, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a press release, the ministry stated that the exercise, which was conducted from July 13 to July 17, was aimed at enhancing coordination in securing maritime borders and territorial waters, as well as protecting vital facilities. The training included field exercises and specialized workshops designed to improve combat readiness and unify operational concepts in joint maritime environments.

The ministry affirmed that this exercise is part of the Kuwaiti Naval Force’s efforts to develop its personnel’s capabilities and strengthen cooperation with sisterly and friendly countries, as well as support the concept of security partnership and promote regional stability.

## MoD launches online conscription via Sahel

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: The Ministry of Defense has activated on the Sahel application a new service for registering for national military service (conscription), reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a post on its official X account, the app affirmed that the service will be available under the “National Military Service” section, and will allow eligible individuals to register directly.

## Members of co-op board under probe

KUWAIT CITY, July 22, (KUNA): Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) announced on Tuesday that it has referred members of the board of directors of a cooperative society to the Public Prosecution on suspicion of fraud.

In an official statement, Nazaha indicated that the defendants are accused of committing violations under Law No. 118 of 2013, which classifies such acts as corruption-related crimes.

Nazaha reaffirmed its commitment to continuing efforts to examine, gather evidence, and investigate all serious and substantiated reports it receives regarding corruption cases.

The Authority also expressed its appreciation for whistleblowers and cooperating entities for their vital role in providing information and data that help uncover corruption-related incidents.

Nazaha underscored its full commitment to upholding the highest standards of protection and confidentiality for whistleblowers, in accordance with the law and executive regulations.

**Suicide attempted:** An expatriate, in his 30s who holds an Article 20 residence permit (domestic worker), was rushed to Jahra Hospital and placed under tight security pending investigation in an attempted suicide case, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The Operations Unit at the Ministry of Interior received information that an expatriate worker tried to end his own life by slashing his wrist. He was immediately taken to the hospital.

An investigation will be conducted once his condition improves to establish the circumstances that prompted the expatriate to try to commit suicide.

**Drug addict caught:** Capital Governorate police patrols have arrested a man -- in his 30s -- for the possession of narcotics, alcoholic beverages and a huge amount of money, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

Security sources said the suspect was driving a four-wheel-drive vehicle in an erratic manner in Sharq and then he attempted to flee upon noticing a police patrol. Officers chased him and managed to stop the vehicle; leading to the discovery of two bottles of alcohol, an unspecified quantity of narcotics, and KDI,000 in cash in his possession.

SINCE 1985

افتح عروض الذكرى السنوية المميزة - إمصح هنا

UNLOCK SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY DEALS - JUST SCAN!

Dine-in & Delivery

الطعام داخل المطعم والتوصيل

1800 188 / 5501 1985

www.mughalmahal.com

Incomplete forms will be rejected

MoHE calls for full compliance in foreign scholarship submissions

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: The Ministry of Higher Education called on students wishing to register for the foreign scholarship vacancy plan to complete the required information accurately and attach all official documents when submitting the application through the electronic system.

In a press statement, the ministry clarified that any application that does not meet the requirements or if there are missing data or documents will be automatically excluded without referring to the applicant, in accordance with the procedures stipulated in the admissions mechanism.

The ministry affirmed its commitment to guarantee equal opportunities for all applicants, urging the students to adhere to the instructions and update their information regularly to ensure their applications are accepted, provided they meet the requirements.

Union praises minister’s support for food security

Fishermen call for controlled mullet fishing

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: Chair of the Board of Directors at the Kuwait Fishermen Union Abdullah Al-Sarheed praised the efforts of the Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem for his interest in the food security sectors of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Sarheed expressed optimism about the upcoming phase, especially as some of the union’s longstanding demands have begun to be addressed.

He said officials now clearly understand the concerns of the fishermen, and confirmed that the union’s board continues to hold meetings with relevant authorities to meet all remaining demands.

Al-Sarheed also extended his gratitude to the Ministry of Finance’s Support Committee for its support and positive stance toward the union.

Meanwhile, Al-Sarheed revealed that the shrimp fishing season in Kuwait’s territorial waters is set to begin on August 1.

Al-Sarheed praised the efforts of the Director-General of the Coast Guard, Rear Admiral Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah, and the Coast Guard and Navy personnel who protect fishermen during their fishing trips.

He expressed his gratitude to officials at PAAAFR, particularly those in the Fisheries Sector, for their dedication to developing the fishing industry and supporting fishermen’s demands.

Al-Sarheed reiterated the fishermen’s request to allow mullet fishing in Kuwaiti waters under the supervision of the relevant authorities and with specific controls and conditions, affirming that fishermen are ready to supply mullet fish at reasonable prices.

In conclusion, Al-Sarheed urged officials to take into consideration the Kuwait Fishermen Union’s vision for the development of the fishing sector.

MoH upgrades health facilities at Nuwaiseeb border crossing

Al-Awadhi inaugurates new Medical Center

KUWAIT CITY, July 22, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi inaugurated the new Nuwaiseeb Medical Center (Nuwaiseeb Border Health Center), which “represents a qualitative leap in the level of health services provided at border crossings” as part of the Ministry’s ongoing efforts to develop infrastructure and enhance the quality of healthcare at entry points.

The Ministry of Health said in a press statement on Monday that the center offers an integrated package of medical services under one roof, including primary care, emergency services, drug control, and public health services.



KUNA photo  
Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi inaugurates Al-Nuwaiseeb Medical Center.

It explained that this step falls within a comprehensive system supervised by the Public Health Department, which is responsible for providing preventive and clinical services through 13 specialized health centers covering all of Kuwait’s border crossings.

These centers include the land ports of Abdali, Salmi, and Nuwaiseeb; the sea ports of Ahmadi Port (North and South), the artificial islands, and the ports of Shuwaikh, Shuaiba, Doha, and Al-Zour; in addition to air ports, represented by the

Airport Health Center and passenger terminals T1 through T5.

The Ministry noted that the centers play a pivotal role in protecting the country’s health security through a system of preventive and proactive measures. These include immediate response to health emergencies, providing first aid to employees and travelers, continuous epidemiological monitoring, early detection of infectious diseases, implementation of isolation protocols, and safe transport of suspected cases, all in accordance with international health regulations.

It added that the centers also contribute to issuing health permits and certificates for ships and marine carriers in coordination with relevant international authorities. The Ministry of Health affirmed that the opening of the Nuwaiseeb Medical Center represents a practical realization of its vision to strengthen infrastructure and expand the scope of health services across all border crossings.



Farwaniya Governorate photo  
Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah, chairs Council's second meeting at the governorate's headquarters.

Council elects committees

Farwaniya Governor renews call for ‘action-oriented’ governance

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: The Farwaniya Governorate Council held its second meeting, chaired by Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah, on Monday morning at the governorate’s headquarters, during which important issues included in the agenda were discussed.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the session was attended by members representing various public agencies, a number of citizens residing in Farwaniya, as well as the chairman and members of the Union of Specialized Environmental Institutions and Companies.

Governor Sheikh Athbi opened the meeting with a welcoming speech, and stressed the importance of closely

monitoring service and development efforts.

He emphasized the need for enhanced cooperation among relevant authorities to address proposals and implement practical solutions that would translate into improved public services for the governorate’s residents.

During the session, the council’s committee members were identified and elected.

In the end, the governor praised the spirit of cooperation among all attendees, including government representatives and appointed council members. He also commended the council’s dedication to completing projects aimed at improving the full spectrum of services available to Farwaniya residents.

albander  
Hotel & resort

JULY  
Room Promotion

MEW launches electric power supply to Mutlaa Residential City N1 suburb

By Mohammed Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy announced the launch of electric power supply to Mutlaa Residential City’s N1 suburb, specifically parts of Block 1.

The ministry explained that the service was launched in cooperation with the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW). It is currently receiving requests for connecting electricity to 251 plots.

Rotation aims to enhance op efficiency

129 MoH employees moved in Jahra

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: The Ministry of Health has announced the rotation of 129 administrative employees in various healthcare facilities in Jahra Health District, reports Al-Anba daily.

This move is in line with the ongoing efforts of the ministry to better serve the public.

The concerned employees will be reassigned in primary healthcare centers and hospitals in a move aimed at achieving a more balanced distribution of human resources. The decision supports the strategy of the ministry to ensure equal opportunities among the staff and raise the standard of healthcare services provided to citizens.

Reliable sources revealed that the decision was taken a comprehensive assess-

ment conducted by the Human Resources Redeployment Team. Sources said the team analyzed the staffing needs in hospitals, health centers and various administrative sections; with the goal of optimizing workforce allocation.

Sources stated that the employee transfers are expected to boost operational efficiency and maximize the utilization of existing human capital. They added that the ministry remains committed to aligning its practices with international standards and continually improving the healthcare system.

Sources added the ministry advised all affected employees to cooperate in implementing the strategy, stressing that teamwork and adaptability are crucial to its success.

Adjustments in effect for 25 days

PART enforces traffic measures for Fahaheel Expressway maintenance

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: The Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) has confirmed the preservation of two lanes on Fahaheel Expressway, heading toward Kuwait City, near the Millennium Hotel; in addition to the closure of secondary entrances connecting to the Fourth Ring Road and Kuwait City, reports Al-Jarida daily.

PART explained that these measures are in line with the implementation of the comprehensive road maintenance project scheduled to last 25 days in order to improve road quality and ensure traffic safety.

The authority urged all road users to observe posted warning signs and follow designated detours, emphasizing that it is coordinating closely with the relevant authorities to minimize disruptions and maintain smooth traffic flow during the maintenance period.

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

Promo period from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025. Terms & conditions apply\*

Continued from Page 1

Palestine ...

This is why the Egyptian army invaded Yemen instead of focusing on liberating Palestine, its closest neighbor.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian situation worsened. The cause was turned into a tool for political gain, exploited by various factions for their own benefit. From this corrupt environment emerged 18 factions, each proclaiming the slogan "Free Palestine from the river to the sea," while all of them remained in exile.

Some Muslims were no better. The 1979 Iranian Revolution raised the slogan "March ... March until Jerusalem," yet its forces marched instead to Beirut, Damascus, Baghdad, and finally Sanaa.

This echoes the story of the "traitor Abu Raghail," who mixed the poison of treason with the honey of slogans.

From the division between its north and south until the "Arab Spring," Yemen was regarded as a failed state.

To add salt to the wound, the Houthi group entered the scene through wide-open doors. They exploited the turmoil to tighten their grip on Yemen, attempting to concentrate power in the hands of roughly three percent of the country's 27 million people.

Today, after Hamas's strategic error with Operation Al-Aqsa Flood led to the destruction of Gaza through systematic Israeli attacks and unprecedented starvation, the Houthis exploited the situation to flex their muscles by launching rockets at Israel. The Houthis' missile attacks were never intended to support Palestine but rather to serve Iran and maintain its control over its remaining proxies following the fall of the Assad regime and Hezbollah's defeat in Lebanon.

In reality, the Houthis have shown themselves to be reckless. They have yet to realize that Yemen will never recover without unification, the re-establishment of institutions, and the restoration of internal peace. According to international reports, Yemen will need approximately 30 years to rebuild.

In other words, instead of missiles worsening the humanitarian crisis and causing blockades on Yemen due to the Houthis' actions and their shelling of commercial vessels in the Bab al-Mandab Strait, Yemenis must examine their reality and break free from the tragedy imposed by Abdulmalik al-Houthi and his militant group.

Yemen's priority must be to rebuild the nation, as Palestine will not be liberated through backwardness and Arab divisions, but through reason, unity, and awareness.

Petitions to

The second petition -- numbered 18/2024 -- was filed by a citizen against HH the Prime Minister and others, requesting that the court determine the extent to which the law is consistent with the provisions of the Kuwaiti Constitution.

The court is scheduled to hear responses from government representatives to the contents of the two appeals, in preparation for adjudicating them in the upcoming sessions.

8,957 travel

The data also showed that the Capital Governorate accounted for the largest share of procedures at 27.3 percent, followed by Farwaniya with 20 percent, and then Ahmadi with 19.2 percent. The remaining percentages were distributed among the other governorates with external centers; such as ports, Sulaibiya and Kuwait Lawyers Association with a small share of 0.2 percent.

With regard to the travel ban, the number of procedures completed in the same month reached 8,957. Orders to lift the travel ban ranked first at 39.3 percent, followed by other transactions like bans and reopening closed files that recorded a low percentage of 0.03 percent.

In terms of geographical distribution, the Capital Governorate ranked first with 43.5 percent, followed by external centers with 35.3 percent. This is a confirmation of the expansion of the scope of the implementation of procedures outside the main courts.

The Rental Department had a remarkable achievement as it recorded 13,499 in May. The largest percentage -- 39.3 percent -- was for fee collection receipts. No transactions were recorded for a warning receipt or a certificate of non-payment of rent, indicating a relative improvement in tenant compliance.

The Capital Governorate again topped the list with 55.9 percent, followed by Hawally and Farwaniya governorates; reflecting the demographic distribution and impact of rental pressure in these areas.

In another development, statistics affirmed the success of the electronic judicial notices file. The number of notices reached 3,875 in May and 3,853 or 99.4 percent of which were completed. This proves the effectiveness of the digital system and the speed of completion of this type of notification.

As for regular advertisements, the number reached 237 advertisements and 193 or 81.4 percent of which were completed.

DGCA to

Sources said the DGCA has already attracted a number of international companies specializing in restaurants, beverages, baked goods, telecommunications, financial services like money exchange, retail stores, libraries, and everything that meets the travelers' needs.

Sources added the DGCA also allocated investment units to support local companies and youths' enterprises as part of its efforts to support entrepreneurship and provide investment opportunities for Kuwaiti entrepreneurs.

Sources confirmed that the anticipated development is not limited to the investment zone and duty-free shop at T4, as it includes all facilities at the airport in order to guarantee a comprehensive passenger experience and achieve the highest standards of service and comfort for passengers.

They indicated that work is underway to expand the external street in front of T4 to ease passenger loading, unloading and handling operations, and reduce traffic congestion; especially during peak periods such as summer and public holidays, when the airport experiences heavy traffic.

Sources stressed that the T4 development project is part of an integrated strategy adopted by the DGCA to develop the airport and make it competitive with regional and international airports. Sources stated this will contribute to improving the airport's overall image and providing services that meet the expectations of travelers

They affirmed that DGCA continues to develop and modernize various facilities and services, taking into account the comments and suggestions to enhance the travel experience in terms of investment, operational or technical services. They asserted "this will strengthen Kuwait's position as a major aviation hub in the region."

Kuwait reiterates

Kuwait was represented at the session by its Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi.

Israeli troops for the first time Monday pushed into areas of a central Gaza city where several aid groups are based, in what appeared to be the latest effort to carve up the Palestinian territory with military corridors.

Deir al-Balah is the only Gaza city that has not seen major ground operations or suffered widespread devastation in 21 months of war, leading to speculation that the Hamas militant group holds large numbers of hostages there. The main group representing hostages' families said it was "shocked and alarmed" by the incursion and demanded answers from Israeli leaders.

Israel says the seizure of territory in Gaza is aimed at pressuring Hamas to release hostages, but it is a major point of contention in ongoing ceasefire talks.

The U.N. food agency, meanwhile, accused Israeli forces of firing on a crowd of Palestinians seeking humanitarian aid over the weekend. The Gaza Health Ministry called it one of the deadliest attacks on aid-seekers in the war that has driven the territory to the brink of famine.

In the latest sign of international frustration, the United Kingdom, France and 23 other Western-aligned countries issued a statement saying "the war in Gaza must end now." They harshly criticized Israel's restrictions on humanitarian aid and called for the release of the 50 hostages remaining in Gaza.

Associated Press reporters heard explosions and saw smoke rising from parts of the city that were ordered evacuated on Sunday. The Israeli military official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, said it was the first time ground troops had operated in the area.

A man living in the evacuation zone,

who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution, said Israel dropped pamphlets at dawn ordering people to evacuate. Two hours later, tanks rolled into the area.

He said his 62-year-old father, who had spent the night elsewhere, fled from house to house as Israeli forces moved in and saw them flattening structures with bulldozers and tanks. Both men managed to leave the evacuation zone.

The World Health Organization said Israeli forces raided its main staff residence in Deir al-Balah, forcing women and children to evacuate on foot toward the coast.

"Male staff and family members were handcuffed, stripped, interrogated on the spot and screened at gunpoint," the U.N. health agency said in a statement. It said two staff and two family members were detained, with three later released and one still being held.

The WHO said its main warehouse in the city, which is in the evacuation zone, was damaged by an explosion and a fire, hurting the agency's ability to help hospitals and emergency medical teams. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

United Nations spokesperson Stephane Dujarric had earlier said two U.N. guesthouses in Deir al-Balah were damaged by shrapnel. He said the cause was still being investigated but that heavy Israeli airstrikes had been reported in the area. Local and international staff will continue to work there, he said.

The military declined to say if it had ordered the evacuation of aid groups based in the city, saying only that it maintains continuous contact with them and facilitates their relocation when necessary.

Separately, the military announced that a 19-year-old soldier was killed and an officer was severely wounded in combat in southern Gaza.

Tens of thousands of people have sought refuge in Deir al-Balah during repeated waves of mass displacement in Gaza.

The U.N. humanitarian coordinator says 87.8% of Gaza is now under evacuation orders or inside Israeli military zones, "leaving 2.1 million civilians squeezed into a fragmented 12 per cent of the Strip, where essential services have collapsed."

Israel has taken over large areas of Gaza and split the territory with corridors stretching from the border to the sea as it seeks to pressure Hamas to release more hostages.

In response to the Deir al-Balah incursion, the Hostages and Missing Families Forum warned in its statement that "the people of Israel will not forgive anyone who knowingly endangered the hostages - both the living and the deceased. No one will be able to claim they didn't know what was at stake."

Hamas-led militants abducted 251 people in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war and killed around 1,200 people. Fewer than half of the 50 hostages still in Gaza are believed to be alive.

Israel blames the deaths of Palestinian civilians on Hamas because the militants operate in densely populated areas, and it accuses the group of prolonging the war because Hamas has not accepted Israel's terms for a ceasefire.

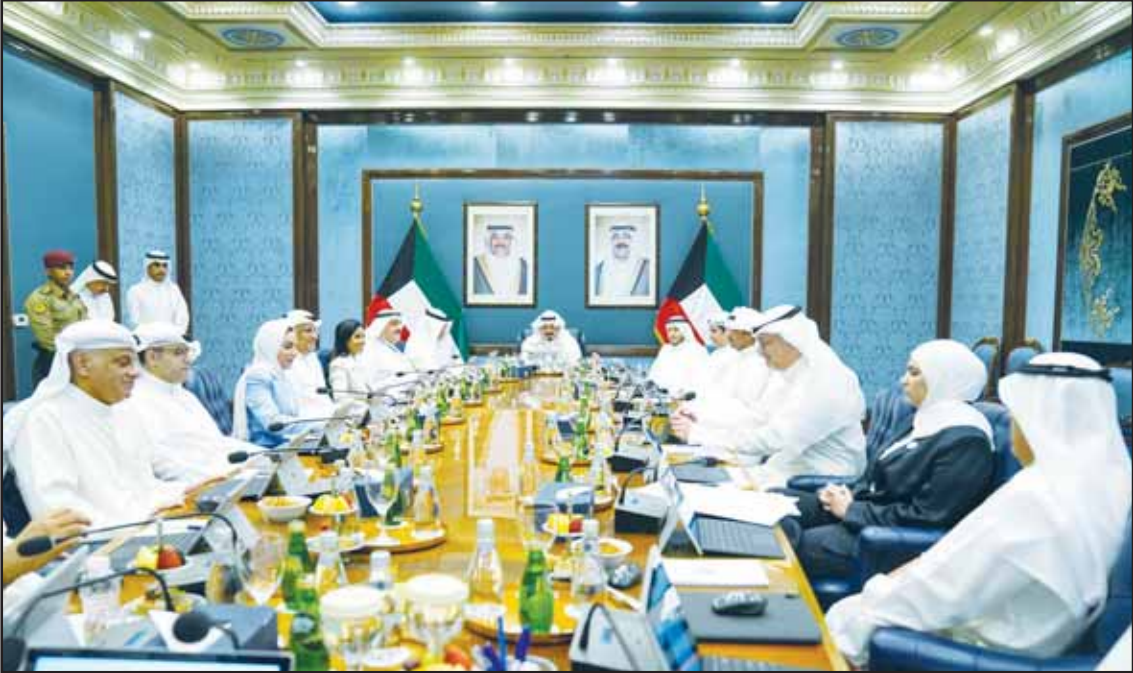
The World Food Program, in a rare condemnation, said the crowd surrounding its convoy in northern Gaza on Sunday "came under fire from Israeli tanks, snipers and other gunfire." It said "countless lives" were lost. A photographer working with the AP counted 51 bodies at two hospitals.

