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TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2025 / SAFAR 4, 1447 AH

emergency number 112

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'Global cooperation strengthened to attract expertise'

Kuwait's MoH expanding major hospitals, upgrading local health clinics

KUWAIT CITY, July 28, (KUNA): Kuwait's healthcare system has seen remarkable development over the decades, transforming into a model of excellence that rivals global standards, as the result of sustained efforts guided by Kuwait's leadership, which has placed healthcare at the forefront of national priorities.

Kuwait boasts a modern and integrated healthcare infrastructure supported by advanced technologies and comprehensive medical services that aim to meet the evolving needs of its population.

The Ministry of Health is currently executing a national health strategy in line with Kuwait's broader development

plan, focusing on expanding major hospitals, increasing capacity, upgrading healthcare centers, and introducing state-of-the-art technologies across services to ensure efficiency, quality, and accessibility.

Assistant Undersecretary for Engineering Affairs and Projects, Eng. Ibrahim Al-Nahham stated that several major projects are either underway or recently completed.

One such project is the new Maternity Hospital in the Sabah medical zone, which is built to the highest international standards. The hospital is a comprehensive facility that merges advanced medical technologies with compassionate patient care.

It is designed to address women's health and neonatal care, incorporating environmentally friendly and energy-efficient building standards.

Among the most significant ongoing projects is the new Al-Sabah Hospital, currently under construction in the Sabah medical zone.

The 88,710-square-meter facility is designed as an independent and self-sufficient structure that will provide both general and specialized healthcare services.

The hospital comprises three towers, a parking facility, and an engineering services building, and it will include 512 inpatient beds, 105 intensive care beds, 72 outpatient

clinics, and a helipad, with all necessary medical departments integrated within. Another key project is the Communicable Diseases Hospital, built on 74,000 square meters and consists of a main hospital building and a kitchen facility, it has the capacity for 224 patient beds, and includes departments for emergency care, radiology, pharmacy, medical records, and support services.

The third major project is the Kuwait Cancer Control Center, which is being developed within the Sabah medical zone on a total area of 303,536 square meters.

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Al-Seyassah photo
One of the self-service check-in counters at T4 airport terminal.

KAC starts self-service check-in at T4 terminal

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: Kuwait Airways announced the launch of a self-service check-in system at Terminal 4 (T4) that allows passengers to complete travel procedures independently, including weighing their luggage and printing boarding passes, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Captain Abdulmohsen Al-Faqan, the Board Chairman of Kuwait Airways, explained that this service enables passengers to weigh their luggage and issue boarding passes without staff intervention, thereby speeding up the process. This step is part of Kuwait Airways' ongoing efforts to facilitate the check-in process and reduce congestion, especially during the summer travel season.

The company will release an explanatory video to guide passengers on using the new service with ease and convenience. He affirmed Kuwait Airways' commitment to enhancing the travel experience by meeting passengers' needs from the moment they enter the terminal, ensuring smooth procedures, boarding, and access to top-quality services.

Captain Al-Faqan stressed that Kuwait Airways spares no effort in providing comfort to its customers by pursuing a strategy focused on achieving the highest service standards and expanding its network with new and diverse destinations and services.

It is worth highlighting that Kuwait Airways operates a modern fleet consisting of the latest Boeing and Airbus aircraft models, equipped with advanced technologies that meet the highest international aviation standards.

The fleet offers state-of-the-art entertainment systems and ergonomically designed seats to ensure maximum passenger comfort. The company also employs a select team of highly qualified technical specialists, according to the highest industry standards.

Kuwaiti workforce in KOC now reaches 87%

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: In confirmation of a recent report published by the daily on the rising employment rates in oil companies affiliated with the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), through its Recruitment and Termination of Service Taskforce, has announced the final list of successful candidates in its latest recruitment drive. The announcement targeted male applicants holding bachelor's degrees in geology and petroleum engineering, as well as diploma holders in technical specializations.

According to informed sources, KOC hired a total of 151 employees in 2024, including 72 new Kuwaiti graduates, 51 experienced Kuwaiti professionals, and 28 non-Kuwaiti employees. With these, KOC's total workforce now stands at 11,649, including medical and nursing staff.

Kuwaitis now make up 87.85 percent of the company's overall workforce (including medical and nursing staff), while the proportion of Kuwaitis among non-medical staff has reached 93.8 percent. In addition, the percentage of Kuwaiti contract workers stood at 22.68 percent by the end of the fiscal year in March 2025.



KUNA photo
Relief aid being loaded onto a Kuwaiti cargo plane headed for Sudan.

Kuwait sent relief aid reaches Sudan

PORT SUDAN, July 28, (KUNA): The 35th Kuwaiti airlift plane arrived at Port Sudan Airport on Monday, carrying humanitarian aid to support those affected by war, flooding, and seasonal rains across Sudanese regions in crisis.

The shipment included essential relief materials such as wheat, flour, 200 tents, blankets, pillows, and 20 motorcycles, all provided by the Kuwait Red

Crescent Society (KRCS) to address urgent humanitarian needs.

In a statement to KUNA, Kuwait's Ambassador to Sudan, Dr. Fahad Al-Dhafiri said that the plane carried 40 tons of aid, affirming Kuwait's firm commitment to alleviating suffering in Sudan.

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INVESTMENTS IN PERU HEADING FOR MAJOR UPTURN

Kuwait eyes Gaza aid airlift

Peruvian embassy marks National Day

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister for Development and International Cooperation Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan has revealed that Kuwait is organizing an aid airlift to Gaza.

Al-Mashaan made the announcement when he attended the Peruvian Embassy's National Day celebration recently, with a number of ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps in attendance.

He said coordination is underway with the Ministry of Social Affairs; indicating the airlift will be launched after a donation campaign that begins Tuesday and continues until Thursday, when associations will be allowed to collect donations.

He affirmed that donations will be used to purchase food supplies like oil and flour through the Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company, in addition to other basic commodities.

He added that "after collecting donations for three days, we will coordinate with the Ministry of Defense to transport all aid through the Kuwaiti military aircraft to Arish, where the shipment will be delivered to the Egyptian Red Crescent Society in coordination with Kuwait Red Crescent Society."

He stated that some flights will be directed to Jordan, where the Jordanian Army will receive them. "Some will then be dropped off by air, while others will enter through the border in Egypt," he clarified.

He confirmed that First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef presided over seven meetings, the last of which led to the approval of the humanitarian work draft law. He revealed that it is a comprehensive law consisting of three chapters, adding that the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are the institutions most concerned with the law.

He explained that under this law, there will be an integrated center for humanitarian work; encompassing all the needs of charitable organizations domestically and abroad. "Charitable organizations will no longer need to contact the Ministry of Social Affairs or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Photo by Samer Shaqair
Ambassador of the Republic of Peru to Kuwait Carlos Enrique Tomas Jimenez Gil and Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister for Development and International Cooperation Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan at the cake-cutting ceremony.

Kuwait to witness extreme heat for next 13 days



Al-Seyassah photo
Kuwait enters peak summer season known as 'Al-Mirzam'.

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Al-Ojairi Scientific Center revealed Kuwait will enter the penultimate phase of summer season, known as "Al-Mirzam" on Tuesday, July 29, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release, the center explained that the Al-Mirzam period will last for 13 days, during which temperatures are expected to be extremely high. This period is also referred to as "Jamrat Al-Qayz", meaning "the fire of summer", indicating peak intensity of heat.

Al-Mirzam marks a new phase in the summer season, followed by "Al-Kulabin", known for its humidity, and then "Suhail".

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Minister amends validity of Kuwaiti, expat licenses

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef has issued a ministerial decision for amending certain provisions of Ministerial Resolution No. 81/1976 regarding the executive regulations of the Traffic Law and its amendments, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Article 1 of Resolution No. 1257/2025, published in the official gazette 'Kuwait Today', amends Clause 1 of Article 85 of the aforementioned ministerial resolution to read as follows:

1. Private Driving License: Issued for driving private vehicles with no more than seven passengers, transportation vehicles with a capacity not exceeding two tons, taxis, and ambulances.

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'Gov't-rented housing will be withdrawn if not used'

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Abdul Latif Al-Mishari issued a decision amending some provisions of the Housing Welfare Regulations.

The decision stipulates that a government-rented housing unit will be withdrawn from the tenant if it is left unused for 60 consecutive days or 90 non-consecutive days within 12 months, unless a valid reason is provided.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the decision; indicating the tenant's family members are allowed to use the house, except the children of Kuwaiti women married to

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'Closures, diversions not in agreement'

4th Ring Road repairs waste of resources: Al-Farsi

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: Municipal Council member Alia Al-Farsi commented on the response of the executive body to her queries about the maintenance contract for roads connected to the Fourth Ring Road.

During the session of the council on Monday, Al-Farsi cited the ongoing maintenance work as the reason why she asked about the position of the executive body regarding the project and if it is included in the integrated road maintenance project.

She pointed out that the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) clarified in its response that the council approved the preliminary design for the road development work, and that it is currently preparing the final design and tender documents.

She said the ongoing maintenance work, road services, closures and diversions are not included in the agreement discussed and approved by the council. She then criticized the project timeline from 2022 to 2023.

She added the current maintenance work -- according to the statement that PART sent through Kuwait Municipality -- includes asphalt works, rainwater drainage, earthworks, concrete works, bridge piling maintenance, surveillance camera wiring, metal barriers and road marking work. She revealed the timeline attached to the response shows these works are scheduled to be completed by mid-2026. She asked why the ongoing maintenance work is outside the scope of the comprehensive road development agreement, which could be a duplication and waste of public funds.

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Newswatch

DOHA: Kuwait on Monday called for enhanced regional and international coordination in support of the Somali government's reconstruction, reconciliation, and state-building efforts.

This came during the remarks of Kuwait's Consul General in Jeddah and Permanent Representative to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Youssef Al-Tunaib, at the OIC Ministerial Contact Group meeting on Somalia, held in Doha.

Al-Tunaib reaffirmed Kuwait's firm support for Somalia's unity, sovereignty, and political independence, stressing that backing Somalia at this critical phase reflects the OIC's commitment to its founding principles.

He commended Somalia's progress in rebuilding institutions, enhancing security, and promoting rule of law despite economic and environmental challenges, and congratulated the country on its recent election for the UN Security Council's non-permanent membership (2025-2026). (KUNA)

E-system enables MoSA to monitor item prices; 45 co-ops inter-linked

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: Assistant Undersecretary for Financial, Administrative and Cooperative Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Sayed Issa has confirmed the completion of the automated link of financial and administrative affairs and strategic inventory with 45 cooperative societies.

Issa stated that the ministry is completing the link of the remaining cooperative societies in the next phase; stressing this is one of the most vital digital transformation projects as it aims to improve oversight, ensure food security, and provide accurate data in real time.

He pointed out that the advanced electronic system enables the ministry to monitor 10 basic commodities; which are considered important for the citizens and expatriates like rice, sugar, lentils, flour, cooking oil, chicken, pasta, tea, water, canned goods, tuna and some other items such as batteries. He revealed that the data shown include actual inventory quantities, number of days consumed, and rate of withdrawal from inventory.

He affirmed that the project not only serves the regulatory bodies in the ministry, but also the cooperative societies themselves; as they can use digital indicators to evaluate the performance of their branches, redistribute



Food items in a cooperative society.

supplies as needed, and improve purchasing and supply plans.

He said the electronic link reduces the likelihood of disruption or sudden shortage of any commodity; while enhancing governance, ensuring transparency, improving operational efficiency, and developing the quality of services provided to consumers.

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:35	Asr	15:30
Sunrise ..	05:05	Maghrib ..	18:43
Zohr	11:54	Isha	20:10

Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Very hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 10-32 km/h and some high clouds will appear.			
By Night: Hot to rather hot and relatively humid especially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 10-32 km/h and some high clouds will appear.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	49	37	

Kuwait Airport	50	31
Abdaly	51	33
Jahra	52	35
Salmiyah	40	34
Ahmadi	42	32
Nuwaisib	49	31
Wafra	50	29
Salmi	47	31

Criminal Court sentences a citizen to 15 yrs in prison with hard labor

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Criminal Court on Monday sentenced a citizen to 15 years in prison with hard labor, after he was convicted in a State security case for joining a banned group.

The court confirmed that the accused has been proven to have participated in activities that conflicted with internal security, and that he has links with

a banned group -- a violation of public security laws.

The security authorities referred the accused to the Public Prosecution after monitoring his movements and communication with members of the banned group.

Based on investigations conducted by the detectives; the accused was referred to the prosecution, which charged him with the aforementioned offenses and referred him to the judiciary.

Mol nabs 153 residency offenders

KUWAIT CITY, July 28, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of 153 violators and wanted individuals in a security campaign carried out across the country. The campaign was conducted in implementation of the instructions and directives of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

The General Department of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry said in a statement on Monday that the campaign, which was launched at dawn last Thursday, was carried out under the direct supervision of Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, Major

General Ali Al-Adwani, and was part of ongoing security efforts aimed at maintaining security and enforcing the rule of law.

The statement added that the campaign targeted several densely populated areas, including Hawally, Hawally Square, Salmiya, Jahra, and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

It emphasized that the General Department of Residence Affairs Investigations is continuing its efforts to arrest violators of residency and labor laws, adding that accountability will apply to both the worker and the employer, and that no leniency will be shown toward any law violator.

Court of Cassation affirms contractual liability

Insurer ordered to compensate for fire damages under guarantee claim

By Dr. Fawaz Alkhateeb

In a final and precedent-setting decision, the Commercial Chamber (Third Division) of the Court of Cassation ruled in favor of the appellant, ordering an insurance company to pay compensation for substantial fire damage sustained by an insured warehouse. The incident, which occurred in 2012, resulted in severe losses to the warehouse and extended to adjacent industrial properties. After more than seven years of litigation, the Court of Cassation overturned the lower courts' rulings, delivering a decisive judgment in favor of the claimant.

The dispute originated from a claim filed by an industrial company against two insurance providers, seeking compensation under the applicable fire insurance policies. Both insurers denied liability, asserting that the fire fell outside the scope of their contractual coverage.

The claimant was represented by senior lawyer Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb of Taher Group Law Firm Co. Dr. Alkhateeb successfully demonstrated the validity of the insurance coverage and rebutted the insurers' defenses by relying on the terms of the policy, official firefighting reports, and evidence of the claimant's full compliance with its contractual obligations, including pre-



Dr. Al-Khateeb

mium payments.

In its reasoning, the Court emphasized that a subrogated guarantee claim cannot rely on factual assertions that contradict official records or diminish the evidentiary authority of properly issued insurance documentation. It further held that the appellate court's decision conflicted with established legal principles and failed to accord appropriate weight to the documentary evidence.

Accordingly, the Court admitted the appeal procedurally and substantively, overturned the appellate ruling in part, and ordered the second insurance company to pay compensation within the scope of the claim. The Court also awarded costs and attorney's fees in favor of the appellant.

Commenting on the ruling, Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb stated: "This judgment represents a meaningful victory for the rule of law and for the rights of litigants who have waited years for justice. It signals a promising shift toward judicial efficiency and the expedited resolution of long-pending disputes, in alignment with the State of Kuwait's vision to strengthen the legal system and create an investment-friendly environment that ensures the protection of rights and enforcement of contractual obligations."

"We believe this ruling will set an important precedent for insurance litigation and enhance trust in Kuwait's commercial and judicial frameworks," he added.

Fawaz@tahergrp.org

Kuwait urges stronger Arab legal action over war crimes

KBA official seeks regional jurisdiction

CAIRO, July 28, (KUNA): Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Kuwait Lawyers Association (KBA), Counselor Nawaf Al-Shariaan, on Monday called for the adoption of a unified Arab charter to strengthen the principle of universal jurisdiction for prosecuting perpetrators of international crimes—particularly those committed against the Palestinian people.



Counselor Nawaf Al-Shariaan, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Kuwait Lawyers Association.

Al-Shariaan made the remarks to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) during his participation in a symposium organized by the Arab League in Cairo under the title "Activating the Role of National Courts in Prosecuting Perpetrators of International Crimes as a Guarantee to Combat Impunity." The symposium addressed the role of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in holding accountable those responsible for crimes committed in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Al-Shariaan said he presented a working paper that included several recommendations at both the Arab and national levels, foremost of which was the call to adopt an

Arab charter that would empower national courts to prosecute perpetrators of serious international crimes and incorporate this jurisdiction into national legislation. He also called for supporting trials in absentia in such cases.

He stressed the need to establish an Arab legal unit specializing in international crimes within the structure of the League of Arab States. This unit would be tasked with documenting evidence, providing technical support to member states, and coordinating with Arab expert and legal teams in the event of cases being filed before international courts.

He further underscored the im-

portance of creating a unified Arab database that includes the names of perpetrators and available evidence, aiming to facilitate prosecution by states with jurisdiction.

Within the framework of institutional action, Al-Shariaan emphasized the need for coordinated diplomatic and legal efforts through Arab League missions. These efforts would include the preparation of periodic legal reports supported by testimonies and documentation to be submitted to foreign governments and parliaments, with the goal of mobilizing political and legal support for the initiation of judicial proceedings.

His paper also included recom-

mendations to member states on harmonizing national legislation with the Four Geneva Conventions, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and the Rome Statute. He further recommended the establishment of specialized prosecution offices and judicial circuits to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as the signing of Arab judicial memoranda of understanding to facilitate the exchange of evidence and case files.

Al-Shariaan highlighted the crucial role of universities and legal research centers in producing specialized studies on international humanitarian law, and proposed the development of the Arab Center for Legal and Judicial Research as a reference institution for documenting international crimes.

At the civil society level, he called for the launch of legal and media awareness campaigns to promote the principle of universal jurisdiction, and for encouraging civil society organizations to professionally document violations and submit legally reliable case files.

The State of Kuwait participated in the symposium, which began on Sunday, with a delegation that included Judge of the Court of First Instance Muhammad Al-Omran, Deputy Public Prosecutor Abdullah Al-Naama, and legal researcher at the Ministry of Justice Ahmed Al-Ajmi.

Other Voices

Discussions on cooperative societies investigations, citizenship revocation

By Ahmad alsarraf

We waited for them to come from the East, but they came from the West! – this famous quote by a late Arab politician came to mind when I was reading the news about the Criminal Security Department at the Ministry of Interior arresting members of a corruption network involving five members of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies, a cooperative society's board of directors, workers in commercial companies, and 14 brokers and employees.



alsarraf

The crackdown came from the West, the "Ministry of Interior" while, as usual, we expected it to come from the East, the "Ministry of Social Affairs".

For more than half a century, the Ministry of Social Affairs has been the main body investigating most corruption cases involving cooperative societies. Yet, many of these cases ended with charges being dropped, warnings issued, or dismissals from the board.

Those expelled would often return, or their representatives would be re-elected to the boards of cooperative societies, only to repeat corrupt practices time and again.

Perhaps this is what prompted First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah and his team to intervene and begin cleansing the deeply tainted cooperative sector.

I have personally suffered from this corruption for over 35 years. During that time, I wrote dozens of articles exposing their schemes, blackmail, and the misconduct of some board members. I paid a heavy price for refusing to accept bribes, something many former employees of the company I once managed can attest to. For that reason, I am deeply grateful for the efforts led by Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef.

On her part, Minister of Social Affairs Amthal Al-Huwailah announced the dissolution and dismissal of the boards of directors of 15 cooperative societies. This reaffirms the accuracy of what we have been writing for years about the deteriorating state of these cooperatives, which have caused companies to lose loyal suppliers

without justification.

Separately, the Court of Cassation issued a final ruling sentencing the financial manager of a cooperative society to prison and fining him one million dinars for embezzling salaries and contract funds exceeding 500,000 dinars, which he had diverted into other ventures.

What is both surprising and noteworthy about this ruling is how it caught many, both inside and outside the cooperative society, off guard. Despite the severity of the case and its direct relevance to tens of thousands of shareholders, almost no one had heard about its proceedings during the past few years. Who was responsible for covering up this case for so long?

The link between the corruption in cooperative societies and the cover-up of the embezzlement case lies in the fact that individuals involved in both cases belonged to a religious political party whose members frequently preached about moral decline in society. It seems that, through their influence, they may have succeeded in delaying proceedings and keeping the case hidden from public view.

I call on the relevant authorities to provide a clear explanation about how an individual can be sentenced to ten years in prison and fined one million dinars for embezzlement, and yet the public remained unaware of the case until the Court of Cassation issued its final ruling?

On behalf of the tens of thousands of individuals whose citizenship has been revoked, and following the announcement about the formation of a grievance committee to review their cases and deliver justice to those wronged, I respectfully call on the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior to decide on the work of the grievance committee.

Many of those affected are hesitant to pursue the restoration of their citizenships due to the huge effort, cost, and time involved. Understandably, they are reluctant to embark on this difficult path only to face rejection. What they need now is a definitive response from the government that clearly outlines their standing.

With clarity, they can either hold out hope for the return of their citizenship or begin the necessary steps to formalize and adjust their legal status, as the committee's work could take years.

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw



Seminar on the role of the International Criminal Court.

KUNA photos

KD 20 pension hike starts August 1

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Public Institution for Social Security announced on Sunday that the upcoming increase of KD 20 in retirement pensions will be disbursed from August 1, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a post on its official X account,

the institution explained that this increase applies to Kuwaiti retirees, those treated as Kuwaitis, and beneficiaries of deceased retirees' pensions according to their respective shares. The increase will be disbursed automatically, with no need for beneficiaries to visit the institution.

diwaniya



A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Kuwait, Morocco ... deeply rooted fraternal coalition

“KUWAITI-Moroccan relations continue to grow stronger by the day, driven by the steadfast political will of both countries’ leadership and a shared vision to enhance cooperation in the fields of economy, investment, development, and judicial exchange,” Egyptian writer **Bassam Al-Qassas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“These ties are built upon a long-standing history of mutual understanding and fraternal closeness, supported by development projects, official visits, and bilateral agreements that mark a new phase of strategic integration and coordination.



Bassam Al-Qassas

“The State of Kuwait stands as one of the most prominent Arab investors in the Kingdom of Morocco. As of 2025, Kuwaiti investments exceeded \$1.5 billion, including a wide range of projects in energy, road infrastructure, irrigation, and water treatment, primarily supported by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

“This reflects the deep fraternal ties between the two brotherly nations and underscores Kuwait’s ongoing commitment to supporting development projects that strengthen the Moroccan economy and promote sustainable development.

“In the realm of legal and institutional cooperation, February 2025 witnessed an expanded meeting between Morocco’s Supreme Council of the Judiciary and a high-level delegation from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice, led by Minister Nasser Al-Sumait, and attended by the Moroccan Ambassador to Kuwait, Ali Ben Issa.

“The discussions focused on enhancing judicial cooperation, exchanging expertise, and training personnel, in preparation for signing an official memorandum of understanding to strengthen coordination in this vital sector.

“Kuwaiti-Moroccan relations have also been marked by a series of high-level official visits in recent years, reflecting the depth of mutual understanding and joint coordination between the two nations. One notable event was the Moroccan Embassy in Kuwait’s national celebration in July 2024, commemorating the 25th anniversary of King Mohammed VI’s accession to the throne. The celebration was attended by a large number of Kuwaiti government officials, as well as Arab and foreign ambassadors and diplomats.

“The ceremony included mutual expressions of appreciation for the strength of Kuwaiti-Moroccan relations, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to continued collaboration and the expansion of joint cooperation, reflecting deep mutual trust and shared aspirations.

“Official data up to 2025 shows a notable increase in the scope of cooperation between Kuwait and Morocco, particularly in the areas of economy, development, and judicial affairs.

“On the political front, Kuwait continues to firmly affirm its support for the Kingdom of Morocco’s territorial integrity, with convergent positions that reflect complete harmony in strategic visions and mutual interests. The Kuwaiti-Moroccan Joint Higher Committee is expected to convene in the near future to activate several bilateral agreements and expand cooperation into new fields such as transportation, technology, and higher education.

“Political and economic indicators confirm that Kuwaiti-Moroccan relations are steadily progressing toward a broader strategic partnership, based on trust, mutual respect, and shared interests. The relationship between the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Morocco is not newly established. It is a historic bond rooted in authenticity and renewed in recent decades through the wisdom of both leaderships and their desire to build a common future.

“With strong economic support, high-level political visits, and solid institutional agreements, this partnership stands as a model to be emulated in joint Arab cooperation.”

Also:

“Hunger in times of war is no longer just a byproduct of military conflict. It has become a systematic weapon, deliberately used and coldly calculated to further tyranny and blatantly disregard not only the laws of war, but its most basic ethics,” sustainability expert Dr. **Sami Al-Adwani** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“In Gaza, people are not only targeted by bombs but also by famine through the denial of food, the destruction of infrastructure, the bombing of bakeries, the closure of border crossings, and the obstruction of humanitarian aid.

“This is no accident. It is a deliberate policy of blockade, meticulously implemented for months in plain sight, under the eyes of the world.

“Since March 2, all aid has been blocked from entering Gaza, result-

ing in a 1,400 percent spike in food prices, the depletion of bread supplies, and the closure of hundreds of community kitchens that once provided hot meals to millions.

“Observatories from Doctors of the World have reported alarmingly high rates of malnutrition in several clinics. As of April, nearly 25 percent of children were suffering from malnutrition, while around 19 percent of pregnant and lactating women were affected by acute malnutrition.

“Reports from relief organizations have documented that children and the elderly are dying of starvation. In July alone, 46 deaths were recorded, and more than 80 children have died from hunger since the escalation began in October 2023. The total number of deaths due to malnutrition has now reached 111.

