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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Khalil Al-Hayya spitting bitter poison

ONE of the strangest contradictions about many Hamas leaders is their tendency to incite Arab populations to chaos while they themselves reside in luxurious hotels thousands of kilometers away from Gaza.

While these leaders fill their stomachs with sumptuous meals, the people of Gaza starve, some even dying by the roadside for lack of a single piece of bread to survive.

Khalil Al-Hayya's recent statement, in which he incited against the Arab and Islamic worlds and directed accusations at Egypt and its leadership, serves as a favor to Israel. It reflects neither reason nor wisdom.

This man, now a prominent leader of Hamas, does not share in the fear and terror experienced by the people of Gaza every time an Israeli bomb strikes. Al-Hayya and his associates busy themselves with endless negotiations, guided by the principle of "life is negotiations" invented by Saeb Erekat in 2008.

This principle reflects a strategy of exploiting the suffering of the people for personal or political gain, rather than working in the best interest of the nation. Accordingly, the current and historical Palestinian suffering can be measured.

The so-called "Al-Aqsa Flood" came at a time when Arab states, and much of the international community, were intensifying efforts to advance the two-state solution.

Today, that goal feels more distant than ever. Israel has begun annexing parts of the West Bank, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has openly declared his intention to annex areas of the

Gaza Strip. These amounts to a death sentence for the prospect of a Palestinian state.

Many questions continue to surround the true purpose of the October 7, 2023 operation, and whether it genuinely aimed to support the Palestinian cause. Wasn't that attack, in effect, a lifeline for Benjamin Netanyahu by rescuing him from mounting legal troubles in the courts? Didn't it serve to strengthen the narrative of the extremist Zionist movement and its vision of establishing a "Greater Israel"?

These are legitimate questions, especially for those who share in the suffering of the people of Gaza. Wasn't the October 2023 operation, in reality, a political maneuver aimed to extend the tenure of Israel's prime minister while paving the way for the displacement of Gaza's population as a prelude to erasing the Palestinian presence from their homeland?

Why this incitement today against Egypt and the surrounding Arab states, especially at such a critical and sensitive moment? Could it be part of a new chapter in the unfolding of the so-called "New Middle East," a concept reignited in 2011 through the "Arab Spring"?

At that time, groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad were among the main beneficiaries, as they

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

IOM marks World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

Kuwait shines in anti-trafficking push

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Migration Agency in Kuwait, joins the global community in marking the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, observed annually on 30 July. This year's theme, "Human Trafficking is Organized Crime – End the Exploitation," highlights the urgent need to dismantle criminal networks and ensure comprehensive support for survivors. In this context, IOM commended the State of Kuwait for its continued efforts and proactive measures to address human trafficking through a coordinated, victim-centered approach. Human trafficking remains a grave

violation of human rights, affecting millions of people worldwide. IOM is committed to combating this crime through a multifaceted approach encompassing prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships.



AboulHosn

The State of Kuwait has demonstrated a strong commitment to tackling human trafficking through a comprehensive national

strategy for 2025–2028. This strategy focuses on strengthening legal frameworks, implementing a national referral system, enhancing the capacity of enforcement agencies, and fostering regional and international cooperation.

Kuwait has enacted robust counter-trafficking legislation, including Law 91 of 2013, and continues to improve deterrence and enforcement. The establishment of a national referral system ensures that victims receive timely and effective support. Specialized training is provided to law enforcement and relevant agencies to build their capacity to identify, investigate,

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Two states, one path to peace

Kuwait renews call for Palestinian statehood, end to Israeli occupation

NEW YORK, July 29, (KUNA): A just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East must begin with ending the Israeli occupation and granting the Palestinian people their full rights, said Kuwait Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya.

Delivering a speech to the High-Level International Conference on the Two-State Solution, held at the UN headquarters in New York on July 28-29, Al-Yahya said that the continued silence over crimes committed in the Gaza Strip reflected complicity with the perpetrators against the victims.

He told the conference, which also aimed at peacefully resolving the Palestinian issue, that the situation in the Palestinian territories was disastrous, especially in the Gaza Strip where the Israeli occupation's ruthless military campaign had left thousands dead and destroyed vital infrastructure such as hospitals, refugee camps, and water resource facilities.

He warned that the ongoing siege of Gaza and the cutting of food, medicine, power, and water supplies threatened the lives of more than two million people mostly innocent civilians, saying that the situation had surpassed catastrophe and spelled a serious challenge to human consciences and international laws.

The international community must not allow for military arrogance or the dis-

regard to international and humanitarian law, he stressed, warning that without active global intervention, the situation could spiral out of control.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister relayed his country's unwavering stance on the Palestinian cause, stating that an independent State of Palestine must be established within the June 4, 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He commended numerous countries' steps to recognize the Palestinian state, calling on others to follow to achieve just peace.

The aggression against the Gaza Strip must end, he reiterated, insisting that the criminal targeting of civilians and vital infrastructure must not continue.

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Kuwait backs OPEC+ moves

KUWAIT CITY, July 29, (KUNA): Oil Minister Tareq Al-Roumi said that Kuwait supports efforts for a stable international market, affirming that OPEC+ decisions "are made based on market developments."

This came in a statement by Oil Ministry on Tuesday after Al-Roumi's participation in the 61st Ministerial Meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) via videoconference on July 28.

Al-Roumi said he was "optimistic about the fundamentals of the oil market and that OPEC+ efforts

target energy security and market balance."

He also noted that the meeting reflected the commitment of participating countries to the Declaration of Cooperation, which contributes to supporting global economic growth and enhancing investors' confidence in the oil market.

Participating with Al-Roumi was an official delegation that included Kuwait's Governor to OPEC, Mohammad Khudhur Al-Shatti, and Kuwait's National Representative to OPEC, Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Clock ticking on DGCA face scan

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued a circular on extending the grace period for all employees to register their facial features for two weeks.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the circular, in which Director General of the DGCA Duaiji Al-Otaibi stated that the "face print attendance mechanism is now mandatory and legal action will be taken against those who fail to perform the face printing procedure."

He stressed the need to circulate the decision to all sectors and implement it from the date of issuance.

Meanwhile, sources informed the newspaper that this decision complements the circular issued on May 29 requiring all employees to register their face print as per the schedule. "However, a number of employees could not complete the procedure due to the nature of their work or shift differences, delaying the implementation of the face print attendance system," sources explained.

In another development, sources said the DGCA asked the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to award the tender

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Other Voices

Farewell and thanks to true friends of Kuwait

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

As we say goodbye to His Excellency Ambassador Osama Shaltout, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt since 2021, we take this opportunity to thank him for his dedicated service and the important role he played in strengthening the brotherly relationship between Egypt and Kuwait.



Al-Hajeri

As Egypt's Ambassador to Sudan from 2014 to 2018. He also held other key positions, including Deputy Head of Mission in Sudan and Director of NGO

Ambassador Shaltout has had a long and respected diplomatic career. Before his posting in Kuwait, he served as Assistant Foreign Minister for the Sudan and South Sudan Affairs from 2018 to 2021 and



His Excellency Ambassador Osama Shaltout, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt with his wife Mrs. Ghada Shawky.

Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition to these roles, he served in Egyptian diplomatic missions

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Kuwait is France's trusted ally in the region: Ambassador Gauvin

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Kuwaiti-French relations are witnessing rapid and



Gauvin

remarkable development, driven by political and diplomatic momentum that has brought the partnership between the two countries back into the spotlight, especially after the historic visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the French capital, Paris, in response to an invitation from French President Emmanuel Macron to participate in the French National Day celebrations on July 14.

In light of this rapid progress in bilateral relations, the newspaper interviewed French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin, who spoke candidly about future prospects for cooperation and priority areas. He affirmed that his country considers Kuwait a reliable ally in the region, and that the next phase will witness stronger coordination at the bilateral and international levels.

Following are details of the interview:

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Photos by Mohammad Morsi
Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah and other officials cut a ceremonial cake celebrating the 98th anniversary of China's People's Liberation Army, highlighting Kuwait-China ties.

Defense Undersecretary highlights growing Kuwait-China partnership

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Defense Ministry Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah affirmed that his participation in the celebration of the 98th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army of China is a manifestation of the strength of the relationship between the State of Kuwait and the friendly People's Republic of China, indicating this relationship is particularly evident in the military field, and more generally in various other fields.

In a press statement on the sidelines of the reception organized by the Chinese Embassy on the occasion of the 98th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah disclosed "we, in the Ministry of Defense, have several projects with the friendly People's Republic of China -- the most



Sheikh Abdullah



Liu Xiang

important of which is the establishment of a medium and light ammunition factory that will open in the near future. At the State level, there are major strategic projects, including some projects related to Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, as well as huge housing projects."

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Bursa Kuwait sees a 61.12% surge in its net profit for H1 2025

Zain partners with Lei Wa Lakom to promote financial literacy & community development

NBK earns top-tier ESG ratings across the MENA region

Warba Bank gets CBK nod for merger feasibility study

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:36	Asr	15:30
Sunrise ..	05:06	Maghrib ..	18:42
Zohr	11:54	Isha	20:09

Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Very hot with moderate to fresh northwesterly wind, with speeds of 20-45 km/h causing rising dust.			
By Night: Hot to rather hot with			
light to moderate freshening at times over coastal areas northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-40 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	49	39	
Kuwait Airport	51	36	

Abdaly	51	33
Bubyan	42	26
Jahra	52	38
Salmiyah	42	35
Ahmadi	44	32
Nuwaisib	50	32
Wafra	50	34
Salmiya	48	32

Call for security, stability in Mideast region

Kuwaiti FM seeks to enhance cooperation with Jordan and Pakistan

NEW YORK, July 29, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya met with his Jordanian counterpart Ayman Al-Safadi, on the sidelines of the High-level International Conference on the Peaceful Settlement of the Palestinian issue and the implementation of the Two-State Solution, held at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

During the meeting, which took place on Monday, the two ministers reviewed bilateral relations between Kuwait and Jordan and discussed ways to enhance cooperation across various fields.

The talks also addressed on several issues of mutual interest, with an exchange of views on the latest regional and international developments, particularly efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement and promoting security and stability in the Middle East.

Pakistan

Kuwait Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya discussed with his Pakistani counterpart Mohammad Ishaq Dar ways to boost bilateral ties in several areas of mutual

interest.

This came during their meeting late Monday, on the sidelines of the High-Level International Conference on the Peaceful Settlement of the Palestinian issue and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The two sides discussed issues of common concerns and the latest developments in the region, including ways to bolster cooperation.

Djibouti

Kuwait Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met Monday with Djibouti counterpart Abdoukader Houssein Omar, on the sideline of the High-Level International Conference on the Peaceful Settlement of the Palestinian issue, and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, held at the United Nations Headquarters.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of common concerns and the latest developments in the region, including ways to bolster cooperation.



Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya receives his Jordanian counterpart Ayman Al-Safadi.



KUNA photos
Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya meets Pakistani counterpart Mohammad Ishaq Dar.



Photo by KEO International Consultants
Every day affair: Gaza residents struggle for meagre meals provided by various associations and societies.

KEO International Consultants donates \$50,000 for Gaza kids

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: KEO International Consultants is donating \$50,000 to support humanitarian efforts for the children of Gaza and provide life-saving aid, including health care services, education and child protection.

We, at KEO, believe supporting the children of Gaza is both a national obligation and humanitarian duty, and we hope this donation will encourage further contributions from the community.

Other Voices

5 victories of global Zionism

By Ahmad alsarraf

OVER the past hundred years, Jewish Zionism has achieved five major victories, most of which have come at our expense:

1. Realizing the dream of establishing a state for Jews worldwide.
2. Securing emotional, financial, political, and military support initially from Britain, and later from America and the Western world.
3. Successfully neutralizing any threat, even minor, posed by Arab states to its existence.
4. Building a state with a strong economy, advanced industry, formidable military capabilities, and distinguished achievements in technology and science.
5. Most dangerously, creating an army of mercenaries among Arabs, the majority of whom are either financially motivated or unaware of Zionism's global agenda.



alsarraf

In contrast, most Arab countries lack much of Israel's technological infrastructure and expertise. Before its recent settlement expansions, Israel's land area was approximately 22,000 square kilometers, compared to 13 million square kilometers for Arab countries and 32 million square kilometers for Islamic countries.

Israel's population stands at about 9 million, while the Arab population is around 460 million and the Muslim population totals approximately 1.5 billion.

Despite signing peace treaties with Egypt 44 years ago and Jordan 31 years ago, Israel has not transferred any of its expertise or technology to either country or to any other Arab nation.

Israel continues to spy on both Egypt and Jordan, despite its peace agreements with them. Moreover, it has never stopped spying on the United States, its most important supporter and dominant ally.

Israel has relentlessly pursued settlement expansion at the expense of neighboring Arab countries and even more distant neighbors. It has consistently sought to sow discord and division among Arab states, exploiting their backwardness to its own advantage.

Doubt and hatred will continue to fill the hearts of Zionists. True justice and peace have no place in the Israeli narrative. Israel offers us nothing but humiliation and degradation, an agenda promoted by its agents among us, who have now been exposed. They openly claim that Israel has the right to decide our fate as it sees fit.

For instance, the productivity of a palm tree in Israel is ten times higher than the average yield of palm trees in Egypt and Jordan.

Yet, despite over forty years of peace treaties with Israel, neither Egypt nor Jordan has benefited from Israeli technology, not even in date production, let alone in far more advanced fields like artificial intelligence.

Therefore, those who believe that normalization with Israel will bring prosperity, peace, love, and progress to the Arab world must abandon these illusions.

From Israel, we will see nothing but ruthless exploitation of our resources, the occupation of our lands, and the reduction of our people to mere laborers in its factories and farms, and perhaps even guinea pigs in its laboratories.

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Ambassador Naif Al-Otaibi

Kuwait vision

'Food security core goal of dev. plans'

CAIRO, July 29, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Ambassador to Ethiopia Naif Al-Otaibi said Tuesday that food security is one of the main goals of Kuwait's development vision and key pillar of annual development plans.

The ambassador was addressing the Fourth UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4), which kicked off in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, and winds up on Tuesday, the Kuwaiti Embassy in Ethiopia said in a press release sent to KUNA.

He underlined Kuwait's commitment to financing projects pertinent to food security and human health and prosperity through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

He also stressed his country's keenness on partaking in such biannual gatherings with the goal of following up on progress made by countries in the implementation of the output of the first edition and tapping quantum expertise and initiatives related to the development of human resources and coping with technological advancement.

In this regard, he said the summit marks a world platform for innovation and anticipation of food challenges and a unique opportunity for sharing views and exploring opportunities with all countries and stakeholders in vital sectors bearing on food systems.

Regarding the situation in Palestine, the ambassador said the Israeli occupation crimes committed under the nose of the entire world have so far claimed the lives of tens of thousands of Palestinian children due to mass starvation, siege and prevention of humanitarian aid delivery to Palestinians.

The Kuwaiti diplomat pointed out that hundreds of Palestinian children and pregnant women are suffering from malnutrition in breach of relevant UN resolutions, citing relevant World Health Organization (WHO) reports.

Kuwait includes Hezbollah, entities in list of sanctions

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Committee for the Implementation of Security Council Resolutions Issued Under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter Concerning Counter-Terrorism and the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, affiliated with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, added new names to the national sanctions list under the executive regulations.

The updated list includes Hezbollah, the Lebanon-based Al-Qard Al-Hassan Association, a Lebanese national identified only as A.M., a Tunisian national identified as A.F., and a Somali national identified as A.M.

This step reflects Kuwait's full commitment to enforcing Security Council resolutions aimed at combating terrorism, enhancing financial transparency, and preventing the misuse of the financial system to support terrorist activities.

Curricula gets 'rejuvenation'

Teachers gear up: Al-Tabtabaei

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaei has directed the relevant technical directorates to prepare comprehensive training plans to qualify teachers for the new curricula.

He emphasized that these courses should be conducted either via the Teams platform using modern technology or in person, as deemed appropriate by each guidance department.

During an expanded meeting held today with subject supervisors, Al-Tabtabaei stated that the goal is to empower teachers with modern educational concepts and approved teaching methods, ensuring their full readiness from kindergarten through ninth grade before the start of the 2025-2026 academic year.

The minister expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all supervisors for their huge national efforts in developing the new curricula, and commended the vital role they played during the various stages of preparation and development.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education explained that specialized national teams have completed the development of new curricula for kindergarten, primary, and intermediate grades (grades 1 to 9). A total of 88 books have been prepared for the first semester, including two for kindergarten, 46 for primary, and 40 for intermediate levels. All books are currently undergoing linguistic and spelling reviews and final design, in preparation for printing according to modern technical and educational standards, while emphasizing adherence to the philosophy of lightening the school bag.

The books will be printed in four parts according to the curriculum, ensuring smooth distribution of content and reducing the burden on students.

Also, 73 teacher guides have been pre-



Al-Tabtabaei

pared for all educational levels to enhance teachers' ability to deliver content in line with modern educational principles.

The ministry has also substantially developed the English language curriculum to align with international standards. This curriculum focuses on preparing learners with integrated skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, based on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) at levels A1-B1, while taking into account the standards of the IELTS and TOEFL tests.