The Gaza Health Ministry said at least 80 people were killed. Israel's military said it fired warning shots "to remove an immediate threat" and questioned the death toll reported by the Palestinians. It declined to comment on the WFP statement.

Hundreds of people have been killed while seeking food in recent weeks, both from U.N. convoys and separate aid sites run by an Israeli-backed group that has been mired in controversy.

The Palestinian death toll from the war has climbed to more than 59,000, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Its count does not distinguish between militants and civilians, but the ministry says more than half of the dead are women and children. The ministry is part of the Hamas government, but the U.N. and other international organizations see it as the most reliable source of data on casualties.

Gaza health officials said at least 18 people, including three women and five children, were killed in Israeli strikes overnight and into Monday.



PM Diwan photo

The Council of Ministers hold its weekly meeting Tuesday morning at Bayan Palace, chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

PAM intensifies job Kuwaitization drive

Ministries and firms boost Kuwaiti hires

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 22: Acting Director of the Public Relations and Media Department at the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Mohammad Al-Muzaini confirmed that the authority continues to Kuwaitize jobs under government contracts.**

In a press statement, Al-Muzaini disclosed that PAM is currently coordinating with the ministries to Kuwaitize contracts in public entities such as the ministries of Electricity, Water Public Works and Health.

He affirmed the completion of the first phase with the Ministry of Health, while awareness programs and interviews have started with the Ministry of Public Works. He stated that applications are being sorted and the authority is working in line with the national strategy to achieve balance in the labor market.

He explained that the government contract Kuwaitization program aims to encourage Kuwaiti youths to work in the private sector, away from total reliance on government employment. He said the authority

applies national labor quotas to companies and holds job fairs in partnership with the Union of Banks, banks and telecommunication companies.

He added the authority has also started Kuwaitizing the health and hotel sectors to provide more job opportunities for Kuwaitis. He said some companies have exceeded the specified quotas and employed up to 40 percent of Kuwaitis without being obligated to do so. "This is due to the success of the qualification and training programs of the authority, which contribute to the efforts to encourage qualified nationals to work in the private sector," he elaborated.

Regarding the ministerial circular requiring expatriate workers in the private sector to obtain an exit permit from their employers before leaving the country; Al-Muzaini clarified that the purpose of the decision is to ensure the settlement of the financial, legal and administrative rights and obligations of both the worker and employer before departure, taking into consideration the number of labor cases filed after the worker left the country.

He pointed out that the decision serves business owners with a large number of workers and ensures the protection of their properties. He added "we stressed the need to avoid misusing this permit. First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Inte-

rior Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Al-Sabah issued a directive for PAM to open its doors to receive expatriate complaints if the employer refuses to issue an exit permit without justification."

He disclosed that "since the implementation of the decision, the authority has not recorded cases of abuse. More than 100,000 electronic exit permits have been issued so far, and workers have enjoyed their vacations and left Kuwait."

Regarding the mechanism for dealing with cases of abuse, he explained that the authority receives complaints from both the worker and the employer through its centers in the governorates; and resolves them immediately.

On banning working in open areas during midday hours in summer, he stated that the decision has been in effect since 2015 and stems from the commitment of Kuwait to protect workers from direct sunlight and the resulting health risks in line with humanitarian and professional standards.

He said the authority has not yet recorded any violation and most employers are complying with the decision. He urged citizens to report any violation through the hotline or official communication channels, indicating that inspection teams will immediately investigate the reports.

Kuwait, Egypt discuss economic cooperation

Minister vows legal action against industrial violators

KUWAIT CITY, July 22, (KUNA): Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Chairman of the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) Khalifa Al-Ajeel said on Monday that protecting the commercial and industrial system is a "national responsibility that requires concerted efforts."

Minister Al-Ajeel emphasized in a statement to KUNA following an extensive inspection campaign in the south Amghara scrap yard, to "firmly deal with all violations and encroachments in accordance with legal frameworks where no one is above the law."

Al-Ajeel confirmed as well the continuation of inspection campaigns until the desired goals are reached, foremost being is restoring order and discipline to the area and removing all violations and encroachments.

He affirmed the ministry and the PAI's commitment to cooperating with relevant authorities to continue these campaigns to ensure a safe and organized industrial and commercial environment.

The campaign resulted in the seizure of several violations and closure of a number of non-compliant units in preparation for taking necessary legal action against their

exploiters.

Participating in the campaign was General Fire Force (KFF) Chief Major General Talal Al-Roumi, along with several executive leaders from the PAI.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Nora Al-Fassam held discussions with Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister for Industrial Development and Minister of Transport and Industry, Lieutenant General Kamel Al-Wazir on Monday.

They discussed ways to strengthen economic, investment, and development cooperation between the two countries.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Finance said the meeting took place as part of the Egyptian minister's official visit to Kuwait and focused on identifying opportunities in key priority sectors of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Sheikh Saud Al-Sabah, Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Osama Shaltout, and a number of officials from the KIA and the Ministry of Finance.

KCCI hosts Egypt's Deputy PM for investment forum

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) welcomed Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister for Industrial Development and Minister of Industry and Transport Lieutenant General Kamel El-Wazir, who was accompanied by a delegation representing seventeen Egyptian companies from various sectors.

According to a press release issued by KCCI, the meeting was held in the presence of the Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Osama Shaltout. On this occasion, an investment forum was held with the participation of business leaders and representatives from the Kuwaiti private sector.

KCCI officials welcomed the Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and his accompanying delegation, emphasizing that the visit reflects the strong ties between the two sisterly countries, their growing economic cooperation, and their shared vision for economic growth and sustainable development.

They explained that the Kuwaiti side is closely following with great admiration the huge strides Egypt has made in infrastructure development, particularly in the transportation sector, which serves as the backbone of development and a vital pathway to progress.

KCCI highlighted the Kuwaiti private sector's strong interest in investing in Egypt, as reflected in the figures, and that Kuwaiti investments in Egypt are among the oldest and largest from the Gulf region, with approximately 1,500 Kuwaiti companies currently operating in various sectors in the country.

They reported that the volume of Kuwaiti investments in




KCCI photo

Photo during the strategic Kuwait-Egypt Investment Forum hosted by the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Egypt has reached approximately \$20 billion and is expected to witness significant growth in the coming years.

The chamber reaffirmed its full commitment to supporting and facilitating all possible means to strengthen bridges of cooperation between business communities in both sisterly countries, in pursuit of shared prosperity, development, and economic progress for both peoples.



**Required for Academic Year 2025-2026 at Private American School**

<b>Kindergarten</b>
• Female Physical Education Teacher/Lifeguard
• English Teacher (Native English speakers only)
<b>Elementary</b>
• English Teacher (Native English speakers only)
• Science Teacher
• Music Teacher
<b>Middle and High School</b>
• Math Teacher
• AP English Teacher (Native English speakers only)
• English Teacher (Native English speakers only)
• Science Teacher
• Culinary Arts Teacher
• Social Studies/Humanities Teacher
<b>Leadership Positions</b>
• Elementary Counselor
• MSHS Dean of Students
• MSHS Counselor (Social-Emotional and Academic Focus)
• HS College Counselor

Interested applicants may apply through our website at the following link:  
<https://www.abs.edu.kw/careers/abs>

Disclosure ‘unprecedented’: Gabbard

## Trump administration releases FBI records on MLK Jr despite family’s opposition

WASHINGTON, July 22, (AP): The Trump administration on Monday released records of the FBI’s surveillance of Martin Luther King Jr, despite opposition from the slain Nobel laureate’s family and the civil rights group that he led until his 1968 assassination.

The digital document dump includes more than 240,000 pages of records that had been under a court-imposed seal since 1977, when the FBI first gathered the records and turned them over to the National Archives and Records Administration.

In a lengthy statement released Monday, King’s two living children, Martin III, 67, and Bernice, 62, said their father’s killing has been a “captivating public curiosity for decades.” But the pair emphasized the personal nature of the matter and urged that the files “be viewed within their full historical context.”

The Kings got advance access to the records and had their own teams reviewing them. Those efforts continued even as the government granted public access. Among the docu-

ments are leads the FBI received after King’s assassination and details of the CIA’s fixation on King’s pivot to international anti-war and anti-poverty movements in the years before he was killed. It was not immediately clear whether the documents shed new light on King’s life, the Civil Rights Movement or his murder.

“As the children of Dr King and Mrs Coretta Scott King, his tragic death has been an intensely personal grief - a devastating loss for his wife, children, and the granddaughter he never met -- an absence our family has endured for over 57 years,” they wrote. “We ask those who engage with the release of these files to do so with empathy, restraint, and respect for our family’s continuing grief.”

They also repeated the family’s long-held contention that James Earl Ray, the man convicted of assassinating King, was not solely responsible, if at all.

Bernice King was 5 years old when her father was killed at the age of 39. Martin III was 10.



The Rev Ralph Abernathy, (right), and Bishop Julian Smith, (left), flank Dr Martin Luther King Jr, during a civil rights march in Memphis, Tenn on March 28, 1968. (AP)

A statement from the office of Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard called the disclosure “unpre-

cedented” and said many of the records had been digitized for the first time. She praised President Donald Trump

for pushing the issue.

Trump promised as a candidate to release files related to President John F. Kennedy’s 1963 assassination. When Trump took office in January, he signed an executive order to declassify the JFK records, along with those associated with Robert F. Kennedy’s and MLK’s 1968 assassinations.

The government unsealed the JFK records in March and disclosed some RFK files in April.

The announcement from Gabbard’s office included a statement from Alveda King, Martin Luther King Jr.’s niece, who is an outspoken conservative and has broken from King’s children on various topics - including the FBI files. Alveda King said she was “grateful to President Trump” for his “transparency.”

Separately, Attorney General Pam Bondi’s social media account featured a picture of the attorney general with Alveda King.

Besides fulfilling Trump’s order, the latest release means another alternative headline for the president as

he tries to mollify supporters angry over his administration’s handling of records concerning the sex trafficking investigation of Jeffrey Epstein, who killed himself behind bars while awaiting trial in 2019, during Trump’s first presidency. Trump last Friday ordered the Justice Department to release grand jury testimony but stopped short of unsealing the entire case file.

Bernice King and Martin Luther King III did not mention Trump in their statement Monday. But Bernice King later posted on her personal Instagram account a black-and-white photo of her father, looking annoyed, with the caption “Now, do the Epstein files.”

And some civil rights activists did not spare the president.

“Trump releasing the MLK assassination files is not about transparency or justice,” said the Rev Al Sharpton. “It’s a desperate attempt to distract people from the firestorm engulfing Trump over the Epstein files and the public unraveling of his credibility among the MAGA base.”

## Pentagon withdraws 700 US Marines from Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, July 22, (AP): The Pentagon ordered the US Marines to leave Los Angeles on Monday, more than a month after President Donald Trump deployed them to the city against the objections of local leaders.

The 700 Marines were deployed June 9 on the fourth day of protests in downtown LA over the administration’s crack down on immigration.

Four thousand National Guard soldiers were also deployed.

Their presence in the city had been limited to two locations with federal buildings in Los Angeles, including the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement office and detention facility downtown. During their deployment outside a federal complex in west LA, the Marines temporarily detained a man who said he was rushing to get to a Veterans Affairs appointment.

The decision to pull back the



Bass

Marines comes after half of the National Guard troops were ordered to leave the city last week. The rest remain.

Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said the military presence “sent a clear message: lawlessness will not be tolerated.”

Mayor Karen Bass held a press conference Monday morning ahead of the announcement with several leaders of veteran groups who raised concerns about the deployment of military troops on domestic soil. They called for the remainder of troops to be withdrawn from Los Angeles.

“This is another win for Los Angeles but this is also a win for those serving this country in uniform,” Bass said in a statement. “Los Angeles stands with our troops, which is why we are glad they are leaving.”

California Gov. Gavin Newsom sued the federal government in June over the deployment of the National Guard, arguing that Trump violated the law when he activated the troops without notifying him. Newsom also asked the judge for an emergency stop to troops helping carry out immigration raids.

## Harvard seeks billions in funding restored at pivotal hearing in its standoff with Trump

BOSTON, July 22, (AP): Harvard University appeared in federal court Monday in a pivotal case in its battle with the Trump administration, as the storied institution argued the government illegally cut \$2.6 billion in federal funding.

President Donald Trump’s administration has battered the nation’s oldest and wealthiest university with sanctions for months as it presses a series of demands on the Ivy League school, which it decries as a hotbed of liberalism and antisemitism.

Harvard has resisted, and the lawsuit over the cuts to its research grants represents the primary challenge to the administration in a standoff that is being widely watched across higher education and beyond.

A lawyer for Harvard, Steven Lehotsky, said at Monday’s hearing the case is about the government trying to control the “inner workings” of Harvard. The funding cuts, if not reversed, could lead to the loss of research, damaged careers and the closing of labs, he said.

“It’s not about Harvard’s conduct,” he said. “It’s about the government’s conduct toward Harvard.”

The case is before US District Judge



Protestors gather outside the Moakley Federal Courthouse, where Harvard University appeared to challenge \$2.6 billion in funding cuts by the Trump administration, on July 21, in Boston. (AP)

Allison Burroughs, who is presiding over lawsuits brought by Harvard against the administration’s efforts to keep it from hosting international students. In that case, she temporarily blocked the administration’s efforts.

At Monday’s hearing, Harvard

asked her to reverse a series of funding freezes. Such a ruling, if it stands, would revive Harvard’s sprawling scientific and medical research operation and hundreds of projects that lost federal money.

A lawyer for the government, Mi-

chael Velchik, said the Trump administration has authority to cancel the grants after concluding the funding did not align with its priorities, namely Trump’s executive order combating antisemitism.

He argued Harvard allowed antisemitism to flourish at the university following the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attacks on Israel, including protesters camped out on campus chanting antisemitic slogans as well attacks on Jewish students.

“Harvard claims the government is anti-Harvard. I reject that,” said Velchik, a Harvard alumnus. “The government is pro-Jewish students at Harvard. The government is pro-Jewish faculty at Harvard.”

Burroughs pushed back, questioning how the government could make “ad-hoc” decisions to cancel grants and do so without offering evidence that any of the research is antisemitic. At one point, she called the government’s assertions “mind-boggling.”

She also argued the government had provided “no documentation, no procedure” to “suss out” whether Harvard administrators “have taken enough steps or haven’t” to combat antisemitism.

## X says French accusations of data tampering, fraud politically motivated

PARIS, July 22, (AP): Elon Musk’s social media platform X on Monday denied accusations from French prosecutors of alleged data tampering and fraud, calling them politically motivated.

X was responding to an announcement earlier this month from the Paris prosecutor’s office, which said it was opening an investigation into the two alleged offenses.

Both offenses involved an “automated data processing system,” according to prosecutors, who provided scant details of the alleged wrongdoing. They are potentially punishable in France with a jail term of up to 10 years.

The platform said French authorities were carrying out a “politically-motivated criminal investigation into X over the alleged manipulation of its algorithm and alleged ‘fraudulent data extraction’.”

“X categorically denies these allegations,” it said in a post from its Global Government Affairs account.

The prosecutor’s office has said it acted on information that two people provided in January to its cybercrimes unit. One of them is a member of parliament, and the other is a senior official in a French government institution. It



The opening page of X is displayed on a computer and phone on Oct 16, 2023, in Sydney. (AP)

didn’t identify them or the institution.

Prosecutors said the two people alleged suspected use of X’s algorithm for the “purposes of foreign interference,” without providing details.

The platform said it “remains in the dark” about the specific allegations. “However, based on what we know so

far, X believes that this investigation is distorting French law in order to serve a political agenda and, ultimately, restrict free speech.”

The Paris prosecutor’s office said Monday that it has asked X to grant police investigators access to its algorithm, as part of the probe.

## Mayor denies wrongdoing in corruption investigation into Milan’s building boom

MILAN, July 22, (AP): Milan Mayor Giuseppe Sala on Monday said he would not step down in the face of a sweeping probe into the city’s massive urban development over the last two decades, saying, “My hands are clean.”

The city’s top urban development official, however, resigned while denying wrongdoing.

Milan prosecutors last week announced a widespread investigation into the real estate boom that has seen skyscrapers transform the city’s skyline and entire neighborhoods rebuilt, including the construction of an Olympic village for the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Games.

The investigation targets more than 70 people, including Sala, as prosecutors allege corruption that made Italy’s financial and fashion capital “a commodity to be plundered.”

The probe alleges that developers bribed officials to speed building permits and win approval for projects.

Prosecutors are seeking the arrest of six people, including Giancarlo Tancredi, an architect who has been the city’s top urban development official since 2021. Tancredi announced his resignation to focus on his defense but denied any wrongdoing. “My conscience is clear,” he said.



Milan’s Mayor Giuseppe Sala, (center), addresses the City Council on July 21, in Milan, northern Italy, as prosecutors are investigating more than 70 individuals, including Mayor Sala, over a sprawling corruption probe into the city’s real estate industry. (AP)

Sala, a member of the center-left Democratic Party who is serving his second term as mayor, denied any wrongdoing during an address to the city council, saying, “All I have done is in the interest of the city.”

Sala pledged to continue in his mandate, which expires at the end of 2026,

and underlined the necessity of continuing projects that are in the works, including determining the future of Milan’s San Siro stadium, home to soccer clubs AC Milan and Inter Milan. The teams want the city to jointly buy the stadium so they can tear it down and build a new one.

## ‘Russian attacks kill child in Ukraine’ Zelenskyy renews offer to meet with Putin

KYIV, Ukraine, July 22. (AP): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday renewed his offer to meet with Russia’s Vladimir Putin and negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine, but hopes of progress were low as delegations prepared to hold another round of talks.

Russian forces, meanwhile, pounded four Ukrainian cities in nighttime attacks that officials said killed a child.

Putin has spurned Zelenskyy’s previous offers of a face-to-face meeting to end Europe’s biggest conflict since World War II. But the Ukrainian leader insists that lower-level delegations like the ones expected for talks in Istanbul on Wednesday don’t have the political heft to stop the fighting. The sides remain far apart on how to end the war begun by Russia’s full-scale invasion on Feb. 24, 2022.

“Ukraine never wanted this war, and it is Russia that must end the war that it itself started,” Zelenskyy said in a Telegram post.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday that “a lot of work needs to be done before having a detailed discussion on a possibility of high-level meetings,” effectively scrapping hopes of a summit any time soon. He didn’t provide a date for the Istanbul talks.

Ukrainian and Western officials have accused the Kremlin of stalling in talks in order for its bigger army to capture more Ukrainian land. Russia currently holds about 20% of Ukraine.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, emergency services personnel work to extinguish a fire following a Russian attack in Odesa, Ukraine on July 22. (AP)

Zelenskyy’s announcement late Monday that the negotiations would take place generated little hope of progress. That is despite the Trump administration’s efforts to push forward peace efforts, which have moved slowly because Putin is reluctant to budge from his demands.

Peskov said that “we have no reason to expect any magical breakthroughs, it’s hardly possible in the current situation.”

The previous two rounds were held

in Istanbul, and Russian media reports said that the Turkish city likely would also host the meeting this time. The talks in May and June led to a series of exchanges of prisoners of war and the bodies of fallen soldiers, but produced no other agreements.

Russia, meanwhile, is driving hard to break through at eastern and north-eastern points on the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line. It is also firing upwards of 700 drones a night at Ukrainian cities.

### Europe

**Fugitive Moldovan oligarch detained in Greece:** A fugitive Moldovan oligarch implicated in a \$1 billion bank fraud and other illicit schemes was detained Tuesday in Greece, Moldova’s national police said.

**Vladimir Plahotniuc** fled Moldova in 2019 as he faced a series of corruption charges including allegations of complicity in a scheme that led to \$1 billion disappearing from a Moldovan bank in 2014, which at the time was equivalent to about an eighth of Moldova’s annual GDP.

Plahotniuc has denied any wrongdoing.

Moldovan police said in a statement they were informed by Interpol’s office in Athens that two Moldovan citizens had been detained, including Plahotniuc, who was placed on Interpol’s international wanted list in February. Authorities did not name the other detainee.

The Greek police unit tackling organized crime said Interpol was seeking Plahotniuc on suspicion of participating in a criminal organization, fraud and money laundering.

Moldova’s Ministry of Justice and Prosecutor’s Office are in the process of exchanging information to begin seeking extradition of Plahotniuc and the other detainee, a government official told The Associated Press.

Plahotniuc, one of Moldova’s wealthiest men, fled to the US from Moldova in June 2019 after failing to form a government with his Democratic Party. (AP)



Plahotniuc

**Couple fatally struck by train in Spain:** A man and a woman died after being struck by a train late Sunday night in western Spain, authorities confirmed on Monday.

The victims, aged 41 and 42, were found dead near the railway tracks around 11:00 pm local time, close to Moriscos station in Salamanca province.

Emergency services responded after a railway employee reported the incident. The Civil Guard later located both bodies near the scene.