“The United Nations has described the situation as “beyond words,” noting that dozens of people have been killed by gunfire while trying to reach aid centers. UNICEF has reported that more than half of Gaza’s children are suffering from acute malnutrition. “These statistics reflect unimaginable suffering, and convey the pain of a mother giving her baby water instead of breast milk, and the desperation of a father boiling stones to convince his children that food is on the way. Starvation doesn’t just weaken the body. It also strikes at the heart of human dignity and crushes the spirit.

“Even more dangerously, starvation doesn’t require bombs or bullets. That is why the world must act now by opening border crossings, allowing the entry of humanitarian aid, and protecting medical and relief centers. Political calm alone is not enough, because, in the end, nothing is more valuable than preserving human life.

“Those who believe they can break the will of the people of Gaza through starvation understand nothing about communities that have experienced hunger but never surrendered. Their resilience lives on in memory, their dignity is not for sale, and their will remains unshakable.

“Today, we are witnessing a defining test of global morality. To watch Gaza’s children starve and do nothing is not a political stance, but it is a collapse of our very understanding of humanity. Every voice, every act of solidarity, every donation, every word spoken is a candle lit in the darkness of this siege. Starvation is a crime, but silence is the greater one.”



“Rising groundwater levels in Wafra Agricultural Area are threatening dozens of farms with devastation. Immediate action from the relevant authorities is urgently needed to prevent the situation from worsening and affecting many farms in the area. This is a chronic issue that typically intensifies during the winter months following rainfall”, Member of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources and former Secretary of the Kuwait Farmers Union, **Hussein Ahmad Qabazard**, wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Scientific solutions certainly exist. So, where are they, dear officials? For example, why isn’t the water seeping from the Wafra farms being



Qabazard

pumped out immediately and redirected to a vast, low-lying area in the desert? This could create a lake in the heart of the Kuwaiti desert to the south, potentially serving as a haven for migratory birds. We urgently need a solution to the groundwater seepage flooding our farms in Wafra before we lose these precious lands.

“This was the complaint of veteran farmer Adnan Al-Jariwi from Wafra Agricultural Area near the Kuwait-Saudi border.

“Commenting on the matter, veteran farmer Fawzi Khaled Al-Sultan, whose family farms lie along the main Mohammad Al-Jalal Al-Sahli Road in Wafra, said, “Indeed, this is a major problem. In winter, water collects in lakes on some farms due to the high groundwater level. When the water evaporates in summer, it leaves the soil saline and unsuitable for farming.”

“Farmer Ibrahim Mohammad Nasser Al-Badah pointed out that pumping out the seeping groundwater from some Wafra farms is a difficult task. Groundwater levels do not decrease but actually rise with each rainfall. Moreover, pumping the water out to the sea is both difficult and costly, given the considerable distance from Wafra farms in the far south of Kuwait.

“We urge the relevant authorities, especially the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, to develop a scientific solution to this chronic problem, which is worsening in many farms in Wafra.”

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



Al-Seyassah photo

Traffic personnel monitor the speeding vehicles from a bridge.

Mol employs radar devices to trap speeding motorists

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: As part of the Ministry of Interior’s strategy to enhance traffic safety and reduce accidents, the General Traffic Department, through the Highways Department, conducted a field traffic campaign using mobile radar devices, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The campaign covered multiple high-

ways in various governorates, focusing on monitoring and seizing vehicles exceeding speed limits. It resulted in 118 traffic citations being issued, the arrest of three wanted individuals, the seizure of a vehicle wanted by the judiciary, the impoundment of another vehicle for a traffic violation, and the referral of one individual to precautionary detention.

Jail for smuggling people via border

Fake docus with Article 8 affected

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Dhuwaihi Al-Dhuwaihi, sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen to five years in prison for attempting to smuggle individuals with revoked citizenship through the Nuwaiseeb border crossing using forged documents.

The court also sentenced a corporal stationed at the border, his brother, and one of the individuals with revoked citizenship to three years in prison each, after convicting them of falsifying entry and exit records in the security system.

Meanwhile, the court refrained from issuing penalties against three other defendants - a man, a juvenile, and a woman with revoked citizenship - after they were caught in a carefully planned ambush by the Criminal Investigations Department, which had documented the smuggling attempt on video.



‘Disabled’ wins claim: The Administrative Division at the Court of First Instance

ruled in favor of a Kuwaiti citizen, ordering the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) to classify a girl’s condition as ‘permanent and severe’ disability and to issue an official certificate reflecting this status, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The ruling is in response to a lawsuit filed by Attorney Obaid Al-Anzi on behalf of his client, who claimed that her daughter suffers from a physical disability that severely limits her ability to carry out daily activities. The condition, supported by a detailed medical report, meets the legal criteria for classification as ‘permanent and severe’.

Al-Anzi requested that a specialized medical committee be assigned to conduct a comprehensive physical and auditory assessment of the girl’s condition. The goals were to reevaluate her medical condition based on supporting documents, determine the nature and extent of the disability from the date it started, and challenge the earlier decision of the authority to exclude her from the official list of severe and permanent disability cases.

The court sided with the plaintiff, revoking the previous decision of the authority and instructing it to formally recognize the girl’s condition. The verdict paves the way for the girl to receive the full range of benefits and services for individuals with severe and permanent disabilities under Kuwaiti law.

Over 19,000 expats deported in 6 mths

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: More than 19,000 male and female expatriates of various nationalities were deported from Kuwait during the period between January 1 and July 2025, reports **Al-Anba** daily quoting security sources.

They explained that the deportees included expatriates who violated the Residency Law or were reported as absconding, those who violated the Labor Law such as street vendors and beggars, along with others deported for public interest or were arrested for alcohol, drug, or substance abuse.

The ongoing campaigns by various sectors of the Ministry of Interior have played a huge role in apprehending thousands of law violators.

The sources said, “The majority of those who arrive at the Deportation Department are returned to their home countries within a week, depending on their destination and flight availability”.

They revealed that around 60 male and female beggars were deported during the month of Ramadan alone, adding that all violators, including beggars and residency law violators, were fingerprinted and added to a ban list for preventing them from re-entering the country.



Cleaning campaign: Faisal Al-Otaibi, Director of the Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy Department at the Kuwait Municipality branch in the Capital, confirmed that inspection campaigns are ongoing to maintain public cleanliness and the aesthetic appearance of the city, as well as to remove violations and road obstructions, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

In a statement issued by the Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality, Al-Otaibi stated that inspectors from the department carried out an intensive field tour in the Capital; during which they removed 38 scooters, six boats and one boat trailer in Sharq.

He stressed that such inspection campaigns will continue and warned that legal action will be taken against individuals who violate the public sanitation and road occupancy regulations.

Child man’s son, not kidnapped, says Mol

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Ministry of Interior on Sunday denied reports circulating on social media about the alleged kidnapping of a child by a pick-up truck driver, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In an official statement, the ministry explained that upon receiving the report, the driver was promptly summoned, and it was confirmed that the child in question was his son, and there was no criminal suspicion or kidnapping involved.

The ministry urged the public to verify information before sharing it and to avoid spreading rumors. It also reaffirmed its commitment to responding seriously and promptly to all reports to preserve the security and safety of society.

Nationality Fraud

Syrians arrested

CID track down family of citizenship forgers

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: In one of the most complex investigations in recent years, authorities have uncovered a major citizenship forgery case involving Syrians who fraudulently obtained Kuwaiti citizenship, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The forgery was uncovered through diligent tracking of document trails, linked files, and comprehensive inquiries; which exposed a sophisticated forgery network rooted in a single Syrian family.

The case first came to light in March, when a man named Khaled was arrested at the airport while attempting to flee from the country. His arrest triggered an in-depth investigation, which later led to the arrest of his brothers.

During questioning, Khaled confessed to acquiring Kuwaiti citizenship through fraudulent means. He admitted that the individuals arrested alongside him were, in fact, his full brothers under Syrian law. He also revealed that the man registered as his father in Kuwaiti records -- Nayef -- is actually his uncle.

It was discovered that Khaled had been unlawfully registered under Nayef’s name as a son in a forged citizenship file containing 53 individuals. Nayef also fraudulently obtained Kuwaiti citizenship by being falsely listed as a relative of a legitimate Kuwaiti citizen.

Following Khaled’s confession, authorities expanded the scope of the investigation. It was confirmed that Nayef fabricated his own citizenship record by being added to a legitimate Kuwaiti citizen’s file. Over time, he systematically added his relatives; fabricating an entire family structure under false claims.

New developments emerged during the investigation, pointing to Hamoud -- Nayef’s brother -- as another key figure. Though not mentioned in Khaled’s initial testimony, Hamoud’s connection surfaced through the examination of marriage files linked to Nayef. Authorities discovered that Hamoud also acquired Kuwaiti citizenship using the same fraudulent methods -- by falsely entering family and marriage records.

Investigators traced every name connected to Nayef and Hamoud -- whether through marriage, dependency or familial claims -- using a horizontal and vertical dismantling approach. All associated individuals, including Khaled’s brothers, the sons of Nayef and Hamoud, and a number of listed cousins, were summoned for further interrogation.

To verify relationships, DNA testing was conducted on all individuals. DNA testing results were then compared with those of Nayef, Hamoud and their Syrian relatives.

The DNA evidence was definitive. Tests disproved any familial link between Nayef and Hamoud and the individuals falsely registered as their fathers or uncles in Kuwaiti records. The results confirmed their true biological connection to their Syrian relatives, including Khaled.

This dual evidence -- disproving the claimed Kuwaiti lineage and affirming the actual Syrian lineage -- provided indisputable proof of a calculated and organized case of nationality fraud. The scheme involved manipulating official records to unlawfully insert dozens of individuals into Kuwaiti citizenship files.

Based on the evidence, the Citizenship Committee revoked the Kuwaiti nationality of all individuals proven to have obtained it fraudulently. This includes both the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the forged files associated with Nayef and Hamoud.

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Al-Mishari forms permanent women’s housing committee

Sheikha Bibi Al-Sabah to head new panel

KUWAIT CITY, July 28, (KUNA): Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari has issued a ministerial decision to form a permanent committee for women’s housing affairs, chaired by Sheikha Bibi Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

In a press statement, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) pointed out that the decision affirms the important role of women in society; and the commitment to protect and support their rights through specialized committees. PAHW said the latest decision is an extension of a previous decision to form the women’s housing team; thereby, granting the committee more powers. It added that the committee consists of eight members including acting Deputy Director for Distribution and Documentation Affairs Bader Al-Subaie, Director of the Follow up Department Mohammad Al-



KUNA photo
Abdullatif Al-Mishari, Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs

Adwani, and Supervisor of Housing Care Research and Administrative Affairs Asma Al-Jafour.

According to PAHW, the ministerial decision also stipulates the appointment of Ali Al-Ustadh as representative of the Interior Ministry, Fawzia Dashti, Attorney Abdulaziz Al-Afaisan as representative of Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB), and Bashayer Al-Bazer. It disclosed that the tasks of the

committee are as follows:
■ Receive grievances against decisions of the Government Rented Housing Committee,
■ Review complaints related to women’s housing,
■ Scrutinize cases whose special circumstances require the rental of housing in light of the regulations and conditions established by the committee,
■ Conduct a lottery to distribute government rented housing based on the relevant provisions of Chapter Six of the Housing Care Regulations,
■ Find the best solutions for women’s housing,
■ Oversee properties designated for women like the Sabah Al-Salem Residential Complex,
■ Explore the best ways to develop these properties.

It stated that the decision allows the committee to form subcommittees or working groups from among its members or others to study any issue within its jurisdiction and submit a report in this regard to the committee. It added the committee can ask for the assistance of any expert or specialist it deems appropriate in or outside PAHW, provided that such expert or specialist does not participate in voting.



Participants of the summer training course.

Blending theory with real-world research

KISR holds 46th summer training course

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The 46th summer training course, organized by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), kicked off Sunday morning with the participation of 221 students -- 162 high school students and 59 university students.

In a press statement, Director of the Manpower Development Department at KISR Mona Al-Failakawi revealed that the course is an extension of the approach of the institute to spread scientific culture and develop the capabilities of Kuwaiti youths.

She said the huge turnout this year reflects the community’s confidence in this initiative, which has been organized for more than four decades.

She stated that this course is a unique platform for discovering talent, promoting scientific thinking and linking theoretical knowledge with practical application within a stimulating research environment.

She added the institute believes that investing in human capital is



Mona Al-Failakawi, Director of the Manpower Development Department at the KISR



KISR photos
Shaima Al-Qallaf, Training Course Director

the foundation of development. “Through these programs, we want to build an informed and empowered generation capable of contributing to the process of progress and innovation in Kuwait,” she asserted.

Meanwhile, Training Course Director Shaima Al-Qallaf disclosed that this year’s program includes a variety of lectures and scientific and practical workshops aimed at equipping students with scientific thinking

and teamwork skills, in addition to introducing them to various departments at the institute.

Al-Qallaf affirmed the institute’s commitment to provide a comprehensive educational experience that combines theoretical knowledge with practical application; igniting the students’ passion for discovery and innovation, thereby, broadening their academic and professional horizons.

KPC gets green light for Al-Zour facility

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Ahmadi Governorate Committee at the Municipal Council, chaired by Nassar Al-Azmi, held its meeting on Sunday; during which it approved the request of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to allocate a site in Al-Zour for administrative and residential facilities.

This site, known as ‘F1’, was previously used by Saudi Chevron Company.

Meanwhile, the Hawally Governorate Committee ap-

proved the request of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) to allocate a site for a multi-storey parking building in Mubarak Al-Abdullah suburb.

The committee decided to retain three items on its agenda for further study -- requests of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to allocate two sites for secondary transformer stations in Salmiya and request of a real estate company to offer the property located on Al-Othman Street in Hawally for commercial use.

Moreover, the committee shelved the request of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) to add a coffee shop in the Environmental Pollutants Building in Salmiya.

JULY

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Priority to longest-serving, largest families

Islamic Affairs launches housing application for Imams, Muezzins

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Ministry of Islamic Affairs, represented by its Mosques Sector, announced the opening of applications for vacant housing units for those occupying religious positions (Imams and Muezzins); which started on Sunday, for a period of 10 days.

Housing applicants must hold religious positions at all levels within the ministry; must be registered with the ministry, must not own a property or more than 50 percent share of a property, and must not be a beneficiary of the housing welfare system.

The ministry clarified that priority for application is given to those employed in the

governorate where the vacant housing unit is located, unless the concerned committee determines this based on public interest and the work demands of those not employed in the governorate.

The decision also covers Kuwaitis appointed to public positions who have served in a public religious position for a full calendar year. Priority in allocation is given to those with the longest service period on the day of the application.

The conditions stated as well that priority is given to the largest families, then the smallest, and to those with seniority in occupying the religious position; explaining that the requests submitted by the Housing Welfare Affairs Committee for those occupying religious positions are considered.

Kuwait Dive Team tows 30-ton drifting boat off Salmiya coast

KUWAIT CITY, July 28, (KUNA): The Kuwait Dive Team, operating under the Environmental Voluntary Foundation (EVF), has salvaged a 30-ton vessel off Al-Salmiya’s coast, the team’s chief Walid Al-Fadhel said on Monday.

Al-Fadhel told KUNA that the 57-foot-long boat that had drifted due to strong winds and was a hazard to navigation and leaking oil into the waters close to the Marine yachts harbor.

The personnel involved in the operation stabilized the vessel and collected some of its scattered debris at the spot where yachts and boats pass regularly, Al-Fadhel said, indicating the Coast Guards had put



KUNA photo
The team involved in the operation.

all their available resources at the disposal of lifting the boat and its remains in coordination with other authorities.

The diver succeeded in floating and towing the boat despite some difficulties such as the scorching heat, strong winds and rocky

hurdles. Al-Fadhel urged sea-goers to take precautions and spare themselves such accidents, noting that waste left behind at the sea is a pollutant to the environment.

The Kuwait Diving Team has carried out such missions since 1986.

MoH implements biometric system

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Ministry of Health has started implementing new regulations on the use of the ‘smart fingerprint’ attendance system in its facilities in order to instill administrative discipline and improve the monitoring of staff attendance, reports Al-Anba daily.

The functions of the system cover a range of areas; such as clock-in and clock-out times, presence during official working hours, overtime tracking, and shift management.

The ministry has instructed the health districts and internal sectors to appoint an employee in each entity to oversee the system.

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Event at JACC will spotlight regional innovations and sustainability efforts

Kuwait to host 2025 Gulf Forum on energy and water efficiency

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: Official spokesperson of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Fatima Hayat has confirmed that Kuwait is fully prepared to host the 2025 Gulf Forum for Electricity and Water Conservation at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center on Nov 5-6; under the patronage of Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem.

In a press statement, Hayat pointed out that the forum is one of the most significant regional events related to energy and water efficiency; with the participation of a select group of officials, experts and specialists from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

She said the forum will focus on the challenges, as well as the latest technological solutions and sustainable practices that contribute to the preservation of natural resources. She added the forum

is a vital platform for exchanging experiences, strengthening cooperation between the public and private sectors in the Gulf countries, and supporting the achievement of sustainable development goals.

She revealed the program for the forum includes a series of dialogue sessions and workshops that highlight the latest innovations and review the most successful Gulf experiences in the areas of electricity and water conservation.

She added the forum focuses

on the importance of community awareness and promoting a culture of resource conservation.

She affirmed that the main themes for submitting scientific papers have been identified as follows: strategies, legislation, performance indicators related to energy and water efficiency and rationalization of consumption, Gulf innovations, national strategies and entrepreneurship in the fields of energy and water efficiency, community awareness in the electricity and water sectors, and the transition to a green economy.

She also stated that this year's forum will witness the announcement of the 'Gulf Excellence Award for Energy and Water Efficiency' to honor entities, institutions and individuals who presented pioneering initiatives and projects; which contributed to promoting the concept of rationalizing electricity and water consumption in the Gulf states.

She disclosed that the award has the following categories: Gulf

Excellence in Energy and Water Efficiency for Buildings, Most Influential Gulf Person in the Field of Electricity and Water Conservation, and Best Gulf Electronic Application for Electricity and Water Conservation.

She added that organizing this forum in Kuwait is an affirmation of the country's leadership role in the field of environmental sustainability, as well as its commitment to strengthen Gulf cooperation in addressing common environmental challenges.



KUNA photo
The heads and directors of the land forces operations bodies of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries at their 23rd meeting in Kuwait.

GCC ground forces chiefs meet in Kuwait

The chiefs and directors of ground forces operations of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries held their 23rd meeting in Kuwait on Monday, with the participation of the Unified Military Command and the GCC General Secretariat.

In a press statement, the Kuwaiti Army's General Staff said the meeting discussed several topics of common interest and reviewed key field and operational developments in preparation

for the upcoming meeting of the GCC ground forces commanders.

The statement added that the meeting falls within the framework of strengthening military cooperation and operational coordination among the GCC ground forces, with the aim of developing joint work mechanisms and exchanging operational expertise. These efforts are expected to enhance efficiency, boost combat readiness, and achieve field integration among GCC ground forces. (KUNA)

KU urges timely submission of scholarship withdrawal forms

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Office of the Dean of Admissions and Registration at Kuwait University advised students accepted into the Ministry of Higher Education's vacancy scholarship plan and intend to enroll at the university for the first semester of the 2025/2026 academic year to submit their scholarship withdrawal receipts to the Admissions Department in the Admissions and Registration Hall at the Shaddadiya campus

not later than 1:00 pm on Tuesday, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a press release, the office warned that failure to submit the receipt within the deadline will result in the cancellation of the university admission application. It added that the university is keen on streamlining admission procedures and ensuring that all necessary documents are submitted within the approved timeline for the new academic year.

MoSA pushes for faster disability services

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah has stressed the importance of expediting procedures, improving service provision, and developing electronic systems to ensure easy access and

speedy processing of transactions for clients with disabilities.

During her visit at the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA), Al-Huwailah reviewed the progress of work in various departments; and discussed the most important challenges and needs of beneficiaries.

She underscored the importance of accel-

erating the mechanism for providing wheelchairs, disclosing that PADA will adopt an updated mechanism for disbursing wheelchairs to the beneficiaries.

She added the next phase will witness the development of institutional work, along with the expansion of services that contribute to empowering people with disabilities and guarantee their access to their rights.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait eyes

The center will be authorized to declare charitable organizations, organize relief campaigns, and approve donation collections abroad," he elaborated.

He pointed out there is no place in the world without a Kuwaiti charitable presence; emphasizing that local charitable work is given priority, followed by international work.

He also asserted that Kuwait's relations with the Republic of Peru began in 1975. "We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of this distinguished relationship. Kuwait is linked with Peru through three signed agreements, as well as 13 agreements under negotiation and preparation. The investments of Kuwait in Peru have reached half a billion dollars and we hope these investments will increase," he disclosed.

Meanwhile, Ambassador of the Republic of Peru to Kuwait Carlos Enrique Tomas Jimenez Gil affirmed the depth of bilateral relations between the two countries; expressing his country's aspiration for more partnerships and cooperation in various fields.

He reiterated that his country remains committed to the values of freedom and peace, asserting that Peru will remain a land of peace and freedom.

He pointed out that Peru, over the past 50 years, has maintained strong friendly relations with the State of Kuwait; confirming the continuation of this approach.

He added that his country celebrates the 204th anniversary of its declaration of independence this year; indicating this anniversary is a moment of pride and appreciation for a long history of freedom, openness and peaceful coexistence.

Kuwait's MoH

The main cancer treatment hospital occupies 226,525 square meters and is divided into two towers: the western tower for outpatients and the eastern tower for inpatients, with a total capacity of 618 beds.

The facility features fully automated systems, and both towers are equipped with advanced mechanical and electrical infrastructure to support specialized cancer care.

The New Al-Adan Hospital complex is currently being developed within Al-Adan Hospital area and includes seven separate buildings interconnected through underground tunnels.

The complex features a maternity and pediatrics hospital covering 226,369 square meters, with 637 fixed and 471 mobile beds, 14 floors, a basement, and a helipad for emergencies.

The second building, the surgical and central services facility, spans 34,417 square meters and includes 141 mobile beds across two floors, the third is a physical therapy and rehabilitation center built over 28,525 square meters with a basement and three upper floors.

The fourth is the Ahmadi Health District Administration and a parking building, with a total area of 118,696 square meters across eight floors, and the remaining buildings serve as parking structures and strategic storage facilities.

These projects reflect Kuwait's commitment to implementing the goals of its development vision 2035, particularly in enhancing the healthcare sector.

The Ministry of Health is also working to strengthen international cooperation, attract global expertise, and adopt leading healthcare models to improve the quality of care and

ensure the long-term sustainability of the healthcare system.

In line with this vision, the ministry continues to invest in national human resources through training programs, scholarships, and partnerships with local and international academic and health institutions.

These efforts aim to develop a new generation of skilled healthcare professionals equipped to meet future health challenges.

Kuwait sent

He emphasized that this humanitarian effort reflects Kuwait's continuous support for the Sudanese people, driven by longstanding ties and solidarity in difficult times.

Al-Dhafiri noted that the aid air bridge was launched under the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, reflecting the unity of the Kuwaiti people with Sudan.

He added that, in addition to aircraft, the initiative included three fully loaded ships carrying thousands of tons of relief goods, vital medications, and large-scale projects that have benefited millions across Sudan.

The ambassador praised KRCS for its fieldwork, including direct aid projects involving water pumps, boats, clean drinking water systems, and disease prevention initiatives across affected areas.

4th Ring

She disclosed the executive authority stated that all deformations outside the Fourth Ring Road maintenance work site must be licensed by the Municipality. She said there are deformations for road maintenance projects and the distribution of heavy machin-

ery outside the work site, which have a negative impact on infrastructure. She urged the Municipality to tighten oversight and closely monitor the unlicensed deformations.

'Gov't-rented

non-Kuwaitis who reached the age of 26 unless the child suffers from a severe or moderate disability or being an only child.

Prior to the amendment, the tenant was required to allow his family members to use the housing unit and not to leave it abandoned or unused for more than 90 days, except with an excuse acceptable to PAHW.

Kuwait to

The center highlighted that the date palm harvesting will begin next Wednesday.

It explained that the name "Al-Mirzam" is derived from the star of the same name, astronomically known as "Sirius", which is known to be the brightest star in the sky due to its striking brilliance.

Minister amends

Driving licenses are valid for 15 years for Kuwaiti and GCC citizens.

For non-Kuwaitis, driving licenses are valid for five years.

For illegal residents (Bedouns), the validity of a driver's license is tied to the validity of their security card.

Article 2 of the resolution states that the Undersecretary of the ministry shall implement this resolution, which takes effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette "Kuwait al-Youm".

Multiple deadlines extended

KPC opens server tender as KOTC launches gold auction

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Higher Procurement Committee for Tenders at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries announced a public tender for the maintenance and support of central servers.

According to the official gazette 'Kuwait Al-Youm', the tender will be open from July 27 to Sept 2 to the companies with expertise approved by the mother company for the maintenance and support of Dell central servers; clarifying that the tender is non-divisible.

On the other hand, Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) announced the gold bullion auction; indicating the bidders

should be Kuwaiti citizens or companies registered in the commercial registry at Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI).

The company revealed that interested parties can view the gold bullions on Sunday at its headquarters in Shuwaikh.

Furthermore, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) announced the extension of the deadline to submit bids for the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) catering services tender until Aug 19, instead of July 29.

CAPT also extended the deadline for the submission of bids for the Gulf oil tender related to providing loan services for specialized employees until Sept 2, instead of July 29.