The curriculum's development incorporated core behavioral values such as respect and cooperation, aiming to ensure a high-quality education in line with global developments.

In the field of Arabic language, the ministry emphasized that the curriculum's development stems from a deep recognition of the language's vital role in shaping learners' identities and enhancing their thinking and communication skills.

The new Arabic language textbook includes four educational units, each containing two main topics that cover a range of language skills. It also includes modern educational activities based on 21st-century skills, such as critical thinking, effective communication, and self-directed learning.

The book's design reflects a distinguished national educational effort aimed at supporting teachers and achieving effective, future-ready outcomes.

The philosophy behind the new curriculum at all grade levels was developed by experienced national educators and academic supervisors.

As part of the reforms, the Social Studies curriculum has been introduced for the early primary grades under the titles "National Education 1", "National Education 2", and "National Education 3". The content has been structured progressively across the remaining grade levels, integrating concepts such as integrity, state laws, and civic education within meaningful educational contexts.

In science and mathematics, a problem-based learning approach rooted in the STEM model has been adopted. This approach places the learner at the center of the educational process, accounting for individual differences and incorporating diverse sources of knowledge.

Student support eyed

PAAET resumes Article 8 bonuses

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Dean of Student Affairs at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr. Abdullah Al-Shalwan announced the resumption of disbursing the social allowances, excellence performance bonuses, and rare specialization bonuses for female students whose Kuwaiti citizenships were revoked, in accordance with Article 8 of the Nation-

ality Law.

He explained that this decision is part of PAAET's ongoing efforts to support students and maintain a stable educational environment. It reflects the institution's commitment to facilitating procedures and ensuring academic stability for students entitled to be treated as Kuwaiti citizens. Dr. Al-Shalwan urged affected students to quickly update their personal information, noting that the bonuses will be reinstated once all necessary procedures are completed.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

France’s recognition of the State of Palestine – a symbolic step ... What next?

“IN A positive move aimed at reinforcing international legitimacy and the principles of international law, French President Emmanuel Macron announced that Paris intends to officially recognize the State of Palestine as an independent and sovereign nation,” Professor of International Law at the Faculty of Law in Kuwait University Dr. **Abdulrahman Saud Al-Walan** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“However, what is the significance of this recognition for the establishment of a Palestinian state? Can it serve the Palestinian cause? If so, how? More importantly, what role might this step play in confronting the ongoing aggression against civilians in the Gaza Strip?”

“According to international law, recognition is not a legal requirement for the establishment of a state. The 1933 Montevideo Convention identified four criteria for statehood - a defined territory, a permanent population, an effective government, and the capacity to enter into relations with other states. Based on these criteria, a state is considered legally established once they are met, even without external recognition.

“However, recognition remains a practical necessity. A state that lacks recognition, or is insufficiently recognized, cannot fully participate in the international community. It will face obstacles in signing treaties, joining international organizations, or sending and receiving ambassadors. This is where the significance of France’s recognition of the State of Palestine becomes evident.

“Despite declaring its existence in 1988, the State of Palestine has been unable to establish formal bilateral relations with France due to the absence of official recognition. Now, however, this recognition paves the way for bilateral cooperation in political, economic, and diplomatic spheres. The significance of this step lies not only in its political message, but also in the identity of the recognizing party. France is not just any country; it is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a major Western power with considerable influence in international decision-making.

“Therefore, France’s recognition of the State of Palestine carries substantial symbolic and political weight. It lends greater legitimacy to the Palestinian entity and may encourage other European and Western nations to follow suit. We are witnessing a pivotal moment on the international stage. As global outrage intensifies over the grave violations against civilians in Gaza, several European countries including Ireland, Spain, and Norway are rethinking their traditional positions on the Palestinian issue and expressing their willingness to recognize



Dr. Al-Walan

a Palestinian state.

“France’s move could serve as a further catalyst, encouraging wider international recognition. It may inject new momentum into Palestinian efforts to secure their sovereign rights and make it increasingly difficult for Israel to deny the existence of a legally recognized Palestinian state.

“The clearest evidence of this is the call by 220 members of the British Parliament, representing nine political parties, for Prime Minister Keir Starmer to recognize Palestine as an independent, sovereign state, less than 24 hours after French President Emmanuel Macron announced Paris’s intention to do so. While the symbolic and political weight of such recognition is undeniable, it is important to remain realistic about its immediate impact on the ground in Gaza Strip.

“Recognition alone will not halt the violence, open border crossings, or end the blockade. These require concrete pressure tools such as sanctions, an arms embargo, or the threat of stronger diplomatic action. Nevertheless, recognition plays a crucial role in shifting international sentiment. It sends a clear message that the world will no longer tolerate the ongoing occupation, and that Palestinian rights can no longer be deferred or dismissed.

“French recognition, along with that of other countries, strengthens the legal and political standing of the State of Palestine. The more states that extend recognition, the greater Palestine’s weight as an international party, and the greater its opportunities for representation, participation, and negotiation on the basis of equality. Such recognition enables Palestine to expand its membership in international organizations and engage in multilateral agreements, equipping it with new legal tools to hold the occupation accountable and confront ongoing violations.

“Recognition by major international powers also raises expectations, increases pressure on Israel, and places moral and political pressure on countries that still refuse to recognize the State of Palestine.

“In conclusion, while French recognition alone is not enough to transform the grim realities on the ground, it is a step in the right direction by offering political, moral, and legal support to a people who have long struggled for their freedom and dignity.”

Also:

“Whenever internal security is established in any country, it lays the foundation for social stability, economic growth, political stability, and improved public behavior. However, when security breaks down, society can quickly descend into chaos. Lawlessness prevails, crime spreads, and the rule of law loses its meaning.” Kuwaiti journalist **Salem Al-Wawan** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“There is ample evidence on the ground in some Arab and neighboring countries, showing how societies can be transformed when the balance of security is disrupted. The language of weapons takes over, prostitution dens multiply, and even senior security officials may become embroiled in scandal. It becomes a state without law or order.

“This situation is reflected in all aspects of life, most notably in the economy. Rather than being confronted, corruption finds fertile ground to grow and spread unchecked. I can proudly say that the security situation in my country is among the best in the world, thanks to a leadership that has made stability a top priority.

“We have a Minister of Interior whose primary concern is upholding the rule of law, applying it firmly and fairly, and ensuring that everyone receives their rights without fear or intimidation. The personnel of the Ministry of Interior work diligently to enforce the law and help people feel safer.

“In response to the increase in drug smuggling operations, the Ministry of Interior, under the leadership and guidance of His Excellency the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, has shown a strong ability to intercept many of these operations before they reach Kuwait. The ministry has also intensified its surveillance of money laundering activities and all forms of forgery.

“The ministry has exerted huge efforts to prevent the entry of large quantities of drugs and alcohol, particularly alcohol, with seized shipments valued at approximately KD 12 million. It has also apprehended a large number of residency violators and individuals involved in various other crimes. These accomplishments were achieved under the direct supervision of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, along with his security leadership in all relevant sectors.

“We would like to specifically commend the Criminal Security Department, which has taken on a vital role thanks to the dedicated efforts of Major General Hamed Al-Dawas and his team of detectives.

“I would like to emphasize the importance of close cooperation between the Ministry of Interior and citizens in combating criminals, so that all sectors of the ministry can carry out their duties with a strong sense of patriotism.

“Kuwait deserves nothing less than the best and continues to make steady strides toward excellence under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.”

— Compiled by Mahmoud Attiyeh/Simi K. Kutty



Deputy Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, Major General (Pilot) Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah arrives at the shooting range.

‘Combat readiness of army units crucial in crises times’

KUWAIT CITY, July 29, (KUNA): Deputy Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, Major General (Pilot) Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, praised the advanced standards of the multi-purpose shooting range in Al-Udairi, describing it as a model facility that significantly contributes to enhancing the operational capabilities and combat readiness of army units.

In a press statement released following his field visit on Monday, Major General Sabah emphasized the importance of such specialized facilities in preparing and qualifying personnel to handle diverse combat scenarios. He noted that the continuous upgrading of training environments demonstrates the leadership’s commitment to providing realistic and high-quality military training.

The visit was part of the Deputy Chief of Staff’s routine inspections to follow up on the preparedness of field units. During his tour, he was briefed by the Commander of the Administrative Support Command on the range’s various components,



KUNA photos
Deputy Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army being briefed on the modus operandi at the range.

including specialized training fields, a shooting range, a control tower, as well as logistical and technical support facilities.

Upon his arrival at the site, Major General Sabah was received by Brigadier General Hamad Al-Suwaidi, Commander of the Land Forces, and Brigadier General Othman Al-Shaheen, Commander of the Administrative Support Command, along with several officers from the support unit.

3-year jail for rumor-monger

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Nayef Al-Dahoum, sentenced a Bedoun resident, identified as M.B., to three years in prison with hard labor after convicting him of broadcasting on the X platform false news concerning the work of the Central Agency for the Remedy of the Situations of Illegal Residents (CARSIR).

The court explained that circulating news, especially those that concern the state’s prestige, requires careful verification and investigation. The defendant exceeded this by publishing content that incited public opinion against the state,

claiming he had not seen the results of CARSIR’s work, as if state agencies were under his authority and obligated to provide him with reports and information.

The defendant failed to provide evidence supporting his allegations, relying instead on scattered, unsubstantiated narratives that unfairly harmed Kuwait and contradicted the state’s established approach to protecting human rights, negatively impacting its reputation.

The court rejected the defense’s request for clemency, stating the defendant was ineligible, especially given his prior criminal record and previous leniency, yet he remained undeterred and continued to commit offenses.

Where to install smoke detectors?

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) has specified locations in homes for installing smoke detectors to enhance early fire detection and minimize the risks associated with residential fires, reports Al-Anba daily.

In an awareness brochure on its official X account, KFF explained that early detection leads to faster emergency response; helping to reduce property

damage and potential loss of life.

It recommended installing smoke detectors in bedrooms, hallways, living rooms and basements for maximum effectiveness. It emphasized that smoke detectors play a crucial role in alerting occupants about the presence of smoke or fire. It added that fires usually start small, but can quickly escalate if not addressed promptly.

Kuwaiti couple get death for torturing, killing their maid

Wife seeks divorce, kidney donation in vain

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: In a landmark ruling highlighting the judiciary’s firm stance against violence toward domestic workers and human trafficking, the Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Abdulwahab Al-Muaili, sentenced a Kuwaiti man and his wife to death. They were convicted of brutally beating their Asian maid to death, inciting violence against her, imprisoning her, denying her medical treatment, and forcing her to work without pay.

The court classified the crimes as human

trafficking linked to murder, emphasizing that this case represents a clear example of human trafficking that warrants the harshest penalties when accompanied by murder.

The court highlighted how the defendants exploited the victim’s vulnerability, degrading her humanity and dignity until she succumbed to her injuries.

Following an investigation into the incident that shocked the Kuwaiti public, the Public Prosecution referred the defendants to the Central Prison. The victim’s body was found buried in the garden of the defendants’ home in Saad Al-Abdullah more than a month after her death.

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Kidney donation in vain: In one of the most striking recent cases, a woman filed a lawsuit seeking a divorce from her husband and financial compensation, stressing that she had

donated a kidney to save his life, only for him to later marry another woman and physically assault her.

Lawyer Hawra Al-Habib, representing the plaintiff, explained that while marrying a second wife is not, in itself, a legal ground for divorce, the situation changes when a wife’s physical sacrifice is met with betrayal and violence. Under such circumstances, continuing the marriage becomes untenable.

Lawyer Al-Habib said she would seek compensation for the psychological and emotional harm suffered by her client.

She explained that physical abuse is not a legitimate form of discipline, whether toward children or adults, and is both legally and religiously unacceptable. While many marriages go through periods of emotional distance and later recover, no relationship can continue when one partner is subjected to ongoing and unjustified harm by the other.

3 held with drugs

Police nab Jahra drug dealer after hot chase

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Jahra emergency police officers arrested a drug dealer with a criminal record in Al-Naseem with an undisclosed quantity of narcotic pills and shabu in his possession, reports Al-Anba daily.

Security sources revealed that a Jahra emergency patrol noticed the suspect violating traffic laws during their rounds in Al-Naseem. When the officers signaled the driver to stop, he attempted to flee but was arrested immediately.

A preliminary investigation revealed the suspect’s criminal background. A thorough search uncovered a bag containing narcotic pills and shabu in his possession. The suspect and the seized substances were referred to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) in the Interior Ministry for legal action.

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Trio held with drugs: Emergency police officers referred three individuals to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) in the Interior Ministry; as they were found in possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia and money suspected to be linked with drug activity, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source said the Hawally emergency officers stopped two vehicles whose drivers committed traffic violations -- one for failing to comply with lane regulations and the other for using a mobile phone by hand while driving. When the officers approached the vehicles, they noticed that the three individuals appeared to be in an abnormal condition, so they conducted a thorough search that revealed narcotics and related items in their possession.

Further investigation showed that one of the suspects violated the Residency Law and subjected to an arrest warrant, while a woman who was among those apprehended is wanted by law for involvement in a theft case.

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Huge forgery case: A whole year of intensive investigations led to the closure of one of the major Kuwaiti citizenship forgery cases, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The investigations started in July 2024 when the concerned authorities obtained information about a person named Qassem, who was later revealed to be a Syrian national impersonating a Kuwaiti citizen. Investigations led to the discovery of six fake brothers listed in the file of a Kuwaiti father, including Qassem.

The Nationality Investigations Department, Syrian authorities, and the Central Agency for Revealing Real Identities coordinated their efforts to identify all those involved in the case. Results of DNA tests confirmed that the forgers are either of Syrian origin or Bedouns.

This led to the revocation of the Kuwaiti citizenship of 16 individuals in the file of Qassem, 40 for Jassim, 31 for Mohammad, 32 for Ahmad, 23 for Awad and 65 for Saleh -- a total of 207 individuals and the citizenship of 104 of these individuals was revoked after the meeting of the concerned committee recently.

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KFAED, OIC sign grant deal

\$500K funding to support science, tech program in Africa

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: A Grant Agreement was signed today between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), under which the Kuwait Fund will provide a grant in the amount of USD 500,000 to support the Promotion of Science and Technology Program in Africa.

The Grant Agreement was signed on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) by His Excellency Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Assistant Secretary-General, and on behalf of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development by Mr. Waleed Al-Bahar, Acting Director-General.

The Program aims to ensure the development of human resources in all

OIC Member States through intensified cooperation and training in five key areas: strengthening education and skills at all levels; ensuring health; enhancing water, food security, and agriculture; empowering women; and promoting entrepreneurship.

The project will also contribute to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

This marks the first collaboration between the two institutions. The Kuwait Fund's Board of Directors approved participation in the Program through Resolution No. 44, issued during its second 2024 session held on 27 August 2024. The Program will be implemented by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Continued from Page 1

Farewell and

in Jakarta, Frankfurt, and a previous posting in Kuwait

During his time in Kuwait, Ambassador Shaltout helped take the relationship between the two countries to new levels. He oversaw two five visits by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, which gave a strong push to cooperation in politics, economics, and culture. In 2024, the Joint Committee between Egypt and Kuwait met for the first time since 2019. The meeting was led by the Foreign Ministers and ended with the signing of ten agreements in different areas. Follow-up committees in education, labor, consular affairs, and trade were also held, including a separate trade meeting in February 2025.

Ambassador Shaltout's time in Kuwait was not only defined by formal diplomacy, but also by people-centered engagement. Alongside him, his wife Mrs. Ghada Shawky brought energy and grace to the diplomatic community. As former President of the International Women's Group (IWG) in Kuwait, she played a key role in promoting cultural diversity, intercultural cooperation, and community outreach. Together, they represented Egypt with elegance, dedication, and a sincere spirit of friendship. Their presence enriched our community and their efforts will be remembered fondly.

Through cultural events, public talks, and many friendly gatherings, Ambassador Shaltout helped bring Egyptians and Kuwaitis closer. His warmth and professionalism made him a highly respected figure in the community.

As their time in Kuwait comes to an end, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to

Ambassador Osama Shaltout and Mrs. Ghada Shawky. We wish them both all the best in the future. Their presence will be missed, and their legacy will be remembered.

Clock ticking

for the comprehensive maintenance work at Terminal One in Kuwait International Airport and the related services to an undisclosed company at a value of about KD 1.6 million.

Sources added the Board of Directors of CAPT decided to postpone deliberations on the request until the meeting on a yet to be specified date.

Two states,

Al-Yahya said that all crossings must be reopened to allow the entry of vital humanitarian and medical aid, expressing at the same time, categorical rejection of any attempts to alter the demographic structure of Palestine and stressing the importance of implementing UNGA resolution 194 The resolution, which defined principles for reaching a final settlement and returning Palestine refugees to their homes.

He urged support to the Palestinian government and national institutions and spreading their jurisdiction over more Palestinian land in order to establish the independent state.

Minister Al-Yahya called on the international community to protect Palestinian civilians and bring those committing crime before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The Kuwaiti Minister also urged international support towards reviving the peace process in the Middle East in accordance with international legitimacy and the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative and refuting all measures against the two-state solution.

Kuwait shines

and respond to trafficking cases, while cross-border cooperation remains a key pillar of Kuwait's approach.