Authorities confirmed the victims were a couple who were in the process of separating. Investigators found the man’s car parked nearby, along with a dog and the woman’s mobile phone.

Local newspaper El Correo de Galicia cited the train driver as saying he saw the pair struggling on or near the tracks moments before the collision. He was unable to determine whether they were fighting or if one was attempting to stop the other from stepping onto the tracks. (Xinhua)

☐ ☐ ☐

**1 Killed, 2 injured in Copenhagen shooting:** A man was killed with two others injured in a shooting on Sunday in Denmark’s capital of Copenhagen, local media reported, citing police.

A 32-year-old man was shot dead in the city’s north-western neighborhood of Tingbjerg, while two other men, aged 21 and 22, were injured in the incident but are expected to survive. As of Monday morning, no arrests had been made, the Copenhagen police told the Danish broadcaster DR.

According to the police, the shooting occurred around 19:00 local time (1700 GMT) in the area known as Ruten in Tingbjerg. The police received several reports of gunfire and quickly responded to the scene. The two injured arrived at the hospital on their own for treatment. (Xinhua)

Asia

**Philippines braces for more rains:** The Philippines has been bracing for heavy rainfall as two low-pressure areas may develop into tropical depressions within the next 24 hours, the state-run weather bureau, PAGASA, said Tuesday.

It warned that the prevailing southwest monsoon will continue to bring torrential rains and thunderstorms to various areas, which would cause more flooding, landslides, and other weather-related hazards.

On Tuesday, Metro Manila and its adjoining areas remain under a “red” rainfall warning, PAGASA’s highest alert level for rainfall, which indicates “serious” flooding is expected in some areas. Due to the downpour of rain, the country’s Executive Secretary **Lucas Bersamin** ordered the suspension of work in government offices and classes at all levels on Tuesday in Metro Manila and several other provinces. In Metro Manila, knee-deep floodwaters led commuters to wade through streets in search of rides, while motorists navigated submerged roads to return home. Government vehicles have been deployed to assist stranded individuals. (Xinhua)



Bersamin

**Storm Wipha hits northern Vietnam:** Tropical Storm Wipha made landfall in northern Vietnam on Tuesday, bringing strong winds and heavy rain to parts of the country’s north and central regions.

The storm came ashore at 10 a.m. with maximum sustained winds of 102 kilometers per hour (63 mph), according to local weather officials. After landfall, it began mov-

ing southwest. Wipha was classified as a typhoon on Monday while over open water, but weakened overnight and was downgraded to a tropical storm before reaching land. The storm knocked out power in parts of Hung Yen Province, east of Hanoi. Residents rushed to gas stations to buy fuel for generators, state media reported. The streets of capital city, Hanoi, were nearly empty as the storm moved inland. Most businesses were closed and the city government has advised residents to stay home and evacuate buildings that are unstable or in flood-prone areas. (AP)

**2 dead, 10 missing in China flash flood:** Two people have died and 10 people are missing following a flash flood in east China’s Shandong Province early on Tuesday, local authorities said.

Torrential rains lashed Laiwu District in Jinan, capital of Shandong Province, for five hours until 5 a.m. Tuesday, with up to 364 mm of precipitation, the district government said in a statement.

The rain triggered a flash flood near two villages in Dawangzhuang township, washing away and damaging 19 houses and leaving two people dead and 10 more missing. Local authorities are going all out to locate the missing ones. (Xinhua)

**Indonesia on alert as forest fires escalate:** Indonesian authorities announced that the country’s western region is currently on high alert for forest and land fires, with Riau province reporting the highest number of hotspots.

Indonesia’s National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) said Monday that forest and land fires have been the dominant type of disaster in the Southeast Asian country since early July. Of the 42 disasters recorded so far this month, 33 are forest and land fires. (Xinhua)

Initial probe into S.Korea’s Jeju Air crash hints at pilot error, angering families

SEOUL, South Korea, July 22, (AP): The initial results of an investigation into December’s devastating Jeju Air crash in South Korea showed that, while the plane’s both engines sustained bird strikes, its pilots turned off the less-damaged one just before its crash-landing. The finding, which implied human errors, drew quick, vehement protests from bereaved families and fellow pilots who accuse authorities of trying to shift responsibility for the disaster to the dead pilots.

South Korea’s Aviation and Railway Accident Investigation Board initially planned to publicize the results of an investigation of the plane’s engines on Saturday. But it was forced to cancel its press briefing in the face of strong protests by relatives of crash victims who were informed of the findings earlier in the day, according to government officials and bereaved families.

“If they want to say their investigation was done in a reliable, independent manner, they should have come up with evidence that backs up their explanation,” said Kim Yu-jin, head of an association of bereaved families. “None of us resent the pilots.”



Rescue team members work at the site of a plane crash at Muan International Airport in Muan, South Korea on Dec 31. (AP)

The Boeing 737-800 operated by Jeju Air landed on its belly without its land gear deployed at South Korea’s southern Muan International Airport on Dec. 29. It overshoot a runway, slammed into a concrete structure and burst into flames. It was the deadliest disaster in South Korea’s aviation history in decades, killing all but two of the 181 people on board.

According to a copy of an unpub-

lished briefing report obtained by The Associated Press, a South Korean-led multilateral investigation team said it found no defects in the plane’s engines built by France’s Safran and GE.

The report said thorough examinations of the engines found the plane’s right engine suffered more serious internal damage following bird strikes as it was engulfed with big fires and black smoke.

Australia Parliament resumes after Labor’s landslide election victory

MELBOURNE, Australia, July 22, (Agencies): Australia’s Parliament resumed Tuesday for the first time since the center-left Labor Party won one of the nation’s largest-ever majorities in the May elections.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese thanked the traditional owners of the national capital Canberra at a Welcome to Country ceremony in Parliament House. He noted that such ceremonies performed by Indigenous people to welcome visitors to their traditional land at the start of a new parliament had been introduced by a Labor government in 2007.

“In the 48th Parliament, we write the next chapter. Let us do it with the same sense of grace and courage that First Nations people show us with their leadership,” Albanese said.

The government has said the first legislation will be a bill to reduce student loan debt by 20%. The measure to be introduced Wednesday will benefit 3 million Australians with student loan debts and cost the government 16 billion Australian dollars (\$10 billion).

The government also plans to introduce laws that would cut funding to child care providers who fail to meet quality standards and that would provide legal protections for some wage rates. Labor won 94 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives where governments are formed. Labor’s majority is the largest since Prime Minister John Howard’s conservative coalition won 94 seats in 1996, when the lower chamber had only 148 seats.

Howard stayed in power almost 12 years, and Albanese is the first prime minister since then to lead a party to con-

secutive election victories, following an extraordinary era of political instability.

The main opposition Liberal Party has elected its first woman leader, Sussan Ley, after one of the party’s worst election results on record.

Her conservative coalition holds 43 seats in the House, while independent lawmakers and minor parties that are not aligned with either the government or opposition hold 13.

No party holds a majority in the 76-seat Senate. Labor holds 29 seats and the conservatives 27 seats. The Australian Greens hold 10 seats, which is the next largest bloc.

The government will likely prefer to negotiate with the conservatives or Greens to get legislation through the Senate, rather than deal with multiple minor parties and independents.

Also:

**SYDNEY:** A man has been hospitalized after being attacked during a violent home invasion in western Sydney.

Emergency services were called to reports of a break-in at the home in the suburb of **Merrylands**, 20 km west of central Sydney, around 1:45 a.m. local time on Tuesday.

Police arrived and were told that a group of men wearing face coverings had forced entry into the home and attacked a male resident in his 40s before fleeing the scene.

The man was treated at the scene by ambulance paramedics for facial injuries and taken to the hospital for further care. No further injuries were reported.



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, right, and members of his front bench take the oath or affirmation of allegiance during the opening of the 48th Federal Parliament in the House of Representatives at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia on July 22. (AP)

Flash floods in Pakistan kill 3 tourists, 15 missing

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, July 22, (Agencies): Flash floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains swept away several vehicles carrying tourists in northern Pakistan, killing at least three people and leaving 15 others missing, officials said on Tuesday.

Pakistani rescue officials say the above-normal monsoon rains since June 26 have killed at least 225 people and injured more than 500 across the country. Experts say climate change is driving an increase in extreme weather events in the region.

A cloudburst caused floods and landslides on Monday, stranding more than 200 local tourists after a key highway near the northern Chilas district was blocked, said **Faizullah Faraq**, a government spokesperson in the Gilgit-Baltistan region. Army helicopters were used in the evacuation, which included women and children, he said.



Faraq

Also:

**ISLAMABAD:** Seven suspected dacoits were killed in four separate police encounters in **Lahore**, capital of **Pakistan’s Punjab** province, authorities have said.

According to the Crime Control Department on Monday, a specialized Punjab police unit targeting organized crime, the suspects were wanted for robbery, murder, and other serious offenses.

In the most significant incident, three suspects were killed and three others escaped during a gunfight in **Chung**, a southeastern area of Lahore, after police foiled a robbery in progress.



Students shout slogans during a protest near the site of the Monday crash of a Bangladesh air force training jet into a school, demanding accountability, compensation for victims’ families and the halt of training flights, in Dhaka, Bangladesh on July 22. (AP)

Bangladesh students protest

Hundreds of students protested Tuesday near the site of the crash of a Bangladesh air force training jet into a school in the nation’s capital, demanding accountability, compensation for victims’ families and the halt of training flights.

The ongoing unrest over Monday’s crash shut down traffic in parts of Dhaka, a city still recovering from last year’s student uprising that forced the prime minister from power. Some students entered the country’s administrative headquarters and were dispersed with tear gas and stun grenades.

The death toll from the crash rose to 31, including at least 25 students, a teacher who died from burns she sustained while helping others escape the two-story building, and the pilot. Officials said 171 people, mostly students at Milestone School and College and many with burns, were rescued.

The military launched an investigation into the crash in Dhaka’s densely populated Uttara neighborhood. The civil aviation authority was not directly involved in the investigation. (AP)



This photo released by El Salvador’s presidential press office shows men, who El Salvador’s government identify as Venezuelans, who the US government detained and flew to El Salvador months ago, boarding a Venezuelan plane bound for Venezuela as soldiers stand by at the Oscar Arnulfo Romero International Airport in San Luis Talpa, El Salvador on July 18. (AP)

Venezuela probes alleged mistreatment of migrants US sent to El Salvador

Venezuela’s attorney general’s office said on Monday that it has opened an investigation into El Salvador’s President Nayib Bukele for alleged mistreatment and human rights violations against Venezuelan migrants.

The migrants in question spent months detained in a maximum-security prison in the Central American country after being deported by the United States.

Attorney General Tarek William Saab said his office decided to open the probe after some of the migrants informed Venezuelan authorities of the alleged mistreatment. The investigation includes El Salvador’s

Justice Minister Gustavo Villatoro and the head of the prison system, Osiris Luna.

More than 250 migrants were held since March in a mega-prison known as the Terrorism Confinement Center, or CECOT, which was built to hold alleged gang members in Bukele’s war on the country’s gangs.

They were released on Friday by El Salvador in exchange for 10 US nationals jailed in Venezuela, and as part of a three-country arrangement.

Bukele’s office didn’t reply immediately to a request for comment. (AP)

Egypt provides free train rides for Sudanese refugees returning home

CAIRO, July 22, (AP): Hundreds of people who have been displaced by fighting in Sudan gathered Monday at the central train station in Cairo to begin a free journey home.

The Egyptian government is funding train rides to Khartoum, Sudan’s capital, which recently was recaptured by the Sudanese Armed Forces from its rival, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, or RSF.

Sudan has been in the throes of civil war since April 2023. The battle for power between the military and the RSF has caused a humanitarian crisis. Over 40,000 people have been killed and the war has caused one of the world’s largest displacement emergencies.

Egypt hosts the largest number of Sudanese refugees from the war with over 1.5 million people who fled north across the border.

Over 7 million have been displaced internally as the war engulfed much of the country.

The RSF took Khartoum at the start of the fighting in 2023 and held the capital until the government declared its recapture on May 20.

Khartoum was largely destroyed, including the presidential palace and



A Sudanese woman, who was driven from her home and is now returning, prepares to enter her train to Aswan at Cairo’s Ramses railway station, Egypt on July 21. (AP)

the airport, but is experiencing a slow rebirth as residents return and markets reopen. Electricity and basic services are not fully operational around the city.

The journey from Cairo to Khartoum is about 2,080 kilometers (1,292 miles) and will include a train ride of about 12 hours to the southern Egyptian city of Aswan, where riders will

change to ferries and buses to cross into Sudan.

People packed their lives in small suitcases as they as they filled the train Monday. Some cried with “overwhelming emotions” including sadness and joy about leaving Egypt and returning home, said Sudanese journalist Asem al-Taieb, one of the train riders.

No issues in locking mechanism of fuel control switches in Boeing fleet: Air India

NEW DELHI, July 22, (AP): Air India said Tuesday that it had completed precautionary inspections on the locking mechanism of fuel control switches for select Boeing aircrafts, with “no issues” found.

The announcement came days after a preliminary investigation into last month’s Air India plane crash stated that the switches shifted and flipped within seconds, starving both engines of fuel.

Air India operates a fleet of Boeing 787 Dreamliners for long-distance operations, while subsidiary and low-cost unit Air India Express operates the Boeing 737 jets for short-haul flights.

The airline said in a statement that it carried out inspections on its entire fleet of both types of aircraft. “In the inspections, no issues were found with the said locking mechanism,” it said.

The investigation by India’s Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau into the London-bound plane that crashed in the northwestern city of Ahmedabad on June 12, killing 260 people, is centered around the fuel control switches on the Boeing 787 jetliner. One person survived the crash.

Last week, India’s aviation regulator ordered all airlines operating several Boeing models to examine fuel control switches and submit their findings to



A British F-35B fighter jet, which has been stranded since June 14, 2025, is seen at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, in the southern state of Kerala, India, on June 26. (AP)

the regulator by July 21.

Also:

**NEW DELHI:** A British F-35B fighter jet stranded at an Indian airport for more than a month, sparking memes and cartoons on social media, took off Tuesday after being repaired by a team of UK engineers, an Indian official said.

The stealth fighter, one of the world’s most advanced and costing around \$115 million, was grounded at Thiruvananthapuram International

Airport in the southern state of **Kerala** due to technical snags.

The aircraft had hydraulic issues and problems with its auxiliary power unit that have been fixed, said the Thiruvananthapuram official, who wasn’t authorized to speak with the media and requested anonymity.

The aircraft will fly to a British aircraft carrier in **Darwin, Australia**, the official said. The British High Commission and UK’s Ministry of Defense did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Reflecting a year-on-year growth of 7.8%

NBK reports KD 315.3 million in net profit for 1H2025

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has announced its financial results for the six-month period ended 30 June 2025, reporting a net profit of KD 315.3 million (USD 1.0billion), compared to KD 292.4 million (USD 957.8 million) for the corresponding period in 2024, marking a year-on-year increase of 7.8%. Profit before tax reached KD 401.5 million (USD 1.3 billion) during the period, marking a 17.0% increase compared to KD 343.1 million (USD 1.1 billion) in the corresponding period of 2024.

As of the end of June 2025, total assets rose by 15.9% year-on-year to KD 43.6billion (USD 143.0 billion), while total loans and advances grew by 12.1% year-on-year, reaching KD25.5 billion (USD 83.5 billion).

Customer deposits grew by 9.5% on an annual basis, reaching KD 23.9 billion (USD 78.2 billion) by the end of June 2025. Meanwhile, shareholders' equity reached KD 4.2 billion (USD 13.9 billion), reflecting a growth of 10.3% year-on-year.

The Board of Directors has opted to retain interim earnings till year-end, focusing on end of year final dividend distribution.The decision reflects the Board's commitment to strengthening the Group's balance sheet in seizing promising growth opportunities across its operating markets, particularly in light of the anticipated pickup in business activity in Kuwait,while maintaining flexibility in managing interim capital adequacy ratio.

**A Robust Strategy**  
Commenting on the Bank's 1H2025 financial results, Mr. Hamad Al-Bahar, NBK Group Chairman stated, "NBK's strong performance reflects its ability to navigate varying economic conditions, even amid heightened geopolitical challenges and global trade tensions stemming from recent U.S. tariffs. The Bank's solid operational results underscore the strength of its well-established strategy, anchored in a diversified business model and prudent risk management."

Al-Bahar emphasized that NBK's strong balance sheet, solid capital base, and high asset quality reinforces the Bank's ability to deliver sustainable profitability and optimal returns for shareholders and customers;while continuing to support the prosperity of the communities in which it operates.

Al-Bahar noted that the Bank achieved several milestones across various areas during the first half of the year, most notably its selection as Kuwait's Main Settlement Bank. He emphasized that this recognition reflects years of continuous investment in enhancing the Bank's digital infra-

structure, which qualified NBK to meet the technical and operational requirements set by Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC); securing the highest ratings among participants in the Central Counterparty Project (CCP).

Reflecting its long-standing commitment to sustainability, Al-Bahar noted that NBK has continued to make significant strides toward a more sustainable future. He pointed to recent upgrades in the Bank's ESG ratings by leading global agencies, including Morningstar Sustainalytics and MSCI, as clear recognition of NBK's dedication to environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and sound governance practices. This was reinforced by the publication of the first allocation and impact report for its debut USD 500 green bond issued in June 2024, which is the first issuance of its kind in Kuwait. The report provides relevant information that highlights the allocation of proceeds from the green bond as of 31 March 2025 and the estimated environmental impact during the reporting period.

**Sustainable Growth**  
Meanwhile, Mr. Isam J. Al-Sager, NBK Group Vice Chairman and CEO, said: "Once again, NBK continues to affirm the resilience of its business model and its agility in navigating a shifting operating environment, consistently delivering profit growth across economic cycles. This performance underscores the strength of the Group's geographic diversification strategy and the effectiveness of its long-term approach to driving sustainable growth."

He noted that the Bank delivered solid operating performance across its core business segments during the first half of 2025, with the Group's net operating income rising by 3.1% year-on-year to reach KD 631.4 million (USD 2.1 billion).

Al-Sager highlighted the strong contribution of the International Banking Group (IBG), as well as Boubyan Bank – the Islamic banking arm of NBK – to the Group's net operating income and profitability during 1H2025.In addition, NBK Wealth continues to strengthen its position as the leading wealth management firm in Kuwait and among the largest in the region; offering a comprehensive suite of private banking, wealth and investment management solutions and advisory services through an integrated global network.

During the first half of 2025, NBK continued to deliver an enriched banking experience, underpinned by innovative solutions tailored to meet evolving customer needs. The Bank further reinforced its digital leadership by in-



Hamad Al-Bahar, NBK Group Chairman



Isam Al-Sager, NBK Group Vice Chairman and CEO



NBK Headquarters

Al-Bahar:

- NBK delivered outstanding operational results, driven by a well-anchored strategy centered on a diversified business mix and prudent risk management
- The Bank's strong financial performance underscores its ability to adapt effectively to shifting economic conditions
- Our robust balance sheet continues to support the delivery of superior returns to shareholders and sustained value to customers

Al-Sager:

- NBK continues to demonstrate its adaptability to evolving operating conditions
- Earnings highlight the strength of our diversification strategy and our success in fostering sustainable growth
- NBK remains focused on enhancing its domestic competitiveness while expanding its presence in international markets
- Strong demand from global investors for our recent bond issuance reflects confidence in the Bank's credit worthiness
- We are committed to supporting domestic economic growth through financing strategic development projects
- Advancing further economic legislative reforms will be key to unlocking stronger growth momentum
- We maintain a cautiously optimistic outlook for project activity in the second half of the year and beyond
- The government's commitment to empowering the private sector participation under Kuwait Vision 2035 will play a vital role in driving economic expansion

troducing a suite of carefully designed digital services and products aligned with customer expectations.

He added that NBK remains committed to investing in technology and innovation as a core driver of growth, underscoring the Bank's focus on strengthening its competitive edge in the domestic market and expanding its presence across international markets.

Regarding NBK's recent USD 800 million PNC6 Additional Tier 1 bond issuance, Al-Sager emphasized that strong investor demand afforded the Bank a notable pricing advantage. He noted that the order book peaked atUSD 2.2 billion, with subscriptions exceed-

ing 2.75x the issue size; driven by solid interest from a diverse base of global investors and financial institutions.

The Operational Environment

Commenting on the local operating environment, Al-Sager expressed cautious optimism regarding the outlook for project activity in the second half of the year and beyond. He pointed to the government's announcement of 141 projects under the 2025/2026 annual development plan, including large-scale ventures such as Mubarak Al-Kabeer Seaport, the expansion of the T2 passenger terminal at Kuwait International Airport, and the New Al-Sabah Hospital, as key drivers of anticipated

momentum.