Shuwaikh plant gets KD7.4m upgrade

MEW connects nearly 4,000 new customers in 6 months

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy revealed in its latest report that it connected electricity for 3,854 customers in residential, governmental, commercial, industrial, investment and agricultural sectors in the first half of the year -- from January to June 2025.

Private housing topped the list with 3,450 customers or 89.5 percent of the total.

The ministry pointed out that electricity connection works covered all the governorates to provide the required electrical loads for customers, while

strengthening its commitment to ease procedures for the public.

Meanwhile, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has approved the request of the ministry to award the contract for the annual maintenance of equipment for the seawater reverse osmosis desalination unit at Shuwaikh plant to the lowest bidder that met the requirements, at a value of KD7.396 million.

The project aims to improve operational efficiency, extend the plant's lifespan, and ensure its readiness to meet the increasing demand for fresh water in light of the growing population.

America

Plane crash off California coast kills 3: All three people aboard a small twin-engine plane that crashed into the Pacific Ocean off California’s central coast perished, law enforcement officials said.

The Monterey County Sheriff’s Office confirmed late Sunday that the three occupants of the plane that went down about 300 yards (275 meters) off Point Pinos were dead. Officials didn’t say what led to the Saturday crash.

Witnesses said they heard an aircraft engine revving and then a splash in the water, KSBW-TV reported. People on shore later reported seeing debris wash up from the crashed plane.

The twin-engine Beech 95-B55 Baron with three people aboard took off from the San Carlos airport at 10:11 pm and was last seen at 10:37 pm near Monterey, according to flight tracking data from FlightAware.com.

Searchers in a boat found one person around 3 am. Divers found the remaining two people inside the aircraft between 6:30 am and 9:15 am. All three were unresponsive, the Coast Guard said.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate. (AP)



‘Passengers flee jet on emergency slide’: Passengers slid down an emergency slide of a smoking jet at Denver International Airport due to a possible problem with the plane’s landing gear, authorities said.

American Airlines Flight 3023 reported a “possible landing gear incident” during its departure from Denver on Saturday afternoon, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The problem involved an aircraft tire, the Fort Worth, Texas-based airline said in a statement.

The Boeing 737 MAX 8 carrying 173 passengers and six crew members was on its way to Miami International Airport, American said.

Video showed people sliding down the inflatable chute near the front of the plane while clutching luggage and



Passengers wait in a security line at Denver International Airport on Feb 22, 2023. (AP)

small children. Some passengers, including at least one adult carrying a young child, tripped at the end of the slide and fell onto the concrete runway. Passengers were then taken to the terminal by bus.

Shay Armistead, a 17-year-old from Minturn, Colorado, described a chaotic scene.

After hearing a loud “boom,” the plane “started to violently shake and we were drifting to the left side of the runway,” Armistead told The Associated Press in an interview. (AP)



Tropical Storm forms in central Pacific Ocean: Tropical Storm Iona formed in the central Pacific Ocean and is expected to continue trekking toward the west over warm, open waters well south of Hawaii.

Iona emerged Sunday from a tropical depression and was about 915 miles (1,473 kilometers) southeast of Honolulu, the US National Hurricane Center in Miami said. The storm was forecast to become a hurricane by Monday night, but currently poses no threat to Hawaii.

No coastal watches or warnings were in effect. The storm has maximum sustained winds of about 50 mph (80 kph). It was moving in a generally westward direction at about 12 mph (19 kph). (AP)

‘Dems warn that Maxwell is not to be trusted’

US House looks into Epstein investigation

WASHINGTON, July 28, (AP): A key House committee is looking into the investigation of the late Jeffrey Epstein for trafficking crimes, working to subpoena US President Donald Trump’s Department of Justice for files in the case as well as hold a deposition of Epstein’s former girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell.

The Republican-led House Oversight and Government Reform Committee acted just before House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., sent lawmakers home early for a monthlong break from Washington. The committee’s moves are evidence of the mounting pressure for disclosure in a case that Trump has unsuccessfully urged his supporters to move past. But they were also just the start of what can be a drawn out process.

Democrats, joined by three Republicans, were able to successfully initiate the subpoena from a subcommittee just as the House was leaving Washington for its August recess. But it was just the start of negotiations over the subpoena.

The subcommittee agreed to redact the names and personal information of any victims, but besides that, their demand for information is quite broad, encompassing “un-redacted Epstein files.”

As the parameters of the subpoena are drafted, Democrats are demanding that it be fulfilled within 30 days from when it is served to Attorney General



US Rep James Comer arrives before US President Donald Trump speaks at a reception for Republican members of Congress in the East Room of the White House, on July 22, in Washington. (AP)

Pam Bondi. They have also proposed a list of document demands, including the prosecutorial decisions surrounding Epstein, documents related to his death, and communication from any president or executive official regarding the matter.

The committee chairman, Rep James Comer, R-Ky, said he told the speaker that “Republicans on the Oversight Committee were going to move to be

more aggressive in trying to get transparency with the Epstein files. So, we did that, and I think that’s what the American people want.”

Maxwell has the ability to negotiate some of the terms of the deposition, and she already conducted 1 1/2 days of interviews with Justice Department officials this past week.

Democrats, however, warn that Maxwell is not to be trusted.

Rep Norman set to enter South Carolina governor’s race

US Vice President JD Vance on road again to sell Republicans’ big new tax law

COLUMBUS, Ohio, July 28, (AP): US Vice President JD Vance is hitting his home state on Monday to continue promoting the GOP’s sweeping tax-and-border bill.

He will be in Canton, Ohio, to talk about the bill’s “benefits for hardworking American families and businesses,” according to his office. Aides offered little detail in advance about the visit, but NBC News reported that his remarks will take place at a steel plant in Canton, located about 60 miles south of Cleveland.

The visit marks Vance’s second trip this month to sell the package, filled with a hodgepodge of conservative priorities that Republicans have dubbed the “One Big, Beautiful Bill” as the vice president becomes its chief promoter on the road.

In West Pittston, Pennsylvania, Vance told attendees at an industrial machine shop that they should be able to keep more of their pay in their pockets, highlighting the law’s new tax deductions on overtime.

Vance also discussed a new children’s savings program called Trump Accounts and how the new law promotes energy extraction, while decrying Democrats for opposing the bill that keeps the current tax rates, which would have otherwise expired later this year.

The legislation cleared the GOP-controlled Congress by the narrowest of margins, with Vance breaking a tie vote in the Senate for the package that also sets aside hundreds of billions of dollars for Trump’s immigration agenda while slashing Medicaid and food stamps.

The vice president is also stepping up his public relations blitz on the bill as the White House tries to deflect attention away from the growing controversy over Jeffrey Epstein.

The disgraced financier killed himself, authorities say, in a New York jail cell in 2019 as he awaited trial on sex trafficking charges. Trump and his top allies stoked conspiracy theories about Epstein’s death before Trump returned to the White House and are now reckon-



US Vice President JD Vance speaks during a visit to the Wilshire Federal Building on June 20, in Los Angeles. (AP)

ing with the consequences of a Justice Department announcement earlier this month that Epstein did indeed die by

suicide and that no further documents about the case would be released.

Questions about the case continued

to dog Trump in Scotland, where he on Sunday announced a framework trade deal with the European Union.

Asked about the timing of the trade announcement and the Epstein case and whether it was correlated, Trump responded: “You got to be kidding with that.”

“No, had nothing to do with it,” Trump told the reporter. “Only you would think that.”

The White House sees the new law as a clear political boon, sending Vance to promote it in swing congressional districts that will determine whether Republicans retain their House majority next year.

The northeastern Pennsylvania stop is in the district represented by Republican Rep. Rob Bresnahan, a first-term lawmaker who knocked off a six-time Democratic incumbent last fall.

Also:

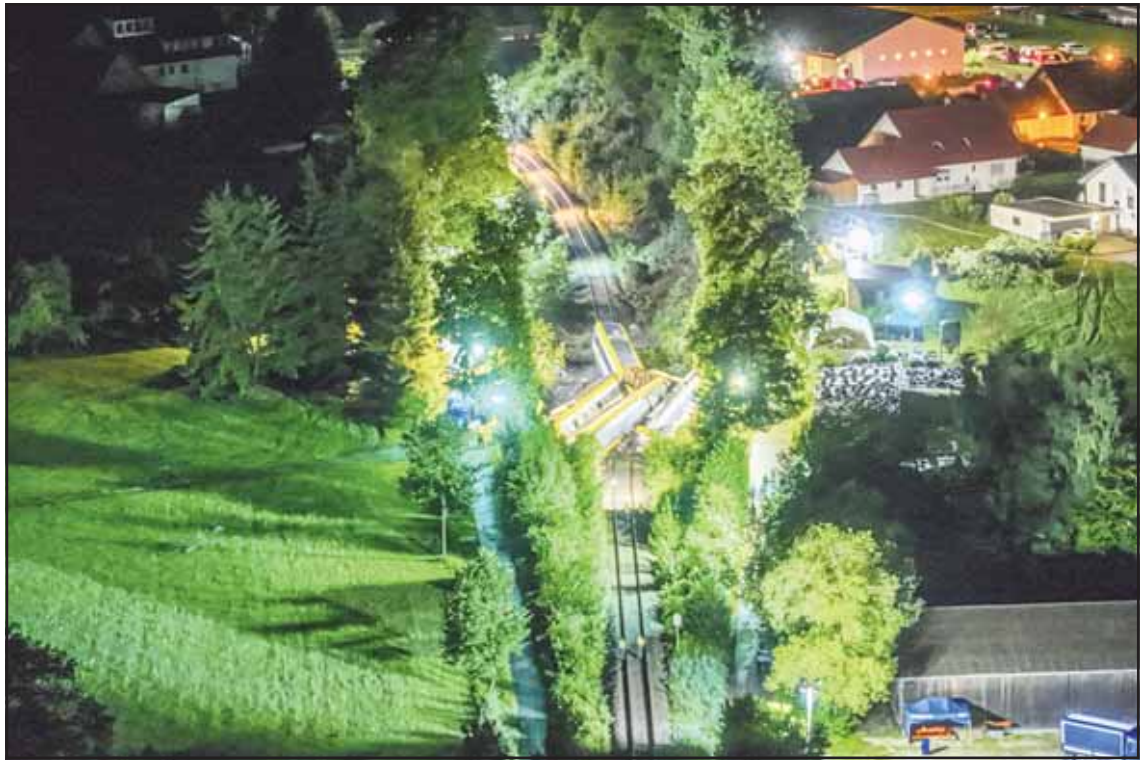
CHAPIN, SC: Rep **Ralph Norman**, among the most conservative Republicans in the US House, is entering **South**

Carolina’s 2026 governor’s race.

The wealthy real estate developer and longtime ally of former gov Nikki Haley is expected to file his candidacy paperwork with state officials on Friday, his campaign told The Associated Press. A formal launch event is planned for Sunday in Rock Hill, in Norman’s district.

Norman has long been mulling a campaign for the state’s highest office. But unlike several of his fellow candidates, he’s not expected to seek the endorsement of the Republican whose backing in South Carolina GOP politics matters most: President Donald Trump.

Norman, 72, joins several other announced candidates, including Attorney General Alan Wilson and Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette, in the race for next June’s GOP primary, and Rep. **Nancy Mace** of South Carolina’s 1st District is soon expected to announce her campaign. All three have touted their ties to Trump, who has maintained popularity in the state since his 2016 primary win there helped cement his status as the GOP presidential nominee.



Wagons of a derailed regional passenger train lie on a railroad line near Riedlingen, Germany on July 28. (AP)

3 killed, 41 injured in Germany train derailment

Investigators believe a landslide brought on by heavy rainfall likely caused a regional train to derail in southern Germany, killing three people and injuring 41 more.

More than 100 people were aboard the Deutsche Bahn train when at least two carriages derailed Sunday evening in a forested area near Riedlingen, about 158 kilometers (98 miles) west of Munich.

The train’s 32-year-old driver, a 36-year-old appren-

tice and a 70-year-old passenger were killed, police said Monday. Some of the 41 injured were seriously hurt.

Police said the downpours in the area caused a sewage shaft to overflow, likely triggering the landslide of an embankment where the derailment occurred.

There was no evidence of an external influence that could have caused the derailment, police said. (AP)

Freed from Russia jails, Ukraine soldiers lean into counseling to rebuild lives

KYIV, Ukraine, July 28, (AP): Since his release from a Russian prison in April, Stanislav Tarnavskiy has been in a hurry to build the life in Ukraine he dreamed about during three years of captivity.

The 25-year-old has proposed to his girlfriend, bought an apartment and adopted a golden retriever. And that was just what he accomplished one week in July.

But as busy as he is rekindling old relationships and creating new ones, Tarnavskiy cannot shake the trauma he and thousands of other Ukrainian soldiers experienced as prisoners of war. The UN says many endured beatings, starvation and humiliation at the hands of their captors - experiences that will leave lifelong scars.

Tarnavskiy, who was captured during the battle for Mariupol in April of 2022, regularly has nightmares about the prisons where he was held.

“I see the officers who watched over us. I dream they want to harm me, catch me,” he said. When he wakes up, his heart pounds, anxiety surges - until he realizes he is in the outskirts of Kyiv, where he was forced to move because Russia oc-



Ukrainian soldier Denys Zalizko, 21, walks with his fellow villagers after returning from Russian captivity in Holoyno, Zhytomyr region, Ukraine on July 7. (AP)

cupied his hometown of Berdiansk.

As the three-year war drags on, Tarnavskiy is one of more than 5,000 former POWs back in Ukraine rehabilitating with the help of regular counseling.

Regardless of any physical injuries that may require attention, psychologists say it is vital to monitor former POWs for years after their release; the cost of war, they say, echoes for generations.

Starmmer presses Trump on ‘desperate’ situation in Gaza during Scotland meet

DINBURGH, Scotland, July 28, (AP): US President Donald Trump met on Monday at one of his Scottish golf courses with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who pressed him on the US taking a larger role in helping quell a growing food crisis in Gaza amid Israel’s ongoing war with Hamas in the territory.

Starmer and his wife, Victoria, arrived at Trump’s Turnberry course on the southern coast, and the Republican president spent several minutes chatting with them and proudly pointing out key aspects of the property. But the prime minister didn’t wait until they were inside to insist that Gaza would be a key topic in their meeting, calling what’s occurring there “a desperate situation.”

The prime minister is meeting with Trump at Turnberry but also plans to travel north, to outside Aberdeen, where the president’s family has a second golf course and is holding a ribbon-cutting for a third one on Tuesday.

The events allow Trump to try and make good on a post from his first term in 2019, when he wrote of his Turnberry property, “Very proud of perhaps the greatest golf course anywhere in the world. Also, furthers UK relationship!”

Starmer is famously not a golfer, but toggling between Trump’s Scottish courses shows the outsized influence the president puts on properties bearing his name - and on golf’s ability to shape geopolitics.

Still, Monday’s talks also covered far more serious issues.

The prime minister wants Washington’s help in convincing Israel to allow more aid into Gaza and attempting to end what Downing Street called “the unspeakable suffering and starvation” while pushing for a ceasefire.

Britain, along with France and Germany, has criticized Israel for “withholding essential humanitarian assistance” as hunger spreads in Gaza. Over



US President Donald Trump, (right), meets with Britain’s Prime Minister Keir Starmer at the Trump Turnberry golf course in Turnberry, Scotland on July 28. (AP)

the weekend, Starmer said Britain will take part in efforts led by Jordan to air-drop aid after Israel temporarily eased restrictions.

But British Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds acknowledged Monday that only the US has “the leverage” to make a real difference in the conflict. Trump spoke before the meeting with Starmer about wanting to help starving children, but he has also repeatedly complained about the US not getting enough credit for organizing past food aid into Gaza.

“Nobody said even thank you,” he said. “Somebody should say thank you.”

Trump, however, said Monday of Starmer doing so, “I don’t mind him taking a position.”

Also on Monday’s agenda are efforts to promote a possible peace deal to end fighting in Russia’s war with Ukraine, particularly trying to force Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table within a 50-day window

Trump set earlier this month.

Trump said before the meeting with Starmer that he’d work to reduce the “50 days to a lesser number” and urged Russia to agree to a deal.

Trump in the past sharply criticized Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for also failing to express enough public gratitude toward US support for his country, taking a similar tack he’s now adopting when it comes to aid for Gaza. The president, though, has shifted away from that tone and more sharply criticized Putin and Russia in recent weeks.

Trump’s new golf course near Aberdeen opens to the public on Aug. 13 and tee times are already for sale - with the course betting that a presidential visit can help boost sales. Protesters have planned a demonstration in Balmiedie, near Trump’s existing Aberdeen golf course. That follows protests across Scotland on Saturday decrying the president’s visit as he was out golfing.

Europe

Fire at French holiday home kills 1: A fire swept through a holiday home housing people with disabilities and their carers in southwest France on Monday, killing at least 1 person, critically injuring another and leaving 4 people missing and feared dead, authorities said.

The blaze erupted at around 4:30 a.m., destroying part of the guest house in Montmoreau in the Charente region, the local prefecture said. Two dozen fire engines and around 80 fire officers rushed to tackle the blaze, which brought down parts of the roof, exposing charred beams.

Sniffer dogs didn’t find traces suggesting that the four missing people escaped the flames, Jean-Charles Jobart, secretary general of the Charente prefecture, told broadcaster BFM-TV.

“Most of them are surely still under ruins, doubtless dead,” he said.

The fire’s causes are under investigation but are presumed to be accidental, he said. (AP)



Torrential rainstorms batter Romania: Torrential rainstorms hit Romania overnight into Monday, triggering flash floods in the country’s northeast and killing at least one person, officials said, as Turkey continued to battle wildfires that left four dead.

Hundreds were forced to leave their homes as Romania’s rescue services deployed teams in the hard-hit counties of Neamt and Suceava, where helicopters and firefighters rescued residents, some of whom were trapped in their homes by floodwaters. Authorities said 890 people were evacuated from Neamt County.

First responders found a 66-year-old man dead at the bottom of a stream in the town of Neagra, according to the Department for Emergency Situations.

Authorities released footage showing raging muddy floodwaters strewn with battered vehicles and other debris as well as damaged homes.

Meanwhile, in Turkey, Forestry Minister Ibrahim Yumakli told reporters in Ankara Monday, “We are in a very risky week” as his country battled wildfires, with blazes near Bursa, Turkey’s fourth-largest city, erupting over the weekend. (AP)

Hun Manet, Phumtham hail outcome of meeting

Thailand, Cambodia agree to ‘unconditional’ ceasefire: Anwar

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia, July 28, (AP): Thailand and Cambodia have agreed to an “unconditional” ceasefire starting at midnight, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Monday, a significant breakthrough to resolve five days of deadly border clashes that have killed dozens and displaced tens of thousands of people.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Thai Acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai hailed the outcome of the meeting and shook hands along with Anwar at the conclusion of the brief press conference in Malaysia.

The fighting flared started Thursday after a land mine explosion along the border wounded five Thai soldiers. Both sides blamed each other for starting the clashes, that have killed at least 35 people and displaced more than 260,000 people on both sides.

Hun Manet and Phumtham have agreed to an “immediate and unconditional ceasefire” with effect from midnight local time, Anwar said as he read out a joint statement.

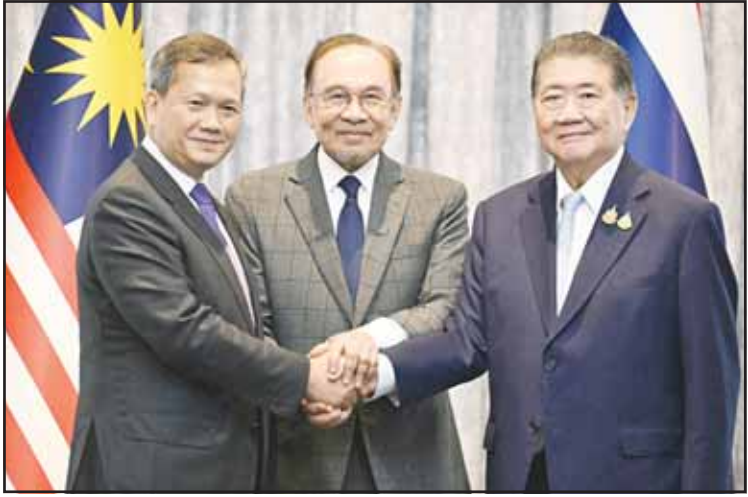
Anwar, who hosted the talks as annual chair of the Association of South-east Asian Nations regional bloc, said both sides have reached a common understanding to take steps to return to normalcy following what he called frank discussions.

“This is a vital first step towards de-escalation and the restoration of peace and security,” Anwar said.

As part of the ceasefire deal, military commanders from both sides will begin to hold talks Tuesday to defuse tensions while Cambodia will host a border committee meeting on Aug. 4, he said. The foreign and defense ministers of Malaysia, Cambodia and Thailand have also been instructed to “develop a detailed mechanism” to implement and monitor the ceasefire to ensure sustained peace, he added.

Hun Manet said he hoped that bilateral ties could return to normal soon so that some 300,000 villagers evacuated on both sides could return home. It is “time to start rebuilding trust, confidence and cooperation going forward between Thailand and Cambodia,” he said.

Phumtham said the outcome reflected “Thailand’s desire for a peaceful resolution.”



Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, (center), Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Manet (left) and Thailand's acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai pose for photos after talks on a possible ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia in Putrajaya, Malaysia on July 28. (AP)

Kim Jong Un’s sister rejects outreach by South Korea’s President Lee Jae Myung

SEOUL, South Korea, July 28, (AP): The influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un rebuffed overtures by South Korea’s new liberal government, saying Monday that its “blind trust” in the country’s alliance with the US and hostility toward North Korea make it no different from its conservative predecessor.

Kim Yo Jong’s comments imply that North Korea - now preoccupied with its expanding cooperation with Russia - sees no need to resume diplomacy with South Korea and the US anytime soon. Experts say she likely hopes to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington.

“We clarify once again the official stand that no matter what policy is adopted and whatever proposal is made in Seoul, we have no interest in it and there is neither a reason to meet nor an issue to be discussed,” Kim Yo Jong said in a statement carried by state media.

It’s North Korea’s first official statement on the government of South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, which took office in early June with a promise to improve badly frayed ties with North Korea.

Lee’s government has halted anti-Pyongyang frontline loudspeaker broadcasts, taken steps to ban activists from flying balloons with propaganda leaflets across the border and repatriated North Koreans who were drifted south in wooden boats months earlier.

North Korea has shunned talks with South Korea and the US since leader Kim Jong Un’s high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with President Donald Trump fell apart in 2019 due to wrangling over international sanctions. North Korea has since focused on building more powerful nuclear weapons targeting its rivals and declared a hostile “two-state” system on the Korean Peninsula to terminate relations with South Korea.

Kim Yo Jong called Lee’s steps “sincere efforts” to develop ties, but said the new government still plots to “stand in confrontation” with North Korea. She mentioned the upcoming summertime South Korea-U.S. military drills, which North Korea views as an invasion rehearsal.



This photo provided by the North Korean government shows Kim Yo Jong, sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, delivering a speech during a national meeting against the coronavirus, in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Aug 10, 2022. (AP)

Chilean investigators close in on Venezuelan gang targeted by Trump

ARICA, Chile, July 28, (AP): The Venezuelan gang members wrote out even their most minute purchases in blue pen: \$15 for a drug trafficker’s Uber; \$9 for instant coffee during a lookout shift; \$34 for supplies to clean what investigators learned were torture chambers.

The meticulous spreadsheets seized during police raids in Chile’s northern town of Arica, and shared with The Associated Press, suggest the accounting structure of a multinational.

They amount to the most comprehensive documentation to date of the inner workings of Tren de Aragua, Latin America’s notorious criminal organization designated by President Donald Trump as a foreign terrorist group.

An investigation built over years by Chilean prosecutors in Arica, which resulted in hefty sentences for 34 people in March - and inspired other cases which, earlier this month, sent a dozen Tren de Aragua leaders to prison for a total of 300 years - contrasts with Trump’s mass deportations of suspected gang members.

While Trump’s supporters cheer the expulsions, investigators see missed opportunities to gather evidence aimed at uprooting the criminal network that has gained momentum across the region as migration from Venezuela surges and global cocaine demand spreads.

“With the U.S. snatching guys off the streets, they’re taking out the tip



Alleged members of the Tren de Aragua gang attend a preliminary hearing facing homicide charges, in Santiago, Chile on July 9. (AP)

mer Peruvian Interior Minister Ruben Vargas of the impunity in his country. “It’s having criminal operators wield power in the political system.”

Chile, long considered one of Latin America’s safest and wealthiest nations, is also among its least corrupt, according to watchdog Transparency International, giving authorities an edge in fending off this kind of organized crime.

But with no experience, the country was caught unprepared as abductions, dismemberments and other grisly crimes reshaped society.

Now, three years later, experts hold out Arica as a case study in wider efforts to combat the gang.

While some see El Salvador President Nayib Bukele’s crackdown on criminal gangs as a model, critics see an authoritarian police state that has run roughshod over due process.

“Criminal prosecution, financial intelligence, witness protection and co-operation with other countries, that’s what it takes to disrupt criminal networks,” said Pablo Zeballos, a Chilean security consultant and former intelligence officer.

Using Tren de Aragua documents first recovered in 2022, Chilean prosecutor Bruno Hernández and his unit brought an unprecedented number of gang members to trial last year, dismantling the gang’s northern Chile offshoot, known as Los Gallegos.