"On this World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, we recognize the State of Kuwait's leadership role in combatting human trafficking through its national strategy, legal reforms, and victim-centered protection. The 2025 theme highlights the organized and harmful nature of trafficking. Continued collaboration among government, civil society, and international partners is essential to dismantle trafficking networks and ensure justice and support for survivors. IOM Kuwait remains committed to this mission," said Mazen Aboul-Hosn, IOM Kuwait's Chief of Mission.

The fight against trafficking must be anchored in training and coordination. Law enforcement, immigration officials, healthcare workers, and consular staff must be able to detect signs of trafficking and respond with a victim-centred approach.

These national efforts are further amplified by Kuwait's leadership at the regional level. The successful hosting of the Sixth Government Forum to Combat Human Trafficking in the Middle East held earlier this year demonstrated Kuwait's commitment to advancing protection and justice for victims of trafficking.

New shipping route proposed

Pakistan eyes stronger trade, food security ties with Kuwait

By Fares Ghalib

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Pakistani Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Zafar Iqbal revealed that his country and Kuwait are currently discussing the establishment of a direct shipping line between Gwadar Port in Pakistan and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port in Kuwait.

In an interview with the newspaper, Iqbal affirmed that this project will address shortages, reduce costs, and strengthen the position of Kuwait as a regional logistics hub.

He said Pakistan is keen on developing the logistical connectivity between the two countries as part of efforts to support food security and diversify supply chains. He added that his country has agricultural and industrial resources to make it a strategic partner of Kuwait.

He disclosed that Pakistani exports to Kuwait reached about \$193 million from July 2024 to June 2025, while imports from Kuwait exceeded \$1.5 billion, specifically petroleum products and chemicals.

He also stated that the Pakistani community in Kuwait is estimated at 100,000 individuals who are known for their discipline and dedication at work; serving in various sectors such as health, education, construction and services. He believes there is huge potential for academic cooperation between the universities of the two countries.

Following is an excerpt of the interview:

Question: How do you assess the nature of the current political relationship between Kuwait and Pakistan? Is there regular direct communication between the two leaderships?

Answer: The relationship between Pakistan and Kuwait is characterized by strong fraternal ties, mutual respect and shared values. The leaderships of the two countries maintain close contact and regularly exchange messages on issues of mutual interest. In recent months, several contacts have taken place at the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister levels; thereby, strengthening bilateral relations.

Q: Does Pakistan cooperate with Kuwait on common security issues, especially in light of regional challenges like terrorism and human trafficking?

A: Yes, Pakistan and Kuwait share concerns about regional and global security. We work together to address cross-border challenges. Both sides believe in the importance of strengthening institutional cooperation and intelligence sharing for the benefit of both countries and in accordance with international standards.

Q: What is Pakistan's position on regional tensions? What role can Islamabad play as a nuclear power with balanced relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Iran?

A: Pakistan believes in the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and dialogue. We consistently advocate de-escalation and engagement in diplomacy as the best path toward resolving tensions in the Gulf region.

As a trusted friend of Kuwait and other Gulf states, we support Kuwaiti initiatives aimed at healing the rift and strengthening Gulf unity. We appreciate the wise approach of Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Q: How do you view Kuwait's efforts in regional mediation? Do you consider Pakistan a potential partner in regional security efforts?

A: Kuwait has long been a beacon of peace, moderation and diplomacy. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has exerted tremendous efforts in mediation and promoting harmony in the region. Pakistan fully supports these initiatives and considers itself a natural partner in any efforts aimed at ensuring peace and prosperity in the region.

Q: What is the current value of the trade volume between the two countries? What are the main goods and services that both sides are focusing on?

A: Pakistan's exports to Kuwait from July 2024 to June 2025 amounted to around \$193 million -- a remarkable increase compared to the previous year. Pakistani exports to Kuwait include food, textiles, surgical instruments and leather; while Kuwait's exports to Pakistan are mainly petroleum products and chemicals, valued at more than \$1.5 billion in the last fiscal year.

Q: Are there any Pakistani investment in Kuwait or vice versa at present? What are the obstacles that Kuwaiti investors are facing now?

A: Pakistani companies continue to establish their presence in Kuwait; particularly in the services, food and retail sectors.

On the other hand, Kuwait has always been the reliable investment partner of Pakistan. One example is the Pakistan-Kuwait Investment Company (PKIC). Major Kuwaiti companies like Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), Eneritech and a number of fintech and infrastructure companies are currently investing in the Pakistani economy or exploring new opportunities.

To ease foreign investment procedures, the Pakistani government established the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to provide a comprehensive platform that expedites procedures, removes barriers, and provides direct support in sectors such as agriculture, energy, information technology and mining. We welcome Kuwaiti investments in Pakistan.

Q: How can Kuwait benefit from the agricultural and industrial resources of Pakistan?

A: Pakistan has fertile agricultural lands and a developed industrial base, making it a strategic partner in supporting the efforts of Kuwait to achieve food security and diversify supply chains. We can provide fresh food products, rice, pulses, and frozen and chilled halal meat; in addition to the possibility of exporting live sheep to Kuwait.

We are keen on developing logistical connectivity between the two countries. Discussions are underway to establish a



Photo by Mohammad Morsi
Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Pakistani Ambassador to Kuwait

direct shipping line between Gwadar and Mubarak Al-Kabeer ports. This project aims to reduce shipping period, lower costs, and strengthen Kuwait's position as a regional logistics hub.

Q: How large is the Pakistani community in Kuwait? How do you assess their situation?

A: The Pakistani community in Kuwait includes around 100,000 people. They are known for their discipline, dedication and contributions to various sectors like health, education, construction and services. We express our gratitude to the Kuwaiti leadership for taking care of this community.

Q: Does the Pakistani community face challenges? How do you deal with them?

A: Although the majority has integrated positively; some challenges, such as labor disputes or residency issues, may arise from time to time. We constantly coordinate with the Ministry of Interior and the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) to address these issues and protect the interests of citizens.

Q: Do you monitor labor conditions and coordinate with Kuwaiti authorities in this regard?

A: The Embassy of Pakistan is in constant contact with the relevant Kuwaiti authorities to ensure fair working conditions and legal protection for Pakistani workers. We thank the Kuwaiti authorities for their cooperation.

Q: How do you evaluate the level of cultural and academic exchange between the two countries?

A: The two countries have a long history of cultural and educational exchanges. In the past, many Kuwaitis studied at Pakistani universities, particularly in the fields of Medicine and Engineering. We welcome the resumption of these exchanges. We encourage Kuwaiti students to benefit from our world-class academic institutions. In the same manner, we are expanding study opportunities for Pakistani students in Kuwait.

Q: Do you have any initiatives to promote the Urdu language or Pakistani culture in Kuwait?

A: The embassy supports several initiatives; such as cultural events, Urdu language classes and school activities. We look forward to expanding this cooperation with the support of Kuwaiti institutions.

Q: Is there potential for cooperation between universities in the field of scientific research and technology?

A: here is significant potential for academic cooperation in the fields of Engineering, Information Technology, Medicine and Agriculture. We hope to launch joint research programs and faculty exchange.

Q: What is Pakistan's position on the recent developments in Palestine? Is there coordination with Kuwait within the framework of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation?

A: Pakistan fully supports the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital.

We appreciate Kuwait's supportive stance on Palestine. We cooperate within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to unify Islamic positions and achieve justice.

Q: How do you see the future of joint Islamic action in light of the political divisions among some Islamic countries?

A: Unity among Islamic countries is essential despite the differences. Shared values and common challenges require stronger cooperation. We believe that the balanced Kuwaiti leadership is a beacon of hope in terms of having unified Islamic voice on the international stage.

Q: How does the embassy handle community complaints? Is there a unified electronic platform?

A: We have updated consular services through appointment systems, communication lines, social media and email. Community members can submit complaints through official portals; such as the Overseas Pakistanis Complaints Portal, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation, and Pakistan Citizen app.

Q: How do you see the future of Kuwaiti-Pakistani relations in light of global changes?

A: The future is promising. Partnership between the two countries will grow in the fields of energy, trade, education, health, food security, and human resource development. Kuwait has the vision and resources, while Pakistan has the competencies and capabilities.

Q: What is your message to the leadership and people of Kuwait?

A: I extend my highest appreciation and respect to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the wise leadership, and the generous people of Kuwait. Pakistan views Kuwait as a partner in faith and compassion, and a friend in the pursuit of peace and development.

On behalf of more than 240 million Pakistanis, we affirm our pride in our close historical relationship and look forward to a shared future built on mutual values and trust.



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Continued from Page 1

Kuwait is

Question: How did the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Paris on the occasion of Bastille Day contribute to strengthening the economic partnership between France and Kuwait?

Answer: The recent visit of His Highness the Amir to France helped reinforce the strategic dimension of our economic partnership, notably through the signing of the 2025-2035 Franco-Kuwaiti Strategic Investment Partnership. This decade is one of technological, energy and economic transitions, aligned with both Kuwait Vision 2035 and France 2030. The agreement also provides for the establishment of a joint task force on cross-investments between France and Kuwait; aimed at fostering the emergence of concrete projects ahead of the next Choose France summit.

On July 13, His Highness also met with leaders of French companies in innovative sectors. These discussions aimed to promote French expertise and support Kuwait's economic transformation in the priority sectors of its Vision 2035 plan.

At the conclusion of the visit, both Heads of State reaffirmed their shared commitment to encouraging investments from their respective government authorities and public institutions, such as BPI France and Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), in projects and funds that contribute to the development of their respective economies.

This visit is a testament to the mutual trust and shared ambition of our two countries in the economic field. French companies operating in Kuwait bring recognized expertise in various sectors including energy, environment, transport and hospital-ity. It also reflects the attractiveness of the Kuwaiti market and the esteem in which French know-how is held in Kuwait.

Kuwaiti investments in France, for their part, are following an upward trend. This growing appeal is largely driven by the France 2030 strategy, a €54 billion investment plan designed to address major ecological, technological and industrial challenges and to support breakthrough innovations.

Q: Beyond the visit of His Highness the Amir to France, how have other bilateral exchanges and events organized in 2025 contributed to strengthening the economic partnership between France and Kuwait?

A: The year 2025 has been marked by numerous high-level exchanges between economic and innovation stakeholders from both countries.

From Feb 6-11, France hosted the Summit for Action on Artificial Intelligence, which was attended by Kuwait's Minister of Telecommunications, Omar Al-Omar, as well as a delegation of Kuwaiti economic actors active in the sector. With more than 40,000 participants, this summit was exceptional, announcing €109 billion in private investments in AI infrastructure in France, and €200 billion in public and private investments across Europe through the European Commission's Invest AI program. The success of this event underscores France's position as one of the world's leaders in innovation and AI. On this occasion, the President of the Republic laid the foundation stone for a new building at the Gustave Roussy Institute, scheduled to open in late 2027. This building will be dedicated to cancer research, integrating AI and data analysis approaches.

On May 19, the Choose France Summit held at the Château de Versailles welcomed a Kuwaiti delegation led by the Director General of the Kuwait Investment Authority, Sheikh Saud Abdulaziz Al Sabah. This annual event is a key moment for France, highlighting the country's growing attractiveness. With 53 investment announcements totaling €40.8 billion and the expected creation of over 13,000 jobs, the 2025 edition broke all previous records. Since 2018, Choose France has generated nearly €88 billion in investments, confirming the sustained confidence of investors in the French economic model. In 2024, France remained, for the sixth consecutive year, the leading European destination for foreign investment.

Finally, on June 17 and 18, 2025, around twenty high-level Kuwaiti economic stakeholders participated in the Gulf Vision Forum in Paris. Gathering over 1,200 guests, this event fosters dialogue on key areas of economic cooperation between France and the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Nearly 2,000 business meetings were organized, leading to the identification of several concrete projects, particularly in the fields of water management, waste treatment, low-carbon energy, and digital transition.

Q: Which sectors do you currently identify as priorities for further developing economic exchanges and cross-investments?

A: The priorities defined by the Kuwait Vision 2035 and France 2030 plans now provide a clear framework for expanding our economic partnership. Several major French companies are already present and fully engaged in this dynamic. Their actions reflect a shared commitment to innovation, sustainability, and the exchange of expertise.

In Kuwait, as the country works to become a commercial and logistical hub under the Vision 2035 plan, the potential for cross-investment is immense. France is ready and determined to support Kuwait's ambitions, particularly in the areas of infra-

structure, sustainable cities, and artificial intelligence.

By aligning their ambitious visions, France and Kuwait can unlock truly transformative economic opportunities. At the same time, I welcome the growing interest shown by Kuwaiti investors in our country. Investment opportunities are currently being developed in these strategic sectors, illustrating the reciprocal nature of our economic relationship.

The healthcare sector is also a key pillar of our cooperation. Cross-investment initiatives are being explored to support the modernization of healthcare systems and to foster joint efforts in medical research.

Q: The energy transition is a shared priority for France and Kuwait. How can France support Kuwait in its economic diversification strategy, particularly in the fields of energy, technology, and sustainable cities?

A: The energy transition and economic diversification are goals that France and Kuwait fully share. Our two countries have every interest in joining forces to address the challenges of decarbonization, technological innovation, and sustainable development.

A significant step was taken in April 2024, during the official visit to Kuwait by Jean-Noël Barrot, our Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs. On this occasion, a declaration of intent was signed between France and Kuwait to strengthen cooperation in the energy sector, with a particular focus on the development of renewable energy sources.

This agreement reflects our mutual commitment to establishing a long-term collaboration in this field. This cooperation fully aligns with the priorities outlined in the Vision 2035 plan, which places the energy transition at the heart of Kuwait's economic diversification strategy.

Q: The healthcare sector appears to be attracting growing and mutual interest between France and Kuwait. What forms might this cooperation take in the coming years?

A: Healthcare is a central pillar of our bilateral cooperation. I am pleased that France remains a preferred destination for Kuwaiti patients, particularly in the field of oncology. This reflects the strong trust Kuwait places in our healthcare system and our world-class medical institutions.

We have recently taken an important step forward in our medical cooperation with the signing of several memorandums of understanding between the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health and French medical institutions. I am thinking in particular of the agreement signed on Feb 20, 2025, with the Gustave Roussy Institute, a global leader in cancer research and treatment. More recently, following the visit of His Highness the Amir to Paris, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health signed five cooperation agreements with leading French medical institutions. The goal of these agreements is to enhance local healthcare services through telemedicine, specialized consultations, and ongoing training for healthcare professionals.

Both Heads of State reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening this cooperation by promoting the training of doctors and medical staff, the reception of patients in France, the improvement of hospital services, and the development of medical research. This dynamic is also supported by remarkable innovations. In July 2025, a remote surgery was successfully performed from Strasbourg by a Kuwaiti doctor on a patient located in Kuwait. This achievement highlights the ability of our two countries to combine medical excellence with technological innovation.

France, a long-standing and trusted partner of Kuwait, is at the forefront of medical innovation. In 2025, we will host the "Une seule santé" summit and the WHO Academy in Lyon.

Q: Regarding cultural collaboration between our two countries, what role does the French Institute in Kuwait play in developing our bilateral relationship? Are there any new cultural or educational projects underway?

A: The French Institute in Kuwait is at the heart of our cultural and educational relationship. It embodies France's intellectual, artistic, and linguistic presence in Kuwait and plays a central role in promoting French and Francophone culture. Every year, we organize numerous events there in partnership with our Kuwaiti counterparts. The Month of La Francophonie, which we celebrated last April, is a wonderful example. The high attendance at concerts, film screenings, debates, and literary evenings reflects the strong appeal of France and Francophone cultures in Kuwait.

On Oct 2 and 3, 2024, we also organized two exceptional concerts by the Paris International Philharmonic Orchestra at the Jaber Al Ahmad Cultural Centre (JACC), blending French and Kuwaiti repertoires.

We are also working to strengthen ties between our civil societies, particularly through initiatives such as the Sorbonne Society, which aims to build networks of alumni, researchers, and professors between our two countries. Other projects are in development, notably in the fields of arts education, heritage, and scientific research.

Since 2015, France has also been proud to host in Kuwait City the French Center for Research on the Arabian Peninsula (CEFREPA), our regional research hub. It plays a key role in our scientific cooperation. Notably, it coordinates two annual archaeological missions on Failaka Island, in partnership with the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL).

The visit of His Highness the Amir to Paris on the occasion of France's National Day, July 14, 2024, gave new momentum to our cultural cooperation. On this occasion, a declaration of intent was signed by our Ministers of Foreign Affairs, in the presence of both Heads of State, to strengthen our partnership in this field. This agreement reflects our shared commitment to support and expand the reach of both the French Institute and CEFREPA.

In the cultural field, our two countries will continue to prepare reciprocal visits and develop joint artistic projects, including the creation of a national orchestra based in Kuwait, as well as the implementation of training programs in museum studies, conservation, and cultural mediation. French museum expertise is thus available to help enhance Kuwait's heritage and improve public access to national and international collections, particularly at the Kuwait National Museum.

Q: Is the teaching of French expanding in Kuwait? What initiatives are being undertaken to strengthen the presence of the French language and culture in the Kuwaiti educational system?