Furthermore, he emphasized that the adoption of further economic legislative reforms would serve as a catalyst for accelerated economic growth, commending the government's commitment to enacting key legislation in the near term, including the anticipated approval of the mortgage law. He also underscored the importance of empowering the private sector to take a leading role in economic activity under Kuwait Vision 2035, noting that such measures are vital to enhancing the local business climate and supporting the growth of the national economy going forward.

Prestigious Awards

During the first half of 2025, NBK garnered several prestigious accolades that reaffirm its leadership both locally and regionally. These included being named Best Bank in Kuwait - 2025, as well as receiving awards for Best Retail Bank and Best Bank for SMEs in Kuwait by MEED International Magazine. Euromoney magazine also honored the Bank with multiple accolades in 2025, naming NBK Kuwait's Best Bank for ESG, Kuwait's Best Bank for Large Corporates, and Kuwait's Best Bank for Diversity and Inclusion.

Moreover, NBK has also garnered multiple accolades across the MENA region, including Best Loan Offering-2025, Best Contactless Payment Experience, and Payment Solution for SMEs, awarded by MEED Magazine.

Key financial indicators for 1H2025

- Net operating income stood at KD 631.4 million (USD 2.1 billion), up 3.1% year-on-year
- Total assets grew by 15.9% year-on-year, at KD 43.6 billion (USD 143.0billion)
- Total loans and advances increased by 12.1% year-on-year to KD

25.5 billion(USD 83.5 billion)

■ Customer deposits grew by 9.5% year-on-year to KD 23.9 billion(USD 78.2 billion)

■ Shareholders' equity amounted to KD 4.2 billion, (USD 13.9 billion) registering an annual growth of 10.3%.

■ Strong asset quality metrics, with NPL/gross loans ratio at 1.33% and an NPL coverage ratio of 252%

■ Robust Capital Adequacy Ratio of 16.4%, comfortably exceeding regulatory requirements.

About NBK:

National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) was established in 1952 as the first national bank and the first joint stock company in Kuwait and the Arab Gulf region. NBK achieved profits of USD 1.9 billion (KD 600.1million) in 2024, while the Bank's total assets reached USD 130.9 billion (KD 40.3 billion) by the end of 2024, and shareholders' equity reached USD 12.7 billion (KD 3.9 billion).

NBK is the largest conventional financial institution in Kuwait and has actual predominance in the commercial banking sector. The bank has consistently retained the highest credit ratings among all banks in the region, as affirmed by renowned global ratings agencies such as Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch. Noteworthy is NBK's extensive network, encompassing branches and subsidiaries across key global financial hubs, including China, Geneva, London, Paris, New York, and Singapore. Additionally, NBK maintains a robust regional presence in Lebanon, Egypt, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and the UAE.

NBK Long-Term Rating

- Moody's Credit Rating: A1
- Fitch Ratings: A+
- Standard & Poor's Rating: A

Financial Highlights



1H  
2025

Net  
Profit  
+7.8%

30/06/2024  
KD 292.4  
Million

30/06/2025  
KD 315.3  
Million

Profit  
Before Tax  
+17.0%

30/06/2024  
KD 343.1  
Million

30/06/2025  
KD 401.5  
Million

Total  
Assets

+15.9%

30/06/2024  
KD 37.7  
Billion

30/06/2025  
KD 43.6  
Billion

Shareholders'  
Equity

+10.3%

30/06/2024  
KD 3.84  
Billion

30/06/2025  
KD 4.23  
Billion

Earnings  
Per Share

30/06/2024  
32  
fils

30/06/2025  
35  
fils

Customer  
Deposits

+9.5%

30/06/2024  
KD 21.8  
Billion

30/06/2025  
KD 23.9  
Billion

Customer  
Loans &  
Advances

+12.1%

30/06/2024  
KD 22.7  
Billion

30/06/2025  
KD 25.5  
Billion

Net Operating  
Income

+3.1%

30/06/2024  
KD 612.4  
Million

30/06/2025  
KD 631.4  
Million

MOODY'S  
RATINGS  
A1

FitchRatings  
A+

S&P Global  
A

1801801  
nbk.com

Customer base reaches 2.2 mln in H1 2025

# stc reports KD 17.3 mln net profit on H1 revenues of KD 174.6 mln

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc), a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced its financial results for the six months period ended 30 June 2025, highlighting the most significant achievements as well as the financial and operational performance.

In this regard, Eng. Muataz Abdullah Aldharab, the company's CEO, stated: "By the grace of Allah, Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) delivered strong operational and financial results during the first half of 2025, reflecting the strength of its strategic plan focused on quality growth, operational efficiency, and the flexibility of its business model. As part of its efforts to expand market share, stc continued to roll out advanced and innovative solutions that cater to the needs of both individual and enterprise customers. The company is also enhancing its technical capabilities, aligning with the increasing demand for digital services and reaffirming its commitment to delivering sustainable and added value to all customer segments."

Commenting on stc's key achievements during the first six months of 2025, Eng. Aldharab, stated: "The second quarter of 2025 marked anew phase of progress and excellence for stc, reflected in a series of high-quality milestones that reflect the company's ambitious vision and strong commitment to providing the best-in-class digital services and products.

In this context, it is worth highlighting that Kuwait stands at the forefront of global innovation as one of the first countries to adopt 5G Advanced in June 2025, representing a key step toward upgrading the digital infrastructure. This reaffirms Kuwait's leadership in next-genera-



Eng. Muataz Abdullah Aldharab, stc CEO

tion technologies and solidifying its status as a premier digital hub in the region.

Consequently, stc launched its 5G advanced network to provide an exceptional digital experience, in line with its ongoing commitment to supporting Kuwait Vision 2035 through more precise connectivity, faster speeds, and smarter networks. While 5G Advanced represents the evolution of 5G technology which is poised to transform the digital experience for both individuals and businesses, this cutting-edge advancement will offer users enhanced capabilities to improve their operations and online activities, paving the way for the widespread adoption of intelligent solutions across multiple industries.

As part of its efforts to strengthen its market position and enhance institutional performance within a framework of effective governance and social responsibility, stc obtained the ISO 45001:2018 certification for implementing international standards in occupational health and safety management. This achievement affirms the company's commitment to providing a safe and healthy work environment for its employees and ensuring operational efficiency at the highest global stan-

- Revenue increased by 5.2% to reach KD 174.6 mn
- EBITDA increased by 5.7% to reach KD 45.5 mn
- Net profit increased by 2.7% to reach KD 17.3 mn
- stc's customer base reached 2.2 mn customers

dards.

Additionally, during the second quarter, stc launched the third edition of its flagship accelerator program 'inspireU,' designed to support tech startups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Kuwait. The program aims to empower them to reach new levels of growth and innovation, in line with stc's strategic framework that focuses on enabling entrepreneurs to enhance digital innovation and business growth in the region."

Commenting on the financial results for the period ended June30, 2025, Eng. Muataz Aldharab stated: "stc delivered strong financial performance during the first half of 2025, supported by sustainable growth across its operating segments. Total revenue reached KD 174.6 million during the first half of 2025, representing a growth of 5.2% compared to KD 166.0 million during the same period last year. This growth was primarily driven by the rise in the consumer segment revenues, which accounted for 77% of total revenue. Meanwhile, the enterprise segment contributed to 23% of total revenue, supported by ongoing efforts to enhance the company's business model, digital services, and provide integrated technological solutions that meet the needs of companies across various industries."

Aldharab added: "These results led to an increase in EBITDA by 5.7%, reaching KD 45.5 million during the first half of 2025, compared to KD 43.1 million in the same period of 2024, driven by higher revenues and improved op-

erational efficiency.

Net profit amounted to KD 17.3 million (earnings per share of 17fils) during the first half of 2025, representing a growth of 2.7%, compared to KD 16.9 million (earnings per share of 17 fils) during the same period in 2024. This resilient financial performance reflects the company's success in cost management, balancing growth with future investments, and capitalizing on the accelerated digital transformation in the local market.

Along with the continued focus on efficiency and innovation, the solid results highlight stc's ability to enhance profitability and achieve sustainable growth. It is also worth noting that stc's customer base reached approximately 2.2 million by the end of June 2025."

Commenting on the company's financial position as of June30, 2025, Aldharab stated: "The company's total assets reached KD 470.4 million by the end of the first half of 2025, while total shareholders' equity stood at KD 222.9 million, reflecting a solid financial position and a stable capital structure.

stc continues to maintain strong financial solvency, ranking among the best in the telecom sector across the region. This enables the company to pursue growth and expansion projects without compromising financial stability. The strength of stc's financial position allows it to respond flexibly to future opportunities and market shifts while supporting its expansion strategies in line with its vision for digital transformation and sustainable growth, striking a balance between investment-driven growth and operational returns.

Through this approach, stc aims to diversify its revenue streams, enhance cost and resource management efficiency, and generate sustainable and rewarding returns for its shareholders. The company is also committed to closely monitoring and analyzing key performance indicators, while executing its operational and investment initiatives with high efficiency, relying on its



advanced digital infrastructure and well-structured long-term growth plans.

These efforts reflect stc's commitment to upholding the highest standards of governance and internal control, fostering a culture of transparency and institutional excellence, and ensuring business continuity while strengthening the company's ability to achieve excellence and competitive superiority in a rapidly evolving business environment."

## About stc

Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) is a Kuwaiti shareholding company incorporated pursuant to Amiri Decree No. 187 on 22 July, 2008, to operate and manage the third GSM mobile network in Kuwait as per Law No. 2 of 2007. Accordingly, stc launched its operations in December 2008 and was listed on Boursa Kuwait in December 2014. It is a world-class digital leader providing innovative

services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and is a subsidiary of stc Group. stc has rapidly reached a leadership stance in the market through its customer and employee centric strategy.

stc offers an innovative range of world-class products, services and solutions with high quality, that cater to the customers' needs and demands, both for individuals and enterprises (solutions by stc). In 2019, stc acquired 100% of the share capital of the Internet Service Provider, Qualitynet General Trading and Contracting Company (solutions by stc) in Kuwait. In April 2022, stc acquired the entire share capital of e-portal Holding Company and its subsidiaries – the leading ICT services provider in Kuwait.

stc offers high internet speeds due to the implementation of the most advanced 5G network and deployment of the largest network nationwide.

stc seeks to support several initiatives within its social responsibility programme that support various initiatives in the areas of health, education, environment, sports and entrepreneurship that benefit society and employees.



stc Headquarters

## LPG emissions half those of traditional biomass

# OPEC advocates policies to expand LPG use for health and environment

VEINNA, July 22, (KUNA): OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais highlighted the vital role of liquefied petroleum gas (LNG) in achieving the global goal of universal access to clean cooking fuels by the year of 2020, warning of reliance on polluting fuels.

"LPG as a product can be vital in ensuring the most vulnerable members of society are looked after. It can be lifesaving. Hopefully, in 2030 the world can celebrate the achievement of universal access to clean cooking fuels and technologies. LPG, and the oil and gas industries, will be instrumental in making this vision a reality," Al-Ghais said in a article published on Monday.

He added roughly a quarter of the world's population, about 2.1 billion people, depend on polluting fuels for cooking, and inefficient cooking fuels pose major health risks, leading to diseases and deaths, blaming household air pollution for around 3.2 million deaths per year.

He said the solution to overcoming this tragic challenge is clear: up-scaling clean cooking fuels, adding that the World Health Organization (WHO) has issued guidelines on what constitutes a clean fuel.

"For cooking, it is a fuel or technology that attains the fine particulate matter and carbon monoxide levels recommended in the WHO's global air quality guidelines. Examples include solar power, biogas, natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)," he added.

The importance of LPG in achieving the UNs Sustainable Development Goal 7, part of which aims to achieve universal access to clean cooking by 2030, has been emphasized by a range of actors, he said.

Indeed, LPG is regarded as the



KUNA photo  
OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais

primary solution to attaining that goal and increasing access to LPG stoves and cannisters has been critical in progress achieved to date, he added.

The OPEC chief went on saying, "The benefits of LPG are clear. Using LPG directly emits half the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, on average, compared to the traditional use of biomass. LPG stoves are also convenient, easily transported and have high energy efficiency."

LPG is produced by the oil and gas industry and around 60 percent of the total amount of LPG produced globally is recovered directly from oil and gas fields, he said, adding that throughout the oil refining process, there are also various stages when LPG is produced, for example, during atmospheric distillation, reforming and cracking. At a global level, approximately 40 percent of LPG is a byproduct of oil

refining.

In its contributions to the Roadmap for Brazils G20 Presidency on a Clean Cooking Strategy in 2024, as well as to the work of the current South African G20 Presidency on the topic, OPEC has highlighted the role that LPG can play in improving living and health standards and reducing GHG emissions, Al-Ghais noted.

The Organization advocates for policies and programmes to promote, finance and implement projects that expand the utilization of LPG across regions and countries, he said, noting that OPEC Member Countries have been playing a significant role in this area through initiatives such as the Oil Sustainability Program and the Clean Cooking Roadmap.

As LPG production is integrated with the oil and gas industrys production chain, meeting an expansion of LPG demand requires oil market stability. LPG demand is projected to increase by 1.4 million barrels per day (mb/d) between 2024 and 2050, reaching over 11.7 mb/d by 2050, Al-Ghais pointed out.

This underscores the broader context of the need for more investment in the oil and gas industry, given the central role of petroleum and petroleum-derived products like LPG for so many aspects of modern life, he said.

OPEC has consistently called for timely and adequate investments in the oil industry. Our recently published World Oil Outlook 2025 estimated that required cumulative investments in the oil industry amount to \$18.2 trillion by 2050. These investments will be crucial in ensuring energy security and alleviating energy poverty, he concluded.

Main market index gains 0.66%

## Boursa Kuwait all share index slips 0.08%

KUWAIT CITY, July 22, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Tuesday's session with the All Share Index declining by 6.60 points – or 0.08% - to close at 8,604.67 points. The session saw active trading, as 728 million shares changed hands through 37,309 transactions, with a total value of KD 122.6 million (USD 401.4 million).

The Main Market Index recorded gains, rising 49.96 points (0.66%) to finish at 7,599.27 points. This came as 482.8 million shares were traded in 27,565 transac-

tions, valued at KD 61 million (USD 199.7 million). Meanwhile, the Premier Market Index fell by 21.05 points (0.23%), settling at 9,280.70 points after 245.2 million shares were exchanged via 9,744 transactions, totaling KD 61.5 million (USD 201.4 million).

The Main 50 Index edged down by 3.30 points (0.04%), closing at 7,531.54 points, with 282.2 million shares traded in 14,031 cash transactions, worth KD 37.8 million (USD 123.7 million).



A new empowerment platform to prepare employees’ children to become the decision-makers of tomorrow

# Zain launches Harvard ‘Youth Lead the Change’ program

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: Zain Group has launched the summer edition of the Harvard ‘Youth Lead the Change’ (YLC) program at its headquarters in Shuwaikh, designed specifically for the teenage children of its employees. The program was delivered in collaboration with UniHawk, a UAE-based global education consultancy and featured a team of experts from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, reinforcing the company’s vision to provide an inclusive environment for its employees.

Over 70 students aged between 13 and 18 took part in the 3-day program, which offered a motivational educational journey through interactive sessions focused on analytical thinking, solution design, teamwork, and the development of community-centered projects.

As a regional digital innovation leader, Zain affirmed that the initiative reflects its commitment to equipping the next generation with the tools to create a sustainable impact in their communities. The company continues to place increasing focus on inclusion, diversity, and equity (IDE) to foster a more innovative and inclusive workplace culture.

Zain described the program not merely as a workshop, but as a holistic platform for acquiring collaborative and adaptive leadership skills, presentation and persuasion techniques, and critical thinking tools to prepare youth to become the decision-makers of tomorrow.

Zain’s core IDE strategy extends beyond the professional support of employees within the workplace. It also embraces the broader family environment, highlighting the company’s holistic wellness approach to employee engagement. Through this educational experience for employees’ children, Zain reaffirms its belief that every individual within its ecosystem is a center of impact and development, and that investing in families is an investment in society at large.

This initiative is part of a wider framework of IDE programs launched by Zain Group. The Harvard YLC



Group photo of the program participants.



Interactive activities designed to spark creativity.



The program provided a comprehensive platform to gain leadership and entrepreneurship skills.

program represents a natural extension of this strategy, which sees youth as a vital force to be guided toward a prosperous future.

Zain continues to embrace numerous initiatives

empowerment stems from care and support, embedding the values of initiative, responsibility, and positive change within the next generation’s identity.

Launching this program for employees’ children in collaboration with top international academic institutions mirrors the same empowerment pathway Zain offers to its employees. The company is proud to host such distinguished international learning experiences, merging world-class academic standards with its local vision to empower national youth talent.

Zain continues to build employee capabilities and upskill them in line with its digital transformation strategy. Notably, Zain’s Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity University (IDEU) has expanded its partnership with IE University in Spain to broaden learning opportunities, including access to master’s degrees.

In parallel with this educational path, the Group continues its efforts under the WE initiative to empower women, accelerate data-driven cultural transformation, and expand women’s leadership in technology. Most recently, Zain launched the NOVA program to upskill over 200 women across its operations in technical fields.

Zain places special priority on youth development, as reflected in its recent ZY Graduate Program titled “Generation Z,” which focused on leadership development in strategic innovation and the digital world. Through the creation of stimulating environments for personal and professional growth, Zain is committed to adopting impactful initiatives that help refine young people’s skills, especially in leadership, innovation, and social entrepreneurship – preparing them to play pivotal roles in the future.

This initiative also comes under Zain’s broader Innovation Nation umbrella, which embodies Zain’s long-term strategy to support and empower future generations by offering inspirational educational opportunities to youth and entrepreneurs. It is a reaffirmation of the company’s role as a key driver in building a promising digital future for Kuwait.

## Designed for summer vacations

## KFH: A range of exclusive travel offers to customers

KUWAIT CITY, June 22: For an exceptional and distinctive travel experience, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) provides its customers with a range of exclusive offers. In collaboration with major airlines, KFH cardholders can explore diverse destinations with their families, enhancing their banking journey during the travel season and summer vacations.

Deputy General Manager Cards at KFH, **Talal AlArbeed**, said in a press release that KFH’s special package of exclusive offers for the travel season and summer vacations reflects its commitment to offering premium banking services and enhancing the value of its multi-benefit bank cards. Customers can enjoy a range of exclusive discounts on airline tickets from major carriers. For example, KFH provides a 15% discount on Turkish Airlines tickets when booked with KFH credit or prepaid cards. This offer allows customers to book and travel from Kuwait to any destination until December 31, 2025.

He added: “We’re offering exclusive discounts from Qatar Airways to KFH credit and prepaid cardholders of up to 12% off the base fare for flights departing from Kuwait to select destinations within the Qatar Airways network until May 10, 2026.”

AlArbeed pointed out that KFH customers benefit from a 5% discount on travel and hotel accommodation packages to their favorite holiday destinations as part of a partnership with Emirates Holidays, a subsidiary of Emirates Airlines. “This offer is valid until August 31, 2025, and can be redeemed by paying with KFH credit and prepaid cards at the Emirates Holidays office in Kuwait, through their phone service, or via their website,” He



Talal AlArbeed

explained.

AlArbeed said that KFH customers can benefit from the advantages of the Oasis Club prepaid card, which the bank offers in cooperation with Oasis Club, a subsidiary of Kuwait Airways. In addition to its unique purchasing benefits and discounts, the card allows users to earn Oasis Club miles with every purchase, which can later be redeemed for exclusive travel benefits on Kuwait Airways flights.

“To maximize the benefits of the KFH Rewards Program for summer 2025, the bank launched the “Double Your Points” campaign. Eligible KFH credit cardholders can double their KFH Rewards points on all international purchases made in currencies other than the Kuwaiti dinar,” He explained.

Additionally, KFH customers can enjoy a range of exceptional benefits and discounts. This includes access to VIP lounges with select credit cards, providing comfort and security, and reducing the need for cash. KFH is always committed to delivering a unique banking experience by offering enhanced benefits and facilities specifically designed to meet customer aspirations with ease and convenience.

## Al Arbash: A productive summer for employees’ children

# Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait concludes summer training program for employees’ children

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has wrapped up its summer training program for the children and relatives of its employees, a three-week initiative aimed at fostering the new generation’s capabilities and helping them make the most of their free time for personal growth.

The program, held in collaboration with CODED IT Academy, focused on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), programming, and virtual reality (VR) games. Participants showed great enthusiasm, eager to learn about the significance of technology and its practical applications in daily life.

A closing ceremony was held at ABK’s head office, where participants showcased the projects and games they developed during the training. A summary of the workshops highlighted how the training provided essential information on technological advancements and innovations, underscoring its importance across all sectors in Kuwait and worldwide.

On this occasion, **Afrah Al Arbash**, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK, stated, “The summer program aimed to provide an interactive and engaging learning experience for the children and relatives of our employees, giving them the opportunity to develop their abilities and make the best use of their summer vacation.”