Gunman kills 5 people at Bangkok market before killing self – police

BANGKOK, July 28, (AP): A gunman shot and killed five people at a popular fresh food market in the Thai capital on Monday before killing himself, police said.

The victims included security guards at the Or Tor Kor market in the district of Chatuchak district in Bangkok, according to a police statement. The Erawan Medical Center, which coordinates emergency medical services, reported two women were also wounded. The market, next to the sprawling Chatuchak weekend Market, carries all sorts of goods and is popular with Thai and foreign tourists.

A video circulating online reportedly showed the shooter wearing a baseball cap and shorts walking in the market with a backpack strapped to his chest and a handgun in his right hand.

Police said they were probing details about the suspect, including his motivation.

Police Gen. Kitrat Phanphet, chief of the national police force, said he has ordered city police to carry out their investigation quickly and gather all evidence, including closed-circuit video footage.

Gun violence is not unusual in Thailand, which has fairly restrictive laws but also a high level of gun ownership.

The last mass shooting incident in Bangkok was in October 2023 when a teenage boy, using a modified blank pistol, shot more than half a dozen people at the Paragon shopping mall in



Policemen of a special operations unit at a crime scene at a market in Bangkok, Thailand on July 28, where police says six people are dead after a shooting incident. (AP)

the city’s main shopping district, killing three.

One of the country’s worst mass killings occurred in October 2022 in the northeastern province of Nong Bua Lamphu, when a police sergeant who had lost his job used guns and knives to kill 36 people, including two dozen toddlers at a day care center.

In February 2020, a disgruntled Thai army soldier shot and killed 29 people, most at a shopping mall in the northeastern city of Nakhon Ratchasima, before he was killed by police after an 18-hour standoff.

Confronted by crises, Philippine leader delivers state of nation speech

MANILA, Philippines, July 28, (AP): Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is delivering his state of the nation speech while confronting diverse crises midway through his six-year term, including recent deadly storms with more than 120,000 people encamped in emergency shelters, turbulent ties with the vice president and escalating territorial disputes with Beijing in the South China Sea.

About 22,000 policemen were deployed Monday to secure the House of Representatives complex in suburban Quezon city in the capital region before Marcos’ address to both chambers of Congress, top government and military officials and diplomats.

Thousands of protesters staged rallies to highlight a wide range of demands from higher wages due to high inflation to the immediate impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte over a raft of alleged crimes.

Marcos’ rise to power in mid-2022, more than three decades after an army-backed “People Power” revolt overthrew his father from office and into global infamy, was one of the most dramatic political comebacks. But he inherited a wide range of problems, including an economy that was one of the worst-hit by the coronavirus pandemic, which worsened poverty, unemployment, inflation and hunger.



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (front), delivers his speech while Senate President Francis Escudero, (left), and House Speaker Martin Romualdez, (right), applaud during the State of the Nation address at the House of Representatives in Quezon City, Philippines, on July 28. (AP)

His whirlwind political alliance with Duterte rapidly floundered and she and her family, including her father, former President Rodrigo Duterte, became her harshest critics.

The former president was arrested in March in a chaotic scene at Manila’s international airport and flown to be detained by the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands for an alleged crime against humanity over his deadly anti-drugs crackdowns while still in power.

Sara Duterte became the first vice president of the Philippines to be impeached in February by the House of Representatives, which is dominated by Marcos’ allies, over a range of criminal allegations including largescale corruption and publicly threatening to have the president, his wife and Romualdez killed by an assassin if she herself were killed during her disputes with them.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, members of the Chinese People’s Armed Police Force clean up silt on a road in Miyun District as continuous rainfall triggers alerts, in north of Beijing on July 27. (Xinhua)

Heavy rains in northern China kill 4 people

Heavy rain and flooding in northern China have killed four people while several others remain missing, officials said Monday, as the region including the capital, Beijing, braced for more rainfall overnight. The victims were caught in a landslide in a rural part of Luanping county in Hebei province, which borders Beijing, according to state broadcaster CCTV. Eight people were missing. A resident told the state-backed Beijing News that communications were down and he couldn’t reach his relatives.

Beijing authorities said they would launch a top-level emergency response at 8 p.m., ordering people to stay inside, closing schools, suspending construction work and stopping outdoor tourism and other activities until the response is lifted.

The heaviest rain in Beijing was expected after midnight, with rainfall of up to 30 centimeters (12 inches) forecast for some areas. In the district of Miyun, an outlying part of Beijing, floodwaters could be seen sweeping away parked cars in an apartment complex in footage shown by the state broadcaster. (AP)

Security forces kill 3 terrorists

India stampede kills 6 and injures 29

LUCKNOW, India, July 28, (Agencies): A stampede at a popular Hindu temple in northern India killed 6 and 29 others Monday in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, police said.

The stampede broke out at around 2:00 am local time after an electric wire snapped and fell on a tin shed at Awsaneshwar Mahadev Temple in Barabanki district, about 50 km east of Lucknow, the capital city of Uttar Pradesh.

According to District Magistrate Shashank Tripathi, the overhead electric wire snapped after some monkeys jumped onto it when there was a huge rush of devotees.

“In today’s stampede at the Awsaneshwar Mahadev Temple because of the snapping of an electric wire, two people were killed and 29 others suffered injuries,” a police official said. “The injured were immediately removed to Haidergarh and Trivediganj Community Health Centre. The critically injured were rushed to the district hospital.”

Also:

NEW DELHI: Indian security forces claimed to have gunned down at least three terrorists in the Lidwas area of Indian-controlled Kashmir on Monday.

The Chinar Corps of the Indian Army posted on X that “Three terrorists have been neutralised in an intense firefight. Operation Continues.” A search operation was being carried out to look for more terrorists.

NEW DELHI: One woman died and 21 others were injured, some of them seriously, when nearly 20 vehicles crashed one after the other, causing a major pile up of vehicles leading to a long traffic jam on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway in India’s southwestern state of Maharashtra, on Saturday.



Tripathi

Africa

Boat capsizes in Nigeria kills 25: A boat transporting passengers to a market in north-central Nigeria capsized, killing at least 25 people, authorities said Sunday.

The accident happened Saturday near Gumu village in the Shiroro area of Niger state, Ibrahim Hussaini, an official with the National Emergency Management Agency, told The Associated Press.

Hussaini said search and rescue efforts were underway, but are limited because armed gangs mostly control the area. He added that the number of casualties may rise.

“Very few people can go to the scene because of banditry in that area,” he told the AP.

Armed groups, commonly referred to as bandits, have stepped up attacks in recent months in the north-central region, complicating rescue efforts.

The accident is the latest in a series of deadly boat accidents on Nigerian waterways, where accidents are common in remote communities, especially during the rainy season, due to overloaded and poorly maintained vessels. (AP)

Malawi president recalls Parliament: Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera has ordered the country’s recently dissolved Parliament to reconvene on Aug. 5 to amend the voting law to ensure that all eligible citizens, including those assigned to duty on election day, can cast their votes.

Malawi’s 2019-2025 Parliament was dissolved on Wednesday by National Assembly Speaker Catherine Gotani Hara, in line with constitutional provisions for an election year.

However, the Constitution empowers the president to recall Parliament before a general election if a constitutional crisis is deemed to have arisen.

A supplement to the government Gazette dated Friday and signed by Chakwera confirmed the decision to reconvene Parliament to consider amending the Presidential, Parliamentary, and Local Government Elections Act.

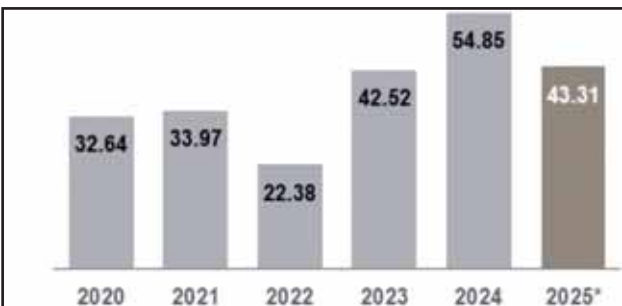
A follow-up statement from the State House on Saturday provided further clarification. (Xinhua)

US dollar holds at KD 0.305

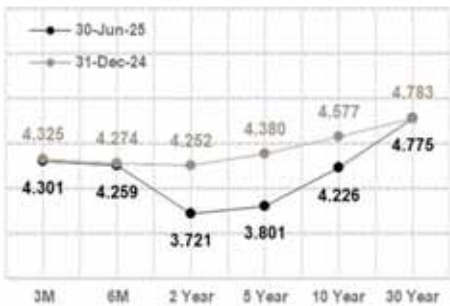
KUWAIT CITY, July 28, (KUNA): The exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar remained stable at KD 0.305 on Monday, July 28, 2025. The euro was valued at KD 0.358 according to the Central

Bank of Kuwait (CBK) daily bulletin. The CBK also reported the following exchange rates: the British pound at KD 0.409, the Swiss franc at KD 0.383, and the Japanese yen at KD 0.002.

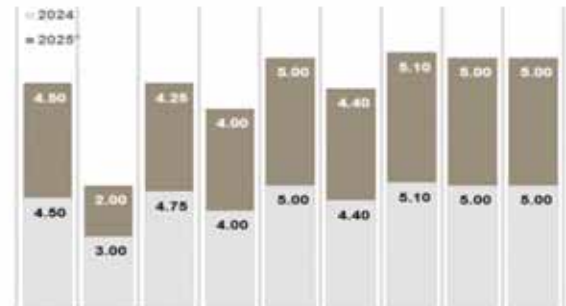
Business



Global Central Bank Rates



US Treasury Yield Curve – Movement (value in %)



Primary Issuances (Figures in USD Billions)

Islamic capital market updates and index performance for H1 2025

‘Kuwait Finance House Capital Sukuk Market monitor’

Capital Market Updates

■ Key highlight for the first half of 2025 (1H2025) has been volatility, driven by two factors, first the uncertainty on tariffs (April 02, 2025, Liberation Day Tariffs) and second, the Middle East conflict.

■ On Monetary Policy: During the 1H2025 the European Central Bank (ECB) has been the most aggressive as it cut 100bps since December 2024. It is followed by Bank of England (BOE), which has announced 50bps rate cut so far. The US Fed has continued to maintain its target rates in the 4.25-4.50% range during the first half of 2025. The regional central banks remained in line with the US Fed as they continue to hold respective interest rates

International Sukuk Issuances & Updates

■ Total Primary Issuances for the 1H2025 stood at USD 43.31 billion which is a significant growth of 53.28% in issuances when compared to 1H2024 levels

of USD 28.25 billion. On geographical basis, Saudi Arabia was the top contributor with 36.6% of the total primary issuances. Followed by UAE with 32.3% of the total issuances.

■ The year (2025) commenced with Kuwait Finance House (KFH) successful Issuance of a 5Y Senior Unsecured Sukuk issuance of USD 1 billion, the issuance was 2.1x oversubscribed. Followed by, Bahrain based Bapco Energies, the company successfully priced USD 1 billion 10Y sukuk which was oversubscribed 4x.

■ Among the sovereigns, Kingdom of Bahrain came to the market with USD 1.75 billion 8Y Sukuk. The Ministry of Finance Egypt returned to the markets after a year as it resumed its international sovereign sukuk issuance with a USD 1 billion sukuk

■ UAE based Aldar Investment properties successfully priced a 10Y USD 500 million green sukuk which was over subscribed 7.2x. Boubyan Bank re-

turned to the market after an absence of 3 years as it successfully priced a 5Y USD 500 million senior unsecured Sukuk, the books peaked at USD 1.7 billion. while Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), raised USD 1.5 billion from sale of 10Y USD debut sukuk. Mashreq Bank (Mashreq). Mashreq successfully priced its debut issuance of USD 500 million 5Y Sukuk with the issue oversubscribed 5.6x. Ajman Bank also came out with its debut issuance of USD 500 million sukuk which was oversubscribed 5.4x. KFH Capital was JLM and Book runners on the above transactions

■ Other notable issuances include Saudi Arabian Mining Company (Ma’aden) with USD 1.25 billion issuance. Dubai based port operator DP World successfully raising USD 1.5 billion 10Y Sukuk The Saudi Public Investment Fund (PIF) priced a 7Y USD 1.25 billion Sukuk.

Main index down 0.73%

Boursa Kuwait ends lower

KUWAIT CITY, July 28, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Monday’s session with widespread declines across all main indices. The Main Market Index dropped by 62.33 points (0.73%) to close at 8,510.70 points, with trading volume reaching 413.6 million shares executed through 25,337 transactions for a total value of KD 72.5 million (approximately USD 237.5 million). The Main Market Index also recorded a loss of 65.44 points (0.86%), settling at 7,535.99 points, with 270.3 million shares traded in 16,762 transactions, equivalent to KD 31.8 million

(about USD 104.1 million) in value.

The Premier Market Index declined by 64.63 points (0.70%) to finish at 9,174.44 points, after 143.2 million shares changed hands through 8,575 transactions, amounting to KD 40.7 million (estimated USD 133.3 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 Index shed 57.27 points (0.75%) to close at 7,530.86 points, with 123.7 million shares traded in 7,227 transactions and a trading value of KD 17.6 million (around USD 57.6 million).

Enabling secure financial & non-financial transactions

NBK launches customer-inspired mobile application enhancements

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: At National Bank of Kuwait, our customers’ voices are at the heart of everything we do. We are proud to announce a new wave of enhancements to our NBK Mobile Banking App, designed directly in response to the valuable suggestions, feedback, and concerns shared by our customers.

From improving transaction speed to simplifying navigation, every upgrade reflects our commitment to making banking smarter, faster, secure, and more convenient. These updates are more than just technical changes. They are a reflection of our ongoing responses with the clients we serve.

Streamlined User Experience

A more intuitive interface on the dashboard designed to help you find what you need without a guesswork. The main dashboard is now customized for personalized user-experience, as users are now able to rearrange the sequence of visible NBK products, hide/unhide products based on preference, and view the number of associated products, such as accounts, cards, loans, deposits, and investments.

In addition, the “Transfer Screen” dashboard on the NBK Mobile Banking App has been redesigned to be more user-friendly. Now, users can navigate easily through different transfer functions and perform transactions quickly and efficiently.

Customer Driven Design

Every change is based on what customers told us. Their convenience is our priority. With the personalization feature for Plus, Tahabi, and Privilege users, customers are now uniquely color-coded based on their package theme color, making it easy to identify what package they belong to.

Peace of Mind

Another enhancement includes creating a separate dashboard of the user’s children on the NBK Mobile Banking App, so users easily manage their children’s accounts. In addition, the user can add a nickname for their minors.

Moreover, temporary card blocking feature has been enhanced, allowing customers to block their cards at once with a single action, making the process faster, more efficient, providing immediate peace of mind in urgent situations.

Commenting on these latest updates, “At NBK’s, we be-



NBK App gets speed, UX, and security boost.

lieve innovation begins with listening” said Mr. **Mohammad Al Dakhil**, AVP - Digital Business at NBK. “We are proud to turn our customers’ ideas into real improvements that make everyday banking easier and more re-assuring.”

Al Dakhil: “NBK is always keen on demonstrating its digital excellence and enriching its customers’ banking experience with innovative products and services on the NBK Mobile Banking app. Not only do we strive to meet our customers’ needs, but we often exceed their expectations.”

With the latest update on NBK Mobile Banking App, customers are now easily become NBK customers. Opening an NBK account is simple and fast with fewer steps saving the trip to the branch. A simple registration, streamline approval process, takes few minutes, and the customer can enjoy the offerings of exceptional banking. NBK now offers tailored products making it easier for them to explore and benefit from the range of our services all in one place.

“This is just the beginning. We remain committed to evolving with our customers’ needs and to creating seamless digital experiences built on trust, convenience, and transparency.” Said Al Dakhil.

The NBK Mobile Banking App is available for download on the App Store, Google Play Store, as well as Huawei App gallery.

\$15m investment boosts GCC logistics strategy

Al-Tijaria announces investment in the ‘GFH GCC Logistics Fund II’

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Commercial Real Estate Company (Al-Tijaria) K.P.S.C. announced that, in collaboration with its subsidiaries and its affiliate company “Kuwait Resorts Company,” it has invested a total of USD 15 million (equivalent to approximately KWD 4.5 million) in the “GFH GCC Logistics Fund II.” This investment comes as part of Al-Tijaria’s strategic role as an equity investor in the growing logistics real estate sector across the GCC.

The fund, managed by GFH Capital, aims to acquire, develop, and operate logistics assets across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other GCC countries, in support of the region’s rapidly expanding logistics infrastructure and modern supply chain networks.

In a move that reflects the strength of the strategic relationship between the two entities, Al-Tijaria has also been appointed as a Co-Technical Advisor to the Fund. This role leverages



Eng. Abdulmutaleb Marafie, Chief Executive Officer of Al-Tijaria

Al-Tijaria’s extensive experience in real estate development across both local and regional markets.

On this occasion, **Eng. Abdulmutaleb Marafie**, Chief Executive Officer of Al-Tijaria, stated:

“This kind of investment marks a pivotal step in our expansion strategy across the Gulf region, particularly in the Saudi market, which we view as one of the most promising in terms of economic growth, stability, and attractive investment opportunities. We continue to explore selective investment opportunities that can enhance the Al-Tijaria’s financial performance and deliver sustainable returns to our shareholders.”

Mr. Marafie emphasized that this investment aligns with its broader strategic focus on high value-added sectors, particularly logistics real estate, which is witnessing accelerated growth in the region—especially in light of Saudi Arabia’s ambitious development plans.

The company continues to strengthen its regional footprint through strategic partnerships with leading financial institutions, supporting its diversification objectives and long-term growth plans.

35 students join sixth summer program edition

Zain’s Summer Program offers hands-on job training

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: Participants in the sixth edition of Zain’s Summer Program continue their hands-on training journey across diverse work environments. The program remains focused on equipping them with practical skills and real-world experience to prepare them for the job market, all within a professional setting that mirrors the fast-paced private sector.

Recently, the students took part in an inspiring media experience, where they learned about the strategies and challenges of modern media and how to deliver messages creatively and artistically.

The session featured director Ya’arub Bourahma and young content creator Aws Ya’arub Bourahma, who shared their personal stories and valuable insights in media and content creation.

As part of its efforts to strengthen bonds and team spirit among the participants, Zain organized side entertainment activities such as kart racing and a shooting competition. These events were filled with excitement and friendly competition, providing an ideal opportunity to foster a lively atmosphere and deepen connections among the participants.

The students are currently undergoing practical training across three main tracks: Zain’s branches, media institutions Kuwait News and Kuwait Times, and a newly introduced operational and technical track with the program’s partner V-Thru. Participants are engaged in diverse fields including customer service, sales, digital marketing, content creation, journalism, and logistics.

A total of 35 university students from various

academic backgrounds are participating in the program, working part-time at their assigned placements through intensive tracks designed to hone their personal and professional skills, develop their leadership capabilities, and offer them real-world experiences aligned with the fast-evolving digital job market.

The Zain Summer Program is one of the company’s leading sustainable community initiatives, launched under the Future University Network – FUN platform. Year after year, it continues to provide real and inspiring opportunities to help shape a conscious and qualified generation of young national talent. Over the course of six successful seasons, the program has trained more than 220 students, contributing to the preparation of a creative and work-ready generation for the labor market.



Interactive experiences that simulate real-world work environments.



Students gain a blend of personal and practical skills.

‘Capex to stay high’

GCC telcos shift focus to international expansion

By S&P Global Ratings

What’s changed?

Focus on International expansion. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) telcos have closed several bolt-on acquisitions and financial investments over the last two years. Very high profitability and strong cash flow generation provided Emirates Telecommunications Group Company PJSC (e&) and Saudi Telecom Co. the ability to expand geographically to stable European markets.

Saturation of traditional telco business. Given their mature domestic markets and above-100% mobile penetration, GCC telcos’ sources of revenue have converged to single-digit growth compared with double-digits historically. This incentivizes the companies to expand geographically and technologically.

Credit metrics to remain strong. Despite high capital expenditures (capex) and M&A activity, leverage should remain low. Headroom is limited for e& due to recent transactions, but we expect it to recover to below 1.5x in 2026.

What to look out for?

Capex spends to remain high at 14%-16% of revenue. GCC telcos are making significant investments

in non-telco businesses, which could include data centers, cybersecurity, cloud services, internet of things, AI, licensed digital banks, or e-wallets.

Governments to spur growth. Considering GCC governments’ strong digitalization push, GCC telcos’ growth rates could be higher than elsewhere since the development of a digital economy will spur e-commerce, fintech, streaming, and gaming. Data localization laws and surging cloud adoption also spurs demand for data centers in the region.

Margin compression due to non-telco business. EBITDA margins could shrink by 100-300 basis points (bps) over the next three years. The extent of the effect will depend on the relative share of revenues.

What are the key risks around the baseline?

Competitive environment could change. Unlike the traditional telco business, which we believe receive government support to curb competition, the technology landscape is ever-changing. New regulations and competition in technology will test these companies.

Foreign currency fluctuations impact revenue growth.

‘This investment is in line with our strategy to extend our tech ecosystem investments in the region’

Kamco Invest, on behalf of its clients, acquires a stake in Foodics, a leading Saas company in the MENA region

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced today that its private equity team has acquired a stake of Foodics, on behalf of its clients. Foodics is considered the leading cloud-based technology and payments platform for restaurants in the MENA region. Foodic’s most recent round of USD170 million was led by Prosus, one of the largest technology investors globally, and Sanabil Investments, a PIF-owned investment company focused on private growth investments. Other participating investors included Sequoia Capital India and existing investors including STV, Endeavor Catalyst, Vision Ventures, Raved Ventures, Riyadh Taqnia Fund, Faith Capital, and others. This investment, which was completed in Q4 2024 with final legal and regulatory procedures concluded recently, aligns with Kamco Invest’s

strategy of offering its clients distinctive, high-value opportunities in the region’s most promising and fastest-growing sectors through investments in leading technology companies in the region with a planned, near-term IPO on local capital markets. Foodics was established in 2014 and supports more than 33,000 restaurants with an annual gross merchandise value of over USD10bn in 2024. The company’s vision is to build a complete restaurant operations and financial management ecosystem that enables owners to run seamlessly and grow their businesses. The system allows restaurateurs to manage the entire restaurant operation from order processing to financial management and gaining access to cash, from a single screen. With its strong foothold in the Saudi market, the region’s most active and lucrative for tech startups, Foodics is poised for a successful IPO within 2–3 years benefiting from favorable

market conditions in KSA and the IPO prospects on Tadawul. Dalal J. Al Shaya, Director of Private Equity at Kamco Invest said: “We are proud to take part in this regional tech champion, which is successfully showcasing a tremendous growth trajectory with multiple pillars of growth initiatives supported by prominent regional and international investors. We are confident in Foodic’s business model, its strategy and the team’s ability to lead the company to a successful future.” Al Shaya added, “This investment, which aims to create long-term value for our clients, is in line with our strategy to extend our tech ecosystem expertise and investments in the region, following our tech initiatives across the US. This aligns with Kamco Invest’s vision to strengthen its presence across the Gulf region, and to capitalize on the tremendous growth potential the region offers.” Kamco Invest has AUM of over

FOODICS®

Foodics logo

About Kamco Invest

Kamco Investment Company K.S.C (Public) “Kamco Invest” is a regional non-banking financial powerhouse headquartered in Kuwait with offices in key regional financial markets, established in 1998 and listed on Boursa Kuwait in 2003. It is an Independently managed subsidiary of Burgan Bank, a member of KIPCO Group, adopting highest standards of corporate governance and regulated by the Capital Markets Authority and Central Bank of Kuwait. Kamco Invest has AUM of over

KAMCO INVEST

Dalal Al Shaya

USD16.9bn as of 31 March 2025 allocated to various asset classes and jurisdictions, making it one of the largest asset managers in the MENA region. It has acted as investment banker to deals exceeding USD41.8bn from its inception till 31 March 2025 in equity capital markets, debt capital markets and mergers & acquisitions.

Global demand projected to slow in 2025

Natural gas prices rise in Q2 2025 on geopolitical tensions & cold weather

By KAMCO Invest

Global natural gas prices experienced moderate growth in the second quarter of 2025. According to the World Bank, average monthly U.S. natural gas prices rose by 20.3% y-o-y in June-2025, reaching USD 3.02/MMBtu. Meanwhile, average monthly prices for European natural gas increased by 13.8% y-o-y during the same month, reaching USD 12.37/MMBtu. Similarly, the World Bank’s average monthly prices for liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Japan recorded a modest y-o-y increase of 1.1% in June-2025, reaching USD 12.26/MMBtu. Overall, the World Bank’s average monthly natural gas prices registered y-o-y gains in each of the three months of Q2-2025. Additionally, according to the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), TTF spot prices averaged USD 12.3/MMBtu in June-2025, marking a 14% y-o-y increase. The global rise in natural gas prices was primarily attributed to heightened demand in the North America and Asia Pacific regions, along with escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. The surge in prices was accompanied by growth in global LNG imports throughout the three month period from April-2025 to June-2025. Notably, according to the GECF, global LNG imports in June-2025 increased by a robust 9.4% y-o-y to 34.8 Mt, representing the strongest annual growth rate in LNG imports since November-2022. This growth was mainly driven by European countries, which faced elevated reinjection demand as they continued reducing Russian pipeline gas imports and contended with both declining domestic production and reduced Norwegian gas output due to maintenance. A major factor driving the global increase in natural gas prices has been the accelerated pace of LNG procurement by European countries in preparation for the upcoming cold season. Currently, natural gas storage in the EU stands at 65.1% of capacity and must reach 90% by November-2025. Consequently, the EU is expected to continue ramping up LNG purchases to meet this target. Moreover, the EU’s push for a transition to low-emission energy sources, combined with its resolve to reduce reliance on Russian energy imports, has served as another significant driver of increased natural gas consumption in the region. In contrast, in the Asia region, rising natural gas prices, particularly for LNG, have prompted some key countries to scale back their LNG imports due to cost concerns. China, for instance, has the flexibility to reduce LNG purchases by boosting pipeline imports from Russia and Central Asia. In terms of consumption, global natural gas demand is projected to grow by 2% in 2025, primarily supported by increased demand in the Asia and North America regions. Similarly, global natural gas production is expected to expand by 2% in 2025, largely driven by anticipated output increases in the Middle East.