A: The teaching of French is experiencing remarkable vitality in Kuwait. It was introduced into the school system as early as 1966 and is now the third most taught language in the country, after Arabic and English. I am pleased that nearly 1,400 teachers are transmitting it with talent and passion in both public and private school systems, which reflects the strong presence of our language in the Kuwaiti educational landscape.

French is much more than a foreign language in Kuwait, it is a vehicle for dialogue, critical thinking, creativity, and the building of bridges between our two societies. The French Institute in Kuwait plays a key role in this dynamic. It promotes French language and culture in educational and academic contexts, working closely with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education. Each year, numerous events such as "Francophone Diwanias", film screenings, and conferences bring together francophones and francophiles to engage and exchange ideas.

France can also count on the valuable commitment of the Council for the Promotion of Francophonie, chaired by His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, former Prime Minister of Kuwait and a passionate advocate for Francophonie. The unwavering support of other Francophone embassies and civil society also helps maintain a vibrant Francophone ecosystem, which is strengthened each year during the Month of La Francophonie. Francophonie celebrates cultural diversity and sharing through the French language, spoken by over 320 million people across five continents, including nearly 500,000 in Kuwait.

Following the visit of His Highness the Amir to France, our Heads of State expressed their shared desire to strengthen the teaching of French in the Kuwaiti education system.

The 2024 opening of a BFI (French International Baccalaureate) section at the Lycée Français de Kuwait also reflects this ambitious vision. This bilingual French-English program of academic excellence will provide students with rigorous training, preparing them to join top universities worldwide. We are also continuing our efforts to enhance teacher training in French, expand student and academic mobility between our two countries, and update educational content in line with the aspirations of younger generations and the needs of the labor market.

Q: Are there currently any scholarship programs or university cooperation initiatives between France and Kuwaiti institutions?

A: University cooperation between France and Kuwait is advancing and part of a long-term vision. Many Kuwaiti students choose to pursue their university studies in France, particularly

in fields of excellence such as engineering and medicine. In a globalized world where English is omnipresent, studying outside the Anglophone sphere provides a real comparative advantage and greater diversity. It also offers the opportunity to combine the benefits of multiple academic cultures and to develop a uniquely French sense of critical thinking.

Today, our priority is to significantly increase the number of Kuwaitis studying in France. International academic experiences create lasting human bonds. When a Kuwaiti student discovers France, or when a French student experiences immersion in Kuwait, these encounters leave a deep and lasting impression. They foster a sincere connection to the host culture and help build bridges between our two countries. These exchanges represent a shared investment in the next generation and in their capacity to shape a common future for our nations.

We therefore aim to reinforce this momentum by facilitating access to our top institutions such as Sciences Po, HEC, or CentraleSupélec. The development of English-language programs for non-French-speaking students is also a key strategy, enabling them to gradually learn French while continuing their academic studies.

This ambition is supported by a scholarship program, in partnership with Campus France, and by promoting agreements between French and Kuwaiti institutions. During the visit of His Highness the Amir to France, our two countries expressed a joint intention to enhance student mobility, which could involve an increase in the number of Kuwaiti government scholarships directed toward France. Our shared goal is to attract more Kuwaiti students to fields of excellence and the future in France, particularly in innovative sectors such as artificial intelligence, technology, and ecological transition.

Khalil Al-Hayya

played a role in fueling chaos in the Arab world. This turmoil diverted global attention away from the Palestinian cause, while the first chapter of the "Arab Spring" ultimately collapsed.

In the recent war, many facts have come to light, revealing numerous mercenaries and spies planted by Israel in the highest positions in all organizations and countries within the so-called "Axis of Resistance."

Could it be that someone pressured Sinwar and other Hamas leaders into committing this crime?

It has become clear that Hamas and its Iranian proxies aim to ignite the countries surrounding Israel to advance the project of establishing a Jewish state, ultimately erasing the Palestinian cause forever and weakening the Arab states amid Tehran's efforts to reassert control over some Arab capitals.

Therefore, I can affirm that Khalil Al-Hayya's statements represent a deadly poison targeting all those who support Palestine, particularly Gaza.

Defense Undersecretary

On the development or modernization of the defense system or defense industries, he stressed that "Kuwaiti-Chinese relations are considered one of the basic pillars upon which the Kuwaiti Army relies in terms of defense agreements at the regional level."

About the defense agreements since 1991 and the discussion of renewing these agreements, he pointed out that "relations between the State of Kuwait and major powers worldwide are based on these main axes: defense agreements, memoranda of understanding and arms contracts."

On the other hand, Defense Attaché at the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait Brigadier General Liu Zongchen asserted that relations between the Kuwaiti and Chinese militaries are witnessing positive development in various fields; most notably military

training, defense industry cooperation and mutual exchange. He stressed that this cooperation is an important pillar in the growing bilateral relations between the two countries, under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state.

In his speech at the ceremony -- which was attended by Commander of the Land Forces Artillery Brigadier General Faisal Al-Ajeel and a number of heads and members of the diplomatic corps and military attaché; Brigadier General Liu Zongchen divulged his aspiration to enhance military cooperation with Kuwait during his tenure. He said "I look forward to working with my Kuwaiti counterparts to implement the agreement reached by the two countries' leaders and strengthen the defense partnership to serve common interests and maintain regional security and stability."

He pointed out that Kuwait was the first Gulf country to establish diplomatic relations with China; indicating that relations between the two countries have entered their best phase, driven by deep political understanding and practical cooperation in various fields.

He added "the People's Liberation Army, established 98 years ago under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, has a history of victories in liberating the people and defending State sovereignty and development. The Army today is accelerating its development to become a world-class force and continues to play its role as a pillar of Chinese renaissance. The Chinese Army is committed to the principles of the United Nations Charter and opposes policies of hegemony and force."

He highlighted the contributions of the Chinese Army to peacekeeping and development around the world. "Since 1990, it has participated in 25 UN peacekeeping operations and sent more than 50,000 personnel to more than 20 countries and regions. Since 2008, the Chinese Navy has carried out escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off the coast of Somalia; providing protection to more than 1,600 batches of Chinese and foreign vessels, and contributing to the rescue of about 100 vessels."

He also reviewed the humanitarian role of the Chinese Army, citing visits of the hospital ship 'Peace Ark' to 49 countries and regions to provide medical assistance and relief. He affirmed that his country will continue its role in building an international community of peace, development and mutual cooperation.

Chinese Chargé d'Affaires to Kuwait Liu Xiang stated that his country remains committed to strengthening bilateral cooperation with Kuwait and working together to consolidate peace and development in the region and the world. He said China is always ready to build a shared future for humanity, based on multilateralism and respect for the international system led by the United Nations. He added "I am certain that Brigadier General Liu will make sincere efforts to strengthen and develop relations between our countries and militaries, achieving further progress and common prosperity."

He touched on the historical dimension of the occasion, noting that this year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. He recalled the magnitude of the sacrifices made by the Chinese people in that war, which contributed significantly to the global victory over fascism.

He quoted Chinese President Xi Jinping as saying that "war is like a mirror; contemplating it helps us appreciate the value of peace. He added "China and Kuwait experienced the tragedies of war, and it is important to commemorate the heroes who sacrificed their lives and build a brighter future for our peoples."

He lauded Kuwait's supportive stance toward China's global initiatives. "We commend the explicit support expressed by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and World Civilization Initiative launched by the Chinese President. We express our deep appreciation for this noble stance."

He also affirmed his country's aspiration for further cooperation with Kuwait and other friendly countries, as part of its efforts to achieve peaceful development, protect true pluralism, and promote peace and stability in the world.

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‘This has been an unbelievable development’

US President Trump caps five-day Scottish visit by opening new golf course

BALMEDIE, Scotland, July 29, (AP): US President Donald Trump opened a new golf course bearing his name in Scotland on Tuesday, capping a five-day foreign trip designed around promoting his family’s luxury properties and playing golf.

“Let’s go. 1-2-3,” Trump said before he cut a red ribbon and fireworks popped to mark the official opening of the new Trump course in the village of Balmedie on Scotland’s northern coast.

“This has been an unbelievable development,” Trump said before the opening. He thanked his son Eric for his work on the project, saying it was “truly a labor of love for him.” Son Don Jr also was present.

Immediately after the opening, Trump, Eric Trump and two professional golfers in the foursome teed off on the first hole. They planned to play 18 holes before Trump returns to Washington.

The overseas jaunt let Trump escape Washington’s sweaty summer humidity and the still-raging scandal over the case of Jeffrey Epstein.

It was mostly built around golf - and walking the new course before it officially begins offering rounds to the public on Aug. 13, adding to a lengthy list of ways Trump has used the White House to promote his brand.

Billing itself the “Greatest 36 Holes in Golf,” the Trump International Golf Links, Scotland, was designed by Eric Trump. The course is hosting a PGA Seniors Championship event later this week, after Trump leaves. Signs promoting the event had already been erected all over the course before he arrived on Tuesday, and, on the highway leading in, temporary metal signs guided drivers onto the correct road.

Golfers hitting the course at dawn as part of that event had to put their clubs through metal detectors erected as part of the security sweeps ahead of Trump’s arrival. Several dozen people, some dressed for golf, including wearing cleats, had filled the sand trap near the tee box to watch the ribbon-cutting ceremony shortly before it was scheduled to start. Another group of people were watching from the other side in tall grass growing on sand dunes flanking the first hole.



US President Donald Trump arrives to attend the opening ceremony for Trump International Golf Links near Aberdeen, Scotland on July 29. (AP)

Also from Scotland’s north is the president’s late mother, Mary Anne MacLeod, who was born on the Isle of Lewis, immigrated to New York and died in 2000 at age 88.

“My mother loved Scotland,” Trump said during a meeting with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday at another one of his golf courses, Turnberry, on Scotland’s southern coast. “It’s different when your mother was born here.”

Trump used his trip to meet with Starmer and reach a trade framework for tariffs between the U.S. and the European Union’s 27 member countries - though scores of key details remain to be hammered out. But the trip has featured a lot of golf, and having the president visit is sure to raise the new course’s profile.

Trump’s assets are in a trust, and his sons are running the family business while he’s in the White House. Any business generated at the course will ultimately enrich the president when he leaves office, though.

Visible from various parts of the new course were towering windmills lining the coast - some with blades that showed visible dots of rust. They are part of a nearby windfarm that Trump sued to block construction of in 2013.

He lost that case and was eventually ordered to pay legal costs for bringing it - and the issue still enrages him. During the meeting with Starmer, Trump called windmills “ugly monsters” and suggested they were part of “the most expensive form of energy.”

“I restricted windmills in the United States because they also kill all your birds,” Trump said. “If you shoot a bald eagle in the United States, they put you in jail for five years. And windmills knock out hundreds of them. They don’t do anything. Explain that.”

Starmer said in the U.K. “we believe in a mix” of energy, including oil and gas and renewables.

The new golf course will be the third owned by the Trump Organization in Scotland. Trump bought Turnberry in 2014 and owns another course near Aberdeen that opened in 2012.

Trump golfed at Turnberry on Saturday as protesters took to the streets, and on Sunday. He invited Starmer, who famously doesn’t golf, aboard Air Force One so the prime minister could get a private tour of his Aberdeen properties before Tuesday’s ceremonial opening.

“Even if you play badly, it’s still good,” Trump said of golfing on his course over the weekend. “If you had a bad day on the golf course, it’s OK. It’s better than other days.”



The ambulance carrying the body of Didarul Islam exits New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Hospital during the dignified transfer of the slain officer, who was shot and killed by a gunman earlier this evening on July 29 in New York. (AP)

5 dead in Manhattan shooting

New York City Mayor Eric Adams said Tuesday that a gunman who killed four people at a Manhattan office building was trying to target the headquarters of the National Football League but took the wrong elevator.

Investigators believe Shane Tamura was trying to get to the NFL offices after shooting several people in the building’s lobby but accidentally entered the wrong set of elevator banks, Adams said in interviews on Tuesday.

Four people, including an off-duty New York City police officer, were killed. Police said Tamura had a history of mental illness, and

a rambling note found on his body suggested he had a grievance against the NFL over an unsubstantiated claim that he suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy. He had played football in high school in California nearly two decades ago.

The man took the elevator to the 33rd floor offices of the company that owned the building, Rudin Management, and shot and killed one person on that floor. The man then shot himself, the commissioner said. The building, 345 Park Avenue, also holds offices of the financial services firm KPMG. (AP)

Project 2025 author to challenge Senator Graham in South Carolina

WASHINGTON, July 29, (AP): A chief architect of Project 2025, Paul Dans, is launching a Republican primary challenge to Sen. Lindsey Graham in South Carolina, joining a crowded field that will test the loyalties of US President Donald Trump and his MAGA movement in next year’s midterm election.

Dans told The Associated Press the Trump administration’s federal workforce reductions and cuts to federal programs are what he had hoped for in drafting Project 2025. But he said there’s “more work to do,” particularly in the Senate.



Dans

“What we’ve done with Project 2025 is really change the game in terms of closing the door on the progressive era,” Dans said in an AP interview. “If you look at where the chokepoint is, it’s the United States Senate. That’s the headwaters of the swamp.”

Dans, who is set to formally announce his campaign at an event Wednesday in Charleston, said Graham has spent most of his ca-

reer in Washington and “it’s time to show him the door.”

Challenging the long-serving Graham, who has routinely battled back contenders over the years, is something of a political long shot in what is fast becoming a crowded field ahead of the November 2026 midterm election that will determine control of Congress.

Trump early on gave his endorsement of Graham, a political confidant and regular golfing partner of the president, despite their on-again-off-again relationship. Graham, in announcing he would seek a fifth term in the Senate, also secured the state’s leading Republicans, Sen. Tim Scott and Gov. Henry McMaster, to chair his 2026 run. He has amassed millions of dollars in his campaign account.

Other candidates, including Republican former South Carolina Lt. Gov. André Bauer, a wealthy developer, and Democratic challenger Dr. Annie Andrews, have announced their campaigns for the Senate seat in an early start to the election season, more than a year away.

Graham, in an appearance Sunday on NBC’s “Meet the Press,” did not discuss his reelection campaign but fielded questions on topics including his push to release “as much as you can” from the case files on Jeffrey Epstein, something many of Trump’s supporters want the government to do.



Police respond to a shooting outside the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nev on July 28. (AP)

Nevada shooting kills 3

A gunman opened fire Monday outside the largest casino in Reno, Nevada, killing three people and wounding three others before police shot the suspect and arrested him, officials said.

The suspect had no known connection to the victims, and it was unclear if he was a guest or an employee at the Grand Sierra Resort, one of Reno’s most prominent venues that has hosted concerts, sporting events and a campaign rally by President Donald Trump before the 2024 election. Near the California border and just northeast of Lake Tahoe, the town is a popular summer tourist destination.

Police were still trying to deter-

mine a motive for the shooting.

Two victims were in critical condition, while one was treated and released from the hospital, said Chris Cawforth, the police chief of the neighboring town of Sparks whose department is leading the investigation.

The shooting occurred around 7:30 a.m. when the gunman walked up to the casino-hotel’s valet parking area, pulled out a handgun and pointed it at a group of people, police said. His gun initially malfunctioned, but he quickly was able to get it to shoot multiple times before fleeing on foot through the parking lot where he encountered an armed casino security guard. (AP)

A year after anti-immigrant riots in UK, many worry it could happen again

LONDON, July 29, (AP): The killing of three girls at a summer dance class in England a year ago Tuesday, by a teenager misidentified as a migrant, triggered days of street violence directed at newcomers and minorities.

In the aftermath, communities came together to clear up the physical damage - but repairing the country’s social fabric is harder. Experts and community groups warn that the mix of anger, fear, misinformation and political agitating that fueled the violence remains. In recent weeks it has bubbled over again on the streets of Epping, near London.

“Given a trigger event, none of the conditions of what happened last year have gone away,” said Sunder Katwala of British Future, a think tank that looks at issues including integration and national identity. He said there is a “tense and quite febrile atmosphere” in some parts of the country.

Three minutes of silence will be held Tuesday in the seaside town of Southport in northwest England, where the stabbing attack left three girls under 10 dead and eight children and two adults wounded.

Over the following days, violence erupted in Southport and across England, driven partly by online misinfor-



A police officer reacts as demonstrators hold placards and banners as they leave a protest outside the Bell Hotel in Epping, near London on July 27. (AP)

mation saying the attacker was a migrant who had arrived in the U.K. by small boat.

Because of British contempt of court and privacy laws, authorities were initially slow to disclose the suspect’s identity: Axel Rudakubana, a British-

born 17-year-old obsessed with violence. He later pleaded guilty to murder and is serving a life sentence.

In the week after the attack, crowds in more than two dozen towns attacked hotels housing migrants, as well as mosques, police stations and a library. Some rioters targeted non-white people and threw bricks and fireworks at police.

With a few days, larger numbers of people took to the streets to reclaim their communities, sweeping up broken glass and sending a message of welcome to newcomers.

A year on, the sight of migrants crossing the English Channel in dinghies - more than 22,000 so far this year - provides a focus for those concerned about the impact of immigration. Those concerns are often amplified by online rumor, scapegoating and misinformation, some of it deliberate.

Add a sluggish economy, high housing costs, frayed public services and widespread distrust in politicians, and Britain, in the view of many commentators, has become a “tinderbox.”