She added that organizing the program is part of the Bank’s continuous efforts to provide a healthy work environment that satisfies its team members and increases interaction among employees. It also reflects the ABK’s



Group photo of Al-Arbash, bank representatives, and program participants.



Al Arbash



Children showcasing their innovations.



Part of the training.

commitment to meeting their needs, enhancing their comfort, and helping them achieve work-life balance, while contributing to building their children’s mental and creative capabilities for positive future outcomes.

Al Arbash further explained that the program offered participants the chance to learn the fundamentals of programming, AI, and VR games. At the closing ceremony, they presented practical demonstrations of the knowledge they acquired during the training, with the full support and expertise of the CODED officials to ensure the children gained maximum benefit from the event.

She clarified that the program allowed for identifying the potential of the new generation in Kuwait. It aligns with the technological advancements and digital transformation journey at ABK and reflects its pivotal role in supporting official bodies to achieve desired development at various levels.

Al-Arbash concluded her statement by emphasizing that ABK will continue to organize various events and activities for employees in the upcoming period to enhance their capabilities and boost innovation levels. She reiterated the bank’s ongoing commitment to developing the work environment and increasing employee satisfaction, which helps elevate the bank’s position as a preferred employer in the local banking sector.

# Boubyan Bank reports KD 52 million net profit in 1H2025, up 5%

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: Boubyan Bank has announced its H1 financial results for this year. The bank recorded KD52 million in net profits, at a growth rate of 5%, compared with the same period last year, while Profit Before Tax (PBT) reached KD 60 Million at a growth rate of 18%, and the earnings per share increased to 11fls.

Commenting on the financial results, Boubyan Bank’s Chairman, **Mr. Abdulaziz Abdullah Dakheel Al-Shaya**, stated: “Boubyan Bank’s H1-2025 results reflect our ongoing success and demonstrate the resilience and robustness of the bank’s operational business model, which proved its adaptability amid the accelerating challenges and changes in the economic environment.”

**\*\* Outstanding Financial and Operational Performance**

Al-Shaya highlighted the key financial indicators recorded during H1, where the bank’s assets grew to KD 10 billion at a growth rate of 12% compared with last year, while the bank’s financing portfolio grew by 11% to reach KD7.5 billion, and operating profit grew by 10% to KD67million, whereas the bank’s market share of local financing increased to 12.5%.

He went on to add: “These results directly reflect the progress achieved in the implementation of ‘Boubyan 2028’ Strategy, which focuses on 4 key pillars, namely: well-planned expansion domestically and regionally, offering innovative digital banking solutions, improving the efficiency of operations, and reinforcing the concepts of comprehensive sustainability.”

“The results further highlight the soundness of the strategy adopted by the bank, which focuses on continued success and maintaining sustained performance levels, thus reinforcing the bank’s status as one of the most prominent Islamic banks in the region that keeps up with the expectations of customers and shareholders,” he added.

Al-Shaya pointed out: “We are confidently looking forward to the continued implementation of our strategy, which places our customers at the heart of our attention, as we continue to focus on innovation, ongoing enhancement of our banking services, and exploring more chances for growth and diversification of income sources. Moreover, we believe in the significance of investing in our human cadres, and in reinforcing the culture of institutional work that is based on excellence and innovation, in a manner that contributes to reinforcing Boubyan’s status as one of the most growing and influential banks in the Islamic banking industry, domestically and regionally.”

**\*\* Ongoing Growth Supporting Business Competence**

On his part, **Mr. Adel Abdul Wahab Al-Majed**, Boubyan Bank’s Vice-Chairman & Group Chief Executive Officer, stated: “H1-2025’s financial results demonstrate the solid financial position of the bank and its ability to maintain sustained growth despite market challenges, domestically and regionally.”

“We continued our solid performance with positive results across all indica-



Abdulaziz Al-Shaya



Adel Al-Majed

tors, which reflects the resilience of our business model and the efficiency of our operational policies. We are optimistic about further milestones in the upcoming period, supported by the continued implementation of well-planned growth strategies, focusing on offering high quality and reliable banking solutions and services to our customers across various sectors,” he added.

Al-Majed elaborated: “During H1 of this year, Boubyan Bank successfully completed the issuance of senior unsecured sukuk of USD 500 million with a 5-year maturity as part of its USD 3 billion sukuk issuance program. The issuance witnessed an exceptional demand with subscription requests exceeding USD 2 billion, i.e., oversubscribed by more than 4x the targeted subscription.”

He added: “This huge demand by regional and international investors reflect the confidence of global markets in the creditworthiness of Boubyan Bank, and reinforces the diversification of our funding base, while supporting the regional and international expansion plans of the bank, and contributing to strengthening our liquidity ratios and creditworthiness of the bank in line with CBK’s instructions.”

Al-Majed added: “As part of the bank’s efforts to improve corporate banking services, the bank offered an integrated package of unique services, tailored specifically to cater for the needs of customers in the Kuwaiti market. Such services represent a quality addition to boost the abilities of companies and help them with the management of liquidity and capital with high efficiency amid a very competitive and evolving business environment.

These services include: Payments Host-to-Host service, merchant and supply chain services, smart liquidity management solutions, and treasury management solutions, in addition to virtual accounts, real-time reports and smart cash-man-

agement dashboards.”

“At Boubyan, we continue working in line with a crystal-clear strategic vision that places the customer at the top of our priorities, while focusing on ongoing innovation and offering unique banking solutions that cater for the expectations of various segments of customers. We believe that our commitment to the enhancement of our services and diversification of our solutions, side by side with our investment in modern technology and building effective partnerships, will enable us to achieve further sustainable growth and reinforce our status as banking leaders in the years to come,” Al-Majed concluded.

### Highlights

**1st Highlight**

Boubyan progressed significantly towards adopting AI technology by launching its AI-Driven Transformation Program, aiming at building a more competent and responsive operational model.

This direction was boosted by inking an MOU with Microsoft, the global tech giant, which is one of the AI leaders worldwide, in a step that reflects Boubyan Bank’s leadership in employing AI in pushing innovation and making a leap in the bank’s operations.

**2nd Highlight**

Ever since the beginning of this year, Boubyan Bank was recognized with many prestigious awards from global institutions. This included the “Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait” Award from MEED, the internationally renowned publication, which the bank has received recently in a clear demonstration of the continued leadership of the bank and excellence in the Islamic banking industry, domestically and regionally.

**3rd Highlight**

Boubyan continued its progress in prestigious international rankings, as it maintained its place as the 3rd strongest banking franchise in Kuwait, while being ranked among the top 25 Arab banks as per Brand Finance’s ranking. The bank ranked third domestically in Forbes Middle East Top 100 Listed Companies and in MEED’s 2025 List for MENA’s Largest 100 Companies in terms of market capitalization.

**4th Highlight**

The bank continues to undertake its community role as an integral part of its overall vision for sustained growth and CSR. This is done through various initiatives focusing on empowering the youth, supporting entrepreneurship, and reinforcing financial awareness, in addition to other vital areas such as education, healthcare, and empowering students and graduates in order for the bank to stay closer to all segments of the Kuwaiti society and to effect the necessary positive change.

## John Candy docu to open 50th Toronto festival

## TIFF sets lineup with Sweeney, Ansari and 'Knives Out 3'

TORONTO, July 22, (AP): Films starring Sydney Sweeney, Angelina Jolie and Aziz Ansari will premiere at the 50th Toronto International Film Festival, festival organizers announced Monday.

TIFF laid out the selections to its galas and special presentations programs, which make up the bulk of the red carpet premieres to North America's largest film festival. Films making their world premieres include Ansari's "Good Fortune," starring Keanu Reeves as an angel trying to teach a struggling man (Ansari) a lesson; David Michôd's "Christy," with Sweeney playing the boxer Christy Martin; and Alice Winocour's "Couture," starring Jolie as an American filmmaker attending Paris Fashion Week.

Those films join previously announced TIFF world premieres including Rian Johnson's "Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery." All three of Johnson's "Knives Out" films have premiered in Toronto.

Also debuting in Toronto will be Derek Cianfrance's "Roofman," starring Channing Tatum as a struggling fa-

ther turned thief; Nia DaCosta's Ibsen adaptation "Hedda," starring Tessa Thompson; Nicholas Hytner's WWI drama "The Choral," with Ralph Fiennes; Steven Soderbergh's third 2025 release, "The Christophers"; Hikari's "Rental Family," starring Brendan Fraser as an American actor in Japan; and Paul Greengrass' "The Lost Bus," with Matthew McConaughey as a bus driver navigating California's 2018 Camp Fire.

The Toronto International Film Festival will kick off Sept. 4 with the debut of the documentary "John Candy: I Like Me," from director Colin Hanks and producer Ryan Reynolds. The festival runs through Sept. 14.

Toronto has long been one of the prized launching pads to the fall movie season, though many of the top films often first go to the Venice or Telluride film festivals. This year, that includes TIFF selections like Chloe Zhao's "Hamnet," Guillermo del Toro's "Frankenstein," Benny Safdie's "The Smashing Machine" and Edward Berger's "Ballad of a Smaller Player." The



A welcome sign for the 2024 Toronto International Film Festival is pictured on the opening night of the festival, Sept. 5, 2024, in Toronto. (AP)

designation of those premieres suggests "Frankenstein" and "The Smashing Machine" will first play Venice,

while Zhao's and Berger's films will likely play both Venice and Telluride.

Other notable films premiering in Toronto include James Vanderbilt's Nuremberg trials drama "Nuremberg," with Rami Malik and Russell Crowe; Rachel Lee Goldenberg's "Swiped," starring Lily James as Bumble founder Whitney Wolfe Herd; and Agnieszka Holland's Franz Kafka drama "Franz."

Several directorial debuts will be landing in Toronto including those by Brian Cox ("Glenrothan") and Maude Apatow ("Poetic License"). Other selections include "Bad Apples," with Saoirse Ronan as a teacher with a poorly behaved student; "Easy's Waltz," a Las Vegas-set drama starring Vince Vaughn and Al Pacino; and Alex Winter's "Adulthood."

A number of standouts from May's Cannes Film Festival will also play in Toronto, such as Jafar Panahi's Palme d'Or winner "It Was Just an Accident," Joachim Trier's "Sentimental Value," Oliver Laxe's "Sirât" and Richard Linklater's "Nouvelle Vague."

## Variety

**LONDON:** Charli XCX and The 1975 drummer George Daniel have tied the knot. A representative for Daniel confirmed to The Associated Press that the pair married over the weekend.

The couple were seen posing in front of London's Hackney Town Hall on Saturday. Daniel wore a suit, and Charli XCX wore a Vivienne Westwood bridal mini dress, Vogue confirmed.

Representatives for Charli XCX did not immediately respond to AP's request for comment.

The "BRAT" pop star posted a video on TikTok while wearing the same bridal minidress. It featured the text "when george isn't crying when he sees me walking down the aisle," and a caption, "luckily he did."

The Grammy-winning Charli XCX, born Charlotte Emma Aitchison, is an English singer and songwriter who first made waves in 2012 for writing the synth-pop hit, "I Love It" for the Swedish duo Icona Pop and in 2014, for her collaboration with rapper Iggy Azalea on "Fancy." In the years since, she's continued to innovate, working with the futuristic hyperpop collective PC Music. Most recently, she released the energetic, hedonistic, summer-defining album, "BRAT."

Daniel is an English musician, record producer and DJ, best known as the drummer and founding member of the popular pop-rock band The 1975. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Billy Joel is doing much better, the "Piano Man" singer wants fans to know.

In May, Joel canceled all his upcoming concerts across North America and England after being diagnosed with fluid buildup in his brain that has affected his "hearing, vision and balance." The condition is called Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus, "a brain disorder that can affect brain-related abilities, including thinking and concentrating, memory, movement and more," the Cleveland Clinic says.

"I know a lot of people are worried about me and my health, but I'm OK," Joel said in an interview with People magazine. "What I have is something very few people know about, including me, no matter how much you try to research it. I'm doing my best to work with it and to recover from it."

"It was scary, but I'm OK," Joel, 76, says. "I just wanted to let people know, don't worry about me being deathly ill or anything."

He also discussed his health in an episode of comedian Bill Maher's Club Random podcast, telling the host he feels "fine," adding that, "My balance sucks. It's like being on a boat... They keep referring to what I have as a brain disorder, so it sounds a lot worse than what I'm feeling." (AP)

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.:** Leading global talent, entertainment, sports, and advisory company UTA has signed writer and director Emma Tammi for representation in all areas.

Tammi is the filmmaker behind Five Nights at Freddy's, the global hit from Universal and Blumhouse that became the highest-grossing film in Blumhouse history. Based on the wildly popular video game, the film opened to \$80 million domestically despite a day-and-date streaming release, and went on to gross nearly \$300 million worldwide. Tammi directed and co-wrote the feature, balancing suspense, world-building, and emotional stakes in a way that resonated far beyond genre audiences.

She recently wrapped production on the hotly anticipated sequel, which is set for release December 5.

Tammi made her feature directorial debut with The Wind, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and was released by IFC Midnight. (AP)

## Film



Alix Earle attends the premiere of Netflix's 'Happy Gilmore 2' at Jazz at Lincoln Center on Monday, July 21, in New York. (AP)



Julia Garner arrives at the premiere of 'The Fantastic Four: First Steps' on Monday, July 21, at Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles. (AP)



Julie Bowen attends the premiere of Netflix's 'Happy Gilmore 2' at Jazz at Lincoln Center on Monday, July 21, in New York. (AP)

## Gunn brings vulnerability to the Man of Steel

## 'Superman' brings hope to a cynical world

LOS ANGELES, July 22, (AP): Superman might do more than just save Metropolis - filmmaker James Gunn hopes the beloved superhero will bring hope to a cynical world.

"Everybody's gotten so cynical and ironic," said Gunn. "Everybody's ironic about everything all the time. And he (Superman) is a good-natured guy who wants to be kind. And when you see the world through Superman's eyes, everyone is beautiful."

"Superman," currently in theaters, is a bit of a change in tone for the writer and director who brought a mischievous playfulness and snark to the chaotic worlds of "Suicide Squad" and the "Guardians of the Galaxy." But this wasn't some fringe misfit: It's Superman. And a certain amount of optimism was necessary.

The Man of Steel has been a symbol since he first appeared in 1938 among the technicolor pages of Action Comics #1 as a baby from the planet Krypton sent to Earth as a last resort to save him from his planet's demise. In the 87 years since, various iterations of Superman have graced countless comic books, animated series and live-action television shows and films, many focusing on the hero's origin story.

Through Gunn's lens, audiences meet a Superman three years into his self-appointed journey to save anyone in need of help.

Superman has reached a point where he must confront what it means to do good and seek justice in a complicated world where many, especially the infamous Lex Luthor, question his intentions.

"We get to really discover what are his flaws, what are his opinions, what are his ideals. I think we get a very intimate look at his relationship with Lois. I also think that it's a bigger movie than it's ever been told with Superman before," Gunn said.

Gunn's vulnerable Superman is someone simply wanting to make the world a better place in an attempt to be accepted by his adopted homeland. He quickly learns that despite his super strength and metahuman abilities, he cannot do it all on his own.

David Corenswet said in recent interviews that Gunn's first instructions to him were to "work on his shoulders and his vulnerability." Rather than transform into Superman, leaning into his own humanity and inner self is what led Corenswet to find the character.

"Any fantasy I had of transforming into this character sort of got dashed by James' desire, I think, for me to bring a little more of myself to the role," Corenswet told The Associated Press.

The themes resonated with many of the actors on and off screen. Actor Isabela Merced, who portrays Hawk Girl, says watching the film before its release gave her a sense of hope after a challenging week of consuming news stories.

"Perfect timing, I think. This film is speaking on history. I mean, you could apply this to many historical events, but I



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

think it's really amazing. It's really amazing that this movie is coming out and has a great message behind it," Merced said. "I was really relieved when I watched it. I was having a terrible week, consuming way too much real media and watching this made me feel really light and happy and at least hopeful."

While Edi Gathegi, who plays Mister Terrific, says the film is a "meditation on the human spirit."

"Whatever problem that you're going through, you can attack," Gathegi said. "If it's a big societal issue or interpersonal issue, you have the power to deal with the problems that you can deal with."

Merced, Gathegi and Nathan Fillion, who plays Green Lantern Corp member Guy Gardner, round out the upcoming members of the Justice League, playfully referred to in the film as the Justice Gang. But don't hold on to that label; it's still a working title among the characters.

Superman's acts of heroism are never isolated throughout the film. The Man of Steel is accompanied by his superdog Krypto, the Justice Gang, Metamorpho or Lois Lane and the

team of journalists at the Daily Planet. Kent's job at the paper isn't just a title either: Journalism gets its own spotlight in the fabric of the film.

Gunn doesn't just focus on Superman's humanity but highlights the importance of truth and the power of journalism to fight against injustice.

"James' intentional focus on the importance of journalism and journalistic integrity in this film is potentially more important now than it has been," Brosnahan said. "One of the joys of stepping into this has been understanding in a deeper way what you all do and the ways in which you put yourselves on the line in pursuit of the truth, and it's been an honor to step into that."

Beck Bennett, who plays reporter Steve Lombard, says it was nice to see the Daily Planet journalists help the superhero go up against the villain.

"They are exposing some truth so that people can get the truth and turn on the person who is actually doing them harm," Bennett said. "It's really cool to see that. I think that could be exciting for younger people who might want to be journalists to be like, 'Wow, they do have this power. They are superheroes.'"

Skyler Gisondo, who plays Daily Planet reporter Jimmy Olsen and best friend to Clark Kent, says the scenes in the newsroom felt as high stakes as the action sequences.

"Reading the script, you have a sense that the work that we're doing is just as important as the action itself," said Gisondo.

One real journalist makes a cameo in the film: news correspondent Will Reeve, son of Christopher Reeve, who played Superman in the 1978 film. Reeve said that the message of hope from the early film is one that still reigns true today from his father's legacy.

"The fact that my dad and his character and then his subsequent personal story resonated and perhaps inspired maybe billions of people around the world," Reeve said. "That means a lot to me, and I think that has a lot with what Superman is and represents as a character."

For actor Wendell Pierce, who plays Daily Planet editor-in-chief Perry White, superhero films like Superman are more than just a fun pastime for comic book fans. They bring a sense of optimism in troubled times and a feeling that even the everyday person has the power to create change.

"People want to feel empowered," Pierce said. "They want to feel as though they can make a contribution in some way and change the dynamic to change this dysfunctional paradigm. And so we turn off the lights and go into a small theater because we want to see collectively, decide what our values are and who we are, where we've been, where we've failed, where we can triumph. But ultimately decide what our values are and walk out of the theater and act on those."

Hollywood meets NBA hardwood

A look inside the rise of Summer League Film Fest

LAS VEGAS, July 22, (AP): While Bronny James and other young talent were lighting up the NBA Summer League court in Las Vegas, another game was being played just a few steps away: One with scripts, storyboards and studio buzz.

Inside the Thomas & Mack Center, just as the league wrapped up Sunday, a different kind of crowd formed. Hollywood execs, producers and curious power players were slipping away from the basketball action to catch a slate of 34 film projects created by NBA stars past and present.

More than just film screenings, it's an emerging playground where sports and the art of storytelling collide. From baseline to backlot, the Summer League Film Festival is generating off-court buzz - with the likes of Hall of Famer Kevin Garnett, actor-producer Mark Wahlberg and filmmaker Deon Taylor joining the mix. Conversations are building on turning this three-day showcase into a launchpad for athlete-filmmakers, backed by film industry veterans who understand both the creative and business sides of shaping ideas and grooming projects for the screen.

"This definitely has legs," said retired NBA player Stacey Augmon after previewing "UNLV: Kings of Vegas," a documentary chronicling the untold story of the Runnin' Rebels in the Strip View Pavilion. A 10-minute clip was screened before a packed au-



Retired NBA player and current coach Stacey Augmon speaks during a Q&A after previewing the 'UNLV: Runnin' Rebels' documentary during the Summer League Film Festival, Saturday, July 19, in Las Vegas. (AP)

dience, including Sundance Film Festival director Michelle Satter and production companies like the Wahlberg co-owned Unrealistic Ideas and Alcon Entertainment, the company behind "The Book of Eli" and "Blade Runner 2049."

Like other entries, the "Kings of Vegas" team showcased select footage, including interviews with high-profile names such as Snoop Dogg, Chuck D and Jimmy Kimmel, alongside UNLV legends Augmon, Larry Johnson, Greg

Anthony and others. After the screening, the producers and cast discussed the film's origins, drawing a standing ovation from the crowd.

The documentary remains in development, but Augmon says the film festival is already proving its worth.

"This gives us another great avenue," said Augmon, who played on the Runnin' Rebels team that won the 1990 NCAA championship before his 15-season NBA career. His college teammate, Anderson Hunt, said shar-

ing their authentic, real-life stories offer a major advantage like never before, unlocking new pathways to getting their projects financed and sold.