According to GECF data, EU natural gas consumption rose by 2.5% y-o-y to 57.5 bcm in Q2-2025, up from 56.1 bcm in Q2-2024. Likewise, U.S. natural gas consumption recorded a y-o-y increase of 0.9%, reaching 202.5 bcm compared to 200.6 bcm in Q2-2024. Meanwhile, in the Asia Pacific region, China’s natural gas consumption amounted to 106.6 bcm over the three months from March-2025 to May-2025, reflecting a marginal y-o-y growth of 0.1%. On the production side, U.S. natural gas output rose by 0.6% y-o-y in Q2-2025 to reach 271.6 bcm, up from 269.9 bcm in Q2-2024. Overall, global natural gas demand is expected to decelerate in 2025 but regain momentum in 2026, according to the IEA. For the full year 2025, global gas demand is forecast to slow from a growth rate of 2.8% in 2024 to around 1.3%. In particular, natural gas demand in the Asia Pacific region is projected to expand by less than 1% in 2025, marking the region’s weakest annual growth in three years.

Natural Gas Consumption

Following a strong year of consumption in 2024, during which natural gas demand in the Asian region



grew by 5.5%, gas demand declined by 1.5% y-o-y during the first half of 2025, according to the IEA. This downturn was largely attributed to weaker macroeconomic conditions, elevated LNG spot prices, and relatively mild weather in key regions such as northeast China. In China, natural gas consumption weakened during 1H-2025 despite notable growth in Q1-2025. A combination of softening economic fundamentals and unseasonably mild weather contributed to the decline in the country’s gas demand during the first half of the year. In contrast, natural gas demand in Japan and South Korea declined by 1.2% and 2.5%, respectively, during Q2-2025, reaching 18.6 bcm and 11.3 bcm. In Japan, the reduction was primarily due to lower consumption in the power and gas sectors. Additionally, heavy rainfall in May-2025 led to a 5% increase in hydroelectric generation, according to GECF. In South Korea, the decline in natural gas demand was primarily driven by weaker consumption in the power generation sector during the period. In OECD Europe, natural gas consumption increased by 6.5% y-o-y, or 15 bcm, during H1-2025, with the bulk of this growth occurring in Q1-2025. The strong rise in gas consumption was largely driven by colder-than-average weather and reduced renewable power output. The power sector was the key contributor, accounting for nearly 80% of the region’s incremental gas demand in 1H-2025, according to the IEA.

Gas-to-power demand in OECD Europe grew by 20% y-o-y, or 12 bcm, during the same period. Conversely, industrial gas consumption in the region declined by 2% y-o-y during 1H-2025 due to persistently high natural gas prices. Overall, natural gas demand in OECD European countries is forecast to increase by nearly 3% y-o-y in 2025, led primarily by continued strength in the power sector. In North America, natural gas consumption rose by nearly 2.5%, or 13 bcm, during the first half of 2025. This increase was concentrated in Q1-2025, driven by colder weather in the early months of the year, which elevated heating demand—particularly in Canada and the northern U.S. In the U.S., natural gas consumption grew by 2.8% y-o-y to reach 479.5 bcm during 1H-2025, up from 466.4 bcm in 1H-2024, based on GECF data. The moderate increase was mainly supported by colder winter and spring temperatures, which boosted heating requirements across residential and commercial sectors. In Canada, natural gas demand rose by an estimated 5% y-o-y (or more than 3 bcm) during H1-2025. As in the U.S., colder temperatures contributed to higher consumption in the residential and commercial sectors, which together posted a y-o-y increase of over 10% during the first four months of 2025, according to the IEA. Moreover, combined demand in the industrial and power generation sectors rose by 3% y-o-y during the same period, supported by stronger gas-fired power

output. In contrast, Mexico experienced a 4% y-o-y decline in natural gas consumption—equivalent to nearly 2 bcm—during the first half of 2025, primarily due to a decrease in gas-fired electricity generation.

Natural Gas Production

Natural gas production in the USA in 1H-2025 increased by 2.4% y-o-y to reach 542 bcm, as compared to 526.2 bcm in 1H-2024. The moderate production growth was mainly due to strong performance during Q2-2025, which offset a mixed production performance in Q1-2025. The gas production growth in the US reflected the impact of favorable market dynamics underpinned by elevated Henry Hub gas prices, along with increasing gas demand. As of June-2025, the number of gas drilling rigs in the US stood at 112, and the Permian Basin accounted for nearly 50% of the current US drilling fleet, according to GECF. Moreover, the US total number of drilled but uncompleted wells in the onshore regions in June-2025 stood at 5,291 wells, as compared to 5,284 wells in May-2025. Cumulative natural gas production in Canada during the January–May 2025 period reached 82.5 bcm, recording a 1.5% y-o-y growth according to the GECF. Canada’s moderate natural gas production for the period suggests that the country is well-positioned to maintain the production growth it witnessed in 2024, albeit at a slower pace. On the other hand, natural gas production in the Latin America and the Caribbean region reached 63.4 bcm during the five months between January–May 2025, mirroring the same output level during the similar period in 2024. Natural gas production in the Asia Pacific region reached 293.7 bcm during the five-month period January–May 2025, remaining almost unchanged from the corresponding period in 2024. China represented over 37% of total natural gas production in the Asia Pacific region during the period. China’s natural gas production during the five-month period January–May 2025 reached 109.6 bcm, as compared to 103.5 bcm in the corresponding period of 2024. China’s increasing natural gas production during the period was assisted by the introduction of new gas production venues, notably the Phase II of its Shenhai Yihao gas field in the South China Sea, marking the completion of the country’s largest offshore natural gas development thus far, with a designed production capacity of 4.5 bcma.

GCC Market Outlook

The recent conflict in the Middle East has underscored the Middle East and GCC’s critical role in global energy supply security. According to the IEA, the Middle East region comprises 18% of global gas production and nearly 25% of LNG supplies. Natural gas production in the Middle East is projected to reach 755 bcm in 2025 and 780 bcm in 2026, compared to 736 bcm in 2024. The bulk of this production growth is expected to come from GCC countries, particularly Qatar and the UAE. Recently, the German state-owned gas trader SEFE signed an agreement with the UAE’s ADNOC Gas to purchase 700,000 mt of LNG over the next three years in a deal valued at USD 400 Mn. The LNG will be supplied from the ADNOC Gas Das Island export facility. The UAE is actively ramping up its natural gas production. ADNOC Gas recently announced it had awarded contracts worth USD 5 Bn for the development of Phase I of its Rich Gas Development Project. The awarded contracts focus on expanding key processing units to increase throughput and enhance operational efficiency across four ADNOC Gas facilities: Asab, Buhasa, Habshan (Onshore), and the Das Island liquefaction facility (Offshore). The Rich Gas Development Project is expected to facilitate the construction and development of new gas reservoirs within the country, resources that are essential for boosting LNG export capacity and supporting domestic gas self-sufficiency.

Overseeing 2,500 flights per month

Menzies, AS Budapest form strategic airport partnership

LONDON, July 28: Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world’s airports and airlines, has finalised its strategic partnership with Airport Service Budapest Zrt. (AS Budapest), following the approval of the Hungarian Competition Authority, creating new opportunities to support more customers and partners. Under the agreement, AS Budapest will transfer its ground handling and cargo operations to Menzies Aviation, acquiring a minority stake in Menzies Aviation Hungary Kft. and Menzies Aviation Cargo Hungary Kft. The Hungarian ground handling company will now operate under the Menzies’ global brand, which includes operations at more than 300 airports in 65 countries. AS Budapest’s employees will transfer to Menzies Aviation Hungary Kft., ensuring continuity of service and the integration of local expertise into Menzies’ Budapest operation. The well-established SkyCourt

Lounge – the airport’s largest premium lounge – also becomes part of the integrated offering under the Menzies Aviation brand. Together, the companies will handle more than 2,500 flights and over 12,000 tons of cargo per month at Budapest Liszt Ferenc International Airport (BUD), supported by a dedicated team of over 1,000 employees. The new partnership will cover all operational areas, including passenger services, baggage handling, cargo logistics, aircraft cleaning, de-icing, aircraft security and airside transport. The agreement marks a significant milestone for Menzies’ BUD operation, creating opportunities to deliver more efficient, high-quality ground handling and cargo services for airline customers. This partnership follows Menzies’ investment in a state-of-the-art facility in BUD’s Cargo City in 2024, which saw a 3,000sqm warehouse expansion, new 1,500sqm manoeuvring area for truck and ground support equipment (GSE)

and 300sqm office and social space. Miguel Gomez Sjunnesson, EVP Europe, Menzies Aviation, said: “Finalising this partnership with AS Budapest is a positive step in expanding our European footprint and enhancing service levels at Budapest Airport. By combining the local knowledge and operational strengths of both AS Budapest and Menzies, we’re uniquely positioned to meet rising demand and deliver first-class services to airlines, passengers and airport partners. 2024 broke all previous records in the airport’s history, signalling robust growth ahead. With 20 million passengers expected by 2030, we’re excited to support Budapest Airport on this growth journey as it reinforces its role as a leading regional hub.” This partnership reflects Menzies and AS Budapest’s shared commitment to operational excellence, improved service delivery, enhanced sustainability and a seamless travel experience at one of Central Europe’s key aviation hubs.



Menzies Aviation at Budapest Airport.

European firms brace for 15% US tariff hit

US-EU trade deal avoids escalation but raises prices and slows growth

FRANKFURT, July 28, (AP): U.S. President Donald Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen have announced a sweeping trade deal that imposes 15% tariffs on most European goods, warding off Trump’s threat of a 30% rate if no deal had been reached by Aug. 1.

The tariffs, or import taxes, paid when Americans buy European products could raise prices for U.S. consumers and dent profits for European companies and their partners who bring goods into the country.

Here are some things to know about the deal:



US President Donald Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen shake hands after reaching a trade deal at the Trump’s Turnberry golf course in Turnberry, Scotland, Sunday, July 27, 2025. (AP)

Trump and von der Leyen’s announcement, made during Trump’s visit to one of his golf courses in Scotland, leaves many crucial details to be filled in.

The headline figure is a 15% tariff rate on about 70% of European goods brought into the U.S., including cars, computer chips and pharmaceuticals. It’s lower than the 20% that Trump initially proposed, and lower than his threats of 50% and then 30%.

The remaining 30% is still open to further decisions and negotiations.

Von der Leyen said that the two sides agreed on zero tariffs on both sides for a range of “strategic” goods: Aircraft and aircraft parts, certain chemicals, semiconductor equipment, certain agricultural products and some natural resources and critical raw materials. Specifics were lacking.

She said that the two sides “would keep working” to add more products to the list.

Additionally, EU companies would purchase what Trump said was \$750 billion (638 billion euros) worth of natural gas, oil and nuclear fuel over three years to replace Russian energy supplies that Europe is seeking to exit in any case.

Meanwhile, European companies would invest an additional \$600 billion (511 billion euros) in the U.S. under a political commitment that isn’t legally binding, officials said.

Brussels and Washington will shortly issue a joint statement that frames the deal but isn’t yet legally binding, according to senior officials who weren’t authorized to be publicly named according to European Commission policy.

The joint statement will have “some very precise commitments and others which will need to be spelled out in different ways,” a senior European Commission official said.

EU officials said that the zero tariff list would include nuts, pet food, dairy products and seafood.

Trump said that the 50% U.S. tariff on imported steel would remain. Von der Leyen said that the two sides agreed to further negotiations to fight a global steel glut, reduce tariffs and establish import quotas - that is, set amounts that can be imported, often at a lower rate or tariff-free.

Import

Trump said that pharmaceuticals, a major import from the EU to the US, weren’t included in the deal. Von der Leyen said that the pharmaceuticals issue was “on a separate sheet of paper” from Sunday’s deal.

And von der Leyen said that when it came to farm products, the EU side made clear that “there were tariffs that could not be lowered,” without specifying which products.

The 15% rate removes Trump’s threat of a 30% tariff. But it effectively raises the tariff on EU goods from 1.2% last year to 17% and would reduce the 27-nation’s gross domestic product by 0.5%, said Jack Allen-Reynolds, deputy chief eurozone economist at Capital Economics.

Higher tariffs, or import taxes, on European goods mean sellers in the U.S. would have to either increase prices for consumers - risking loss of market share - or swallow the added cost in terms of lower profits. The higher tariffs are expected to hurt export earnings for European firms and slow the economy.

Von der Leyen said that the 15% rate

was “the best we could do” and credited the deal with maintaining access to the U.S. market, and providing “stability and predictability for companies on both sides.”

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz welcomed the deal which avoided “an unnecessary escalation in trans-Atlantic trade relations” and said that “we were able to preserve our core interests,” while adding that “I would have very much wished for further relief in trans-Atlantic trade.”

Senior French officials on Monday criticized the accord. Strategy Commissioner Clément Beaune said that the deal failed to reflect the bloc’s economic strength.

“This is an unequal and unbalanced agreement,” he said. “Europe didn’t wield its strength. We are the world’s leading trading power.”

While the rate is lower than threatened, “the big caveat to today’s deal is that there is nothing on paper, yet,” said Carsten Brzeski, global chief of macro at ING bank.

Agreement

“With this disclaimer in mind and at face value, the agreement would clearly bring an end to the uncertainty of recent months. An escalation of the U.S.-EU trade tensions would have been a severe risk for the global economy,” Brzeski said.

“This risk seems to have been avoided.”

Asked if European carmakers could still profitably sell cars at 15%, von der Leyen said the rate was much lower than the current 27.5%. That has been the rate under Trump’s 25% tariff on cars from all countries, plus the preexisting U.S. car tariff of 2.5%.

The impact is likely to be substantial on some companies, given that automaker Volkswagen said that it suffered a 1.3 billion-euro (\$1.5 billion) hit to profits in the first half of the year from the higher tariffs.

Mercedes-Benz dealers in the U.S. have said they were holding the line on 2025 model year prices “until further notice.” The German automaker has a partial tariff shield, because it makes 35% of the Mercedes-Benz vehicles sold in the U.S. in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, but the company said that it expects prices to undergo “significant increases” in coming years.

Before Trump returned to office, the U.S. and the EU maintained generally low tariff levels in what is the largest bilateral trading relationship in the world, with around 1.7 trillion euros (\$2 trillion) in annual trade.

Together the U.S. and the EU have 44% of the global economy. The U.S. rate averaged 1.47% for European goods, while the EU has averaged 1.35% for American products, according to the Bruegel think tank in Brussels.

Trump has complained about the EU’s 198 billion-euro (\$232.5 billion) trade surplus in goods, which shows Americans buy more from European businesses than the other way around, and has said that the European market isn’t open enough for U.S.-made cars.

However, American companies fill some of the trade gap by outselling the EU when it comes to services such as cloud computing, travel bookings and legal and financial services. And about 30% of European imports are from American-owned companies, according to the European Central Bank.

90-day tariff pause set to continue

US, China officials meet in Stockholm to discuss how to ease trade tensions

STOCKHOLM, July 28, (AP): Top trade officials from China and the United States arrived for a new round of talks in Stockholm on Monday in a bid to ease tensions over tariffs between the world’s two biggest national economies.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng were meeting at the offices of Sweden’s prime minister for two days of talks that Bessent has said will likely lead to an extension of current tariff levels.

Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson greeted He, followed by Bessent and U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, as the two teams arrived in separate motorcades.

Analysts say the talks led by Bessent and He could set the stage for a possible meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping later this year to cement a recent thaw in trade tensions.

The talks are the third of their kind this year - nearly four months after Trump upended global trade with his sweeping tariff proposals, including an import tax that shot up to 145% on Chinese goods. China retaliated, sending global financial markets into a temporary tailspin.

The Stockholm meeting - following similar talks in Geneva and London in recent months - is set to extend a 90-day pause on those tariffs. During the pause, U.S. tariffs have been lowered to 30% on Chinese goods, and China set a 10% tariff on U.S. products.

The Trump administration, fresh off a deal on tariffs with the European Union, wants to reduce a trade deficit that came in at \$904 billion overall last year - including a nearly \$300 billion trade deficit with China alone.

China’s Commerce Ministry said last week that the “consultations” would raise shared concerns through the principles of “mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation.”

On Friday, Trump told reporters “we have the confines of a deal with China” - just two days after Bessent told MSNBC that a “status quo” had been reached between the two sides. Without an extension of the pause, the respective tariff levels could snap back to punishingly



Sweden’s Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, left, greets US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, right, and US trade representative Jamieson Greer, second right, outside Rosenbad ahead of trade talks between the US and China in Stockholm, Sweden, July 28, 2025. (AP)

high rates.

While the Chinese side has offered little guidance about the specifics of its aims in Stockholm, Bessent has suggested that the situation has stabilized to the point that China and the U.S. can start looking toward longer-term balance between their two economies.

For years, since China vaulted into the global trading system about two decades ago, the United States has sought to press various leaders in Beijing to encourage more consumption in China and wrest greater market access to foreign-made - including American - goods.

Other sticking points in the relationship include overcapacity in China - by far the world’s largest manufacturer - and concerns about whether Beijing is doing enough to control chemicals used to make fentanyl, analysts say.

Sean Stein, president of the U.S.-China Business

Council, said Stockholm could be the first real opportunity for the two governments to address structural reform issues, including market access in China for U.S. companies.

What businesses will be seeking coming out of Stockholm would largely be “the atmosphere” - how the two sides characterize the discussions. They will also look for clues about a possible leaders’ summit, because any real deal will hinge on the two presidents meeting each other, he said.

In Stockholm, Beijing will likely demand the removal of the 20% fentanyl-related tariff that Trump imposed earlier this year, said Sun Yun, director of the China program at the Washington-based Stimson Center.

Bessent has also said the Stockholm talks could address Chinese purchases of Russian and Iranian oil.

US tariffs stir panic buying in K-beauty market

NEW YORK, July 28, (AP): When Amrita Bhasin, 24, learned that products from South Korea might be subject to a new tax when they entered the United States, she decided to stock up on the sheet masks from Korean brands like U-Need and MediHeal she uses a few times a week.

“I did a recent haul to stockpile,” she said. “I bought 50 in bulk, which should last me a few months.”

South Korea is one of the countries that hopes to secure a trade deal before the Aug. 1 date President Donald Trump set for enforcing nation-specific tariffs. A not-insignificant slice of the U.S. population has skin in the game when it comes to Seoul avoiding a 25% duty on its exports.

Asian skin care has been a booming global business for a more than a decade, with consumers in Europe, North and South America, and increasingly the Middle East, snapping up creams, serums and balms from South Korea, Japan and China.

In the United States and elsewhere, Korean cosmetics, or K-beauty for short, have dominated the trend. A craze for all-in-one “BB creams” - a combination of moisturizer, foundation and sunscreen - morphed into a fascination with 10-step rituals and ingredients like snail mucin, heartleaf and rice water.

Vehicles and electronics may be South Korea’s top exports to the U.S. by value, but the country shipped more skin care and cosmetics to the U.S. than any other last year, according to data from market research company Euromonitor. France, with storied beauty brands like L’Oreal and Chanel, was second, Euromonitor said.

Statistics compiled by the U.S. International Trade Commission, an independent federal agency, show the U.S. imported \$1.7 billion worth of South Korean cosmetics in 2024, a 54% increase from a year earlier.

“Korean beauty products not only add a lot of variety and choice for Americans, they really embraced them because they were offering something different for American consumers,” Mary Lovely, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said.

Along with media offerings such as “Parasite” and “Squid Games,” and the popularity of K-pop bands like BTS, K-beauty has helped boost South Korea’s profile globally, she said.

“It’s all part and parcel really of the same thing,” Lovely said. “And it can’t be completely stopped by a 25% tariff, but it’s hard to see how it won’t influence how much is sold in the U.S. And I think what we’re hearing from producers is that it also really decreases the number of products they want to offer in this market.”

Senti Senti, a retailer that sells international beauty products at two New York boutiques and through an e-commerce site, saw a bit of



Customers check out Asian beauty products at Senti Senti in New York on Friday, July 25, 2025. (AP)

“panic buying” by customers when Trump first imposed punitive tariffs on goods from specific countries, manager Winnie Zhong said.

The rush slowed down after the president paused the new duties for 90 days and hasn’t picked up again, Zhong said, even with Trump saying on July 7 that a 25% tax on imports from Japan and South Korea would go into effect on Aug. 1.

Japan, the Philippines and Indonesia subsequently reached agreements with the Trump administration that lowered the tariff rates their exported goods faced - in Japan’s case, from 25% to 15% - still higher than the current baseline of 10% tariff.

But South Korea has yet to clinch an agreement, despite having a free trade agreement since 2012 that allowed cosmetics and most other consumer goods to enter the U.S. tax-free.

Since the first store owned by Senti Senti opened 16 years ago, beauty products from Japan and South Korea became more of a focus and now account for 90% of the stock. The business hasn’t had to pass on any tariff-related costs to customers yet, but that won’t be possible if the products are subject to a 25% import tax, Zhong said.

“I’m not really sure where the direction of K-beauty will go to with the tariffs in place, because one of the things with K-beauty or Asian beauty is that it’s supposed to be accessible pricing,” she said.

Devoted fans of Asian cosmetics will often buy direct from Asia and wait weeks for their packages to arrive because the products typically cost less than they do in American stores.

Rather than stocking up on their favorite sunscreens, lip tints and toners, some shoppers are taking a pause due to the tariff uncertainty.

Los Angeles resident Jen Chae, a content creator with over 1.2 million YouTube subscribers, has explored Korean and Japanese beauty products and became personally intrigued by Chinese beauty brands over the last year.

When the tariffs were first announced, Chae temporarily paused ordering from sites such as YesStyle.com, a shopping platform owned by an e-commerce company based in Hong Kong. She did not know if she would have to pay customs duties on the products she bought or the ones brands sent to her as a creator.

“I wasn’t sure if those would automatically charge the entire package with a blanket tariff cost, or if it was just on certain items,” Chae said. On its website, YesStyle says it will give customers store credit to reimburse them for import charges.

At Ohlolly, an online store focused on Korean products, owners Sue Greene and Herra Namhie are taking a similar pause.

They purchase direct from South Korea and from licensed wholesalers in the U.S., and store their inventory in a warehouse in Ontario, California. After years of no duties, a 25% import tax would create a “huge increase in costs to us,” Namhie said.

She and Greene made two recent orders to replenish their stock when the tariffs were at 10%. But they have put further restocks on hold “because I don’t think we can handle 25%,” Namhie said. They’d have to raise prices, and then shoppers might go elsewhere.

Global industry eyes China’s high-speed rail for future growth, connectivity

BEIJING, July 28, (Xinhua): Weeks after the conclusion of the 12th International Union of Railways (IUC) World Congress on High-Speed Rail, industry leaders are still taking stock of China’s rapid railway development and its expanding global influence.

Held from July 8 to 11 in the Chinese capital Beijing, the congress drew over 2,000 participants from more than 60 countries, regions and international organizations. For many, the event offered firsthand insight into China’s achievements and provided a potential roadmap for boosting global connectivity.

“In less than two decades, China has created the largest and most advanced high-speed rail system in the world,” said UIC Chairman Alan Beroud. “It’s reshaping mobility, the economy and regional development.”

A transformational network

China’s high-speed rail network spans about 48,000 km and connects nearly every city with a population of over 500,000, which is a “vital toolkit” for national cohesion and growth, as described by Kevin Smith, editor-in-chief of Britain’s International Railway Journal.

“Nobody has done this sort of network expansion in a short period,” said Dennis Noble, an engineer with Queensland Rail in Australia. “It’s very commendable, and something others can look forward to.”

Visitors at the congress experienced China’s latest trains, including the CR400 Fuxing and the prototype of 450 kmh CR450, the world’s fastest high-speed train. “The new trains are modern, faster, better,” said Kaido Zimmermann, general director of Estonian Railways.

“I think it’s a central plan to connect the whole country and to promote economic development,” Smith said during his trial run on the CR400. “The presentations we’ve seen at this event showed that there’s a real willingness to change the geography of the country, bringing cities that are once distant much closer together.”

Growing global impact

China’s high-speed rail is already transforming regions beyond its borders, serving as a practical model for many countries.

“Most countries experience the same starting point as China,” said Ulan Kulov, deputy general manager of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Railway Co. “We can go this way faster if we learn from China, because we don’t have to reinvent it, and we can use existing technologies and go fast forward.”

“I’m really impressed by seeing the powerful rail industry you’re having here, and I expected to see what the industry is doing and what we can use out of this experience for Europe,” said Richard Neussl, managing director of Austria’s Kontron Transportation Group.

The Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway in Indonesia, built with Chinese technology, has cut travel time from over three hours to just 46 minutes. The Hungary-Serbia Railway has shortened the Budapest-Belgrade journey from eight hours to three.