Nigel Farage, leader of hard-right political party Reform UK, said last week that the country is close to “civil disobedience on a vast scale.”



People walk by the Winter Palace reflected in a fountain in St Petersburg, Russia, on July 27, 2025. (AP)

Kremlin remains defiant over Trump threats

Russia kills at least 27 civilians in Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, July 29, (AP): Russian glide bombs and ballistic missiles struck a Ukrainian prison and a medical facility overnight as Russia’s relentless strikes on civilian areas killed at least 27 people across the country, officials said Tuesday, despite US President Donald Trump’s threat to soon punish Russia with sanctions and tariffs unless it stops.

Four powerful Russian glide bombs hit a prison in Ukraine’s southeastern Zaporizhzhia region, authorities said. They killed at least 16 inmates and wounded more than 90 others, Ukraine’s Justice Ministry said.

In the Dnipro region of central Ukraine, authorities said Russian missiles partially destroyed a three-story building and damaged nearby medical facilities, including a maternity hospital and a city hospital ward. At least three people were killed, including a 23-year-old pregnant woman, and two other people were killed elsewhere in the region, regional authorities said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that overnight Russian strikes across the country hit 73 cities, towns and villages. “These were conscious, deliberate strikes — not accidental,” Zelenskyy said on Telegram.

Trump said Monday he is giving Russian President Vladimir Putin 10 to 12 days to stop the killing in Ukraine



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, firefighters put out the fire in a fire department school following a Russian air attack in Kropyvnytskyi, Ukraine on July 28. (AP)

after three years of war, moving up a 50-day deadline he had given the Russian leader two weeks ago. The move meant Trump wants peace efforts to make progress by Aug 7-9.

Trump has repeatedly rebuked Putin for talking about ending the war but continuing to bombard Ukrainian civilians. But the Kremlin hasn’t

changed its tactics.

“I’m disappointed in President Putin,” Trump said during a visit to Scotland.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday that Russia is determined to achieve its goals in Ukraine, though he said Moscow has “taken note” of Trump’s announcement and is committed to seeking a peaceful solution.

Zelenskyy welcomed Trump’s shortening of the deadline. “Everyone needs peace - Ukraine, Europe, the United States and responsible leaders across the globe,” Zelenskyy wrote in a post on Telegram. “Everyone except Russia.”

The Kremlin pushed back, with a top Putin lieutenant warning Trump against “playing the ultimatum game with Russia.”

“Russia isn’t Israel or even Iran,” former president Dmitry Medvedev, who is deputy head of the country’s Security Council, wrote on social platform X.

“Each new ultimatum is a threat and a step towards war. Not between Russia and Ukraine, but with his own country,” Medvedev said.

Since Russia’s full-scale invasion of its neighbor, the Kremlin has warned Kyiv’s Western backers that their involvement could end up broadening the war to NATO countries.

Europe

4 dead after boat capsizes in Danube Delta: A child was among four people who drowned when a recreational boat capsized in a storm on the Danube Delta in Romania, naval authorities said on Tuesday.

The vessel was carrying 14 people when the incident happened on Monday on the Sulina branch of the Danube, in Tulcea County, near the Black Sea.

The Romanian Naval Authority said it happened in “unfavorable weather conditions,” with strong winds and waves as high as 2 meters (6.5 feet). (AP)

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Floods in northeast Romania kill 3: Severe flooding in northeastern Romania has left three people dead and forced hundreds to evacuate, authorities said Monday.

All fatalities occurred in Suceava County, where victims were found in the Neagra and Bistrita river areas. In Ostra, emergency crews rescued eight people trapped by floodwaters.

In nearby Neamt County, nearly 900 people were evacuated, though no deaths were reported.

Flooding affected 25 areas across nine counties, damaging roads and property. The worst-hit areas were Suceava and Neamt. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

3 convicted in theft of ancient coins: Three men were convicted Tuesday in the theft of hundreds of ancient gold coins from a German museum in 2022 and



Coins of the Celtic Treasure are on display at the local Celtic and Roman Museum in Manching, Germany, May 31, 2006. (AP)

handed prison sentences ranging up to 11 years.

A court in the southern city of Ingolstadt convicted the defendants of gang robbery over the museum heist, German news agency dpa reported. A fourth defendant was acquitted of involvement in the museum heist but convicted for other thefts carried out by the group.

The suspects from northern Germany were arrested months after a Nov. 22, 2022 break-in at the Celtic and Roman Museum in the Bavarian town of Manching, in which 483 Celtic coins discovered during an 1999 archaeological dig were stolen. The coins dated to around 100 B.C. (AP)

Thailand and Cambodia ceasefire holds as wary displaced villagers return home

SURIN, Thailand, July 29, (AP): A ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia appeared to hold Tuesday as tensions lingered despite a truce agreement to end deadly border clashes following economic pressure from the US.

The ceasefire that was reached in Malaysia was supposed to take effect at midnight, but was quickly tested. The Thai army accused Cambodia of launching attacks in multiple areas early Tuesday but Cambodia said there was no firing in any location.

The Thai army later said fighting has stopped after military commanders along the border from both sides met. They agreed to halt troop movements, avoid escalation and establish coordination teams ahead of a joint border committee meeting in Cambodia on Aug. 4, army spokesman Major Gen Winthai Suvaree said.

Cambodian Defense Minister Tea Seiha said he spoke to his Thai counterpart about "incidents" that occurred during the implementation of the ceasefire but stressed the Cambodian army abided by the truce.

Residents on both sides of the border expressed relief about the ceasefire but remained wary, unsure how long the peace would last.

"I am very concerned that new fighting may break out. Thailand often provokes the fighting first, but then accuses Cambodia. Their aims is that they want to occupy our temples (along the border). I really don't want to see any new fighting happen," said Soklang Slay, as he helped his daughter move back into her home in Cambodia's Oddar Meanchay province, where heavy fighting had occurred. The meeting was hosted by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim as annual chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. He called the ceasefire a "vital first step towards de-escalation and the restoration of peace and security."



Thai residents who fled homes following the clashes between Thai and Cambodian soldiers, rest at an evacuation center in Surin province on July 29. (AP)

Asia

China's heavy rain causes flooding, 38 killed: Almost a year's worth of rain caused flooding and landslides that washed away cars, forced evacuations and knocked out power around the Chinese capital, killing at least 38 people by Tuesday and rescue and relief work continued.

The flood risk for parts of Beijing, Hebei province and neighboring Tianjin city remained high until Tuesday evening.

State media broadcast footage of muddy waters rising into homes in rural areas and rescuers carrying an injured person on a stretcher and searching on a damaged road.

Premier **Li Qiang** said the heavy rain and flooding in the hard-hit Beijing district of Miyun caused "serious casualties" and called for rescue efforts, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

The Beijing Daily, a state-backed paper, reported that the city had received 54.3 centimeters (21.4 inches) of rain in the last four days, which is just a bit short of the 60 centimeters (23.6 inches) the city receives annually in a year.

The storm knocked out power in more than 130 villages in Beijing, destroyed communication lines and damaged more than 30 sections of road. More than 16 centimeters (6 inches) of rain fell on average in Beijing by midnight, with two towns in Miyun recording 54 centimeters (21 inches) of precipitation, the city said.

Heavy flooding washed away cars and downed power poles in Miyun, an outlying district that borders Hebei's Luanping county. More than 80,000 people have been relocated



Li

in Beijing, including about 17,000 in Miyun, a Beijing city statement said. The city government said 28 people died in Miyun and two others in Yanqing district Monday.

Four additional people in neighboring Hebei province were discovered dead Tuesday, state broadcaster CCTV reported, after eight people were said to be missing after a landslide in a rural part of Luanping county in the province. Authorities had found four of the dead Monday.

Emergency rescue teams said more landslides occurred in the same region Tuesday, although they did not report any further casualties.

Uprooted trees lay in piles in the town of Taishitun, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) northeast of central Beijing. Streets were covered with water, with mud left higher up on the walls of buildings. (AP)

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15 injured in Philippines bus accident: A passenger bus rolled off a highway in Bohol province in central Philippines on Tuesday morning, injuring 15 Filipinos, police said.

Police said the crash occurred before 9 am local time while the bus was negotiating a sharp curve along a highway in Bilar town.

Emergency workers rushed to the scene and transported the injured to local hospitals.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation. However, an initial report revealed that the driver had lost control of the vehicle. (Xinhua)

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3 taken to hospital after Singapore fire: Three people were taken to hospital for smoke inhalation and burn injuries following a fire in a residential building in central Singapore on Tuesday, the Singapore Civil Defense Force (SCDF) said.

The SCDF was alerted to the incident in the Toa Payoh area around noon. Upon arrival, firefighters found a unit on the 10th floor on fire. (Xinhua)

‘US president could pursue talks with Pyongyang to make diplomatic achievement’

N.Korea says Kim-Trump ties ‘not bad’ but it’s not giving up nuclear weapons

SEOUL, South Korea, July 29, (AP): The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un dismissed the US's intent to resume diplomacy on North Korea's denuclearization, as she urged Washington to accept her country as a nuclear weapons state and find a new approach to restart talks.

Kim Yo Jong's statement suggested North Korea would only return to talks if the US rewards it for a partial surrender of its nuclear capability. Some experts say US President Donald Trump could still pursue talks with North Korea to make a diplomatic achievement.

Trump has recently bragged of his personal ties with Kim Jong Un and expressed hopes of restarting nuclear diplomacy between them. Their high-stakes diplomacy in 2018-19 that occurred during Trump's first term unraveled after Trump rejected Kim's calls for extensive sanctions relief in return for dismantling his main nuclear complex, a limited denuclearization step. Kim has since executed weapons tests to modernize and expand his nuclear arsenal.

In a statement carried by state media, Kim Yo Jong said she doesn't deny the personal relationship between her brother and Trump "is not bad." But she said if their personal relations are to serve the purpose of North Korea's denuclearization, North Korea would view it as "nothing but a mockery."

She said North Korea's nuclear capability has sharply increased since the first round of the Kim-Trump diplomacy and that any attempt to deny North Korea as a nuclear weapons state would be rejected.

"If the US fails to accept the changed reality and persists in the failed past, the DPRK-US meeting will remain as a 'hope' of the US side," Kim Yo Jong said, referring to her country by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

She said it would be "advisable to seek another way of contact."

Kim Yo Jong is a key official on the Central Committee of the North's ruling Workers' Party. She handles the country's relations with South Korea and the United States, and South Korean officials and experts believe she is the North's



US President Donald Trump, (right), meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Sentosa Island, in Singapore on June 12, 2018. (AP)

second-most powerful person after her brother.

Kim Yo Jong said she was responding to reported comments by a US official that Trump is open to talks on denuclearization. She likely was referring to a Saturday article by Yonhap news agency that cited an unidentified White House official as saying Trump "remains open to engaging with Leader Kim to achieve a

fully denuclearized North Korea."

"North Korea wants to say it's not interested in talks on denuclearization and the US must determine what benefits it can give to the North first," said Nam Sung-wook, a former head of the Institute for National Security Strategy, a think tank run by South Korea's spy agency.

Nam said Trump's likely desire to win a Nobel Peace Prize would prompt him to seek talks with Kim Jong Un and give him corresponding benefits for taking phased denuclearization steps. Nam said North Korea would want broad sanctions relief, a suspension of US-South Korea military drills that it regards as invasion rehearsals and other economic incentives.

Kim Yeol Soo, an analyst at South Korea's Korea Institute for Military Affairs, said US and North Korean officials could meet if they narrow some differences on terms for restoring talks. But he said Trump's unpredictability would make it extremely difficult to predict what concessions the Americans would offer.

Other experts have earlier said that North Korea - now preoccupied with its expanding cooperation with Russia - sees no urgent need to resume diplomacy with the US and South Korea. On Monday, Kim Yo Jong rebuffed overtures by South Korea's new liberal government, saying its "blind trust" in the country's alliance with the US and hostility toward North Korea make it no different from its conservative predecessor.

Nam said prospects for an early resumption of US-North Korea diplomacy would depend on whether the Russia-Ukraine war ends soon and US tariff negotiations with other countries are proceeded in a direction that Trump wants.

Kim, the analyst, said Trump may use his likely attendance of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in South Korea this autumn as a chance to travel on to North Korea or a Korean border village to meet Kim Jong Un. Kim Yo Jong on Monday described as "a daydream" a reported South Korean idea of inviting her brother to the regional summit.

Former Colombian president Uribe found guilty in bribery trial

BOGOTA, Colombia, July 29, (AP): Former Colombian president Alvaro Uribe was convicted of witness tampering and bribery Monday in a historic trial that gripped the South American nation and threatened to tarnish the conservative strongman's legacy.

The ruling followed a nearly six-month trial in which prosecutors presented evidence that Uribe attempted to influence witnesses who accused the law-and-order leader of having links to a paramilitary group founded by ranchers in the 1990s.

Uribe, 73, was not in court in the capital, Bogota, for the verdict as the judge has so far not ordered his arrest. He followed the ruling from his home outside Medellin but did not immediately speak about it.

Uribe faces up to 12 years in prison but a sentencing will be delivered in a separate hearing. He is expected to appeal the ruling.

The former president, who governed from 2002 to 2010 with strong support from the United States, is a polarizing figure in Colombia, where many credit him for saving the country from becoming a failed state, while others associate him with human rights violations and the rise of paramilitary groups in the 1990s.

While the ruling was read, Uribe's opponents clashed briefly with his supporters outside the courthouse.

In a ruling that lasted more than 10 hours, Judge Sandra Heredia said



Police stand in front of a banner reading in Spanish 'Uribe guilty' displayed by opponents of former President Alvaro Uribe outside the court where a verdict is expected in his trial for witness tampering in Bogota, Colombia on July 28. (AP)

there was enough evidence to determine that Uribe conspired with a lawyer to coax three former members of paramilitary groups who were in prison into changing testimony they had provided to Ivan Cepeda, a left-wing senator who had launched an investigation into Uribe's alleged ties to a paramilitary group.

The case dates to 2012, when Uribe filed a libel suit against Cepeda with the Supreme Court. But in a twist, the high court dismissed the charges against Cepeda and began investigating Uribe in 2018.

During Uribe's presidency, Colombia's military attained some of its biggest battlefield victories

against Latin America's oldest leftist insurgency, pushing the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia into remote pockets and forcing the group's leadership into peace talks that led to the disarmament of more than 13,000 fighters in 2016.

Known for his tireless work ethic and short temper, Uribe still has legions of followers in Colombia and is one of the fiercest opponents of the current president, former leftist guerrilla Gustavo Petro.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio reacted to the ruling, as it became evident that Judge Heredia was going to find the former president guilty of bribery.

‘Three militants killed in Kashmir behind shooting that sparked clash with Pakistan’

NEW DELHI, July 29, (AP): India's home minister said Tuesday that three suspected militants killed in a gunfight in disputed Kashmir the day before were responsible for the gun massacre in the region that led to a military clash between India and Pakistan earlier this year.

Amit Shah said the three men were Pakistani nationals who were killed Monday in a joint operation by the military, paramilitary and police on the outskirts of Kashmir's main city of Srinagar. Shah made the remarks in India's lower house of the parliament. The Associated Press couldn't independently verify the details.

Shah said rifle cartridges found at the site of Monday's fighting matched those used during the Srinagar attack. He also said the bodies of the men were identified by residents who had provided food and shelter to them before they carried out the massacre in April. It was not clear whether the locals were considered accomplices.

There was no immediate response from Islamabad. However, after the gun battle on Monday, state-run Pakistan Radio claimed that India had planned "fake encounters" targeting Pakistani nationals held in Indian prisons. It provided no further details.

Pakistan has long accused India of staging gunbattles in Kashmir and sometimes pulling Pakistani prisoners out from Indian jails and killing them in faked gunfights while passing them as combatants. New Delhi has regularly rejected these allegations and accused Pakistan of sending armed militants into India and orchestrating attacks.



Indian para-military force soldiers inspect the wreckage of a bus that was carrying pilgrims which collided with a transport truck at Deoghar, about 268 kilometers (167 miles) from Ranchi, in the Indian eastern state of Jharkhand on July 29. (AP)

The April gun massacre killed 26 people, mostly Hindu tourists. New Delhi blamed the attack on Pakistan, which denied responsibility while calling for a neutral investigation. It led to tit-for-tat military strikes by India and Pakistan that brought the nuclear-armed rivals to the brink of their third war over the region. Dozens of people were killed on both sides until a ceasefire was reached on May 10 after U.S. mediation.

Also:

NEW DELHI: A bus carrying pilgrims collided with a transport truck in eastern India when the bus driver fell asleep, killing at least five people and

injuring about two dozen, authorities said. Some of the injured admitted to local hospitals early Tuesday are in critical condition, government official **Naman Priyesh Lakra** said.

The bus driver dozed off while driving the pilgrims, who were returning from the popular temple town of **Deoghar**, about 268 kilometers (167 miles) from the state capital **Ranchi**, Lakra said. **Nishikant Dubey**, a Jharkhand state lawmaker in the lower house of parliament, said in a social media post that 18 people died in the accident without disclosing the source of the information. He was not immediately available for a comment.