"We have control of what's coming out," Hunt said. "People might know about our stories through the internet. But stuff like this takes our platform to the next level. This is great for us, and Deon is like a golden child."

The festival spotlighted stories produced by NBA stars past and present including Nikola Jokic, Luguentz Dort, Tony Allen, Nate Robinson, Kyle Anderson, Cole Anthony, Keyon Dooling and Udonis Haslem.

Expertise

Deon and Roxanne Avent Taylor of Hidden Empire Film Group were tapped to infuse the festival with seasoned filmmaking expertise, helping bridge the worlds of sports and entertainment. He played a key role in encouraging Hollywood insiders to show up, especially during the NBA Summer League's final stretch to keep the closing days as enticing as opening week.

Taylor credited NBA Summer League co-founder Albert Hall for having the foresight to spark the collaboration.

"This is all invaluable," said Hall, who cofounded the league with Warren LeGarie in 2004. "The players make money, no doubt about it. They invest in these projects. But they don't

really know what the system can provide or how to approach it. Kind of like a young executive getting into the sport or a young player trying to be seen and get exposure. It's the same way. They have to be coached up."

Hall said the partnership with Hidden Empire was a natural next step following their successful collaboration with the NFL and Skydance Sports, where they led film training sessions in March for more than 20 current and former NFL players. He added that having Wahlberg and Archie Gips of Unrealistic Ideas on board brings more industry muscle to strengthen the initiative and help drive it forward.

Taylor said the festival is a door opener for the athletes.

"It's a gateway for athletes to share their art, do their art and be creative without anyone questioning them," said Taylor, director of "Black and Blue," "The Intruder," "Meet the Blacks" and "Fatale." A former basketball player in East Germany turned independent filmmaker, he said true artistry requires neither a film school nor a Hollywood pedigree.

"The greatest artists are the ones that draw, create, build, shoot in the face of negativity and who paint pictures of what they see in the times that they live in," Taylor said. "You can only do that if you live in this culture. You can do that if you've lived and experienced it. You can't do that from a

high-rise building with no pain. These guys come from adversity in life and sports."

EverWonder Studio president Michael Antinoro certainly thinks so, and then some. He sees the film festival as more than a one-off spectacle in Las Vegas.

In Antinoro's eyes, it could become the Oscars of athlete-driven storytelling with satellite versions popping up in the NBA arenas throughout the season. He sees value in helping standout projects secure the final funding and reach the right distributors.

"If we can add any value, we're in the rooms talking to all the networks and streamers that distributes films," said Antinoro, a founding partner of the studio, which specializes in nonfiction content, documentaries and live events. The company served as co-executive producer on "Defiant: The Manny Pacquiao Obsession" in 2019 and produced projects featuring Mike Tyson and Brett Favre.

"We're talking to them a lot. It's all about exposure," he said. "Some of these films maybe need a little more money just to get them over the line. If it makes sense, we can play a little there too."

For Michelle Satter, it's all about fostering a supportive creative community. She sees promising potential in what's taking shape at the Summer League Film Festival.

Variety

LOS ANGELES: It took 40 years, but Pee-wee's bike is now at the Alamo. Just not the basement.

The Alamo announced last week it had acquired and would display the iconic bike from the 1985 Tim Burton film, "Pee-wee's Big Adventure."



Burton

The San Antonio landmark plays a key role in the film chronicling Pee-wee Herman's search for his stolen bicycle when a devious fortune-teller tells him the bike is located in the Alamo's basement. Pee-wee, played by the late Paul Reubens, learns the Alamo doesn't have a basement, but hasn't stopped tourists from tongue-in-cheek inquiries.

"It's the most common question our guest services team hears is, 'Where is the basement at the Alamo?'" said Jonathan Huhn, senior communications director for the Alamo Trust, Inc., the nonprofit organization that oversees the Alamo's operations. "It's an iconic piece of Alamo pop-culture history."

The red-and-white bike - or as Pee-wee calls it in the movie, "the best bike in the whole world" - is adorned with streamers on the handlebars and a lion emblem at the front. Huhn said it was acquired from an auction in Los Angeles.

The bike will serve as a centerpiece in the Mays Family Legacy Gallery, which examines the the Alamo's cultural impact, part of a new visitor center and museum slated to open in fall 2027. It will join other pop culture items including memorabilia from the 1960 movie about the Alamo that starred John Wayne. (AP)

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.: Jimmy Buffett's widow has accused her late husband's financial adviser of failing to administer the singer's multimillion-dollar trust in good faith and ignoring what she believed were her best interests for the \$275 million estate.

Jane Buffett on Monday asked a judge in West Palm Beach, Florida, to stop Richard Mozenther from trying to remove her as a trustee and instead sought an order removing him from overseeing the estate, according to court papers.

Jimmy Buffett, who popularized beach boom soft rock and created a "Margaritaville" empire of restaurants and resorts, died Sept. 1, 2023, at 76.

His widow and Mozenther have since been embroiled in a battle over who controls the trust, with each accusing the other of mishandling funds in lawsuits filed in both California and Florida.

The dispute is similar to another going on with the estate of another beloved singer, Tony Bennett. Two of the late crooner's daughters sued their brother over his handling of the family trust.

Jane Buffett's filing on Monday accuses Mozenther of "repeatedly" breaching his fiduciary duty by failing to provide her with basic information about the trust's assets and its investments while taking "unreasonable fees and costs in the context of the services provided." (AP)

ROME: A concert by Russian conductor Valery Gergiev has been canceled, organizers in Italy announced Monday, following protests against giving the stage to the conductor who has been largely barred from European venues for failing to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Gergiev had been invited to conduct during a summer festival at the Royal Palace of Caserta near Naples next Sunday. The regional governor, Vincenzo de Luca, had defended the invitation, saying that "the logic of preclusion ... does not help peace."

The invitation had been widely criticized by human rights activists, Russian opposition figures and European parliamentarians. (AP)

Obituary

Theo Huxtable ... a cultural touchstone of the '80s

Malcolm-Jamal Warner, 'Cosby Show' actor, dies at 54 in Costa Rica drowning

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, July 22, (AP): Malcolm-Jamal Warner, who as teenage son Theo Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" was central to a cultural phenomenon that helped define the 1980s, died at 54 in an accidental drowning in Costa Rica, authorities there said Monday.

Costa Rica's Judicial Investigation Department said Warner drowned Sunday afternoon on a beach on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast. He was swimming at Playa Cocles in Limon province when a current pulled him deeper into the ocean.

"He was rescued by people on the beach," the department's initial report said, but first responders from Costa Rica's Red Cross found him without vital signs and he was taken to the morgue.

Warner created many TV moments etched in the memories of Generation X children and their parents, including a pilot-episode argument with Cosby about grades and careers, and another episode where Theo tries in vain to hide his ear piercing from his dad.

Theo was the only son among four daughters in the household of Cosby's Cliff Huxtable and Phylicia Rashad's Clair Huxtable on the NBC sitcom, and he would be one of the prime representations of American teenage life and Black boyhood on a show that was the most popular in America for much of its run from 1984 to 1992.

Warner worked for more than 40 years as an actor and director, also starring in the sitcoms "Malcolm & Eddie" and "Read Between the Lines," and in the medical drama "The Resident."

His final credits came in TV guest roles, including a dramatic four-episode arc last year on the network procedural "9-1-1," where he played a nurse who was a long-term survivor of a terrible fire.

"I grew up with a maniacal obsession with not wanting to be one of those 'where are they now kids,'" Warner told The Associated Press in 2015. "I feel very blessed to be able to have all of these avenues of expression ... to be where I am now and finally at a place where I can let go of that worry about having a life after 'Cosby.'"

He played Theo Huxtable for eight seasons, appearing in each of the 197 episodes of "The Cosby Show" and earning an Emmy nomination for supporting actor in a comedy in 1986.

Actor Viola Davis was among those giving tribute Monday.

"Theo was our son, our brother, our friend. He was absolutely so familiar, and we rejoiced at how TV got it right!," The Oscar winner said on Instagram. "But Malcolm got it right ... we reveled in your life and are gutted by this loss."

Like the rest of the "Cosby Show" cast, Warner had to contend with the sexual assault allegations against its titular star, whose conviction in a Pennsylvania court was later overturned.

Generations

Warner told the Associated Press in 2015 that the show's legacy was "tarnished."

"My biggest concern is when it comes to images of people of color on television and film," Warner said. "We've always had 'The Cosby Show' to hold up against that. And the fact that we no longer have that, that's the thing that saddens me the most because in a few generations the Huxtables will have been just a fairy tale."

Representatives for Cosby declined immediate comment.

Warner's first major post-"Cosby" role came on the sitcom "Malcolm & Eddie," co-starring with comedian Eddie Griffin in the popular series on the defunct UPN network from 1996 to 2000.

"My heart is heavy right now," Griffin said on Instagram Monday. "Rest easy my brother for you have won in life and now you have won forever eternal bliss..."

In the 2010s, he starred opposite Tracee Ellis Ross as a family-blending couple for two seasons on the BET sitcom "Read Between The Lines." He also had a role as O.J. Simpson's friend Al Cowlings on "American Crime Story" and was a series regular on Fox's "The Resident."

"First I met you as Theo with the rest of the world then you were my first TV husband," Ross said on Instagram. "My heart is so so sad. What an actor and friend you were: warm, gentle, present, kind, thoughtful, deep, funny, elegant."

Warner's film roles included the 2008 rom-com "Fool's Gold" with Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson. A poet and a musician, Warner was a Grammy winner, for best traditional R&B performance, and was nominated for best spoken word poetry album for "Hiding in Plain View."

Warner also worked as a director, helming episodes of "Malcolm & Eddie," "Read Between the Lines," "The Resident" and "All That."

Warner, named after Malcolm X and jazz pianist Ahmad Jamal, was born in 1970 in Jersey City, New Jersey. His mother, Pamela Warner, served as his manager when he began pursuing acting at age 9.

In the early 1980s, he made guest appearances on the TV shows "Matt Houston" - his first credit - and "Fame."

Warner was 13 when he landed the role of Theo in an audition after a broad search for the right child actor.

Cosby was a major star at the time, and the show was certain to be widely seen, but few could've predicted the huge phenomenon it would become.

For many the lasting image of Theo, and of Warner, is of him wearing a badly botched mock designer shirt sewed by his sister Denise, played by Lisa Bonet. The "Gordon Gortrell" shirt later became a memeable image: Anthony Mackie wore one on "The Tonight Show" with Jimmy Fallon and the profile picture on Warner's Instagram shows a toddler sporting one.

Warner would develop a love-hate relationship with the character.

"Theo was very good to me. And I think that show and that role is timeless. And I'm very proud of that role," Warner said in a recent podcast interview, while noting that he'd tried to separate himself from the role and for years would recoil when fans addressed him as Theo.

"Part of the distancing for me is not wanting to see how much of Malcolm is in Theo. I remember doing the show and I always thought that Theo is corny. I want Theo to be cooler," he told Melyssa Ford on her "Hot & Bothered" podcast. "Somebody called me America's favorite white Black boy. And I was 15. ... It hurt me. ... That's cultural trauma."

Warner was married with a young daughter, but chose to not publicly disclose their names. His representatives declined immediate comment on his death.



Malcolm-Jamal Warner speaks on stage at the 65th annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 5, 2023, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Gen Xers mourn loss of 'Theo' actor Warner

DETROIT, July 22, (AP): For Black youth and teens growing up in the mid-1980s, "The Cosby Show" offered something rarely seen on television up until that time: a sitcom that placed characters who looked like them in a positive light.

And Malcolm-Jamal Warner's Theo Huxtable was the character Generation X most related to. Fans took quickly to social media on Monday as news of Warner's accidental drowning in Costa Rica spread.

"It's like losing one of us," said Harriet Cammock, a 58-year-old Detroit author and speaker. "This is the thing with television. When you're watching people every week on television, you think you know them and you're related to them."

Warner was swimming Sunday afternoon at Playa Cocles in Costa Rica's Limon province when a current pulled him deeper into the Caribbean, according to that country's Judicial Investigation Department.

First responders found him without vital signs.

Cori Murray, executive vice president of content at Ebony Magazine, was saddened upon hearing about Warner's death. She said his Theo character mirrored the everyday Black teenager, which was rare to see on TV at the time.

While so many portrayals of young Black teenagers leaned negative, "The Cosby Show," especially Theo, showed warmth, joy and relatability.

"He wasn't just a character. We saw ourselves in him," Murray said. "You know how Kendrick Lamar has the song 'Not Like Us'? Well, Theo was one of us. He was like us."

Murray, who met Warner a few times, recalled his character off-screen matched the warmth he exuded on television. She called him respectful and pleasant and said he had a "megawatt smile" that lit up the room.

"His energy stayed with you," Murray said. "You don't have a bad memory when it comes to Theo or Malcolm-Jamal Warner. As much as we loved the character, we also watched Malcolm grow up in real life. No scandals. No mess. Just a talented young man who matured into an upstanding, handsome adult."

The show starring Bill Cosby as Cliff Huxtable and Phylicia Rashad as his wife, Clair, "made the wider society aware that there are Black people who live like white people do," said Cammock, who is Black. "The perception that we don't live like they do was hurtful."

Gil Robertson, co-founder and president of the African American Film Critics Association, reflected on Warner's rare path in the entertainment industry.

"There was never any scandal, no controversy," said Robertson. "He transitioned from a teen star to a respected adult without the baggage we often see from others in his generation. That's no small feat."

Books

Lost roots

Stirring tale in 'Tilting House'

NEW YORK, July 22, (AP): Yuri is a 16-year-old orphan who lives simply with her religious aunt in a big, old house in Communist Cuba in the years after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Yuri's parents had named her after the Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gargarin, hoping that one day she would grow up to be a famous female astronaut. Yuri now has vague hopes of being accepted into the Lenin school, Cuba's prestigious preparatory.

Yuri and her Aunt Ruth's quiet lives are suddenly turned upside down when an unexpected visitor from "la Yuma" - slang for the United States - shows up at their Havana home with a camera swinging from her neck and announcing she is family. Ruth later tells Yuri that 34-year-old Mariela is her daughter, and that when Mariela was an infant she sent her to live with a family in the United States through Operation Pedro Pan, a US government program in which thousands of unaccompanied children were sent from Cuba to Miami in the early 1960s.

"The Tilting House," by Miami-based writer Iyonne Lamazares, is an affecting and sometimes amusing coming-of-age novel set in a country that few have had the opportunity to visit, despite its proximity to the US.

It's a study of hidden family secrets, the unhealed wound of losing a mother and the quest for home.

Historic

Lamazares, who was born in Havana, knows her homeland well, and her book is rife with description and historic detail that only someone with first-hand knowledge could provide. Lamazares left Cuba for the United States in 1989 during a period of shortages and deprivation known as "The Special Period in Time of Peace." Her first novel, "The Sugar Island," also set in Cuba, was translated into seven languages.

In "The Tilting House," Yuri is quickly pulled into Mariela's chaotic world and her absurd art projects, which include a tragicomic funeral for Ruth's dead dog, Lucho, in a public park using highly illegal homemade fireworks. Ruth, already viewed as suspect by the government as a member of the small Jehovah's Witnesses group, is arrested and sent to jail on unexplained charges.

Mariela later tells Yuri that they aren't cousins, but sisters, and that their now-dead mother gave birth to her as a teenager. Mariela insists that their Aunt Ruth "kidnapped" her and sent her to live in the US, where she was raised on a farm in Nebraska.

More harebrained projects follow, and the family's tilting house finally tumbles after neighbors and acquaintances slowly chip away at the building to repurpose many of the structure's materials.



This image released by Counterpoint shows 'The Tilting House' by Iyonne Lamazares. (AP)

‘Unique heart cell features guard against cancer’

Why is heart cancer so rare? A biologist explains

**By Julie Phillippi**  
University of Pittsburgh

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

Curious Kids is a series for children of all ages. If you have a question you'd like an expert to answer, send it to CuriousKidsUS@theconversation.com.

Why is heart cancer so rare? - Jackson, age 12, Davis, California

You probably know someone who is affected by cancer. This disease results when cells divide uncontrollably and can make a person sick, sometimes very seriously.

Cancer can occur anywhere in the body because every tissue and organ is made up of billions or even trillions of cells. But there are some parts of the body where cancer doesn't happen as often, such as the heart. Studies show 3 in 10,000 people develop heart cancer. In comparison, 1 in 20 women are expected to develop breast cancer. Why is that?

I'm a biologist who specializes in the blood vessels of the cardiovascular system. A big part of my work focuses on how cells interact with their environment to regulate the function of tissues and organs. Disease can develop when

things go wrong.

Turns out, heart cells have unique features that make them super resistant to cancer.

Cells produce more cells to grow, replace older or worn-out cells or to repair damaged tissues. This process is called cell division. Each type of cell in the body divides at different rates based on multiple factors, including what their function is and a person's age.

For example, the cells of a growing human embryo divide extremely fast, undergoing four divisions in three days. The cells that make up the skin, nails and hair regularly replenish across your lifespan. Bone cells divide at a rate that will give you an entirely new skeleton approximately every 10 years.

Whether and how often a cell divides is tightly regulated by a series of molecular checkpoints. During cell division, genes within DNA are duplicated and evenly distributed into two daughter cells. Damage to these genes caused by exposure to harmful chemicals, ultraviolet light or radiation can result in mutations that cause disease. Mutations can just happen randomly, too. When there are mutations on the genes regulating cell division, cancer can develop.

Even though the heart is the first organ to form and start working during early development, cells in the adult heart divide very few times after birth, with division dramatically declining after age 20. In fact, less than 50% of heart cells

are replaced over the course of an average human life. That means half of the heart cells you're born with will be helping pump blood for your entire life.

This low rate of cell division in the adult heart likely serves as its primary defense against cancer. The less often a cell divides, the fewer opportunities there are for mistakes during DNA replication.

The heart is also less directly exposed to cancer-causing factors, such as UV light on the skin or inhaled substances in the lung, due to its protected location in the chest.

Unfortunately, the heart's low rate of cell division has some downsides, such as a reduced ability to repair and replace cells damaged by disease, injury or aging.

Even with the heart's resistance to cancer, tumors may still form.

When cancer is found in the heart, it's often the result of cancer cells migrating from another part of the body to the heart. This process is called metastasis. Certain types of skin cancers or cancers in the chest are more likely to spread to the heart, though this is still rare.

When they do happen, heart tumors can be quite serious and more aggressive than other cancers. A study analyzing more than 100,000 heart cancer cases in the United States found that patients who underwent surgery and chemotherapy to treat their heart cancer survived longer than those who did not.

Successful cancer care spans multiple areas of medicine.

These include palliative care, which focuses on relieving pain and addressing symptoms, and integrative medicine, which considers the mind-body-spirit connection.

Understanding how heart cells divide and what causes that process to change offers clues about disease and shapes ideas for new treatments.

For example, research into how heart cells divide helps scientists better understand why the heart doesn't heal well after a heart attack. Researchers found that although failing hearts have more dividing cells than healthy hearts, they need help to recover fully.

New technologies, such as the ability to reprogram blood cells into heart cells, have allowed researchers to develop new heart disease models to study and one day achieve heart regeneration. This opens doors for new treatments for heart diseases, including cancer.

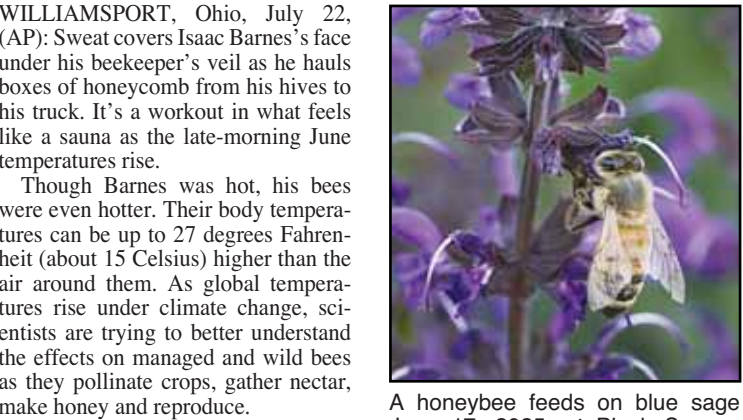
Understanding why cancer doesn't happen is just as important for developing new and better treatments as knowing why it does. The answers to both questions lie truly at the heart.

Hello, curious kids! Do you have a question you'd like an expert to answer? Ask an adult to send your question to CuriousKidsUS@theconversation.com. Please tell us your name, age and the city where you live.

And since curiosity has no age limit - adults, let us know what you're wondering, too. We won't be able to answer every question, but we will do our best. (AP)

Rising heat threatens bees' ability to thrive

Bees find ways to cope with warming, but scientists still fear for their future



A honeybee feeds on blue sage June 17, 2025, at Black Swamp Preserve in Bowling Green, Ohio. (AP)

WILLIAMSPORT, Ohio, July 22, (AP): Sweat covers Isaac Barnes's face under his beekeeper's veil as he hauls boxes of honeycomb from his hives to his truck. It's a workout in what feels like a sauna as the late-morning June temperatures rise.