In Laos, the China-Laos Railway has become a key driver of development, transporting more than 52.7 million passengers and 59.4 million tonnes of cargo as of May.

“The railway has directly and indirectly supported the socioeconomic

development in Laos, and also boosted the income of people living along the route,” said Daochinda Siharath, managing director of the Lao National Railway Authority.

Stronger collaboration

This year marked the second time China has hosted the congress since its launch by the IUC in 1992. Now held every two to three years, the event remains the premier gathering for the high-speed rail sector.

The congress also spotlighted innovation and co-development. In his opening remarks, Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing said China will contribute more wisdom, technology and solutions to the development of high-speed rail around the world.

Zhang added that China is willing to share its experience in high-speed railway construction and operations, and to work with other countries to promote the application of cutting-edge technologies in the sector.

At the accompanying exhibition, Japanese firm Hitachi NICO Transmission Co., Ltd. -- a long-time partner in China -- highlighted new opportunities. “In the past 40-plus years, it was through our development in China that we were able to seize unprecedented opportunities,” said company president Matsui Shiro.

“The Belt and Road Initiative has opened new doors for China-Japan joint ventures in third-party markets,” Matsui said. “We see great prospects for effective partnerships in many areas.”

Over time, China’s high-speed rail is increasingly seen as a scalable model -- built not only on steel and speed, but also on long-term strategy and international partnership.

'Star Wars' creator makes long-awaited Comic-Con debut

Lucas calls new museum 'a people's art temple'

SAN DIEGO, July 28, (AP): George Lucas finally came to the stage at Comic-Con Sunday to an ovation from thousands, some holding light sabers in the air, with soaring "Star Wars" music filling the room.

The 81-year-old, appearing for the first time at San Diego's pop cultural extravaganza, looked decidedly earth-bound in his jeans and flannel shirt, and a bit embarrassed by the attention. The quiet, thoughtful discussion that followed about the art museum he's building stood in contrast to the sci-fi and superhero bombast that came from Comic-Con's huge Hall H in the previous three days of the convention.

He's quietly passionate, though, about the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, co-founded with his wife, businesswoman Mellody Hobson. Long in the works, the project was first announced in 2017 and is set to open its doors in Los Angeles' Exposition Park next year.

"This is sort of a temple to the people's art," Lucas told the crowd.

The museum designed by Ma Yansong resembles a giant space cruiser, and at 300,000 square feet it's about the size of an average IKEA store.

"Star Wars" art and artifacts will be well-represented as shown in an introductory video narrated by Samuel L. Jackson.

But Lucas' focus on the comic art and populist paintings are just as central to its aims. He's is one of the main collec-

tors of the paintings of Norman Rockwell and Maxfield Parrish, and Hobson has made a specialty of collecting the work of Black painters including Norman Lewis and Kara Walker.

The panel discussion also included director Guillermo del Toro and production designer Doug Chiang, who has worked on Star Wars films since the Lucas-directed "Star Wars" prequels in the 1990s.

Rapper, singer and actor Queen Latifah, a friend of Lucas and Hobson who called herself a "sci-fi nerd," served as moderator and chief energizer of the panel.

"Are y'all pumped up for this museum now or what?" she shouted to the crowd at the end.

The project began in part just to have a place for everything Lucas has collected since he was in college in the 1960s, when he learned original drawings from comic books and comic strips were surprisingly affordable.

"I could get an 'Alley-Oop' for \$30," Lucas said. "I've been collecting narrative art ever since."

He owns the first drawing of Flash Gordon, original panels of "Peanuts" comic strips complete with notes from artist Charles Schulz, and early drawings of Iron Man and Black Panther, along with original artwork for political cartoons and alternative comics. He would later move on to paintings and art from films, after the "Star Wars" money began pouring in.

"What am I going to do with it all?" Lucas said. "I refuse

to sell it. I could never do that."

Del Toro, himself a famous hoarder of pop culture artifacts and a museum board member, said the Los Angeles wildfires earlier this year came "frighteningly close" to the collection he keeps at home.

"Now that the museum exists, a lot of it may go there," Del Toro said.

He emphasized throughout the panel the political importance of comics since their beginnings.

"Comics were the first one to punch Nazis," Del Toro said. "Before movies."

While unusual for the big room, the discussion was very close to the kind of talks that have constantly happened in the less flashy corners of Comic-Con for more than 50 years.

Lucas is easily on the Mount Rushmore of figures whose work has had the greatest inspiration on the kind of films and other pop cultural celebrated annually in Hall H.

But the convention wasn't a common showcase for blockbuster films when he was directing them himself. And he sold "Star Wars" and Lucasfilm to The Walt Disney Co. in 2012.

The Lucas museum's 11-acre campus sits right next to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and near several other major museums and the University of Southern California.

An exact date for its opening has not been announced.



George Lucas attends a panel for the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art during Comic-Con International on Sunday, July 27, in San Diego. (AP)

Books

A defiant tale

Potter rewrites Roma identity

NEW YORK, July 28, (AP): "The Roma: A Travelling History" is a fascinating look at a marginalized and misunderstood group of people who have encountered hostility for centuries.

Written by Madeline Potter, a scholar of 19th century Gothic literature, the new book recounts how members of the group long have been maligned, enslaved, deported and murdered.

Potter, who grew up Romani in post-Communist Romania, weaves together bits of memoir with her archival research into what is described as the first contemporary history of the Romani people.

Instead of being raised in an intricately carved horse-drawn "vardo" that traveled from camp to camp, Potter passed her childhood "settled" in a towering Soviet-style high-rise, a more typical upbringing as the Romani people increasingly leave life on the road to become settled.

In her book, Potter carries us from England, where she currently lives, to Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria, Germany France, Spain, the US West Coast and finally to Sweden.

Migrated

Potter tells of how King Henry VIII passed the "Egyptians Act" in 1530, calling for the Gypsy people to be expelled from England due to their alleged crimes, including "robberies," "Palmistry" and "deceit." Believed to have migrated from northern India to Europe some 1,500 years ago, and with a language rooted in Sanskrit, the Roma at one time were thought to have originated in Egypt.

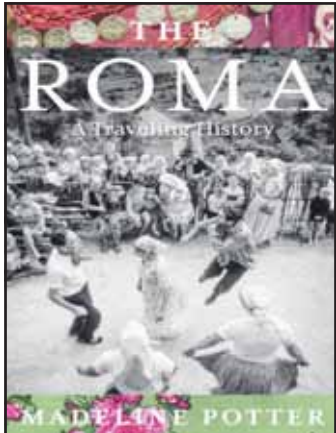
In Spain, they have been known as Gitanos. During Spain's 1749 "Gran Redada de Gitanos" - Great Gypsy Roundup, some 10,000 Roma were detained, and families were separated, with the men sent to work in shipyards and the women and children to factories.

In Nazi Germany, the Reich Office for Combating the Gypsy Menace set the scene for the Roma and related Sinti people to be rounded up and sent to concentration camps alongside Jews, members of the special community and other minorities. As many as 500,000 Roma and Sinti are estimated to have been murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators during that period.

Despite the continued discrimination, the Roma have made important cultural contributions, Potter writes.

Potter mentions Carmen Amaya, a Spanish Romani who was known in the mid-20th century as the world's best flamenco dancer. Composer Franz Liszt was so enamored of Hungarian Roma traditions that he absorbed them into his 19th century work.

"There is much sadness in our history, and much pain," Potter writes. "But importantly it's not pain that beats at the heart of our story. On each step of my journey, I encountered the wondrous stories of those who have decisively resisted their marginalization, who have refused to be silent and whose stories continue to inspire the Roma today."



This cover image released by Harper shows 'The Roma: A Travelling History' by Madeline Potter. (AP)

Film



This image released by Disney shows Ebon Moss-Bachrach, (left), and Pedro Pascal in a scene from 'The Fantastic Four: First Steps.' (AP)

Marvel's first family strikes box office gold

'Fantastic Four' rockets to \$100M debut

LOS ANGELES, July 28, (AP): Marvel's first family has finally found box office gold. "The Fantastic Four: First Steps," the first film about the superheroes made under the guidance of Kevin Feige and the Walt Disney Co., earned \$118 million in its first weekend in 4,125 North American theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That makes it the fourth biggest opening of the year, behind "A Minecraft Movie," "Lilo & Stitch" and "Superman," and the biggest Marvel opening since "Deadpool & Wolverine" grossed \$211 million out of the gate last summer. Internationally, "Fantastic Four" made \$100 million from 52 territories, adding up to a \$218 million worldwide debut. The numbers were within the range the studio was expecting.

The film arrived in the wake of another big superhero reboot, James Gunn's "Superman," which opened three weekends ago and has already crossed \$500 million globally. That film, from the other main player in comic book films, DC Studios, took second place with \$24.9 million domestically.

The box office success of "First Steps" and "Superman" means "the whole notion of superhero fatigue, which has been talked about a lot, can I think be put to rest. I always say it's bad movie fatigue, not superhero fatigue," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore.

"First Steps" is the latest attempt at bringing the superhero family to the big screen, following lackluster performances for other versions. The film, based on the original Marvel comics, is set during the 1960s in a retro-futuristic world led by the Fantastic Four, a family of astronauts-

turned-superhuman from exposure to cosmic rays during a space mission.

The family is made up of Reed Richards (Pedro Pascal), who can stretch his body to incredible lengths; Sue Storm (Vanessa Kirby), who can render herself invisible; Johnny Storm (Joseph Quinn), who transforms into a fiery human torch; and Ben Grimm (Ebon Moss-Bachrach), who possesses tremendous superhuman strength with his stone-like flesh.

The movie takes place four years after the family gained powers, during which Reed's inventions have transformed technology, and Sue's diplomacy has led to global peace.

Responses

Both audiences and critics responded positively to the film, which currently has an 88% on Rotten Tomatoes and promising exit poll responses from opening weekend ticket buyers. An estimated 46% of audiences chose to see it on premium screens, including IMAX and other large formats.

The once towering Marvel is working to rebuild audience enthusiasm for its films and characters. Its two previous offerings this year did not reach the cosmic box office heights of "Deadpool & Wolverine," which made over \$1.3 billion, or those of the "Avengers"-era. But critically, the films have been on an upswing since the poorly reviewed "Captain America: Brave New World," which ultimately grossed \$415 million worldwide. "Thunderbolts," which jumpstarted the summer movie season, was better received critically but financially is capping out at just over \$382 million globally.

Like Deadpool and Wolverine, the Fantastic Four characters had been under the banner of

20th Century Fox for years. The studio produced two critically loathed, but decently profitable attempts in the mid-2000s with future Captain America Chris Evans as the Human Torch. In 2015, it tried again (unsuccessfully) with Michael B. Jordan and Miles Teller. They got another chance after Disney's \$71 billion acquisition of Fox's entertainment assets in 2019.

The "Fantastic Four's" opening weekend results were a little less than some rival studio projections, Dergarabedian said. Nonetheless, the film is expected to carry movie theater earnings well into August.

Holdovers dominated the top 10, but one other newcomer managed to make the chart. The dark romantic comedy "Oh, Hi!" earned \$1.1 million from 866 screens.

"Jurassic World Rebirth" landed in third place in its fourth weekend with \$13 million, followed by "F1" with \$6.2 million. The Brad Pitt racing movie also passed \$500 million globally. "Smurfs" rounded out the top five with \$5.4 million in its second weekend.

The box office is currently up over 12% from last year.

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore: 1. "The Fantastic Four: First Steps," \$118 million; 2. "Superman," \$24.9 million; 3. "Jurassic World Rebirth," \$13 million; 4. "F1: The Movie," \$6.2 million; 5. "Smurfs," \$5.4 million; 6. "I Know What You Did Last Summer," \$5.1 million; 7. "How to Train Your Dragon," \$2.8 million; 8. "Eddington," \$1.7 million. 9. "Saiyaara," \$1.3 million and 10. "Oh, Hi!," \$1.1 million.

Harrison's Beatles-era photos to be released in new book

NEW YORK, July 28, (AP): A book of Beatles-era photographs taken by George Harrison, many of them never published, will be released next year.

Random House announced Thursday that "The Third Eye," which includes more than 250 black and white and color images, is scheduled for Fall 2026. Harrison's widow, Olivia Harrison, compiled and curated the book, which covers the years 1963-69 and includes photos of the Beatles everywhere from their native Liverpool to India to Shea Stadium.

"I want to show people, from George's unique photographic perspective during the Beatles' early years, the moments when the whole of your life is ahead of you with unknowable possibilities," Olivia Harrison said of her late husband, who died in 2001, in a



The Beatles, (from left) John Lennon, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney arrive in Liverpool, England on July 10, 1964, for the premiere of their movie 'A Hard Day's Night.' (AP)

statement released by Random House.

"His images in 'The Third Eye' capture that spirit."

The Harrison book features essays by Olivia Harrison and by two celebrated literary authors: Irish novelist Colm Tóibín (a former chancellor of the University of Liverpool) wrote the introduction, and American short story writer George Saunders contributed an epilogue. "The Third Eye" also includes George Harrison's words alongside his pictures.

Fellow Beatles Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr also have released photo books. Starr's "Photograph," also the title of a hit song written by Starr and Harrison, came out in 2015. In 2023, McCartney published "1964: Eyes of the Storm."

Variety

BEIJING: A harrowing new Chinese film that portrays the horrors of the Nanjing Massacre is fueling a major surge at the domestic box office, with projections for its total earnings sharply raised to over 3 billion yuan (about 420 million U.S. dollars).

By the end of Sunday, its third day of release, "Dead To Rights" had grossed over 400 million yuan, with over 10 million admissions nationwide, according to ticketing platform Maoyan.

Largely driven by "Dead To Rights," China's daily box office on Sunday surpassed 300 million yuan, marking the first time in 154 days that the threshold had been crossed.

The film tells the story of a group of Chinese civilians who take refuge in a photography studio during the Japanese aggressors' brutal occupation of Nanjing.

In a desperate attempt to stay alive, they are forced to assist a Japanese military photographer in developing film -- only to discover that the negatives contain damning evidence of atrocities committed by Japanese forces across the city. They choose to secretly keep the negatives and risk their lives to deliver them to the outside world, in the hope that the truth would be revealed.

Praised for its emotional weight and stark portrayal of a national trauma, "Dead To Rights" has sparked widespread public reflection on an episode that remains deeply embedded in China's collective memory.

Renowned director **Feng Xiaoning**, speaking in a video that circulated widely online, shared his reaction to the film. "When the film ended, the entire audience remained seated, unmoving, until the credits had fully rolled. Everyone was lost in deep thought," he said. "I believe every Chinese person, and everyone in the world with a conscience, will be shaken by this film... It represents a new high point for Chinese cinema." (Xinhua)

NEW YORK: Luca Guadagnino's "After the Hunt" will open the 63rd New York Film Festival, Film at Lincoln Center announced Wednesday.

"After the Hunt" will first premiere at the Venice Film Festival, but on Sept. 26, it will kick off the New York Film Festival. An Amazon MGM Studios release due out this fall, it stars Julia Roberts as a Yale philosophy professor whose comfortable life is tested after her protegee (Ayo Edebiri) accuses the professor's longtime colleague (Andrew Garfield) of sexual assault.

Dennis Lim, artistic director of the festival, said Guadagnino's film "confirms his status as one of the most versatile risk-takers working today."

"Brilliantly acted and crafted, 'After the Hunt' is something rare in contemporary cinema: a complex, grown-up movie with a lot on its mind that also happens to be a deeply satisfying piece of entertainment," Lim said in a statement.

Guadagnino will return to the festival that last year hosted his William S. Burroughs adaptation "Queer," and that also selected his 2017 film "Call Me by Your Name." (AP)

HONG KONG: The 26th Ani-com & Games Hong Kong (ACGHK) kicked off on Friday at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, gathering around 160 exhibitors and over 610 toy designers.

This year's ACGHK marks a record expansion, with exhibition space nearly doubling from 19,890 square meters in 2024 to 34,872 square meters and featuring nearly 800 booths. It showcases internationally recognized brands and themed pavilions based on popular anime IPs, including immersive experiences using advanced technologies.

As part of the ACGHK, the Hong Kong International Art Toys Expo highlights nearly 70 designers from 12 countries, including Japan, Thailand, Singapore, the United States and Spain, engaging fans through live demonstrations.

Cosplay remains a major draw of this year's ACGHK, featuring both a competition and a carnival. (Xinhua)



A ferry departs from the Eminönü terminal on the Golden Horn in Istanbul, Turkey, Friday, June 13, 2025. (AP)

A lifeline and symbol of the city

Istanbul’s ferries connecting continents, stories

ISTANBUL, Turkey, July 28, (AP): Every day, ferries of all shapes and sizes glide across the waters of Istanbul, their wakes intertwining to form intricate lattices of churning foam. The passenger boats are more than just a means of transportation - they’re entrenched in the historic city’s identity, as memorable as its skyline and as constant as the cries of seagulls.

They carry not just people, but also their stories. Forty million commuters, tourists, vendors and other travelers ride the Istanbul Metropolitan City Lines every year, according to official figures. Trips can range from as little as 10 minutes to several hours, depending on the destination.

For some passengers, the vessels are a scenic commute to work, at times turning into temporary offices where phones ring, laptops hum and voices compete to be heard over the sound of roaring en-

gines.

For others, the boats provide a floating refuge, a brief escape from the grind of daily life in a swarming city of 16 million people.

“I feel that when you travel by ferry... you replenish energy that has been diminished,” said Ali Akgun, who has lived in Istanbul for nearly 50 years. “I love the sea.”

The ferries travel on dozens of routes across the Sea of Marmara, a wholly Turkish body of water, as well as the Bosphorus, the strait that both divides and bridges Europe and Asia.

Visiting Istanbul for the first time, Leila Bihi, from Morocco, experienced her first ferry ride between continents.

“It’s already quite special to go from one bank of the (Bosphorus) to the other,” she said. “Looking at monuments that are modern and ancient during

the call to prayer. ... It’s a bit reminiscent of the whole city, its history, its mystical side.”

For centuries the Ottoman Empire, modern Turkey’s predecessor, used maritime routes for not only travel, but also military expeditions. Its capital, Constantinople, was a major center of trade due to its strategic location flanked by critical waterways.

This enduring bond with the sea continues in Istanbul, where water has always been more than a scenic backdrop - it’s embedded in the fabric of the centuries-old city, shaping its character and the lives of its residents.

“I think it’s the most beautiful stage in the world,” said Ramin Kargozari, a musician who makes a living playing his guitar while riding ferries. “Making music on the water, on a ferry, is great.”

Stage



Shanghai Grand Theatre dancers participate in dress rehearsal for the ‘Lady White Snake’ international premiere at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center, on Friday, July 25, in New York. (AP)

Ancient opera adds modern flair

Traditional Chinese opera charms youth

BEIJING, July 28, (Xinhua): Liu Geni, 11, lit up with excitement as she learned to sing a line of Kunqu Opera under the guidance of a master during a workshop at the Beijing Tianqiao Performing Arts Center.

After three years of learning Peking Opera, she grew fascinated by the 600-year-old Kunqu tradition and has already watched the full performance of “The Peony Pavilion” three times.

“I love traditional Chinese opera. The costumes are beautiful, and ancient Chinese people had profound wisdom,” she said, adding that she hopes to become a performer one day and carry forward the charm of this rich cultural heritage.

Kunqu Opera, an elegant fusion of poetry, music, intricate costumes and graceful performance, was inscribed on UNESCO’s list of World Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2001.

Written in 1598, the same year as Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet, Tang Xianzu’s “The Peony Pavilion” tells the tale of Du Liniang, a young woman from a wealthy family who falls asleep beside a peony pavilion and dreams of a romantic encounter with a young scholar named Liu Mengmei.

At the workshop held on July 4 at the performing arts center, a Kunqu Opera director and two performers engaged with the audience, sharing behind-the-scenes stories and insights into the art form.

“I read ancient books to better understand and play the role of Du Liniang,” said Shao Tianshuai, a Kunqu Opera master and deputy dean of the Northern Kunqu Opera Theatre.

“Kunqu Opera is one of the oldest forms of opera

in China, but our audience is very young. We use new expressions and try new forms to engage the younger generation in the traditional Chinese art and culture, breathing new life into our cultural heritage,” she explained.

A Kunqu Opera concert held that same night was among the Northern Kunqu Opera Theatre’s innovative efforts to embrace modernity while reviving tradition.

During the concert, the musicians, who usually stay behind the curtains, took center stage and introduced Chinese chime bells alongside Western instruments like the cello to the audience.

Vitality

“As long as the audience who love traditional opera are young, the opera is still alive with vitality,” said Zhang Peng, director of a palace-style version of “Romantic Dream in Garden,” a scene from “The Peony Pavilion.”

Zhang also emphasized the importance of documentary records and cultural relics when creating the palace-style version.

“The performance costumes are made based on first-hand materials collected by the Palace Museum,” he said. “We hope to show what Kunqu Opera was like when it was in its most glorious period.”

The concert also unveiled the performing arts center’s inheritance and innovation program for traditional Chinese culture this year, with a total of 11 works scheduled to be staged in the second half of 2025.

In 2023 and 2024, the center ran the program for

two consecutive years, staging over 200 performances across a total of 40 works.

In addition to the program, the Beijing Tianqiao Performing Arts Center launched a Peking Opera course in 2018, which now has over 70 students. The center plans to establish a children’s Peking Opera troupe and offer experience classes for adults, further contributing to the conservation and inheritance of traditional Chinese opera.

The passion and commitment of the performing arts center and the Northern Kunqu Opera Theatre showcase China’s determination to protect and promote its traditional culture. Indeed, recent years have seen a slew of plans and measures rolled out by the central and local governments in this area.

In January this year, China’s State Council issued its economic policies on promoting the high-quality development of culture. In 2023, Beijing published a list of measures related to the protection of intangible cultural heritage.

“As an education major, I’ve noticed that traditional Chinese culture, such as opera, has been written into the textbooks,” said Wang Yuyang, 25, a graduate student at Beijing Sport University.

Captivated by Kunqu Opera, he has watched five Kunqu Opera shows this year. “A friend first took me to see a Kunqu performance, and I instantly fell in love with it,” he said.

“The team spent nine months meticulously crafting the costumes after extensive research in the archives, infusing innovation with a calm and composed confidence,” he added.

Recycled trolls bring environmental message to life

Giant troll sculptures urge us to change ways

WOODSIDE, Calif., July 28, (AP): Nestled in forests around the world, a gentle army of giant wooden trolls want to show humans how to live better without destroying the planet.

The Danish recycle artist Thomas Dambo and his team have created 170 troll sculptures from discarded materials such as wooden pallets, old furniture and wine barrels.

Twelve years after he started the “Trail of a Thousand Trolls” project, his sculptures can be found in more than 20 countries and 21 U.S. states. Each year Dambo and his team make about 25 new trolls, which stand up to 40 feet (12 meters) tall.

“I believe that we can make anything out of anything,” said Dambo, speaking from his farm outside Copenhagen. “We are drowning in trash. But we also know that one man’s trash is another man’s treasure.”

An installation of six sculptures called “Trolls Save the Humans” is on display at Filoli, a historic estate with 650 acres of forests and gardens in Woodside, California, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) south of San Francisco.

“They bring us back to be connected to the earth and to nature,” said Jeanette Weederman, who was visiting Filoli with her son in July.



A child climbs a giant troll sculpture created by the Danish recycle artist Thomas Dambo that’s part of an installation of six sculptures called ‘Trolls Save the Humans’ on display at the historic estate Filoli, Saturday, July 5, in Woodside, Calif. (AP)

Dambo’s trolls each have their own personality and story. At Filoli, the troll Ibby Pip builds birdhouses, Rosa Sunfinger plants flowers and Kamma Can makes jewelry from people’s garbage.

“Each of them has a story to tell,”

said Filoli CEO Kara Newport. “It inspires people to think of their own stories, what kind of creatures might live in their woods and make that connection to living beings in nature.”

Dambo’s trolls don’t like humans because they waste nature’s resources

and pollute the planet. The mythical creatures have a long-term perspective because they live for thousands of years and have witnessed the destructive force of human civilizations.

But the six young trolls at Filoli have a more optimistic view of human nature. They believe they can teach people how to protect the environment.

“They want to save the humans. So they do this by teaching them how to be better humans - be humans that don’t destroy nature,” said Dambo, 45, a poet and former hip-hop artist. “They hope to save them from being eaten by the older trolls.”

Dambo’s trolls are hidden in forests, mountains, jungles and grasslands throughout Europe and North America as well as countries such as Australia, Chile and South Korea. Most were built with local materials and assembled on-site by his team of craftsmen and artists with help from local volunteers.

“My exhibition now has four and a half million visitors a year globally, and it’s all made out of trash together with volunteers,” said Dambo. “That is such a huge proof of concept of why we should not throw things out, but why we should recycle it.”

Obituary

‘A Harvard prodigy’

Tom Lehrer, satirical music icon, dies at 97

LOS ANGELES, July 28, (AP): Tom Lehrer, the popular song satirist who lampooned marriage, politics, racism and the Cold War, then largely abandoned his music career to return to teaching math at Harvard and other universities, has died. He was 97.

Longtime friend David Herder said Lehrer died Saturday at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He did not specify a cause of death.

Lehrer had remained on the math faculty of the University of California at Santa Cruz well into his late 70s. In 2020, he even turned away from his own copyright, granting the public permission to use his lyrics in any format without any fee in return.