Ivory Coast's president announces bid for fourth term after changing constitution

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, July 29, (AP): Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara said Tuesday he will seek a fourth term leading the West African nation, which is due to hold elections in October.

His candidacy is contested after he changed the constitution to remove the presidential term limit.

The 83-year-old president declared his plan in a televised announcement. He won a third term in 2020 after he initially said he wasn't going to run again. However, he changed his position following the death of his hand-picked successor, Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly. His most prominent rival, Tidjane Thiame, has already been barred from running by a court because he has dual citizenship.

Also:

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast: A collision be-



Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara arrives at the Seoul airport in Seongnam, South Korea, for the 2024 South Korea-Africa Summit on June 2, 2024. (AP)

tween a long-distance bus and a dump truck in Ivory Coast has killed at least 16 people and injured more than 50,

the Transportation Ministry said.

The bus was traveling from the southwestern Ivory Coast city of **San Pedro** to the neighboring country **Burkina Faso** when it collided with the dump truck Sunday evening, the ministry said.

The accident killed 16 people and injured 51 who were taken to a regional hospital, the ministry said late Sunday evening. It said that the ministry had opened an investigation into the circumstances of the accident.

Ivory Coast has one of the world's highest rates of road deaths, with about 21 per 100,000 people, according to the United Nations. Ivory Coast's Transportation Ministry says at least 1,000 people annually are killed in road crashes in the country.

Last December, a collision between two minibuses killed 26 people and injured 28.

Sudan war losses by numbers, says IOM

CAIRO, July 29, (AP): More than two years have passed since Sudan plunged into a civil war that has caused what aid organizations have described as one of the world's worst displacement and hunger crises.

The UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) says as many as 12 million people have been forcibly displaced during the war, and more than 4 million sought refuge in neighboring countries.

The conflict between the Sudanese military and the Rapid Support Forces paramilitary group continues largely in the vast Darfur and Kordofan regions. Some of the deadliest clashes have occurred in the capital, Khartoum, and surrounding areas, where the army has said it has regained control.

The war erupted in April 2023 in Khartoum before spreading across the country. Both sides have been accused of committing atrocities like ethnic cleansing, extrajudicial killings and sexual violence against civilians, including children. Meanwhile, many people across Sudan have been pushed



An army soldier walks in front of the Republican Palace in Khartoum, Sudan, after it was taken over by Sudan's army, March 21. (AP)

to the brink of famine.

Death and injury figures are often based on hospital records, but tracking those who never reach medical facilities is difficult. However, estimates by humanitarian organizations, health officials, and rights groups suggest that tens

of thousands have been wounded in Sudan's war. A collapsing health care system and damaged infrastructure created a breeding ground for diseases spreading in Sudan, affecting the health and well-being of millions, including already vulnerable communities.

Net Operating Income grew 7.9%

KFH reports net profit attributable to the shareholders of the bank of KD 342.1 mln for H1 2025

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq announced that KFH achieved a net profit of KD 342.1 million for the first half of 2025 for the Bank shareholders. Earnings per share for the first half of 2025 reached 19.23 fils.

Net financing income for the first half of the year reached KD 607.3 million; an increase of 8.7 % compared to the same period last year.

Total operating income for the first half of 2025 increased, supported by the increase in all core activities to reach KD 876 million; an increase of 6.4 % compared to the same period last year. This growth is particularly notable given that the comparative income for 2024 included profits of KD 70.1 million from the sale of KFH-Bahrain during Q2 2024.

Net operating income for the first half of the year reached KD 566.7 million; an increase of 7.9 % compared to the same period last year.

The cost-to-income ratio for H1-25 improved to 35.3% compared to 36.2% for the same period last year.

Financing receivables at the end of the first half of 2025 reached KD 20.4 billion, an increase of 7.1 % compared to the end of last year.

Total assets at the end of the first half of 2025 amounted to KD 38.5 billion, an increase of 4.9% compared to the end of last year.

Shareholders' equity for the same period amounted to about KD 5.6 billion, an increase of 0.8% compared to the end of last year.

Depositors' accounts for the first half of 2025 amounted to KD 19.7 billion, an increase of 2.7% compared to the end of last year.

In addition, the capital adequacy ratio reached 18.01 % which is above the limit required by regulators. This ratio confirms the solid capital base of KFH.

The Board of Directors has agreed to distribute a semi-annual cash dividend of 10 fils per share.

Outstanding performance

In a press release, Al-Marzouq said that KFH continues to lead the banking sector and the Kuwaiti market in profitability. This remarkable achievement comes despite the challenging operating environment and geopolitical shifts in the region, which have brought uncertainty to the economic landscape. He emphasized that KFH's success stems from precisely implemented plans that ensure sustainable profits and maintain KFH's solid financial position and robust performance.

Al-Marzouq also highlighted the strength of KFH's financial statements for the first half of this year, which showcase a strong capital base, good liquidity ratios, and exceptional operational performance. These factors have collectively driven sustainable growth across all key financial indicators.

Operational efficiency

Al-Marzouq emphasized that KFH continues to boost its operational efficiency, increase revenues, and optimally use its capabilities in line with global standards. This approach will improve asset quality, enhance risk management, and help the bank rationalize expenses, especially as it navigates the current global financial landscape and the competitive financial services industry.

Coordination and integration

He added that KFH is working to achieve great ambitions by maximizing the effectiveness of the Group's banks and fostering seamless coordination and integration among. This approach guarantees increased revenues and improved performance, while also leveraging the unique potential and advantages of each market.

New chapter

Al-Mazrouq said that KFH successfully launched the new visual identity for Ahli United Bank - Bahrain, rebranding it as Kuwait Finance House – Bahrain. This move complements a series of achievements realized under the new brand slogan, "Beyond Horizons". He explained that this series began in Kuwait, subsequently extending to the United Kingdom and the Arab Republic of Egypt. "This initiative is part of KFH's strategy for expansion and global leadership as an Islamic banking group." He emphasized that the new brand launch reflects a shift in vision and concept, marking the beginning of a new chapter of integration and excellence in banking services.

Financing and Development

Al-Marzouq highlighted KFH's continued dedication and ability to fund large-scale projects in all sectors, including production, service, commer-



Hamad Al-Marzouq
KFH Chairman



Khaled Al-Shamlan
KFH Group CEO

Al-Marzouq

- Sustainable record profits confirm sound, integrated performance and growth opportunities
- Maximizing the effectiveness of the Group's banks, and fostering seamless coordination and integration among them
- Financing major development projects across all sectors
- Achieving remarkable success in supporting green financing and implementing a comprehensive sustainability strategy
- Promoting a group of national employees to senior leadership positions across the bank's various departments
- KFH continues to lead the banking sector and the Kuwaiti market in profitability

Al-Shamlan

- KFH's financials reflect sound strategies, sustained profit growth, and strong financial standing
- KFH Tops The Banker's 2025 Ranking as Kuwait's Best-Performing Bank
- Growing market share through innovative financing solutions
- Pioneering digital banking and elevating customer experience

cial, and development. By offering a diverse range of financing services and solutions, KFH actively supports the government's comprehensive development plans.

He highlighted the bank's strengths, which position it as one of the most trusted and preferred institutions for corporate financing. KFH also enjoys a substantial market share in financing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within Kuwait's banking sector. Furthermore, the bank is keen to fund numerous large-scale projects, utilizing flexible and efficient Sharia-compliant financing structures. This has established KFH as the preferred partner and lead arranger for many major joint financing deals.

Training and promotion

Al-Marzouq said that KFH is steadfast in its commitment to nurturing national talent and developing future leaders. Through ongoing training and development programs, partnered with local institutions, universities, and international centers, the bank aims for peak operational efficiency and productivity. This dedication recently saw several

national employees advance to senior leadership roles across various departments.

CSR & Sustainability

Al-Marzouq noted that KFH's social impact grew significantly last year, thanks to its involvement in many key strategic social initiatives. These efforts highlight the crucial role KFH plays in society, alongside its leading position in the economic, developmental, and banking sectors.

He highlighted how KFH has created a pioneering and role model for embedding sustainability principles across its entire group. "KFH has seen remarkable success in green financing and implementing a comprehensive sustainability strategy that's central to its mission and vision. The bank is further strengthening its commitment by adopting integrated, comprehensive, and balanced practices in the key areas of sustainability: environmental, social, and governance (ESG)."

Al-Marzouq explained that KFH was the first entity to start publishing impact measurement reports, and it annually releases both a Sustainability Report and a Carbon Footprint Report. KFH has been awarded an "A" rating by MSCI. Additionally, KFH has been included in the FTSE4Good Index Series for its exemplary performance in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices.

Sound financial indicators

Meanwhile, KFH Group CEO, Khaled Yousef Al-Shamlan, said that the bank's H1 2025 profits confirms its robust operational performance and leading position in the Kuwaiti banking sector. He noted that the financial performance for this period reflects prudent strategies and effective policies that consistently yield sustainable profits, solid financial position, asset quality, and good indicators for operating income, cost to income ratios as well as liquidity ratios, and capital adequacy.

Global leadership

Al-Shamlan said that "KFH ranked first as the best-performing bank in Kuwait, according to The Banker magazine's 2025 ranking of the top 1,000 global banks. KFH has maintained its position as Kuwait's largest listed company, in Forbes' Global 2000 list for the largest public companies in the world, reinforcing its standing using four metrics, revenues, profits, assets and market value."

He pointed out that KFH has won numerous international awards, including "The Middle East's Best Islamic Bank" and "Kuwait's Best Bank" from Euromoney. KFH was also named "Best Bank for Financial Institutions in the Middle East for 2025" by Global Finance, in recognition of its excellence and distinction in banking.

Growing market share

Al-Shamlan emphasized KFH's ongoing drive to boost market share by offering competitive products, services, and cutting-edge financing solutions, such as Financing Against Gold Account Collateral.


He also highlighted the continuous effort to strengthen KFH's presence in international markets, improve coordination among the Group's banks, and enhance customer service through the KFH Group Service Center. Currently, this center supports KFH-Turkey and KFH-Egypt, with plans to extend its services to other Group banks in the coming period.

Al-Shamlan attributed the bank's sustained leadership to its vast experience and large customer base, which collectively reinforce its competitive edge and brand strength.

Digitalization and innovation

Al-Shamlan also noted that KFH continues to lead digital innovation in banking, offering diverse digital services and solutions to elevate customer experience. He added that KFH launched (Fahad), Kuwait's first virtual assistant employee powered by artificial intelligence. This coincides with a comprehensive update and redesign of the KFHOnline app, now offering over 200 digital banking services to meet high customer demand. KFH also introduced the KFH Virtual Rewards Prepaid Card as a unique payment experience, alongside updated customer software. Additionally, a new, secure, and easy payment service for businesses was rolled out, transforming mobile phones into point-of-sale devices for accepting payments via debit cards and digital wallets.

He noted that KFH's successful digital transformation showcased the bank and its employees' capabilities to harness global technological advancements and apply them to customer service through innovative approaches and creative efforts. He stressed that customers are the top priority, and their satisfaction is key to achieving the bank's strategic goals.

Highest in Kuwait Banking Sector		Praise be to Allah			
		342.1		KD Million	
		Net Profit for Shareholders		for H1 2025	
		30/06/2025	30/06/2024	%	
Net Profit for Shareholders "KD Million"		342.1	341.2	0.3	
Earnings per Share "Fils"		19.23	19.19	0.2	
Net Financing Income "KD Million"		607.3	558.8	8.7	
Net Operating Income "KD Million"		566.7	525.5	7.9	
		30/06/2025	31/12/2024	%	
Total Assets "KD Million"		38,498	36,703	4.9	
Financing Receivables "KD Million"		20,430	19,070	7.1	
Depositors' Accounts "KD Million"		19,730	19,220	2.7	
Shareholders' Equity "KD Million"		5,565	5,519	0.8	

Total operating revenues came in at KD 24.20 mln, while net profit totaled KD 15.11 mln

Boursa Kuwait sees a 61.12% surge in its net profit for H1 2025

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: In a meeting of its Board of Directors on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, Boursa Kuwait announced that it recorded a net profit of KD 15.11 million for the first half of 2025, a 61.12% increase from its total for the corresponding period in 2024, when the company recorded profits of KD9.38 million.

The company's remarkable improvement in net profit was largely driven by strong growth in total operating revenues, which reached KD 24.20 million in the first half of 2025, representing a 41.13% increase from the KD 17.15 million recorded in the same period in 2024. Operating profit also saw a significant boost, rising 59.53% from KD 11.58 million to KD 18.47 million, while earnings per share increased 61.12% from 46.71 fils in the first half of 2024 to 75.27 fils for the period ended June 30, 2025.

The Group's total assets came in at KD123.87 million as of June 30, 2025, which is a 9.26% increase over its KD 113.37 million total in 2024, while shareholders' equity attributable to equity holders of the parent company increased from KD 58.75 million as of June 30, 2024, to KD 66.20 million as of June 30, 2025, an increase of 12.68%.

Boursa Kuwait's financial results for the first half of 2025 serve as a clear indicator of the company's strong financial position and the effectiveness of its operational strategies.

"These results reaffirm Boursa Kuwait's capacity to navigate the complex geopolitical and economic challenges experienced worldwide while maintaining sustainable growth supported by revenue diversification and enhanced liquidity levels, which strengthens confidence in the exchange's operational efficiency and long-term resilience," said Boursa Kuwait Chairman Mr. Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi.

"This growth marks a significant milestone in our journey, giving us greater momentum to advance our development plans to modernize market infrastructure, diversify investment instruments and strengthen its appeal to both local and international investors. It also reinforces Boursa Kuwait's position as a key driver of economic growth and a major contributor to the state's vision of becoming a competitive financial and investment hub in the region, capable of attracting strategic and long-term capital from around the world," he added.

To pave the way for Part Two of Phase Three of the Market Development Program, the Kuwaiti capital market apparatus has undertaken major enhancements to restructure its regulatory and operational infrastructure. Officially rolled out earlier this month, the phase reflects the close collaboration between Boursa Kuwait, the Capital Markets Authority, the Central Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Clearing Company, local banks and investment and brokerage firms as well as their collective efforts to advance the development and sustainability of the Kuwaiti capital market and the national economy.

Al-Kharafi stressed that this achievement is the direct result of seamless collaboration across the capital market apparatus and a shared determination to create tangible value for investors, stating that Boursa Kuwait remains committed to accelerating growth and delivering transformative milestones that secure the long-term sustainability of the national economy, working closely with all stakeholders in the Kuwaiti capital market apparatus.

"This breakthrough underscores the private sector's agility and effectiveness in advancing development and forging impactful partnerships with the public sector, further cementing Kuwait's position as a confident and rising regional financial hub," he said.

The Boursa Kuwait Chairman concluded his statement, saying: "On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express my gratitude to our shareholders for their continued trust in the company and to executive management and employees for their unwavering dedication and commitment to excellence. I would also like to thank the Capital Markets Authority and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for their ongoing support and collaboration, which have contributed to strengthening market stability and raising its standards.

"My appreciation also goes to the investors, traders and market participants for their sustained confidence in Boursa Kuwait, reaffirming our commitment to deliver a superlative investment experience and working closely with the capital market apparatus to deliver greater milestones in the future," he said.

The Kuwaiti capital market continued its upward trajectory in the first half of 2025, with traded value soaring by 90.39% from KD 6.63 billion in the first half of 2024 to KD 12.63 billion in the corresponding period in 2025, while traded volume rose by 82.95% from 27.03 billion shares to 49.45 billion shares. Meanwhile, average daily traded value increased by 95.31% from KD55.73 million during the period ended June 30, 2024, to KD 108.85 million in the period ended June 30, 2025. Additionally, market capitalization reached KD 50.53 billion, marking a 23.20% increase from the total of KD 41.02 billion recorded during the first half of 2024.



Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi, Chairman



Mohammad Al-Osaimi, Chief Executive Officer



Financial report H1 2025

The "Premier" Market was a key driver of market activity, with value traded increasing 47.09% from its total of KD 4.99 billion in the first half of 2024 to KD 7.34 billion in the first half of 2025, with approximately 20.21 billion shares traded in the first half of 2025, an increase of 40.98% over the 14.34 billion

shares traded in the period ended June 30, 2024. Meanwhile, the market capitalization in Boursa Kuwait's flagship market increased by 24.45% from KD 33.97 billion to KD 42.27 billion in the period ended June 30, 2025.

The "Main" Market also played a significant role in enhancing overall market liquidity, as traded value increased by 221.36% from KD 1.65 billion to KD 5.29 billion in the first half of 2025, while trading volume increased from 12.69 billion shares in the first half of 2024 to 28.60 billion shares in the first half of 2025, an increase of 125.38%. Market capitalization, meanwhile, rose by 17.20% from KD 7.05 billion in the period ended June 30, 2024, to KD 8.27 billion in the period ended June 30, 2025.

Boursa Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Mr. Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi praised the Kuwaiti capital market's performance during the first half of 2025, emphasizing that these results are an indication of the positive response to the operational and regulatory enhancements in the Kuwaiti capital market, noting Boursa Kuwait's commitment to developing a balanced and efficient investment environment that serves investors of all asset classes.