Though Barnes was hot, his bees were even hotter. Their body temperatures can be up to 27 degrees Fahrenheit (about 15 Celsius) higher than the air around them. As global temperatures rise under climate change, scientists are trying to better understand the effects on managed and wild bees as they pollinate crops, gather nectar, make honey and reproduce.

They noticed flying bees gathering nectar avoided overheating on the hottest days by using fewer but harder wingbeats to keep their body temperature below dangerous levels, according to a study published last year. Scientists also say that bees - like people - may also cope by retreating to a cooler environment such as the shade or their nest.

"Just like we go into the shade, or we sweat or we might work less hard, bees actually do the exact same thing so they can avoid the heat," said Jon Harrison, an environmental physiologist at Arizona State University and one of the study's authors.

But that means the bees aren't able to do what they normally do, said Kevin McCluney, a biology professor at Bowling Green State University.

"They're not going out and getting more nectar. They're not mating. They're not doing the things that bees

would otherwise do," McCluney said.

Generally, most bees are heat-tolerant, but as the climate warms, some experts think their ability to fend off disease and gather food might become harder. And habitat loss, increased use of pesticides, diseases and lack of forage for both managed and wild bees are all listed as potential contributors to the global decline of bees and other pollinators.

"If you're not well-fed, and your body is intoxicated with pesticides and you have lots of diseases in your body, you're going to be less heat-tolerant than if you were healthy," said Margarita López-Urbe, a pollinator health expert at Pennsylvania State University.

Earlier this year, preliminary results from the annual U.S. Beekeeping Survey found that beekeepers lost almost 56% of their managed colonies, the highest loss since the survey started in 2010.

Almost all of the managed honeybee colonies in the U.S. are used to pollinate agricultural crops such as almonds, apples, cherries and blueberries. Fewer pollinators can lead to less pollination and potentially lower yields.

"It's a very fragile system if you think about it," López-Urbe said. "Because if something goes wrong, you have these super high-value crops that won't get enough bees for pollination."

Back at Barnes' hives in Ohio, thousands of honeybees fly around as he gathers boxes to take back to his farm for honey production. Nearby, a couple of his bees land on milkweed flowers, a rare bit of plant diversity in an area dominated by corn and soybean fields.

For Barnes, who operates Honeyrun Farm with his wife, Jayne, one of the challenges heat can pose to his 500 honeybee hives is fending off parasitic mites that threaten the bees. If temperatures get too hot, he can't apply formic acid, an organic chemical that kills the mites. If it's applied when it's too hot, the bees could die.

Last year they lost almost a third of the 400 hives they sent to California to help pollinate commercial almond groves. Barnes thinks those hives may have been in poor health ahead of pollination because they were unable to ward off mites when it was hot months earlier.

Israeli military attacks staff residence: WHO

Gazans losing lifelines as aid system threatened: UN chief

UNITED NATIONS, July 22, (Xinhua): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warns that the last lifelines keeping Gazans alive are collapsing as the humanitarian system is being impeded, undermined and endangered, a UN spokesman said on Monday.

Stephane Dujarric, chief spokesman for Guterres, said the secretary-general "is appalled by the accelerating breakdown of humanitarian conditions in Gaza, where the last lifelines keeping people alive are collapsing."

Deploing the growing reports of children and adults suffering from malnutrition, Guterres strongly condemned the violence, including the shooting, killing and injuring of people attempting to get food for their families, Dujarric said.

The spokesman added that the weekend evacuation order for parts of Deir al-Balah pushes people into more desperate conditions and further displacement and restricts the United Nations' ability to deliver life-saving aid.

He said that the UN staff remain in Deir al-Balah and that two of their guesthouses, which are inviolable, came under fire, despite informing the Israeli military of their locations. There were no injuries among staff members, although the guesthouses suffered damage.

Dujarric said the sites must be protected, regardless of evacuation orders, as with all civilian locations.

"The secretary-general reiterates his urgent call for the protection of civilians, including humanitarian personnel and for the provision of essential resources to ensure their survival," the spokesman said.



Injured Palestinians are transferred to an ambulance after being wounded while waiting for aid arriving from the northern Gaza Strip, in Gaza City, Tuesday, July 22. (AP)

Guterres called for an immediate ceasefire and the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, adding that the United Nations stands ready to scale up humanitarian operations.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that amid shelling, displacement and destruction, it received deeply concerning reports of severely malnourished people who are arriving at medical points and hospitals in feeble health.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) said the Israeli military attacked its staff residence and main warehouse in Gaza on Monday, a move the agency said severely undermined its ability to operate in the region and accelerated the collapse of the local health system.

The WHO said in a statement that its staff residence in the city of Deir al-Balah in Gaza was attacked three times on Monday, and its main warehouse was destroyed. It condemned the attacks "in the strongest terms."

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X that the Israeli military entered the agency's premises, forcing women and children to evacuate on foot, while male staff and family members were "handcuffed, stripped, interrogated on the spot and screened at gunpoint."

Extreme heat poses new dangers: study

SYDNEY, July 22, (Xinhua): An Australian-led global study has found a sharp increase in extreme heat events over the past 30 years, underscoring the urgent need for strategies to address rising heat and humidity.

The study, involving experts from 18 institutions across Australia, the United States, Europe, and Asia, found the average annual number of heat-wave days increased from 12 during 1990-2006 to 19.3 in 2007-2023, with an annual average of 15.6 days in the 33 monitored years, said researchers from Australia's Monash University.

The rise was particularly sharp in regions including Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Asia, according to a statement released Monday from Monash University, which led the study.

Researchers used both ambient temperature and the wet-bulb globe temperature, which accounts for humidity, solar radiation and wind, for the first time to map global extreme heat more accurately.

"This matters because humidity dramatically amplifies heat stress and health risks, especially in vulnerable populations," said the study's first author Zhou Shuang from Monash University.

Published in the Annual Review of Environment and Resources in the United States, the study showed heatwaves cause both direct health effects, like heatstroke and heart illness, and indirect impacts, including mental health issues, pregnancy risks, and energy disruptions that worsen health and economic burdens.

The researchers proposed a multi-level framework for heat preparedness, spanning international cooperation, national policies, institutional coordination, community response, and individual protection.

AI-based tool forecasts liver cancer relapse

SINGAPORE, July 22, (Xinhua): Singaporean researchers have developed an artificial intelligence-powered scoring system capable of predicting the recurrence of liver cancer, according to a press release from the Agency for Science, Technology and Research on Monday.

Developed by scientists from the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology (IMCB) under the agency in collaboration with the Singapore General

Hospital, the system can forecast the recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma, the most common type of liver cancer, with approximately 82 percent accuracy.

The system works by analyzing the spatial distribution of natural killer immune cells and five key genes within liver tumor tissues.

"In Singapore, up to 70 percent of liver cancer patients experience recurrence within five years," said Principal

Investigator Joe Yeong from the IMCB, noting that this system empowers clinicians to intervene as early as possible.

Researchers validated the system using tissue samples from 231 patients across five hospitals. It is now accessible via a free web portal for research purposes, with plans underway to integrate it into standard clinical workflows.

Further validation studies are scheduled to begin later this year.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

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

For  
your  
ads on  
this page

Call: 69994428

E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

مركز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي

SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE

الفحاحيل

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

Paul returns to Clippers for what’s expected to be his final season

Injured Lillard is grateful to be ‘back home’ with Trail Blazers

PORTLAND, Ore., July 22, (AP): It hit Damian Lillard as he drove home with his kids after signing a contract to return to the Portland Trail Blazers.

He was coming home.

Lillard’s three children, Damian Jr., 7, and twins Kalii and Kali, 4, accompanied him to sign his three-year, \$42 million deal with the Blazers over the weekend. The contract includes a no-trade clause and he can opt out after two seasons.

“Just knowing that I’m going to be back home for all parts of my life, with my kids, playing for the Trail Blazers, driving on the same streets that I’ve driven on pretty much my entire adulthood, my whole family being here, my mom, my brother, my sisters, all my friends around the city of Portland,” he said. “All of those things count. I wasn’t expecting it to happen so soon.”

Lillard made his fist public comments about the deal at a news conference on Monday night with Blazers coach Chauncey Billups and general manager Joe Cronin.

Lillard played for Portland for his first 11 NBA seasons before he was traded, at his request, to the Milwaukee Bucks before the start of the 2023-24 season.

A nine-time All-Star, the 35-year-old Lillard is beloved in Portland, known for pointing to his wrist to signify “Dame Time” after making big shots.

But he’s not going to be back on the court at the Moda Center any time soon.

Lillard tore his left Achilles tendon during a first-round playoff series against the Indiana Pacers and required surgery that will likely sideline him for the 2025-26 season.

The Bucks waived him earlier this



In this file photo, San Antonio Spurs guard Chris Paul (3) celebrates a basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Toronto Raptors, April 13, 2025, in San Antonio. (AP)

month and stretched the remaining \$113 million on his contract over five years.

“I told him that this year he’s going to be the highest-paid assistant coach in league history because I’ll be putting in Chris Paul is rejoining the Los Angeles Clippers for what’s expected to be the point guard’s 21st and final NBA season.

The team confirmed that Paul had signed. He led the Clippers to the playoffs in each of his six seasons in Los Angeles.

“Chris is one of the most impactful players ever to wear a Clippers uniform and it’s appropriate that he returns to the team for this chapter of his career,” Lawrence Frank, president of basketball operations, said in a statement.

Paul, a 12-time All-Star, was a free agent after playing all 82 games for the San Antonio Spurs last season,

becoming the first NBA player to do so in his 20th season or later. He averaged 8.8 points and 7.4 assists while shooting 43% from the floor.

Paul had stated that he wanted to play the upcoming season close to his family, which lives in Los Angeles.

He joins a veteran roster that includes new additions guard Bradley Beal, forward John Collins and center Brook Lopez, as well as Kawhi Leonard, James Harden and Bogdan Bogdanovic.

“Chris will help fortify our backcourt with his exceptional ballhandling, playmaking and shooting,” Frank said Monday.

Paul played six seasons for the Clippers during their “Lob City” era with Blake Griffin and DeAndre Jordan. He made five All-Star teams from 2012 to 2017 and his 4,023 assists are still the most in franchise

history. He averaged 18.8 points, 9.8 assists, 4.2 rebounds and 2.2 steals in 409 games.

Paul left the Clippers for the Houston Rockets in 2017 because he felt it was time for a change and he wanted to compete for a championship with Harden. Paul spent two seasons in Houston before going to Oklahoma City for one season. He then spent three years with Phoenix and one with Golden State before joining the Spurs last season, who finished 13th in the Western Conference at 34-48.

The Clippers finished fifth at 50-32 and lost to Denver in seven games in the first round.

Frank had said Saturday that the team was “strongly considering” signing Paul to join a crowded guard rotation of Harden, Beal, Bogdanovic and Kris Dunn.

Paul will come off the bench.

Slovenian runner nails 1st athletics gold as US swimmers seize 4 titles

China’s sole gold of the day comes from diving

ESSEN, Germany, July 22, (Xinhua): Slovenian Klara Lukan clinched the first track and field gold medal of the Rhine-Ruhr World University Games with a Games record time of 31 minutes 25.84 seconds in the women’s 10,000m.

Lukan maintained her leading position throughout the 25-lap race and was never really challenged to secure Slovenia’s first medal in the 2025 event, but she refused to define her win as an easy one.

“Maybe it’s just the expression on my face [that makes it look easy], but it’s always hard. It’s never easy. Otherwise everyone could do it,” said Lukan.

“Everything went according to plan today. At first, I wanted to do more tactical [things], but you know, my style of running is to just push the best. I kept that, that’s the way I ran my whole career, so why would I do something differently? It brought me many successes.” Kenya also claimed its first medal here with Sarah Wanjiru Njeri’s silver, timing a personal best of 31:41.80. Spain’s Alicia Berzosa Martin bagged the bronze in 32:00.73, marking her PB as well. China’s Ma Xiuzhen finished in 12th place in 33:04.85.

U.S. swimmers repeated their feat in the pool as they pocketed four of the six gold medals on offer.

Women’s 100m butterfly gold went to Leah Elizabeth Shackley in 58.16 seconds. Matthew Carl King grabbed the men’s 100m freestyle title in 48.01s before hitting the double in the mixed relay. Kate Morgan Hurst captured the women’s 1,500m free gold in 16:15.40. Team USA prevailed in the mixed 4x100m free relay in 3:24.27, followed by Japan (+2.59s) and South Africa (+4.24s).

“The first [100m] win was great. It’s always great to get a win for the team. I was a little disappointed I was 48.01 [seconds], so I wanted to go into the relay and sneak under that,” said King.

Yumeno Kusuda delivered Japan its first swimming gold from



Gold medalist Wang Weiyang (center) of China, silver medalist Qu Zhixin (left) of China and bronze medalist Lena Hentschel of Germany pose after the women’s 3m springboard final of diving at the Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU World University Games in Berlin, Germany. (Xinhua)

the women’s 200m breaststroke in 2:26.15. Her teammate Yuyumi Obatake was 2.02 seconds behind in second place, and Spain’s Aina Fernandez Gonzalez trailed by 2.33 seconds in third.

Men’s 50m backstroke title was taken by South African Pieter Theunis Coetzee in 24.49 seconds.

China’s sole gold of the day came from diving, as China’s Wang Weiyang triumphed in the women’s 3m springboard with 344.25 points, marking her third medal at the Games after a silver in the 10m platform and a gold in the synchronized 3m springboard.

Wang’s teammate Qu Zhixin secured second place with 25.70 points behind and Germany’s Lena Hentschel took the bronze, 78.50 points adrift of the winner.

“I am very happy with what I got so far. But I also have goals for the future, I want to pursue higher achievements in my life. I am looking forward to having an even better outcome in the future,” said Wang.



Klara Lukan of Slovenia competes during the women’s 10,000m final at the Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU World University Games in Bochum, Germany. (Xinhua)

“I am trying to develop my skills in many diving categories,” she added, commenting on competing in both the springboard and platform events.

South Korea won its fourth fencing gold here after easing past Italy 45-26 in the women’s foil team final. Japan snatched its first fencing gold by edging Hungary 45-44 in the men’s epee team.

In taekwondo, Zurab Kintsurashvili earned Georgia its first gold medal here after he beat Brazil’s Vinicius Assis Matos in the men’s 74kg final. Turkey’s first gold also came from taekwondo as Seval Cakal overcame Czech Petra Stolbova in the women’s 62kg. South Korea added two more taekwondo golds to its medal collection, notching a total of six in the sport, with victories of Song Da-bin in the women’s +73kg and Kang Sang-hyun in the men’s +87kg.

After the fifth competition day, the United States has extended its lead in the medal tally with 17 golds, nine silvers and 17 bronzes. China remains in second place with 10 golds, 13 silvers and three bronzes, followed by South Korea with 10 golds, five silvers and 11 bronzes.

Navas to join Pumas after brief stint with Newell’s Old Boys

Cetre leads Estudiantes to comeback victory

BUENOS AIRES, July 22, (Agencies): Edwuin Cetre and Alexis Castro scored second-half goals as Estudiantes recovered from a goal down to beat Huracan 2-1 in Argentina’s Primera Division Clausura tournament on Monday.

Fabio Pereyra gave his side the lead by heading in from Matko Miljevic’s corner but Cetre equalized with a spectacular overhead volley after Guido Carrillo’s headed pass.

Cetre then turned provider with a driving run and cross for Castro, who sent a bullet header into the top-right corner.

The result leaves Estudiantes eighth in the 15-team Group A standings with three points from two games while Huracan is last, having failed to pick up a point from its first two matches.

“Edwuin Cetre continues to be influential in attack and we’re fortunate to have top-level players like him to unlock matches,” Estudiantes manager Eduardo Dominguez said.

“The fans had a right to be angry in the first half. They got behind us in the second and you

could see the way their support had a positive impact on the team. I made it clear to the players in the locker room after the match that we need to be more consistent so that the fans are always behind us.”

In other fixtures, San Martin won 3-2 at home to Deportivo Riestra, and Defensa y Justicia eased to a 2-0 home win over Aldosivi.

Ex-Real Madrid goalkeeper Keylor Navas is set to transfer to the UNAM Pumas of the Mexican league after a six-month stint in Argentina with Newell’s Old Boys.

The 38-year-old Navas signed a two-year deal last January with Newell’s Old Boys, but he received an offer from Pumas two weeks ago.

The Argentinian club on Monday said it will receive \$2 million as part of the transfer deal. Pumas is yet to make an official announcement.

Navas missed the first two league matches in Argentina, the first due to sickness sickness and the sec-

ond because he asked to be left on the bench.

“Commitment, professionalism, and respect for the club’s values are non-negotiable,” Newell’s Old Boys said. “To achieve our goals, it is essential that each member pulls in the same direction, always prioritizing the team over the individual.” Newell’s, Lionel Messi’s boyhood club, is based in Rosario, 300 kilometers (186 miles) northeast of Buenos Aires.

Navas signed with Newell’s Old Boys after finishing his second spell with Paris Saint-Germain, where he made just six appearances in all competitions.

He played four seasons in a successful first stint at PSG, helping the club secure two French league titles.

Navas made his professional debut with Saprissa in Costa Rica in 2005 and began his European career four years later with Albacete. He then moved to Levante and signed with Real Madrid for the 2014-15 season.

With Real Madrid, Navas won a league title and a Super Cup, as well as three Champions League titles. He also featured in three World Cups for Costa Rica.

Best of the Rest

**Lopez returns to Betis on 3-yr deal:** La Liga side Real Betis announced the signing of goalkeeper Pau Lopez on a three-year deal on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old returns to the club he represented in the 2018-2019 season, making 33 league appearances before joining Italian side AS Roma.

Lopez rejoins Betis on a free transfer after ending his contract with Mexican side Toluca by mutual accord, and he will compete with veteran Adrian San Miguel and possibly Alvaro Valles for the position.

Valles joined the club on a free transfer this summer from Las Palmas, and the Spanish press speculates Betis will either loan him out or sell him before the end of the transfer window.

Lopez has a lot of top-level European experience, playing 76 times for Roma and 127 times for Olympique de Marseille. He has also played twice for the Spain national team, making his debut against Bosnia and Herzegovina in May 2019.

Betis returns to the UEFA Europa League after ending last season sixth in La Liga. The club has worked to strengthen its squad with defender Junior Firpo returning from Leeds United, while Nobel Mendy and Natan have also signed along with winger Rodrigo Riquelme, who has moved from Atletico Madrid. (Xinhua)

Newcastle United legend Solano named as Pakistan coach

ISLAMABAD, July 22, (AP): Newcastle United legend Nolberto Solano has been appointed as head coach of Pakistan’s senior and under-23 teams.

Solano will take over from Stephen Constantine and his first major assignment will be the AFC Under-23 qualifiers in September where Pakistan is grouped with Cambodia, Iraq and Oman.

He will also be in charge for the remainder of Pakistan’s 2027 AFC Asian Cup qualifying campaign, including a double-header against Afghanistan in October.

Solano’s appointment is the first major signing by the newly-elected Pakistan Football Federation with Mohsen Gilani as its president.

“Under President Mohsen Gilani’s leadership, PFF proudly welcomes Nol-

berto Solano as Head Coach of Pakistan U23 with a pathway to the senior team!,” the PFF wrote on X while welcoming the former Peru winger.

“A true legend with EPL, World Cup & Copa America pedigree it’s a new era for Pakistan football.”

Solano was the assistant coach of Peru when his country qualified for the FIFA World Cup in 2018 in Russia after 36

years. He left the national team in 2022 when Peru failed to qualify for the World Cup in Qatar after it was beaten by Australia in an inter-continental playoff.

Constantine led Pakistan to its first ever victory in a World Cup qualifier in Oct. 2023 and had been coaching the team on game-to-game basis after his one-year contract expired in November last year.

Change Name

I, CHELLEM MANOJU KUMAR (OldName)s/o CHELLEM CHANTI Door Number 9-40/1,PATIMEEDHA,KAVTTAM ,PODURU MANDAL,WEST GODAVARI,ANDRAPRADESH,PI N CODE-534338 ,INDIA. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME As (New Name ) CHELLEM MANOJ KUMAR S/o CHELLEM CHANTI,Hereafter my name is know as CHELLEM MANOJ KUMAR

Lost

I, Mohammad Ahmad, S/O Mohammad Zafarullah, have lost my SSC Certificate and Result Card. I want to issue a Duplicate Certificate from the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Islamabad

99047210

# Unbeaten Lions hold off First Nations and Pasifika

Gamble's relentless effort earns top honors despite loss

MELBOURNE, Australia, July 22 (AP): The British and Irish Lions held off the First Nations and Pasifika XV 24-19 in a tough, physical contest on Tuesday in the last of their midweek games on the Australian tour.