A Harvard prodigy (he had earned a math degree from the institution at age 18), Lehrer soon turned his very sharp mind to old traditions and current events. His songs included “Poisoning Pigeons in the Park,” “The Old Dope Peddler” (set to a tune reminiscent of “The Old Lamplighter”), “Be Prepared” (in which he mocked the Boy Scouts) and “The Vatican Rag,” in which Lehrer, an atheist, poked at the rites and ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church. (Sample lyrics: “Get down on your knees, fiddle with your rosaries. Bow your head with great respect, and genuflect, genuflect, genuflect.”)

Accompanying himself on piano, he performed the songs in a colorful style reminiscent of such musical heroes as Gilbert and Sullivan and Stephen Sondheim, the latter a lifelong friend. Lehrer was often likened to such contemporaries as Allen Sherman and Stan Freberg for his comic riffs on culture and politics and he was cited by Randy Newman and “Weird Al” Yankovic among others as an influence.

He mocked the forms of music he didn’t like (modern folk songs, rock ‘n’ roll and modern jazz), laughed at the threat of nuclear annihilation and denounced discrimination.

But he attacked in such an erudite, even polite, manner that almost no one objected.

“Tom Lehrer is the most brilliant song satirist ever recorded,” musicologist Barry Hansen once said. Hansen co-produced the 2000 boxed set of Lehrer’s songs, “The Remains of Tom Lehrer,” and had featured Lehrer’s music for decades on his syndicated “Dr. Demento” radio show.

Lehrer’s body of work was actually quite small, amounting to about three dozen songs.

“When I got a funny idea for a song, I wrote it. And if I didn’t, I didn’t,” Lehrer told The Associated Press in 2000 during a rare interview. “I wasn’t like a real writer who would sit down and put a piece of paper in the typewriter. And when I quit writing, I just quit. ... It wasn’t like I had writer’s block.”

He’d gotten into performing accidentally when he began to compose songs in the early 1950s to amuse his friends. Soon he was performing them at coffeehouses around Cambridge, while he remained at Harvard to teach and obtain a master’s degree in math.

Teaching

He cut his first record in 1953, “Songs by Tom Lehrer,” which included “I Wanna Go Back to Dixie,” lampooning the attitudes of the Old South, and the “Fight Fiercely, Harvard,” suggesting how a prissy Harvard blue-blood might sing a football fight song.

After a two-year stint in the Army, Lehrer began to perform concerts of his material in venues around the world. In 1959, he released another LP called “More of Tom Lehrer” and a live recording called “An Evening Wasted with Tom Lehrer,” nominated for a Grammy for best comedy performance (musical) in 1960.

But around the same time, he largely quit touring and returned to teaching math, though he did some writing and performing on the side.

Lehrer said he was never comfortable appearing in public.

“I enjoyed it up to a point,” he told The AP in 2000. “But to me, going out and performing the concert every night when it was all available on record would be like a novelist going out and reading his novel every night.”

He did produce a political satire song each week for the 1964 television show “That Was the Week That Was,” a groundbreaking topical comedy show that anticipated “Saturday Night Live” a decade later.

He released the songs the following year in an album titled “That Was the Year That Was.” The material included “Who’s Next?” that ponders which government will be the next to get the nuclear bomb ... perhaps Alabama? (He didn’t need to tell his listeners that it was a bastion of segregation at the time.) “Pollution” takes a look at the then-new concept that perhaps rivers and lakes should be cleaned up.

He also wrote songs for the 1970s educational children’s show “The Electric Company.” He told AP in 2000 that hearing from people who had benefited from them gave him far more satisfaction than praise for any of his satirical works.

His songs were revived in the 1980 musical revue “Tomfoolery” and he made a rare public appearance in London in 1998 at a celebration honoring that musical’s producer, Cameron Mackintosh.

Lehrer was born in 1928, in New York City, the son of a successful necktie designer. He recalled an idyllic childhood on Manhattan’s Upper West Side that included attending Broadway shows with his family and walking through Central Park day or night.

After skipping two grades in school, he entered Harvard at 15 and, after receiving his master’s degree, he spent several years unsuccessfully pursuing a doctorate.

“I spent many, many years satisfying all the requirements, as many years as possible, and I started on the thesis,” he once said. “But I just wanted to be a grad student, it’s a wonderful life. That’s what I wanted to be, and unfortunately, you can’t be a Ph.D. and a grad student at the same time.”

He began to teach part-time at Santa Cruz in the 1970s, mainly to escape the harsh New England winters.

From time to time, he acknowledged, a student would enroll in one of his classes based on knowledge of his songs.



Musician Tom Lehrer sits beside the piano in his house in Santa Cruz, Calif., on April 21, 2000. (AP)

‘Glucose monitors may mislead people without diabetes’

Wearable glucose trackers gain popularity, but are they useful?

NEW YORK, July 28, (AP): A quarter-size device that tracks the rise and fall of sugar in your blood is the latest source of hope - and hype - in the growing buzz around wearable health technology.

Continuous glucose monitors, small patches that provide 24-hour insight into concentrations of sugar in the blood, could be a tool for Americans to “take control over their own health,” Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. recently told federal lawmakers.

“They can take responsibility,” Kennedy said. “They can begin to make good judgments about their diet, about their physical activity, about the way they live their lives.”

The devices have lifesaving benefits for people with diabetes, the disease caused when blood sugar remains high because their bodies don’t make enough insulin or become resistant to it. The condition, which affects more than 38 million people in the US, raises the risk of serious health problems such as heart and kidney disease and vision loss.

But the devices have surged in popularity among people without diabetes. Sales have been driven by high-profile marketers such as Casey Means, the nominee for US surgeon general.

There’s scant evidence the monitors are useful for people with normal blood sugar levels, said Dr. Jody Dushay, an endocrine specialist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Healthy bodies can effectively regulate glucose after meals and provide the energy they need to function. Glucose



This image provided by Abbott’s Lingo division in July 2025, shows the Lingo wearable device for continuous glucose monitoring. (AP)

monitors may lead people to misinterpret normal swings in blood sugar that happen after eating or activity. In addition, the devices can be “notoriously inaccurate,” providing misleading readings, she said.

“The problem with wearing these is that you can just be zooming in on and creating pathology when it’s not there,” Dushay said.

Here’s what you need to know about the devices:

The device is a small patch, about the size of two stacked quarters, usually placed on the upper arm or stomach. It uses a needle to painlessly pierce the skin for a tiny sensor.

The sensor measures the glucose in fluid under the skin, delivering a signal every few minutes to a phone app or a handheld display. The apps typically record blood sugar levels and help people track the foods they eat and how they impact those levels.

When healthy people eat a meal that contains carbohydrates, their blood sugar rises, peaks and falls in response to the food.

A healthy fasting blood glucose level for a person without diabetes is roughly 70 milligrams per deciliter to 99 milligrams per deciliter. A range from 100 to 126 milligrams per deciliter indicates prediabetes and above 126 milligrams per deciliter indicates diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association.

In adults without diabetes, blood sugar levels can climb to 140 milligrams per deciliter or more within an hour of a meal, before falling back to baseline levels within two or three hours, according to the association. It’s a sign the body is processing sugar normally.

For decades, these devices were available only for people with diabetes. The monitors revolutionized care by allowing more precise adjustment of insulin used to treat diabetes and giving people the ability to modify meals and activity more

accurately.

Last year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first over-the-counter monitors. Since then, many companies have emerged to market them, claiming to provide intensive, individualized health monitoring. Cost is generally about \$100 a month.

They’ve really caught on with consumers curious about how food and activity affect their blood sugar levels. For instance, Noom, the weight-loss and fitness app, launched a blood glucose feature last year that has proven extremely popular, said Alexander Fabry, a company executive.

“Of the people who are using a CGM, the vast majority of them don’t have a diabetes diagnosis,” he said.

The devices have been lifesaving for people with diabetes. And they can be helpful for people with risk factors for the disease, including obesity, prediabetes, a history of gestational diabetes or a family history of the condition.

The devices can allow users to see how specific food and activity choices affect their blood sugar in near real-time, said Dr. Alaina Vidmar, a pediatric obesity specialist at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

“After a large meal, you may watch your blood sugar go up and sort of learn something about yourself,” Vidmar said. “For example, I drink a sugar-sweetened soda and my blood sugar goes up really high, really fast. And maybe I don’t feel as good, right?”

Deepfakes rise sparks global security concerns

Making deepfakes is getting simpler; fighting back may take even more AI

WASHINGTON, July 28, (AP): The phone rings. It’s the secretary of state calling. Or is it?

For Washington insiders, seeing and hearing is no longer believing, thanks to a spate of recent incidents involving deepfakes impersonating top officials in President Donald Trump’s administration.

Digital fakes are coming for corporate America, too, as criminal gangs and hackers associated with adversaries including North Korea use synthetic video and audio to impersonate CEOs and low-level job candidates to gain access to critical systems or business secrets.

Thanks to advances in artificial intelligence, creating realistic deepfakes is easier than ever, causing security problems for governments, businesses and private individuals and making trust the most valuable currency of the digital age.

Responding to the challenge will require laws, better digital literacy and technical solutions that fight AI with more AI.

“As humans, we are remarkably susceptible to deception,” said Vijay Balasubramanian, CEO and founder of the tech firm Pindrop Security. But he believes solutions to the challenge of deepfakes may be within reach: “We are going to fight back.”

This summer, someone used AI to create a deepfake of Secretary of State Marco Rubio in an attempt to reach out to foreign ministers, a US senator and a governor over text, voice mail and



US President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio listen during a meeting with Bahrain’s Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa in the Oval Office of the White House, Wednesday, July 16, in Washington. (AP)

the Signal messaging app.

In May someone impersonated Trump’s chief of staff, Susie Wiles.

Another phony Rubio had popped up in a deepfake earlier this year, saying he wanted to cut off Ukraine’s access to Elon Musk’s Starlink internet service. Ukraine’s government later rebutted the false claim.

The national security implications are huge: People who think they’re chatting with Rubio or Wiles, for instance, might discuss sensitive information about diplomatic negotiations or military strategy.

‘Patients take big risks to advance science’

Funding cuts reveal a hidden crisis facing trial brain implant patients

NEW YORK, July 28, (AP): Carol Seeger finally escaped her debilitating depression with an experimental treatment that placed electrodes in her brain and a pacemaker-like device in her chest. But when its batteries stopped working, insurance wouldn’t pay to fix the problem and she sank back into a dangerous darkness.

She worried for her life, asking herself: “Why am I putting myself through this?”

Seeger’s predicament highlights a growing problem for hundreds of people with experimental neural implants, including those for depression, quadriplegia and other conditions. Although these patients take big risks to advance science, there’s no guarantee that their devices will be maintained - particularly after they finish participating in clinical trials - and no mechanism requiring companies or insurers to do so.

A research project led by Gabriel Lázaro-Muñoz, a Harvard University scientist, aimed to change that by creating partnerships between players in the burgeoning implant field to overcome barriers to device access and follow-up care.

But the cancellation of hundreds of National Institutes of Health grants by the Trump administration this year left the project in limbo, dimming hope for Seeger and others like her who wonder what will happen to their health and progress.

Unlike medications, implanted devices often require parts, maintenance, batteries and surgeries when changes are needed. Insurance typically covers such expenses for federally approved devices considered medically necessary, but not experimental ones.

A procedure to replace a battery alone can cost more than \$15,000 with-



Brandy Ellis charges a pacemaker-like device that was installed in her chest as part of an experimental treatment for depression, on Thursday, July 24, in Delray Beach, Fla. (AP)

out insurance, Lázaro-Muñoz said.

While companies stand to profit from research, “there’s really nothing that helps ensure that device manufacturers have to provide any of these parts or cover any kind of maintenance,” said Lázaro-Muñoz.

Some companies also move on to newer versions of devices or abandon the research altogether, which can leave patients in an uncertain place.

Medtronic, the company that made the deep brain stimulation, or DBS, technology Seeger used, said in a statement that every study is different and that the company puts patient safety first when considering care after studies end.

People consider various possibilities when they join a clinical trial.

The Food and Drug Administration

requires the informed consent process to include a description of “reasonably foreseeable risks and discomforts to the participant,” a spokesperson said. However, the FDA doesn’t require trial plans to include procedures for long-term device follow-up and maintenance, although the spokesperson stated that the agency has requested those in the past.

While some informed consent forms say devices will be removed at a study’s end, Lázaro-Muñoz said removal is ethically problematic when a device is helping a patient. Plus, he said, some trial participants told him and his colleagues that they didn’t remember everything discussed during the consent process, partly because they were so focused on getting better.

China leads in AI with 1,509 large models

SHANGHAI, July 28, (Xinhua): China has released 1,509 large artificial intelligence (AI) models, the highest number globally, accounting for a substantial share of the 3,755 models launched worldwide to date, according to information presented at the 2025 World AI Conference (WAIC).

China has established a comprehensive AI industrial system covering foundational infrastructure and sector-specific applications. According to data from the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT), the country is home to over 5,100 AI companies, accounting for roughly 15 percent of the global total. Additionally, China boasts 71 AI unicorns, representing about 26 percent of the world’s 271.

Yu Xiaohui, president of CAICT, noted that the rapid iteration of foundational large models this year, along with new technological approaches, demonstrates significant po-

tential for advancing towards Artificial General Intelligence. He said that a positive development landscape has taken shape in China, characterized by leading companies, rising unicorns, specialized firms, and emerging startups.

Listed companies and unicorns are identified as major engines for China’s AI industry. There are over 300 AI-related listed companies in China, whose AI-related revenue constitutes about 70 percent of the country’s total AI industry scale, according to CAICT.

The top five innovation fields for Chinese AI unicorns are large models, autonomous driving, intelligent robots, business intelligence applications and AI computing chips.

China’s AI industry is expanding rapidly, fueled by a continuous stream of new technologies, applications, and business models. It has become a key growth driver for high-quality economic and social development, Yu said.

Ghana reports first Mpox-related fatality

RABAT, July 28, (Agencies): Amid sharp spike in the outbreak of Monkeypox (Mpox), the Ghana Health Service confirmed the first death due to the disease on Sunday.

Twenty-three new infections have been registered this week, taking the overall number since mid-May to 257 and marking the biggest weekly rate in the West African country during, the GHS said in a press release.

Minister for Health Kwabena Mintah Akandoh allayed concerns about the pandemic situation, saying that it was under control.

He highlighted the importance of early diagnosis and responsible behavior to stem the spread of the disease.

Recent statistics from across Africa showed that the continent had had more than 47,000 lab-confirmed Mpox cases and 221 fatalities since January 2024.

Meanwhile, the Republic of the Congo has officially declared a cholera outbreak in the Mbamou Island health district of Brazzaville Department, following laboratory confirmation of two cases, Health and Population Minister Jean-Rosaire Ibara announced.

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China claims two more titles as Universiade concludes

US athletes stand out on the multi-medalist table

ESSEN, Germany, July 28, (Xinhua): The 2025 Rhine-Ruhr FISU World University Games concluded with China securing two gold medals on the final day of competition.

Zhao Jie earned China’s final individual gold by dominating the women’s hammer throw with a distance of 72.80 meters.

“I am very thankful for my coach, and also for my team members and the Chinese delegation. I think without them, we would not have done these successfully,” said Zhao.

Australia’s Elizabeth McMillen won the women’s 20km race walk,

followed by China’s Ning Jinlin and Ji Haiying. With Luo Yue finishing seventh, China claimed the team gold in the event.

The two victories brought China to second in the overall medal standings with 30 golds, 27 silvers and 17 bronzes.

Also on Sunday, 11 rowing gold medals were awarded. Britain collected three, while Italy, the Netherlands and Lithuania each claimed two.

After 234 medal events, Japan topped the medal table with 79 medals, including 34 golds. The United States placed third with 28 golds. Host nation Germany finished sixth, celebrating one of its strongest performances in history with 40 medals, 11 of them gold.

U.S. athletes stood out on the multi-medalist table, with five competitors each claiming five golds.

A total of 28 FISU records were broken during the Games, including 17 in swimming.

“The games in Rhine-Ruhr and Berlin were of a high sporting level and will be remembered as a sustainable, inclusive event,” said FISU president Leonz Eder. “The connection between university sports and science, the cultural programs for the public and the friendliness and helpfulness of the volunteers have shaped these wonderful games.” The closing ceremony, held at Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord, featured performances of magic and dance, marking a festive end to the event as student-athletes celebrated the Games’ conclusion.

During the ceremony, Eder passed the FISU flag to Kang Chang-hee, president of the 2027 Chungcheong FISU World University Games Organizing Committee.



Gold medalist Andrea Cosi (center) of Italy, silver medalist Tsuchiya Atsuki (left) of Japan and bronze medalist Mykola Rushchak of Ukraine pose after the men’s 20km race walk final at the Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU World University Games in Bochum, Germany. (Xinhua)



Kurt Kitayama holds his trophy after winning the 3M Open golf tournament at the Tournament Players Club in Blaine, Minn. (AP)

Harrington takes 2nd senior major

Kurt wins 3M Open with clutch final round as Woad makes dream debut

BLAINE, Minn., July 28, (AP): Kurt Kitayama finished a sizzling weekend with a 6-under 65 to win the 3M Open on Sunday by one shot over Sam Stevens for his second PGA Tour victory.

Kitayama, who tied the tournament record with a career-best 60 on Saturday to enter the final round within one of the lead, birdied six of the first eight holes to take control on a 91-degree afternoon at the TPC Twin Cities.

Kitayama led by one playing the par-5 18th when he hit 5-iron onto the back slope of a bunker. He blasted out to about 18 feet and took two putts for par to finish at 23-under 261.

Matt Wallace, David Lipsky, Pierce-son Coody and Jake Knapp tied for third, three strokes back.

Kitayama, whose only other PGA Tour win was the Arnold Palmer Invitational in 2023, moved to No. 53 in the FedEx Cup with one week remaining for the top 70 to qualify for the postseason. He also earned a two-year exemption and a spot in the Masters next year.

Lottie Woad never flinched her way to a 4-under 68 to win the Women’s Scottish Open by three shots over Hyo Joo Kim in her professional debut.

The 21-year-old Englishwoman is the second player in three years to win on the LPGA Tour in her pro debut, following Rose Zhang in the Mizuho Americas Open at Liberty National in 2023. Woad finished at 21-year 267 and earned \$300,000.

Woad was the No. 1 amateur in the women’s ranking when she won the Women’s Irish Open on the Lad-ies European Tour three weeks ago. Then, the former Florida State player

finished one shot out of a playoff in the Evian Championship in France, an LPGA major, and turned pro.

Nelly Korda shot 71 and finished eight shots behind.

Padraig Harrington was so focused on his game that he didn’t notice a leaderboard or see Rory McIlroy in the gallery Sunday at the Senior British Open. He closed with a 3-under 67 to win his second senior major of the year.

Staked to a two-shot lead, Harrington made eagle on the first hole on the Old Course at Sunningdale and no one got closer than two shots the rest of the way as he became the fifth player with a Senior British Open and a British Open title.

He won by three shots over Thomas Bjorn (67) and Justin Leonard (68). Harrington joined Darren Clarke, Tom Watson, Gary Player and Bob Charles as players to have won the British Open and the senior version.

Joaquin Niemann changed his coach and his caddie and won for the fifth time this year on the LIV Golf League, closing with a 3-under 68 in LIV Golf-UK for a three-shot victory over Bub-ba Watson.

Niemann missed the cut in the Brit-ish Open last week for his second straight missed cut in a major. He made big changes by leaving his coach and getting a new caddie but found his comfort zone back on LIV.

Niemann has won seven times, all in the last two years, on the Saudi-backed circuit. He has won just over \$21 mil-lion this year.

Watson closed with a 65, while Ca-

leb Surratt also had a 65 to finish alone in third. Legion XIII won the team title.

Johnny Keefe played bogey-free over the final 10 holes and pulled away with a 2-under 69 for a two-shot vic-tory in the NV5 Invitational, his sec-ond Korn Ferry Tour win of the year that secures his spot on the PGA Tour next year.

Jeffrey Kang made eagle on the par-5 18th at The Glen Club for a 65 that allowed him to finish alone in second. Neal Shipley closed with a 63 and tied for third along with Kensei Hirata (65) and Davis Chatfield (67).

Keefe regained the top spot on the Korn Ferry Tour points list and joined Austin Smotherman as two-time win-ners on the circuit this year.

Seventeen-year-old amateur Mia Hammond birdied the par-5 final hole for a one-stroke victory over three players in the Epson Tour’s rain-de-layed Greater Toledo Classic. Ham-mond, from New Albany, Ohio, closed with a 2-under 69 to finish at 12-under 201 at Highland Meadows. Angela Stanford won the rain-shortened Leg-ends event, beating Laura Diaz with a birdie on the second hole of a playoff.

Brett White made eagle on the final hole for a 59, and then won the PGA Tour Americas’ Commissionaires Ot-tawa Open with a birdie on the second hole of a three-man playoff. Philip Barbaree Jr. had a 59 in the third round, then closed with a 72 to tie for 10th.

Ayaka Watanabe closed with an 8-under 64 for a two-shot victory in the Daito Kentaku Eheyant Ladies on the Japan LPGA.

Mercury overcomes Mystics

Charles scores 24 points, Sun ‘pounds’ expansion Valkyries

UNCASVILLE, Conn., July 28, (AP): Tina Charles scored 24 points, Bria Hartley and Marina Mabrey both added 15 and the last-place Connecticut Sun rolled to a 95-64 win over the Golden State Valkyries.

The Sun (4-20) had a season high for points thanks to season bests of 12 3-pointers, 53% overall shooting (35 of 66) and 14 steals. French rookie Leila Laca-n had six steals in just her sixth game.

Jacy Sheldon scored 13 points off the bench for the Sun, who turned 24 turnovers into 34 points to end a four-game skid.

Charles reached double fig-ures for the 395th time, third in WNBA history behind Diana Taurasi (488) and Tina Thomp-son (404), and scored 20 points or more for the 185th time, second behind Taurasi (259). She played just 19 minutes.

Mercury 88, Mystics 72

In Arlington, Alyssa Thomas scored 27 points, grabbed 11 re-bounds and added eight assists and the Phoenix Mercury took control in the third quarter, de-feating the Washington Mystics .

Phoenix outscored Washington 26-12 in the third quarter for a 10-point lead and pushed the ad-vantage to 17 early in the fourth quarter. The Mystics went on a 9-0 run but the Mercury then scored eight straight to secure the game.

Satou Sabally scored 15 points for the Mercury (16-9), Kitija Laksa and Monique Akoo Makani both added 13 and Natasha Mack had 10.

Shakira Austin scored 20 points for Washington (12-13), which was coming off a win over Seattle the night before. Jade Melbourne and Sonia Citron had 13 apiece.

Aces 106, Wings 80

In Arlington, Jackie Young scored 24 points, Jewell Loyd had a strong game off the bench and the Las Vegas Aces beat the Dal-las Wings, who rested rookie star Paige Bueckers.

Loyd came off the bench for



Las Vegas Aces forward Nalysa Smith (3) defends the basket against Dallas Wings center Li Yueru (28) during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

the first time in her first season with the Aces to score 20 points, and Kierstan Bell replaced her and scored a career-high 19. The duo combined for seven 3-point-ers as Las Vegas hit a season high 15, with five from Young.

A’ja Wilson scored 14 points with 10 rebounds and seven as-sists for Las Vegas (13-13), which snapped a two-game losing skid. Nalysa Smith scored 11 points.

Arike Ogunbowale scored 18 for the Wings (7-19) with Haley Jones adding 15, Dijonai Car-ington 14 and Teaira McCowan 12 with 13 rebounds.

Young had 14 points on four 3-pointers for the Aces in the first quarter, which ended with the score tied at 27, and the Wings shot 59%.

Bell hit a 3-pointer to put the Aces up 39-36 midway through the second quarter and followed with another as Las Vegas surged to a 56-44 halftime lead. It was the 10th 50-point half Dallas al-lowed and the second straight.

Dallas only had 12 turnovers but the Aces turned those into 26 points while the Wings got 10 turnovers.

Becky Hammon earned her 100th regular-season win, be-came the third-fastest coach to reach the milestone in 142 games.

Larson beaten in thriller

Wallace becomes first Black driver to win a major race on Indianapolis oval

INDIANAPOLIS, July 28, (AP): Bubba Wallace climbed out of the No. 23 car Sunday, pumped his fists, found his family and savored every precious moment of a historic Brickyard 400 victory.

He deserved every minute of it.

The 31-year-old Wallace overcame a tenuous 18-minute rain delay, two tanta-lizing overtimes, fears about running out of fuel late and the hard-charging defend-ing race champ, Kyle Larson, on back-to-back restarts to become the first Black driver to win a major race on Indianapolis Motor Speedway’s 2.5-mile oval. No Black driver has won the Indianapolis 500, and Formula 1 raced on the track’s road course.

“This one’s really cool,” Wallace said. “Coming off Turn 4, I knew I was going to get there - unless we ran out of gas. I was surprised I wasn’t crying like a little baby.”

His third career NASCAR Cup victory delivered Wallace’s first victory in the series’ four crown jewel events, the others being the Daytona 500, Coca-Cola 600 and Southern 500. It also snapped a 100-race winless streak that dated to 2022 at Kansas and locked up a playoff spot. His only other win came at Talladega in 2021.

The final gap was 0.222 seconds, but that was no measure of the consternation he faced.

Larson cut a 5.057-second deficit with 14 laps to go to about three seconds with six laps left as the yellow flag came out for the rain. The cars then rolled to a stop on pit lane with four laps remaining, forcing Wallace to think and rethink his restart strategy.