"These positive indicators showcase the robustness of the Kuwaiti capital market's regulatory framework and our continued efforts to enhance infrastructure, diversify products and elevate the investor experience, further strengthening Boursa Kuwait's position as a catalyst for sustainable economic growth that meets the standards of investors across all segments," he added.

"The segmentation of the market plays a pivotal role in structuring trading activities to meet liquidity needs and accommodate a diverse investor base. The "Premier" Market has maintained stable trading values, while the "Main" Market has shown remarkable activity, reflecting heightened interest and interaction with the investment opportunities it offers," he said.

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the Kuwaiti capital market's global presence, Boursa Kuwait organized a series of roadshows and corporate days targeting the international investment community in collaboration with Kuwait Clearing Company. These included a virtual roadshow for asset managers in Asia in collaboration with HSBC, as well as an in-person roadshow in London in collaboration with Jefferies Financial Group. The events showcased Boursa Kuwait's journey since privatization and highlighted the key developments and investment opportunities within the Kuwaiti capital market.

Additionally, Boursa Kuwait participated in the fourth GCC Exchanges Conference, organized by HSBC in London, coinciding with its 15th Corporate Day, which featured eight companies listed on the "Premier" Market.

Al-Osaimi noted that Boursa Kuwait continues to attract investors through its series of Corporate Days and Roadshows held in major financial capitals, reflecting the State of Kuwait's vision to emerge as a premier financial and investment hub in the region. He added, "Through active engagement with world-renowned investment banks, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds and asset management firms, the exchange has cultivated a robust investor base as institutional investors accounted for 65.08% of total participants, a testament to the Kuwaiti capital market's growing stability, enhanced liquidity, and increasing appeal to both local and international investors."

The Boursa Kuwait CEO concluded his remarks by thanking the Capital Markets Authority, Kuwait Clearing Company and market participants for their continued trust in Boursa Kuwait and its role as a vital contributor to the country's economic development and reaffirmed the company's commitment to expanding its range of products, enhancing market efficiency and accessibility, focusing on strong governance and transparency to further strengthen investor confidence.

Since its inception, Boursa Kuwait has worked diligently to create a thriving capital market that attracts local and foreign investors through a broad spectrum of new products and services, infrastructure upgrades, and market reform initiatives, as part of its multi-phase market development plans.

The company was fully privatized in 2019, the first government entity in the country to successfully undergo the process, bringing about greater levels of efficiency. Boursa Kuwait also self-listed in September 2020 and has made great strides in sustaining its operations and business continuity in the face of uncertainties and challenges.

The company has rolled out numerous market reforms and new initiatives as part of its comprehensive multi-phase market development (MD) plans and showcases some of the standout listed companies and the investment opportunities that reside in the Kuwaiti capital market through its series of Roadshows and Corporate Days, putting these companies in touch with some of the world's leading investment firms and financial institutions and highlighting their financial health and business strategies and outlooks, to help investors gain an in-depth understanding of the benefits and opportunities of investing in Kuwaiti companies.

Boursa Kuwait advances, All Share Index up 0.50%

Turnover reaches KD 82.8 million

KUWAIT CITY, July 29, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait concluded trading on Tuesday with notable gains across all major indices. The All Share Index advanced by 42.29 points (0.50%), closing at 8,552.99 points, with a total trading volume of 470.7 million shares executed through 25,559 transactions and a turnover of KD 82.8 million (USD 271 million).

The Main Market Index recorded an increase of 22.53 points (0.30%) to reach 7,558.52 points,

reflecting trades of 325.3 million shares over 17,723 transactions, amounting to KD 38.3 million (USD 125.3 million).

Meanwhile, the Premier Market Index rose 49.30 points (0.54%) to close at 9,223.74 points, as 145.3 million shares changed hands through 7,836 transactions, with a value of KD 44.4 million (USD 145.3 million).

The Main 50 Index also posted gains, up 17.80 points (0.24%) to end at 7,548.66 points, following the trade of 217.4 million shares in 9,966 transactions, amounting to KD 26.2 million (approximately USD 85.7 million).

Kuwait oil price down 66 cents to \$71.59 pb

KUWAIT CITY, July 29, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by 66 cents to USD 71.59 per barrel on Monday as opposed to Friday's USD 72.25 per barrel, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

The prices of the Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate varied with the former going down by USD 1.60 to USD 70.04 per barrel, while the latter went up by USD 1.55 to USD 66.81 pb.

Supporting local financial literacy, culture, & community initiatives

Zain partners with Lei Wa Lakom to promote financial literacy & community development

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Zain Kuwait has announced a new strategic partnership with Lei Wa Lakom, a non-profit initiative dedicated to empowering individuals through financial awareness, knowledge sharing, and community development. This partnership reflects the alignment of both parties' visions in advancing sustainability and community empowerment on both local and regional levels.

The agreement was signed at Zain's headquarters in Shuwaikh, joined by Waleed Al-Khashti, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer at Zain Kuwait, and Taiba Al-Humaidhi, Founder of Lei Wa Lakom, alongside the Zain team.

Commenting on the occasion, Waleed Al-Khashti said: "At Zain, we believe that knowledge is power, and that financial empowerment is one of the keys to building stable communities and sustainable economies. Our partnership with Lei Wa Lakom falls under our sustainability strategy and reflects our deep commitment to sup-



Waleed Al-Khashti and Taiba Al-Humaidhi announce the partnership.

porting initiatives that make a real difference in the lives of individuals and communities."

Taiba Al-Humaidhi expressed her pride in the collaboration, saying: "We're delighted to have Zain join us on our journey. The alignment in val-

ues and vision between us strengthens our ability to reach wider segments of society and to help build communities that are more aware, educated, and equipped to face economic challenges."

The partnership aims to support a

number of impactful initiatives led by Lei Wa Lakom, foremost among them the Financial Education Program, which includes engaging workshops and a digital interactive tool that promotes continuous learning. The program is also developing a national

Financial Literacy Index, supported by academic partners including the London School of Economics.

In addition, the partnership supports knowledge-based and cultural initiatives such as the Sidra platform, which spotlights intellectual leader-



Al-Khashti and Al-Humaidhi with the Zain team.

ship in the Gulf region, and an innovative animated awareness series to be broadcast on Kuwait TV and digital platforms to raise awareness about financial literacy among a wider audience.

As part of Zain's commitment to supporting education beyond borders, the partnership also includes the Zanzibar Library Project, through which Lei Wa Lakom is establishing a library and cultural center in the heart of Zanzibar. The project will serve more than 200 families and includes a comprehensive library, a Holy Quran recitation center, a water well, creating an integrated educational and spiritual environment that enhances quality of life and provides the tools for knowledge and growth.

This partnership falls within Zain's broader commitment to social responsibility, with a focus on youth empowerment, education, and inclusive development, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Kuwait's New Vision to invest in human capital.

Merger to create strong Islamic bank

Warba gets CBK approval for Gulf Bank merger study

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Warba Bank has announced that it has received the approval of the Central Bank of Kuwait to appoint a group of specialized advisory firms to conduct a feasibility study and due diligence review for the potential merger with Gulf Bank. This approval marks a key milestone in progressing the preparatory procedures for a possible merger between the two leading financial institutions.

The approval follows Warba Bank's previous disclosure dated June 15, 2025, regarding the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gulf Bank to explore the feasibility of a merger. The step represents a pivotal moment in the path toward forming a fully integrated Islamic banking entity with the potential to compete on a regional and global scale.



The list of appointed advisors includes internationally and locally recognized institutions such as Bain & Company as Management Consultant, J.P. Morgan as Lead Financial Advisor, Al Shall Consulting as Local Investment Advisor, Clifford Chance as Lead Legal Advisor and Al Tamimi & Company as Local Legal Advisor.

Commenting on the development, Mr. Hamad Musaed Al-Sayer, Chairman of Warba Bank, said: "We welcome the Central Bank of Kuwait's approval to appoint advisors for the merger study, which is a significant step in realizing our strategic vision to establish a leading Islamic financial institution with regional and global competitiveness. The appointment of such reputable advisory firms underscores our commitment to executing this process according to the highest professional and regulatory standards, ensuring maximum value creation for our shareholders, customers and the national economy."

On his part, Mr. Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem, Chief Executive Officer of Warba Bank, affirmed the Bank's full adherence to all relevant legal and regulatory requirements, including securing all necessary approvals from regulatory authorities. He stated that the Bank will continue to disclose any material developments related to the merger in a timely manner.

He added: "This step comes as part of our growth and expansion strategy and our aim to enhance our competitive edge in the local and regional banking sector. We are confident that the potential merger with Gulf Bank will result in a strong financial entity with a solid capital base and outstanding operational capabilities. This will enable us to deliver comprehensive and innovative banking services that meet our customers' evolving needs and support economic development in Kuwait and the wider region."

Warba Bank has achieved remarkable success in a short span of time, earning a leading position in the Islamic digital banking sector in Kuwait. With one of the largest shareholder bases among local banks, Warba Bank continues to be a trusted partner that brings together innovation and social responsibility to deliver best-in-class Sharia-compliant products and services.



Hamad Al-Sayer

Shaheen Al-Ghanem

NBK earns top-tier ESG ratings across the MENA region

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: In recognition of its leadership in advancing sustainability and corporate responsibility across the MENA region, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has earned high distinctions from leading global ESG rating agencies, underscoring the Bank's unwavering commitment to environmental responsibility, social impact, and robust governance.

In its latest assessment, Morningstar Sustainability improved NBK's ESG Risk Rating from 27.4 (medium risk) to an impressive 19.4 (low risk), reflecting the Bank's enhanced ability to manage material ESG risks. Concurrently, MSCI upgraded NBK's ESG rating from 'BBB' to 'A' – a notable leap that places the Bank firmly among the top five regional banks in ESG ratings.

ESG rating agencies, such as Morningstar Sustainability and MSCI, play a critical role in evaluating how institutions manage sustainability-related risks and opportunities. These agencies assess companies across a range of criteria – including environmental impact, social responsibility, and corporate governance – to provide stakeholders and investors with transparent, data-driven insights into organizational performance. High ESG ratings not only promote accountability but also guide capital allocation and investment decisions, reflecting how well highly rated companies are positioned for long-term resilience and responsible growth.

Commenting on NBK's achievement, Mr. Amir Hanna, Group Chief Communications Officer at NBK, stated: "NBK's recognition through these prestigious ratings underscores its growing focus on championing sustainable finance and reinforcing sustainability risk management across the region. It also serves as a global testament to its sustained success. The Bank continues to make significant strides in integrating ESG principles into its corporate culture and operational framework, firmly establishing sustainability as a foundational pillar of its strategic agenda."

Hanna highlighted that these ratings reflect NBK's continued momentum in implementing its comprehensive ESG strategy, which is anchored in four strategic pillars: Governance for Resilience, Responsible Banking, Capitalizing on our Capabilities, and Investing in our Communities. These pillars serve as a roadmap for integrating sustainability across the Bank's operations and delivering long-term value to shareholders, clients, employees, stakeholders, and the broader society.

He further emphasized that NBK's growing commitment to sustainable finance remains a cornerstone of its progress in ESG governance. He also noted that the Bank's vision for sustainability extends well beyond its internal ecosystem, reflecting a steadfast commitment to community development. Across the markets in which it operates, NBK continues to drive meaningful impact, particularly through its focus on education, healthcare, youth empowerment, and expanding access for all segments of society to benefit from its initiatives.

Green Bonds

NBK's landmark issuance of the first Green Bonds by a Kuwaiti institution in 2024, valued at USD 500 million, stands as a clear testament to the strong confidence investors place in the Bank, as well as the alignment of its sustainability strategy with international standards for transparency and accountability.

Through its Green Bond Allocation and Impact Report, NBK provided clear and credible insights into the deployment of proceeds, which were directed toward initiatives such as renewable energy, green buildings, and clean transportation – delivering tangible environmental outcomes including lower carbon emissions and enhanced energy efficiency.

Measuring the Bank's Carbon Footprint

In addition to financing sustainable projects, NBK has aligned its operations with key international climate frameworks. It became the first bank in Kuwait to sign the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF), a major step in measuring and disclosing the carbon footprint of its lending and investment portfolios. The Bank also continues to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), embedding climate-related considerations into its governance structures, risk management, and strategic decision-making and has recently published its first TCFD report. In terms of NBK's environmental footprint, a target was set to reduce 25% of the Bank's operational emissions by 2025. As of 2024, NBK exceeded this target with a 28.3% reduction in opera-

Hanna:

■ NBK's sustainability vision extends beyond its internal ecosystem to encompass the broader communities across the markets it serves

■ The latest ESG ratings underscore the Bank's expanding regional influence in advancing sustainable finance and reinforcing sustainability risk management practices

■ These recognitions serve as a global endorsement of NBK's significant strides in embedding ESG principles within its corporate culture and day-to-day operations.

■ MSCI upgraded the Bank's rating from "BBB" to "A,"

■ Morningstar Sustainability revised its risk assessment of NBK from "Medium" to "Low Risk"



NBK earns top ESG ratings from Sustainability and MSCI.

tional emissions.

A Comprehensive Framework

NBK's commitment to sustainability is further reinforced by the implementation of a comprehensive Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) framework, which integrates ESG considerations into the Bank's risk management practices. This framework plays a critical role in identifying and mitigating environmental and social risks not only in credit assessments but also in project financing, investment decisions, and client engagement. By embedding ESG principles into its risk management and governance processes, NBK ensures that its activities consistently align with sustainable development objectives and uphold the highest standards of responsible banking.

Equity & Inclusion

On the social and governance fronts, NBK has made significant strides in fostering an inclusive and equitable corporate culture.

Through the publication of its Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) Statement, NBK reaffirmed its pledge to build a diverse workforce and promote inclusive leadership. NBK continues to lead in championing women's empowerment through targeted leadership programs, most notably NBK RISE, a dedicated initiative designed to support the advancement of women in leadership roles. Moreover, the Bank continues to reinforce its commitment through mentorship opportunities, and inclusive workplace policies, solidifying its position as a regional model for the best-in-class organizational practices.

By embedding ESG principles into the heart of its corporate strategy, NBK continues to enhance its resilience, elevate risk management, and unlock new opportunities for sustainable growth. The Bank's progress reflects not just adherence to global standards, but a proactive drive to lead the financial sector's transition toward a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Looking ahead, NBK remains committed to advancing its ESG performance through innovation, transparency, and stakeholder engagement. It will continue to invest in sustainable solutions, adopt evolving international frameworks, and champion environmental and social progress across the region.

With strong governance foundations, measurable impact, and a forward-looking approach, NBK is not only setting new benchmarks in sustainable finance but also shaping the regional ESG landscape for generations to come.

Recognizing the Bank's commitment to adopting the global ESG standards

Burgan Bank joins regional sustainability leaders with inclusion in FTSE4Good Index Series

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Burgan Bank announced its inclusion as a constituent in the FTSE4Good Index Series, an affirmation of its unwavering commitment to ESG best practices. Developed by global index and data provider FTSE Russell, the FTSE4Good Index Series is a globally recognized benchmark that measures the performance of companies demonstrating strong Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices. These indices are widely used by investors and asset managers to incorporate ESG factors into their investment decisions, as well as to create and evaluate responsible investment funds and related financial products.

Built on transparent management standards and rigorous assessment criteria, FTSE Russell's evaluations consider performance in areas such as corporate governance, health & safety, anti-corruption, and climate change. Companies included in the FTSE4Good Index Series demonstrate compliance with a variety of stringent ESG criteria.

Commenting on this accomplishment, Mr. Fadel Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer – Kuwait at Burgan Bank, stated: "We are honored to be one of the five organizations in Kuwait recognized by globally renowned FTSE Russell for our unwavering efforts to adopt the best ESG practices in the banking sector and embed them into our operations, culture, and stakeholder engagement. Burgan's inclusion in the FTSE4Good Index Series is a testament to our consistent and measurable progress in sustainability practices. This recognition affirms our strategic commitment to sustainable business growth, designed to create a positive impact on our community, industry, and natural environment while supporting a resilient and equitable future for all stakeholders."

The inclusion in the FTSE4Good Index Series provides external validation of Burgan Bank's efforts to align with global sustainability standards and frameworks such as UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), and Kuwait Vision 2035. This



Burgan Bank team members in a group photo after the successful conclusion of the 'Empower Her' seminar.



The Kuwaiti Athletes at Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

also evident in its learning and development programs, tailored to address diverse needs and interests. In its pursuit of establishing a culture of healthy work-life balance, Burgan Bank currently offers five days of fully paid paternity leave, one day of birthday leave, and four self-care days, in addition to the standard annual leave days. The Bank also offers numerous programs, benefits, events, and sporting initiatives for the comprehensive development of its employees. Moreover, Burgan Bank has launched several initiatives and programs to empower women in the workplace and support their professional development – such as the "Lean In Circle" program and the "Empower Her" initiative. It is worth noting that the Bank is also a major supporter of the "Partners for Hire" campaign, which aims to sustainably empower people with disabilities and provide them with job opportunities across various departments. Along the same lines and to cater to this community, Burgan Bank has also allocated six branches to serve customers with disabilities to promote equal access to banking services.