The Lions can now focus on trying to clinch the three-test series against the Wallabies on Saturday in Melbourne after winning the first match 27-19 last weekend in Brisbane.

"We've given ourselves a bit of a fright," Lions head coach Andy Farrell said. "Congratulations to the First Nations and Pasifika team, (they) made it a hard-fought contest that's for sure."

The Lions are now 7-0 in Australia, including the test match, victories over Super Rugby franchises Western Force, Queensland Reds, Waratahs and Brumbies and two invitational teams.

Jamie Osborne scored the opening tries of each half Tuesday and the Lions twice had big leads before being pinned back by the First Nations and Pasifika team, which was drawn from players with Indigenous Australia and Pacific Islands heritage.

Making the most of a penalty advantage, the Lions took a 24-14 lead with 15 minutes to play when Owen Farrell dummied a pass to unsettle the defense and send an unmarked Duhau van der Merwe over in the left corner.

But the invitational team rallied



Garry Ringrose of the British & Irish Lions, second right, attempts to get past First Nations & Pasifika XV's Kalani Thomas, second left, during their rugby union match in Melbourne, Australia. (AP)

again, cutting the lead to five points in the 71st when Rob Leota scored a try from close range and finishing the match hard in attack just as they did in the first half.

Backrower Charlie Gamble was awarded player of the match despite being on the losing side, helping combat the Lions' superior field position and possession with his relentless work at the breakdown.

"It's pretty tough when you see (critics saying) we're going to get smashed by 50," Gamble said of the lopsided expectations ahead of the game. "But you know, we showed

that we deserved to be out there, and we played very hard for each other."

It had been 14-14 at halftime after each team scored two converted tries and spent 10 minutes giving up a numerical advantage because of yellow cards.

The Lions races to 14-0 after center Osborne chased through Fin Smith's chip kick and touched down, while winger Darcy Graham crossed out wide.

From a lineup win by Henry Pollock, the Lions created an overlap with players looping in midfield and sent a long, floating pass to the unmarked Scottish winger. But Graham had to leave the field soon after with an injury.

The last hour was much more of a grinding contest, with the First Nations and Pasifika team at times outmuscling the Lions, forcing mistakes.

Triston Reilly, who was yellow-carded early, returned to score the First Nations and Pasifika's opening try after an intercept.

Blindsided flanker Seru Uru picked up and reached over amid three tacklers in the 23rd minute and Kurtley Beale converted to level the score, ensuring the touring Lions knew they were in a contest.

As tempers flared, Pollock and Uru were warned by the referee for a pushing and shoving episode that the young Lions No. 8 would certainly have learned from. The match remained intensely physical but didn't get out of hand.

"If you look at the game, how we started, we started on fire ... but they (First Nations and Pasifika) tightened back up and took the most of their opportunities," Andy Farrell said. "It shows how much it means to them."

## 'We are determined to write a historic new chapter'

# French cycling team aims to end 40-yr Tour drought with major investment

PARIS, July 22, (AP): It has been 40 years since a French rider last won the Tour de France, when Bernard Hinault claimed the last of his five titles back in 1985.

With race leader Tadej Pogacar poised to retain his title when cycling's biggest event concludes Sunday on the Champs-Elysees, that drought appears set to continue.

The Slovenian three-time Tour champion holds a comfortable lead in the general classification. The top French rider, Kevin Vauquelin, sits in fifth place, more than 10 minutes behind.

Over the past four decades, France has produced talented riders such as Thibaut Pinot, Romain Bardet, Warren Barguil or Julian Alaphilippe. All raised hopes but ultimately fell short, often facing rivals backed by stronger and better-funded teams.

Decathlon, a global sporting goods company, is joining forces with CMA CGM, one of the world's largest shipping firms, to invest in a French team with Tour-winning ambitions.

Decathlon, a sporting goods



France's Kevin Vauquelin, left, waits for the start of the twelfth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 180.6 kilometers (112.2 miles) with start in Auch and finish in Hautacam, France. (AP)

brand, had previously announced it would take over full ownership of the French team currently known as Decathlon AG2R La Mondiale, from AG2R La Mondiale, at the end of the 2025 season.

With an estimated budget of 40 million euros (\$47 million) - compared to the 60 million euros

Seriesys has outlined strong ambitions for the coming seasons, targeting success in Grand Tour stages and one-day classics such as Paris-Roubaix and Milan-San Remo. The ultimate goal is to win the Tour de France by 2030, with a French rider.

One of the team's most promising French prospects is 18-year-old Paul Seixas, who finished eighth at this year's Critérium du Dauphiné - a key preparation race for the Tour. The team opted not to include him in this year's Tour squad, believing the move would come too early in his development.

Seriesys told BFM Marseille that the 2030 Tour de France project will be built around Seixas.

"But we need time, because his first results are probably expected in 2028," he said. "We need to give Paul time to understand, learn and perform."

Asked about the new project on Monday, Pogacar welcomed the news.

"They can be top candidates for winning the Tour in the coming years," he told a news conference.

## Poland ready for battle against China

WARSAW, July 22, (Xinhua): Poland's middle blocker Aleksandra Gryka has emphasized that the team is well prepared for Wednesday's game against China in the quarterfinals of the FIVB Women's Volleyball Nations League (VNL).

Poland beat China 3-1 in a friendly match on home ground in Radom last Saturday. The Chinese team coached by Zhao Yong will have a chance to take revenge in Wednesday's encounter in Lodz, Poland.

"It's good we played against China in Radom. The game wasn't as important as the coming match, but we could feel the atmosphere of the competition. China is a strong opponent," Gryka told Polish media on Monday.

"In the opening set we made too many mistakes, but then we proved we were able

to beat them. On Wednesday we should stay focused from the beginning until the end. We are ready for the challenge. I'm sure the friendly game helped us in our preparations for the encounter in the Volleyball Nations League," she added.

Poland is preparing for a tough challenge, as it has lost all three matches against China under coach Stefano Lavarini, failing to win a single set. Two years ago, China eliminated Poland in the women's VNL semifinals.

"Our team has changed from that time. In the past we often fought against our weaknesses on the court. Now we're a more experienced team. We know what it's like to compete for high stakes," Poland's outside hitter Martyna Czyrmińska explained.

The final phase of the Women's VNL will be held from July 23 to 27.

## Best of the Rest

**Welsh soccer hero Jones dies at 70:** Joey Jones, the Welsh soccer hero who won two European Cups with Liverpool and was dubbed "Mr Wrexham", has died. He was 70.

Jones' death was confirmed by the Football Association of Wales and Wrexham on Tuesday. The English second-tier team said he had died in the early hours of the morning after a "battle with illness."

"Wrexham AFC are devastated to learn of the passing of club legend Joey Jones," the Welsh club said in a statement.

During a decorated career, Jones won five major trophies for Liverpool, including back-to-back European Cups in 1977 and 1978, as well as the English league title in 1977. He also won the UEFA Cup and European Super Cup for the Merseyside team.

"Jones' attitude and commitment had long earned him the affection of the Liverpool supporters," the club said in a statement. "The thoughts of everyone at LFC are with Joey's family and friends at this sad time." (AP)

**Gascoigne 'back home and doing well':** Former England midfielder Paul Gascoigne is back home and "doing well" after being hospitalized over the weekend, his representative said.

"Paul voluntarily went into A&E on Friday after struggling with a throat condition he has had for a while," Carly Saward at The MNT talent agency told The Associated Press in an email. "He is already back home and doing well."

British newspaper The Sun reported that the 58-year-old Gascoigne had been found "semi-conscious" at home by a friend on Friday in Poole in south England and initially been admitted to an intensive care unit. (AP)

## Amorim continues overhaul

# Man United signs Bryan Mbeumo from Brentford

MANCHESTER, England, July 22, (AP): Bryan Mbeumo became Manchester United's second major signing of the transfer window after completing a move from Brentford for 65 million pounds (\$87 million).

Mbeumo follows the signing of Matheus Cunha from Wolverhampton Wanderers as United coach Ruben Amorim looks to overhaul his squad following United's worst ever season in the Premier League.

"As soon as I knew there was a chance to join Manchester United, I had to take the opportunity to sign for the club of my dreams; the team whose shirt I wore growing up,"

Mbeumo said. "My mentality is to always be better than I was yesterday. I know that I have the spirit and character to reach another level here, learning from Ruben Amorim and playing alongside world-class players."

The fee for the 25-year-old Cameroon international was confirmed to The Associated Press by a person with knowledge of the deal. The person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because details have not been made public, said the price could be 71 million pounds (\$95 million) based on performance-related add-ons.

Among United's problems last season

was a lack of goals and Amorim has tried to address that with his transfer dealings so far. Mbeumo scored 20 goals last term and Cunha scored 17.

By comparison United strikers Rasmus Hojlund and Joshua Zirkzee scored just 18 between them.

A center forward could also be added before the transfer window closes Sept. 1.

United's forward line is being transformed by Amorim, with Marcus Rashford, Alejandro Garnacho, Jadon Sancho and Antony all expected to leave during the off-season.

Mbeumo has proven himself in England's top flight with Brentford and is coming off his best goal-scoring campaign.

The 25-year-old Cameroon international was the joint fourth leading scorer in the league, with only Mohamed Salah, Alexander Isak and Erling Haaland netting more. He scored 70 goals in 242 games for Brentford in six years at the club.

His move comes more than a month after United made its interest in him known and the deal has been completed in time for him to join Amorim's squad for its preseason tour to the United States.

Amorim is aiming to turn United's fortunes around after 12 years without winning the league title.

The team finished last season in 15th place, its lowest in the modern era and just three places above the relegation zone. United also set unwanted club records for the most losses in a Premier League season and the lowest points total. It had the fifth worst scoring record in the top flight and missed out on qualification for Europe after losing the Europa League final against Tottenham.



In this file photo, Brentford's Bryan Mbeumo controls the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Brentford at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

ARAB TIMES

Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call

51508991

51526559

NEWS



France's Valentin Paret Peintre crosses the finish line ahead of Ireland's Ben Healy, rear, to win the sixteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 171.5 kilometers (106.6 miles) with start in Montpellier and finish on the Mont Ventoux, France. (AP)

# Sports

## Kuwait Club parts ways with Moroccan defender Abu Al-Fath

## Al-Qadsiya targets Iraqi star Ahmed as Kuwaiti Clubs ramp up transfers

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 22: Al-Qadsiya is actively pursuing Iraqi star Haroun Ahmed as part of its plans to strengthen the squad ahead of the upcoming season. According to Iraqi media reports, the club has entered serious negotiations with the 29-year-old Dohuk SC standout to bring him into the Kuwaiti Premier League.

Haroun, who excels in both mid-field and attacking roles, delivered a standout campaign in the recent Gulf Champions League. He was named the tournament's Best Player after guiding Dohuk to its first-ever title. He also helped his team win the Iraq Cup for the first time in club history.

Al-Qadsiya's Tunisian head coach, Nabil Maaloul, is seeking to finalize key signings before the team departs for its training camp in Turkey in mid-August, as preparations intensify for the Zain Premier League season, which begins on September 12.

The club currently features Moroccan Mehdi Berrahma and Libyan Mohamed Soula. The future of fellow Moroccan Ismail Khafi remains uncertain, with his contract set to expire next June. Kuwait Club has parted ways with Mo-



A file photo of Haroun Ahmed (left) battling for the ball during Dohuk and Al-Qadsiya match in Gulf Champions League.

roccan defender Amin Abu Al-Fath, who recently completed a move to Wydad Casablanca. The club expressed gratitude for his contributions, which helped secure multiple titles during his time with the team.

Abu Al-Fath becomes the second departure this off-season following the exit of his compatriot Yahya Jabrane.

In turn, Kuwait Club has bolstered its ranks with the signing of English midfielder of Egyptian origin Sam Morsy. The club also renewed contracts for key foreign players: Bahrain's Mohammed Marhoon, Congo's Arsène "Malik" Zola, and Tunisia's Yassine Khenissi.

Syrian defender Abdullah Al-Shami is back in Kuwaiti football, having agreed to join Yarmouk for the new season.

Al-Shami previously played for Al-Nasr and Al-Fahaheel and brings with him experience from regional stints with Al-Salt (Jordan), Al-Ahly and Al-Masry SC (Egypt), and Al-Tali'aa (Syria).

He joins a growing list of foreign professionals at Yarmouk under national coach Zaher Al-Adwani, including Tunisian Hazem Haj Hassan, Malian Moriba Dialle, Ghanaian Robin Akwa, Congolese Lusoko, and former Al-Salmiya player Othman Al-Dosari.

Al-Nasr Club has announced its preseason preparations will begin this Friday under the guidance of Tunisian head coach Jamil Belkacem. The team will train locally until early August before departing for a training camp in Turkey, where they are scheduled to play four friendly matches.

Meanwhile, the club is reviewing profiles of several foreign players as it looks to finalize the signing of a fifth professional, focusing on strengthening the attacking line. Al-Nasr has already renewed contracts with four key players: Tunisians Hossam El-Habasi and Hekal El-Sheikhawi, Libyan Moatsem El-Lafi, and Serbian forward Nemanja Kujic.

## Kuwait faces tough test against Bahrain at 1st West Asia Volleyball Championship

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

MANAMA, July 22: The Kuwait national volleyball team is set for a tough showdown against host and title favorite Bahrain at 7:00 pm tonight in the quarterfinals of the inaugural West Asia Volleyball Championship, currently taking place at Isa bin Rashid Hall in Bahrain and running through July 27.

The quarterfinal action also features Saudi Arabia vs. Jordan at 1:00 pm, the UAE vs. Oman at 3:00 pm, and Qatar vs. Lebanon at 5:00 pm.

Kuwait heads into the knockout stage after suffering its second tournament loss – a close 3-2 defeat to Qatar in the final match of Group B. That round also saw Saudi Arabia secure a 3-0 victory over Oman.

Qatar topped the group with 8 points, followed by Saudi Arabia with 4 points. Oman took third with 3 points, edging out Kuwait – who also had 3 points – based on set difference.

Despite the loss, Kuwait, under Argentine coach Julián Álvarez, showed flashes of brilliance against a strong Qatari side. After a slow start and a heavy 25-12 loss in the first set, Kuwait bounced back to take the second 25-23. Qatar regained control in the third set, winning 25-17, but Kuwait refused to back down and leveled the match with a 25-22 fourth set win. In the decisive fifth set, Qatar prevailed 15-11.

While Kuwait faces an uphill battle against a confident Bahraini team playing on home soil and in front of its fans, the Blue team has proven it



Kuwaiti players celebrate after scoring against Qatar.

can rise to the occasion. A strong performance from Kuwait's key players could very well lead to a surprise result in tonight's highly anticipated clash.

## Tears of triumph and disappointment: Casas wins solo free gold, Xu falls short



Gold medalist Iris Tio Casas, centre, of Spain stands with silver medalist Xu Huiyan, left, of China and bronze medalist Vasilina Khandoshka of Neutral Athlete A following the women's solo free final of artistic swimming at the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore. (AP)

## Chinese proud of progress after silver

**SINGAPORE, July 22, (Xinhua):** Tears flowed for both Spain's Iris Tio Casas and China's Xu Huiyan after the women's solo free final at the World Aquatics Championships - but for very different reasons.

Casas stood atop the podium with tears of joy after clinching her first individual world title in artistic swimming with a score of 245.1913 points. Xu, who had led the preliminary round, settled for silver, 4.1888 points behind Casas, and she couldn't hold back tears of disappointment.

"I'm super happy," Casas said. "I can't believe it right now. I feel very emotional because my parents are here in the stands. When I was little, the dream of becoming a world champion was deep in

my soul. I'm still in shock." The 22-year-old Spaniard improved her degree of difficulty in the final, responding to Xu's similar strategy. Entering the final ranked third, Casas executed with precision and passion to rise to the top - an achievement that left her surrounded by jubilant teammates after the result was announced.

"I think it worked out," she said, smiling through tears.

Xu, just 19, had hoped to complete a golden solo double after winning the technical event three days earlier, where Casas took bronze. But after her final routine, Xu buried her face in hands, tears streaming down - not from regret, she said, but from emotion.

"I'm not sad about the result," she said. "Actually, I've improved a lot in the past few weeks. I just feel like I still have so much more to work on."

Despite the silver, Xu has already made history for China. She now holds 18 gold medals across the World Cup, World Championships and World Junior Championships. Her solo technical win in Singapore earned China its first-ever world gold in that discipline.

"I anticipated today's result," she admitted. "Ever since I started competing in the solo free routine, I've known there are still areas I need to improve - especially in the free elements. We didn't have much time to make big changes, and training time for solo routines was quite limited." Xu isn't dwelling on the disappointment for long. Just hours after the solo free final, she will be back for the team technical final. She has already led China to the team free title.

"That's not a problem," she said. "I'll do my best and won't let my teammates down."

## Kuwait participates in worlds

JEDDAH, July 22: The 2025 World Billiards Championship officially kicked off in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, marking the city's second consecutive year hosting the prestigious event. The tournament features 128 players from over 40 countries – including Kuwait – vying for the title.

Representing Kuwait are Bader Al-Awadhi, currently ranked seventh in the world, and Abdullah Al-Enezi, the top-ranked player in Kuwait. Additionally, Kuwait's Ahmed Al-Tatan and Mohammed Al-Hussainan are competing in the junior championship held alongside the main

event. Al-Awadhi shared that his preparation for the championship has been rigorous, highlighted by an intensive training camp in Indonesia. He noted the tournament's high level of competition, given the participation of elite international players.

"I aim to achieve a result that reflects positively on Kuwait and demonstrates the progress we've made in the sport," Al-Awadhi stated. He also expressed confidence in his ability to compete at the highest level, underscoring the professionalism and talent Kuwaiti players bring to the global stage.



Bader Al-Awadhi in action.

## Best of the Rest

**Stach joins Leeds United:** German international midfielder Anton Stach has joined newly promoted Leeds United from Hoffenheim in a deal worth around 17.5 million pounds (23.5 million U.S. dollars).

Stach has signed a four-year contract and becomes Leeds' sixth signing of the summer as the club aims to re-establish itself in the Premier League.

The 26-year-old has played twice for the German national side and was a regular for Hoffenheim last season.

"I am excited to join such a good team, such a good Premier League team, and I am looking forward to the next season," said Stach in an interview on the club's website, in which he was honest about Leeds' aims for the coming season.

"The biggest target is to stay in the league and personally just develop, adapt to the league, to the speed of course and then get many good experiences hopefully," he added.

"My style of play, I would say I am an aggressive player. I am good in duels. I am good at anticipating passes from the opponents and it would be good for the Premier League. Now we will see, I will try my best," continued the midfielder. (Xinhua)

## Paret-Peintre wins Tour stage on Mont Ventoux, Pogacar deals Vingegaard another blow

MONT VENTOUX, France, July 22, (AP): Valentin Paret-Peintre triumphed on Mont Ventoux to become the first home rider to win a stage at this year's Tour de France, while Tadej Pogacar consolidated his overall lead Tuesday.

Paret-Peintre finished just ahead of former leader Ben Healy in a sprint for the line at the top of the famed mountain known as the "Beast of Provence."

Santiago Buitrago was third, 4 seconds behind, ahead of Paret-Peintre's teammate Ilan Van Wilder and fifth-placed Pogacar, who withstood repeated attacks from Jonas Vingegaard to cross the line 2 seconds before his main rival.

Pogacar stretched his overall lead to 4 minutes, 15 seconds over the Danish rider. Vingegaard won the Tour in 2022 and 2023 but seems

powerless to stop Pogacar from achieving his fourth win when the race finishes next weekend in Paris.

After the Tour's second rest day Monday, Stage 16 took the riders 171.5 kilometers from Montpellier in the south of France on a long flat course until they reached the brutal climb up Ventoux.

Mathieu van der Poel, who had been third in the points classification, withdrew before Tuesday's

stage with pneumonia.

Wout van Aert, the last winner when the route went through Ventoux in 2021, attacked from the off, prompting responses from Jonathan Milan, Ivan Romeo and others.

Six were in the lead by the time they got to Bedoin at the bottom. Only 22 kilometers remained, but they were to get increasingly tough with 15.7 kilometers at an 8.8% incline from Saint-Esteve to the fin-

ish.

Healy, in a group of chasers, overtook Julian Alaphilippe while Vingegaard made his initial move. He attacked again, then again, but Pogacar stayed doggedly on his wheel. The gap was closing on Spanish rider Enric Mas in the lead.

Vingegaard got support when he caught up with Visma-Lease a Bike teammate Victor Campenaerts, but

Healy was moving fast in front of them and took the lead from Mas with 3.7 kilometers to go. Paret-Peintre followed and was helped by Soudal-Quick-Step teammate Van Wilder to finish just ahead of Healy.

Vingegaard attacked again but could not shake off Pogacar, who attacked with 2 kilometers to go to deal his rival another demoralizing blow.