“The whole time I’m thinking are we going? Are we not?” he said. “I will say I leaned more towards ‘I know we’re going to go back racing. Be ready. Don’t get complacent here.” Wallace made sure of it.

He beat Larson through the second turn on the first restart only to have a crash behind him force a second overtime, forcing his crew to recalculate whether they had enough fuel to finish the race or whether he needed to surrender the lead and refuel. In Wallace’s mind, there was no choice.

“The first thing that went through my mind was, ‘Here we go again,’” he said. “But then I said, ‘I want to win this straight up. I want to go back racing.’ Here we are.”

He beat Larson off the restart again and pulled away, preventing Larson from becoming the race’s fourth back-to-back winner.

The victory also alleviated the frustration Wallace felt Saturday when he spent most of the qualifying session on the provisional pole only to see Chase Briscoe claim the No. 1 starting spot with one of the last runs in the session.



Bubba Wallace celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis. (AP)

On Sunday, he made sure there was no repeat, providing an added boost to the 23XI Racing team co-owned by basketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan and last week’s race winner, Denny Hamlin, as it continues to battle NASCAR in court over its charter status.

“Those last 20 laps there were ups and downs and I was telling myself ‘You won’t be able to do it,’” Wallace said. “Once I’d seen it was Larson, I knew he won here last year and he’s arguably the best in the field. So to beat the best, we had to be the best today.”

The other big race - the In-Season Challenge - went to Ty Gibbs, who had a better car than Ty Dillon in qualifying and on race day. Gibbs finished 21st o win the inaugural March Madness-like single-elimination tournament and collect the \$1 million prize.

Dillon, a surprise championship round entrant after making the field as the 32nd and final driver, finished 28th. “They brought me money guns and they jammed so I decided to take all the money and throwing it to the fans and they were all wrestling and fighting over it,” said Gibbs, who also received a title belt and a ring. “But it’s super cool. It’s a cool opportunity.”

Italy defends Women’s Volleyball Nations League title

WARSAW, July 28, (Xinhua): Italy retained its FIVB Women’s Volleyball Nations League (VNL) title in Lodz, Poland, rallying from a set down to defeat Brazil 3-1 in the championship final.

Opposite Ekaterina Antropova led Italy with a match-high 18 points, including 13 kills, four blocks and one ace. Outside hitter Myriam Sylla added 16 points, while Gabriela Guimarães paced Brazil with 15 points.

The reigning Olympic champion, coached by veteran Julio Velasco, has now extended its winning streak to 29 matches.

Italy looked set to claim the opening set after

building a 19-15 lead, but Brazil responded with six consecutive points. A spike by Guimaraes and a block from Julia Gambatto Kudieess gave Brazil set point, and Guimaraes sealed the set 25-22 with a precise attack.

Italy answered strongly in the second set, racing to an 8-4 advantage and maintaining control. Paola Egonu led the way with five points as Italy evened the match with a 25-18 win.

The third set remained close until the closing stages. Stella Nerviini scored from the left side, and Antropova added three decisive points - a block-out, a quick dump and a powerful spike - to secure a 25-22 victory.

In the fourth, Brazil struggled against Italy’s block-ing. Antropova and captain Anna Danesi stopped three consecutive attacks to give Italy a 20-16 edge. Although Brazil mounted a late rally, Antropova closed the match with a final spike for another 25-22 win.

Earlier in the day, host Poland secured the bronze medal for a third consecutive year with a 3-1 win over Japan. Opposite Magdalena Stysiak led all scor-ers with 18 points, including 16 kills and two blocks, while Japanese middle blocker Haruyo Shimamura contributed 15 points.

Arabi trains in humid conditions as Kuwait Club holds double sessions

Kuwait Olympic team to face Kazma and Fahaheel in upcoming friendlies

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: Al-Arabi's coach Marco Alves has the team training in humid environments to prepare for its AFC Challenge League playoff against Maldives' Maziya Sports on August 12, played on the Maldives' home turf.

To help players adapt to the high humidity common in the Maldives, Alves also arranged additional indoor, air-conditioned training sessions during its Abu Dhabi camp. The team will face UAE clubs Hatta and Baniyas in friendlies on Thursday and August 6, respectively, with the camp ending on August 8.

Fahaheel has planned a training camp in Alexan-

dria, Egypt, starting mid-August.

Led by Syrian coach Firas Al-Khatib, the team continues preparations and will play a friendly against Kuwait's Olympic team on August 7. Another friendly match is being arranged before it heads abroad.

Most players have joined training, with foreign signings Homam Mahmoud (Syria), Zakaria Benchaâ (Algeria), and Brazilians Brendon Lucas, Bruno Clisettau, and Vitor da Silva expected to join soon.

Kazma will play its first friendly this Thursday against Kuwait's Olympic team before traveling to Turkey for a training camp in early August.

Key players including Jordanians Ali Azaizeh, Yousef Abu Al-Jazar, and Anas Al-Awdat are train-

ing; with Algerian Idris Chaabi joining next week and Beninese forward Samson Akinyoola arriving in Turkey.

Kuwait Club held morning and evening training sessions under Montenegrin coach Nebojša Jovović as it gets ready for the Zain Premier League season opener on September 12.

The team will continue this routine for two weeks before heading to Prague, Czech Republic, for 20-day training camp featuring four friendly matches.

Al-Nasr has started training at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium's sub-pitch with new signings Mohsen Falah, Mohammed Al-Rashed, and Zaid Zakaria.

The club also officially welcomed goalkeeper Naif Al-Azmi to the squad for the new season.



Khaled Al-Rashidi participates in Kuwait Club's morning training session.

India's grit keeps series alive with nail-biting draw at Old Trafford



India's Washington Sundar plays a shot on the final day of the fourth cricket test match between England and India at Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester, England. (AP)

Gill, Jadeja, and Sundar hit centuries against England

MANCHESTER, England, July 28, (AP): A roller-coaster of a Test cricket series between England and India is, fittingly, going down to the wire.

India salvaged an against-the-odds draw in the fourth Test with a show of grit and sheer defiance at Old Trafford on Sunday, keeping alive its chances of tying the five-match series.

England leads the series 2-1 ahead of the fifth Test starting Thursday at The Oval.

India was 425-4 in its second innings – including centuries by Ravindra Jadeja (107 not out), Washington Sundar (101 not out), and skipper Shubman Gill (103) – and 114 runs ahead when early stumps were called.

"This is no less than a win for us," Gill told the BBC. "Our batsmen put on a great display."

The fourth Test may not have matched the drama at Lord's, where England won by 22 runs, but it was engrossing throughout five days in Manchester. India swung momentum after being at risk of being swept away.

By Sunday evening, India's collapse in the opening over of its second innings seemed a distant memory. Two wickets down without a run on the board at that point and 311 runs behind England's imposing first innings total of 669, the series seemed lost for India.

Not on Gill's watch. Not with a batting order of such quality that it has the top four scorers in the series.

Top of the lot is Gill, who hit his fourth century

in as many matches to provide the platform for the recovery. He was supported by KL Rahul (90), and all-rounders Jadeja and Sundar. Combined, they frustrated an England attack that simply ran out of ideas.

"This is the foundation of this team. These are characters who are sitting in this dressing room and wanting to fight for the country," India coach Gautam Gambhir said.

How quickly things change.

When the wickets of Yashasvi Jaiswal and Sai Sudharsan fell in successive balls from Chris Woakes before lunch on Saturday, India was in crisis at 0-2.

In came captain Gill, and his team hardly looked back. His partnership of 188 with Rahul held through the next two sessions and deep into Sunday morning.

The series-leading scorer reached 103 before his near seven-hour stand ended when he was caught by Jamie Smith off Joffra Archer's bowling.

"An important thing is that he's living up to his expectation, his own talent, and more importantly, that he is the captain. As captain, he's got a burden of pressure," Gambhir said.

Gill has 722 runs for the series, well ahead of second-place Rahul's 511.

The dismissal of that formidable pair before lunch raised England's victory hopes again, but there was more pain to follow as the double-century partnership of Jadeja and Sundar guided India to a draw.

With India resuming the day on 174-2 and trailing by 137, England needed something special from Ben Stokes.

He didn't take long to deliver but ultimately it wasn't enough.

After fitness concerns ruled him out of bowling on Day 4 following his innings of 141, England's captain was back with the ball and quickly claimed his 17th wicket of the series by trapping Rahul lbw.

It was a reminder of just how badly he was missed from England's attack as Gill and Rahul batted so defiantly.

It was hardly surprising his absence was felt, given the 34-year-old Stokes is the leading wicket-taker in the series and took five in India's first innings. His brilliant performance came after he underwent surgery in January following a second hamstring injury in five months and dubbed himself the bionic man.

"I've said it a few times to the guys out there, pain is just an emotion," Stokes explained of his comeback.

The result might have been different if he had been fit for full involvement in India's second innings, but frequently holding the back of his leg after each ball on Sunday, his effectiveness was limited.

He expects to be in the thick of the action again in the final Test.

"I don't want to eat my words, but the likelihood that I won't play is very unlikely," he said.

8 teams confirmed for Gulf Champions League

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation has officially approved the list of clubs set to compete in the second edition of the Gulf Champions League for the 2025-2026 season. Eight teams have been nominated by their respective national federations to take part in the tournament.

This year's competition will feature: Al-Qadsia (Kuwait), Al-Shabab (Saudi Arabia), Al-Ain (UAE), Sitra (Bahrain), Zakho (Iraq), Al-Nahda (Oman), Al-Rayyan (Qatar), and Tadamun Hadramout (Yemen).

Iraq's Duhok Club claimed the title in the tournament's inaugural edition last season after defeating Al-Qadsia 2-1 in the final.

The second edition is set to begin in October, with the official draw sched-



The Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation logo.

uled for August. The teams will be split into two groups, with the top two from each group advancing to the semifinals.

Alex takes men's title

Fernandez wins DC Open

WASHINGTON, July 28, (AP): The biggest tennis title of Leylah Fernandez's career arrived at the D.C. Open with the help of a terrific backhand, some superb returning - and energy courtesy of Shake Shack's burgers and fries.

The left-handed Fernandez, a 22-year-old from Canada who is ranked 36th, wrapped up a big week of tight matches with a lopsided victory, defeating Anna Kalinskaya 6-1, 6-2 in the final.

Fernandez earned her fourth singles trophy - all have come at hard-court tournaments - and first at a WTA 500 event. She came quite close to a Grand Slam championship as a teenager at the 2021 U.S. Open, making it all the way to the final in New York before losing to Emma Raducanu.

There almost was a rematch in Washington, but Kalinskaya eliminated Raducanu in the semifinals Saturday.

The men's trophy was won by No. 7 seed Alex de Minaur, who earned his 10th ATP title - eighth on hard courts - by saving three championship points in a 5-7, 6-1, 7-6 (3) victory over No. 12 Alejandro Davidovich Fokina. De Minaur, a 26-year-old Australian, was the runner-up in Washington in 2018.

Davidovich Fokina dropped to 0-4 for his career in finals despite leading 5-2 in the third set Sunday and repeatedly standing just a single point from victory. This was his second time frittering away multiple match points in a tournament final this year. He entered the week at No. 26 and will make his debut in the top 20 on Monday; he remains the highest-ranked man without a title.



Fernandez

Fernandez took quite a journey through the women's bracket.

She needed 2 hours, 19 minutes to oust No. 1 seed Jessica Pegula - last year's U.S. Open runner-up - in three sets in the second round, then 2 hours, 20 minutes to beat Taylor Townsend in the quarterfinals, and 3 hours, 12 minutes for a three-tiebreaker victory over No. 3 seed Elena Rybakina - the 2022 Wimbledon champion - in the semifinals.

After each of the last two, Fernandez and her father - who is also her coach - opted for Shake Shack.

"We got burgers, hot dog, cheese fries - everything that an athlete should not eat before a match, but it did the trick," Fernandez said about what she ate after the Townsend match. "It gave me the right nutrients to recover from the cramps and get ready for the next round."

Following the Rybakina marathon, Fernandez said she and her father "were messaging, and I was, like, 'OK, what do you want to eat tonight?' We both answered at the same time: burgers. ... That was kind of my diet for the whole week."

Sure worked: This was the first title for Fernandez since October 2023 at the Hong Kong Open.

Plus, she arrived in Washington with a losing record this season and hadn't won more than two matches at the same tournament since last November.

"I have gone through so many different challenges this week. It just has made me stronger, in a way, that if I can get through this week - through the cramps, through the long matches, through the heat, the humidity - I can get through anything," Fernandez said. "So I was just very happy that I got to not only push myself physically through the limits, but also mentally. So that kind of will help me hopefully for future tournaments."

Belgian rider Van Aert claims 21st and last stage

Pogacar shows unrivaled audacity to win fourth Tour de France title in style

PARIS, July 28, (AP): The roads were dangerously slippery after heavy rain. A fourth Tour de France title was all but won anyway, so finishing safely in the pack would do fine for Tadej Pogacar. Especially considering final stage had already been neutralized for safety reasons and he just had to complete the race.

Surely there was no need to launch a seemingly pointless attack and risk crashing?

But holding back or being cautious rarely appeals to Pogacar, the 26-year-old cycling star from Slovenia. He clinched his fourth Tour title in inimitably daring style on Sunday and further cemented his place among cycling's greats.

Even though he really did not need to, and risked falling on oil-slick wet roads, Pogacar simply could not help himself. Against all logical opinion, he tried winning Sunday's 21st and final stage with trademark uphill attacks, only to fall short of the stage win itself.

"In the end I found myself in the front, even though I didn't have the energy," said Pogacar, who won the Tour last year and in 2020 and 2021.

"Just speechless to win the Tour de France, this one feels especially amazing," Pogacar added. "Just super proud that I can wear this yellow jersey."



Tour de France winner Tadej Pogacar of Slovenia holds the trophy after the twenty-first stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 132.3 kilometers (82.1 miles) with start in Mantes-la-Ville and finish on the Champs-Élysées in Paris, France. (AP)

Two-time Tour champion Jonas Vingegaard finished the overall race 4 minutes, 24 seconds behind Pogacar in second place, and Florian Lipowitz was 11 minutes adrift in third.

Belgian rider Wout van Aert won the 21st and last stage, which broke with tradition and featured three climbs of Montmartre hill.

Because of heavy rain and the risk of crashes, organizers had earlier

neutralized the times 50 kilometers (31 miles) from the end, effectively giving Pogacar the victory - providing he crossed the finish line.

He did the opposite of what almost every rider would do with victory a near certainty.

As the rain teemed down, he set a tremendous pace on the Montmartre climbs as fans cheered all along the cobbled Rue Lepic, with flags and

supporters hanging out of windows.

Only five riders were left with Pogacar on the third ascent of the 1.1-kilometer Montmartre hill.

After fending off American Matteo Jorgenson, he was caught cold near the top as Van Aert launched a stunning attack to drop - yes, drop! - Pogacar, the world's best climber, on the steepest section.

"Hats off to Wout, he was incredibly strong," Pogacar said.

Van Aert rolled back down for a prestigious stage win on the famed Champs-Élysées. Pogacar looked weary as he crossed the line in fourth place, 19 seconds behind.

But then it was time to celebrate title No. 4. Although don't expect Pogacar to make any headlines on that front.

"Everyone celebrates in their own way, I just want peace and some nice weather, not like here today," Pogacar said. "Just to enjoy some quiet days at home."

Only four riders have won the showcase race five times: Belgian Eddy Merckx, Spaniard Miguel Indurain, and Frenchmen Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault.

Pogacar won four stages this year to take his Tour tally to 21 and 30 at major races, including six at the Giro d'Italia and three at the Spanish Vuelta.

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India's Ravindra Jadeja celebrates after scoring a century on the final day of the fourth cricket test match between England and India at Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester, England. (AP)
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Sports

Lionesses roar again; Heartbreak for Spain



England's Leah Williamson, center left, and Keira Walsh lift the trophy after winning the Women's Euro 2025 final soccer match between England and Spain at St. Jakob-Park in Basel, Switzerland. (AP)



England goalkeeper Hannah Hampton stops a shot from Spain's Aitana Bonmati during a penalty shootout at the end of the Women's Euro 2025 final soccer match between England and Spain at St. Jakob-Park in Basel, Switzerland. (AP)



Spain's Mariona Caldentey, left, challenges England's Lucy Bronze during the Women's Euro 2025 final soccer match between England and Spain at St. Jakob-Park in Basel, Switzerland. (AP)

England wins back-to-back Euro titles after shootout drama

BASEL, Switzerland, July 28, (AP): More drama, another penalty shootout, and never giving up.

England successfully defended its Women's European Championship title on Sunday in its own special way, thriving under high tension yet again to take down world champion Spain in a shootout in the final. There was royalty from both nations in the VIP box at St. Jakob-Park, including heirs to each throne.

Prince William, the eldest son of Britain's King Charles, attended with his daughter, Princess Charlotte. He is president of the English Football Association.

Also present were Princess Leonor of Spain and her younger sister, Infanta Sofia. At the 2023 World Cup final, Sofia had attended with her mother, Queen Letizia, in Sydney, Australia.

After the game, King Charles congratulated the Lionesses on their "sporting skill and awesome teamwork."

"For this," the king wrote, "you have my whole family's warmest appreciation and admiration."

Chloe Kelly lashed in her spot kick to give England a 3-1 win on penalties after a 1-1 draw following extra time.

"I was cool, I was composed, and I knew I was going to hit the back of the net,"

said Kelly, whose goals decided a second straight Women's Euros final — and also the semifinal five days earlier.

England goalkeeper Hannah Hampton saved spot kicks from Mariona Caldentey and Spanish superstar Aitana Bonmati, before substitute Salma Paralluelo dragged her shot wide of the goal. The defending champion won the only way they knew how at this thrilling Euro 2025.

"It was the most chaotic tournament we've played," said England coach Sarina Wiegman, who has now won three straight Women's Euros titles.

England had fallen behind in the first half, fought back in the second, and relied on its superb substitutes — including Kelly — just as it did against Italy and in beating Sweden on penalties earlier in the knockout rounds.

"I actually can't believe it myself," Wiegman said. "How can this happen? But it happens. We're just going to party tonight."

England leveled the score in the 57th minute with Alessia Russo's header from a cross by Kelly, after Caldentey had given Spain the lead in the 25th minute by finishing Ona Batlle's cross.

Spain had trailed for only four minutes in the entire tournament — and not for a single second against England — yet couldn't seal its first European title against the team it beat in the World Cup final two years ago.

"I think this team deserved more. At least not to leave with this bitter feeling,"

Spain coach Montse Tomé said in translated comments.

Kelly had scored an extra-time winning goal for England at Wembley three years ago to beat Germany 2-1.

In extra time, Spain had good possession in the England penalty area many times, yet couldn't find a decisive goal.

"It was cruel," Bonmati told Spanish broadcaster La 1 after being named the best player of the tournament. "We played better, created more scoring chances, but in soccer, sometimes that's not enough."

Spain goalkeeper Cata Coll saved spot kicks from England captain Leah Williamson and the first attempt by Beth Mead.

It was fitting in England's memorable tournament that Mead's penalty had to be retaken under a new rule that allows a second chance when a player scores by slipping and touching the ball twice. It didn't matter after Hampton's saves.

Arsenal attackers seem to love scoring with perfectly placed headers from inviting crosses sent to the ideal spot.

Spain took the lead Sunday with a very English-style goal — a full back's cross from the byline finding the head of an Arsenal player to score, on a rain-slicked field under an overcast, cloudy sky. The strong Spanish flavor leading to Caldentey's opener was evident in the neat passing that found Athenea del Castillo in the penalty area and her vision to see Ona Batlle's direct run into space.

China's Haiyang dominates 100 breaststroke

McIntosh lights up worlds with another gold

SINGAPORE, July 28, (AP): Two days. Two gold medals. Two days.

Summer McIntosh is off to a perfect start at the swimming world championships in her attempt to win five individual gold medals, a feat only achieved by American legend Michael Phelps.

The 18-year-old Canadian took the 200-meter individual medley on Monday, clocking 2:06.69. The victory followed the gold she won Sunday in the 400 freestyle. Alex Walsh of the United States claimed silver in 2:08.58, with bronze going to Mary-Sophie Harvey of Canada in 2:09.15.

The winning time was just shy of McIntosh's world record of 2:05.70. Still, she was not content.

"Going in tonight, my goal was to get my hand on the wall first," McIntosh said. "So to get that done is good. I'm not super happy with my time, but honestly, at a world championships, my goal is just to go as fast as I can against my competitors. Still happy with the gold and hoping to keep up my streak next time."

Yu Zidi, a 12-year-old from China, finished fourth in 2:09.21, just missing a medal as she astounds the swim world with her times. She is also expected to compete in the 400 IM and 200 butterfly, probably her strongest events.

McIntosh will chase three more golds in the 400 IM, 800 free, and the 200 butterfly over the next six days in Singapore.

Gretchen Walsh broke through on Monday with the first gold in Singapore for the United States, taking the 100 butterfly in 54.73. The silver medalist a year ago in Paris, Walsh was just off her world-record time of 54.60 set earlier this year. Roos Vanotterdijk of Belgium took silver in 55.84, and Alexandria Perkins of Australia claimed bronze in 56.33.

Walsh acknowledged in a post-race interview at poolside that the American team had been hit with a bout of what team officials called "acute gastroenteritis."

It was picked up at a training camp in Thailand prior to their arrival in



Gretchen Walsh of the United States competes in the women's 100-meter butterfly final at the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore. (AP)

Singapore. U.S. officials have confirmed the outbreak but have given few details and did not name the affected swimmers nor say how many were impacted.

"It was not easy, and I'm just really proud of myself," Walsh said, thrilled to be under 55 seconds. "It took a lot of guts. I just wanted to go out there and do it for my team, just represent the flag well. It came out of somewhere, but I'm really, really happy."

Two other finals wrapped up Monday's schedule.

Qin Haiyang, the world champion in 2023, defeated Paris Olympic winner Nicolò Martinenghi of Italy in the 100 breaststroke. Qin clocked 58.23 to give China its first gold in Singapore, with the Italian swimmer finishing in 58.58. Denis Petrashov of Kyrgyzstan took bronze in 58.88. "I've been injured and it's not

been easy to get back to my best," Haiyang said. "I'm at best at 70%. I'm probably lucky. This definitely



Gold medalist Summer McIntosh of Canada poses after the women's 200-meter individual medley final at the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore. (AP)

helps with my confidence."

In the men's 50 butterfly, Maxime Grousset of France edged Noe Ponti of Switzerland. Grousset clocked 22.48 with Ponti finishing in 22.51. Thomas Ceccon of Italy took bronze in 22.67.

In the four semifinals, Paris Olympics bronze medalist Luke Hobson of the United States led the 200 free qualifying heats (1:44.80), with Paris champion David Popovici of Romania in fourth (1:45.02).

Hubert Kós of Hungary topped a very fast men's 100 backstroke with a time of 52.21. American Regan Smith led the women's 100 backstroke (58.21), ahead of two-time Australian Olympic champion Kaylee McKeown (58.44).

Kate Douglass of the United States swam a personal best in the 100 breaststroke (1:05.49) and will be the top seed in Tuesday's final.

Kuwait falls to Egypt, remains winless at Arab Championship

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

MANAMA, July 28: Kuwait endured its third consecutive defeat at the 26th Arab Basketball Championship, falling to Egypt 65-96 in the third round of the tournament being held in Bahrain until August 2.

In other results from the round, Algeria beat the UAE 99-61, while Tunisia edged past host Bahrain 97-86.

At the end of the third round, Tunisia and the UAE led the standings with 5 points each, having secured two wins and one loss. Egypt and Algeria followed with 4 points apiece from two victories. Bahrain also had 4 points but from one win and two defeats. Kuwait (3 points) remained winless, while Qatar trailed with 2 points from two losses.

As a result of the defeat, Kuwait lost its chance to contend for a top-three finish. The Blue Team will sit out the fourth round and return to action tomorrow against Algeria in the fifth round.

Previously, Kuwait had lost to the UAE 79-87 and Tunisia 61-86.

The loss to Egypt was further compounded by an injury to Kuwaiti player Hussein Ashkanani, who suffered a severe shoulder dislocation during the



Players fight for the rebound during Kuwait-Egypt match.

match. He was transported by ambulance to the hospital, where he required surgery.

Award Al-Enezi, head of the Kuwaiti delegation, expressed gratitude to Sheikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, for personally sponsoring Ashkanani's treatment. Al-Enezi commended Sheikh Isa's continued support and contributions to Bahraini and Gulf basketball.

KHA confirms nominees for Asian Federation elections

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Kuwait Handball Association has officially approved its candidates for positions in the Asian Handball Federation (AHF) ahead of the upcoming elections, set to take place on December 20 in Cairo.

During a recent board meeting attended by all members, the federation nominated International Handball Federation Vice President Bader Al-Diyab for the AHF presidency and Secretary General Qaed Al-Adwani for the position of AHF Treasurer for the 2025-2029 term.

Additional nominations include Treasurer Khaled Taleb for the Organizing and Competitions Committee, board member Mishaal Al-Qabandi for the Coaching Committee, Nasser Al-Da'as for the Development and Public Relations Committee, and Fahad Al-Hajri for the Referees Committee.

The board also decided to reject the nomination of former treasurer Faisal Baqer for the AHF treasurer role.

Vice President Shabeeb Al-Hajri and Secretary General Qaed Al-Adwani were selected to represent Kuwait at the AHF General Assembly and elections in December.