As part of its social impact agenda, the Bank maintained its long-standing support for the Kuwait Association for Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH) and Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice (BACCH), helping ensure access to vital palliative care services. In 2024, Burgan Bank also partnered with the Kuwait Olympic Committee (KOC) as a sponsor of the national delegation to

the Paris 2024 Olympics, reinforcing its commitment to community development and national pride.

Burgan Bank remains committed to fostering a strong compliance culture across the organization, focused on preventing financial crime, including money laundering, terrorism financing, fraud, corruption, and bribery. This commitment is underpinned by a robust governance framework that reflects the Bank's dedication to ethical conduct, responsible leadership, and maintaining the highest standards of security in the banking sector.

The Bank's comprehensive ESG strategy also delivered notable advancements in digital transformation, particularly in cybersecurity, with the implementation of cutting-edge technologies, AI-driven threat detection, and proactive incident response measures to ensure maximum data protection for all stakeholders.

Moreover, Burgan Bank has consistently led the way in transparency and sustainability, reporting its sustainability related efforts and achievements consecutively for the last six years since 2019. This reinforces the Bank's committed adherence to transparent governance and proactive sustainability leadership, demonstrating its year-on-year improvements in the sustainability and ESG performance.

As a trusted financial partner and a bank that is "Driven by You", Burgan Bank remains dedicated to upholding

its responsibility toward its customers, community, and investors, by adopting the highest standards of ESG practices and ensuring that its business success reflects positively on its stakeholders.

About Burgan Bank

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is a Kuwait-based conventional bank with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institution sectors. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly sought to diversify its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group", in the MENA region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria – AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank – TIB (Tunisia), Burgan Bank Turkey (Turkey) and United Gulf Bank (Bahrain). Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Moreover, Burgan Bank's brand has been built on a foundation of real values – trust, commitment, excel-

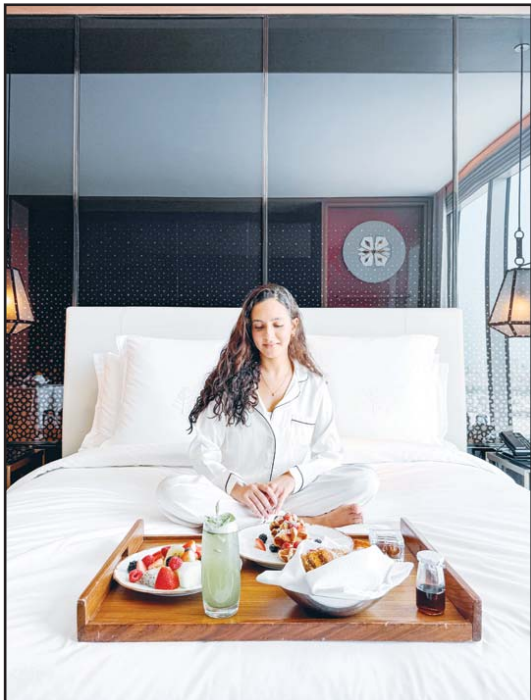
lence, and progression – which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires. In fact, the Bank's core philosophy of 'Driven by You' is the foundation on which its products and services are continuously developed.

Burgan Bank has achieved the LEED v4.1 O+M: EB Gold Certification for its Head Office in Kuwait City. The Bank has also obtained the ISO/IEC 27001:2022 Information Security Management Systems certificate (ISMS), ISO/IEC 27701:2019 Privacy Information Management Systems (PIMS), ISO/IEC 20000-1:2018 Information Technology Service Management System (ITSMS) and was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS), making it one of the few banks in the GCC and Kuwait to receive such certification for five consecutive times.

At the same time, the Bank has the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twenty consecutive years. Moreover, in a testament to its dedication to the development of its human capital, Burgan Bank is the first bank in Kuwait to be certified as a Great Place to Work®, earning the distinct honor in 2023.

Burgan Bank is a majority-owned subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), one of the largest holding companies in the MENA region.





Experience Four Seasons Kuwait at Burj Alshaya a personalized touch and quiet elegance.

The quiet elegance of anticipation

Inside the invisible luxury of a stay at Four Seasons Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: There’s a particular kind of silence that envelops a guest room at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya just before check-in, a poised hush, like the moment before a symphony begins. But what seems effortless is, in truth, the culmination of a choreography that begins long before the guest ever steps inside. It’s a ritual of intention, detail, and above all, care.

Luxury in today’s world isn’t just about thread count or polished silver. It’s about anticipation, knowing what a guest needs before they do, and shaping their experience not through extravagance, but through thoughtfulness.

Step into this behind-the-scenes ballet, and you’ll find more than a team,

you’ll find artisans of hospitality.

The journey begins with something as deceptively simple as a sheet. Each one is steamed and stretched by hand to achieve that signature Four Seasons silkiness, the kind that invites you to sink in and forget time. Pillows are plumped not just for appearance but for ergonomics, aligned to match your sleeping preferences if they’re on file, and if not, ready to be adjusted at a moment’s notice.

Then come the amenities. These aren’t just placed, they’re composed. A honey jar might be nestled next to a herbal tea blend if our records show you like to wind down naturally. A particular chocolate brand might grace your table if it was once mentioned in passing to a concierge. Cables are un-

tangled and aligned, device chargers pre-connected, because the real luxury is never needing to ask.

Every corner is checked not for perfection alone, but for personality. The team scans each room with the eyes of a returning guest. Would he notice that the curtain gap lets in the morning sun too soon? Would she prefer the temperature at 21 instead of 22? No assumption is too small; no detail is too trivial.

At Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait, this philosophy is carried further with a revolutionary concept: the 24-hour stay. Guests are invited to check in at their leisure, 11 a.m., 7 p.m., or even 3 a.m., and enjoy a full 24 hours of personalized luxury. It’s an invitation to live on your own rhythm, not the

hotel’s. To truly settle in, unpack, and exhale.

And in the heart of a Kuwaiti summer, where the desert sun lingers until twilight, there’s no better way to savor your stay than poolside. The hotel’s serene outdoor pool becomes a cool oasis suspended above the city, shaded by modern design and serviced with refreshments that flow like time here: effortlessly.

Whether it’s a solo escape or a shared getaway, your time at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait isn’t just a stay, it’s a curated journey of comfort, nuance, and quiet luxury.

This summer, rediscover what it means to be taken care of.

Call 2200 6000 to book your personalized 24-hour experience.



Ms. Mpungose, Acting Head of Mission (AHoM), pictured with Embassy staff and officials from the Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).



Final group photo to mark the end of the shelter tour – a day of connection, activity, and shared experiences.



PAM officials briefed Ms. Mpungose, Acting Head of Mission (AHoM), and Embassy staff on the range of services the shelter provides to its residents, including legal aid, healthcare, and psychological support.



Engaging with women residents at the shelter through indoor billiards – fostering connection and fun through sports and activities.

Embassy’s tribute echoes Mandela’s message of care and compassion

Commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day 2025: SA Mission in the State of Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The South African Embassy in the State of Kuwait successfully commemorated Nelson Mandela International Day on 20 July 2025 with a meaningful visit to the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) women’s shelter in the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area, which supports expatriate workers facing legal or employment-related challenges. Led by Ms. Busisiwe Mpungose, Acting Head of Mission, the visit was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), specifically the Human Rights and Africa Affairs Departments and PAM, reflecting Mandela’s enduring values of kindness, care, and humanity. The event honoured Nelson Mandela International Day, celebrated annually on July 18.

The Embassy staff was warmly received by officials from MoFA’s Human Rights Department and representatives of PAM. During the tour, Ms Mpungose and Embassy staff were briefed on intake procedures and the operational roles of the various governmental institutions supporting the shelter. The delegation observed the wide range of services provided to residents, including legal aid, healthcare, psychological counselling, and social support.

PAM officials shared insightful information about the shelter’s residents and responded to questions from Ms. Mpungose and Embassy staff. In a spirit of engagement and solidarity, the South African Embassy dedicated 67 minutes, in tribute to Mandela Day, to acts of positivity and social support, including interactive activities with the residents such as arts and crafts, indoor billiards, and outdoor volleyball, all aimed at promoting unity and well-being of the residents. As part of the initiative, the Embassy generously also donated clothing items to the shelter to help meet the needs of the residents.

Ms Mpungose commended the Government of the State of Kuwait for its ongoing commitment to protecting vulnerable individuals and reaffirmed South Africa’s dedication to advancing Mandela’s legacy of service and humanity. She concluded by extending warm wishes to His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, and continued peace and prosperity to the State of Kuwait.

Ms Mpungose and the Embassy staff expressed their sincere admiration for the shelter’s resolute staff and their



Ms. Mpungose, Acting Head of Mission (AHoM), signed the visitors’ book at the shelter, marking the Embassy’s meaningful visit and commitment to supporting the residents.

commitment to providing protection, care, and legal support to vulnerable women. The Mission extended heartfelt thanks to PAM, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and all staff involved for their hospitality and tireless efforts in upholding the values of human dignity and compassion.

History Of The Nelson Mandela International Day and the 67 Minutes

Nelson Mandela International Day was officially declared by the United Nations on November 10, 2009, recognising Nelson Mandela’s extraordinary contribution to peace, freedom, and human rights. The day is celebrated annually on July 18th, Mandela’s birthday.

This day encourages people around the world to honour Mandela’s legacy by taking action to improve their communities an promote social justice.

The concept of 67 minutes symbolically represents the 67 years of Nelson Mandela’s life dedicated for fighting for equality, social justice and human rights. On Mandela Day, individuals are expected to spend at least 67 minutes doing something positive for others, reflecting Mandela’s lifelong dedication to making the world a better place.

A documented humanitarian journey defying time

New book chronicles life and legacy of Ghanima Al-Marzouq

Comprehensive review of the book: ‘Reflections on the Philanthropic, Journalistic, and Educational Services of Ghanima Fahad Al-Marzouq’

Published by Al-Manar Publications for Translation, Printing, and Publishing (New Delhi), introduction by Muhammad Khalid Al-A’zami

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The book “Reflections on the Philanthropic, Journalistic, and Educational Services of Ghanima Fahad Al-Marzouq” stands as a remarkable and distinctive addition to the corpus of Arab and Islamic literature, not only within the domain of biographies and humanitarian endeavors but also in documenting the intellectual and social contributions of one of the most influential female figures in the Arab world. This profound work is the product of meticulous academic and documentary effort, compiled and supervised by Muhammad Khalid Al-A’zami and a dedicated team of collaborators. Through its translation into Urdu with linguistic finesse, the book acquires both scholarly depth and intellectual precision.

In his compelling academic preface, Al-A’zami illuminates the philosophy of charitable work within Arab societies, emphasizing the pioneering roles of women who transcend traditional boundaries to shape a legacy of service deeply rooted in Islamic and humanistic values. This ethos is embodied in the journey of Umm Hilal, Ghanima Fahad Al-Marzouq, whose life represents a unique fusion of authenticity and modernity, humanitarian activism, and an engaged social discourse.



Dr. Mohammad Abul Mufazzal

The narrative of this book takes the reader on a sweeping journey through Ghanima Al-Marzouq’s life, from her early childhood in Kuwait and India to her multifaceted contributions in education, relief work, and voluntary service. Her philanthropic projects extend far beyond the borders of Kuwait, reaching Africa, Central Asia, India, and China. What

distinguishes this work from conventional biographies is its profound exploration of her philosophy of benevolence – viewing charity not as mere emergency relief but as sustainable, institution-based developmental projects.

One of the central themes highlighted in the book is Al-Marzouq’s unwavering commitment to education as the foundation for societal progress and human development. She financed significant initiatives, including the Kyrgyz-Kuwait University (Mahmud Kashgari University) and the Al-Noor School in Kashmir. Her philanthropic footprint extends across schools and institutes in Pakistan, China, Turkmenistan, and Albania, in addition to sponsoring students in Africa. Moreover, her strategic partnership with Direct Aid Society facilitated the construction of mosques, cultural centers, and medical facilities. Her initiatives in drilling artesian wells and supporting agricultural projects have transformed the lives of thousands in impoverished regions.

The book does not overlook Al-Marzouq’s pioneering role in journalism and media. As one of the first Kuwaiti women to engage in both intellectual and media discourse, she authored articles addressing issues of social development and national progress. She consistently advocated for women’s empowerment, underscoring their pivotal role in nation-building. Through her writings, Al-Marzouq enriched cultural and social debates by merging an empathetic humanitarian tone with deep academic insight. On the academic front, she left a lasting legacy through her support for scientific research, funding of educational programs, and sponsorship of innovative projects that emphasize the building of minds as much as infrastructure.

The book further chronicles the accolades and honors she has received, such as the State Appreciation Award (2011), the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Federation of Journalists, and an Honorary Doctorate from Kyrgyz University, all of which affirm her status as an exceptional humanitarian and thought leader.

Among the most captivating aspects of the book is its vivid portrayal of Al-Marzouq’s formative years in India. This period, enriched by exposure to diverse cultural and social landscapes, fostered in her a profound sense of solidarity and communal responsibility. The narrative recounts how her father frequently hosted Kuwaiti sailors and captains in their Indian home, instilling in her the timeless Arab virtue of generosity. This cross-cultural backdrop lends the book special significance for Indian readers, particularly Arabic and Urdu speakers, as it highlights historical ties and shared values of compassion between Kuwait and India.

Spanning approximately 212 pages of elegantly crafted narrative, “Reflections on the Philanthropic, Journalistic, and Educational Services of Ghanima Fahad Al-Marzouq”, with its scholarly introduction by Al-A’zami, transcends the boundaries of a mere biographical record. It is a motivational and thought-provoking work that inspires both Arab and Indian readers to engage actively in projects of charity and sustainable development. The book stands as a testimony that when philanthropy is combined with intellectual vision and leadership, it evolves into a civilizational mission that surpasses time and place, becoming an enduring beacon for future generations.

Odell's biography charts the rise of an icon – and a brand

'Gwyneth' is a portrait of a pioneering, polarizing 'It girl'

LOS ANGELES, July 29, (AP): "Gwyneth: The Biography," Amy Odell's thorough portrait of Gwyneth Paltrow, splits her life and career into two distinct periods: the rise (and fall) of the quintessential '90s Hollywood "It girl," and her transformation to wellness mogul with the creation of lifestyle brand Goop.

In both phases, she struggles with likeability in the press and from the public, often coming across in interviews as elitist and out of touch with "normal" Americans. But that hasn't stopped her from succeeding on both fronts.

Blond, glamorous and patrician, Paltrow is the ultimate nepo baby, the daughter of actor Blythe Danner and TV producer Bruce Paltrow, acting from an early age at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts.

In the first half of the book, Odell charts Paltrow's rise from chain-smoking party girl at elite New York private school Spence to Hollywood "It girl." She starred in 1990s classics like "Emma," "Sliding Doors" and "Shakespeare in Love," for which she won an Oscar at 26. She was on the cover of Vogue and constantly in the tabloids with movie star boyfriends like Brad Pitt and Ben Affleck.

But she eventually soured on Hollywood and turned to her burgeoning interest in lifestyle and wellness. She started Goop as a newsletter in 2008.

Goop promoted some dubious wellness theories and was hit with the same press bashing as she had gotten as an actor.

"Gwyneth has, to her extraordinary credit, found a way to be even more annoying," the Guardian wrote when Goop launched in 2008.

But Odell - who didn't have access to Paltrow or any close family or friends, but based the book on more than 200 interviews with people who know or worked with Paltrow - shows Paltrow has a masterful control of her image, working negative press to her advantage.

When Goop launched a travel app, an advertiser sponsored it with the promise that it would reach 10,000 downloads. "Call it G. Spotting," Gwyneth told an executive, according to Odell. "Everybody will make fun of me for being an idiot and we'll have the 10,000 downloads we need right there." It worked.

"Gwyneth: The Biography" is a satisfying read about the pioneering and polarizing actor and business woman.

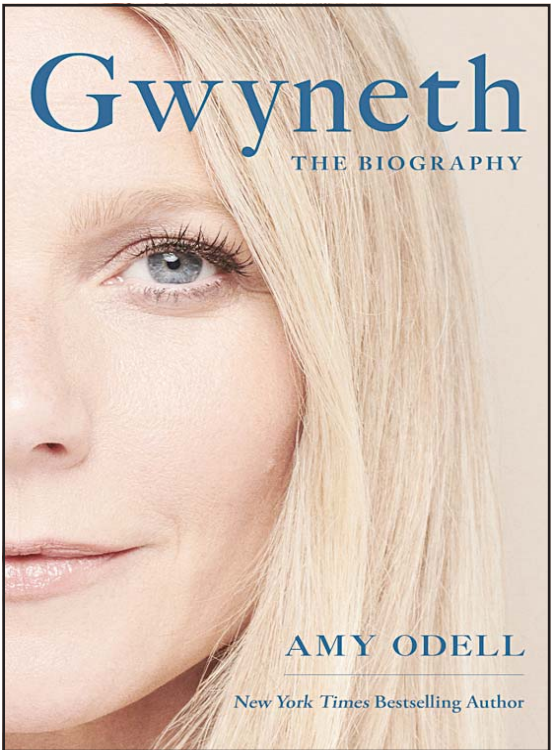
In the 1960s, a hospital in London held a ward full of women who suffered from a range of mental disorders. The women in this "sleep room" were subjected to various medical procedures, including electroconvulsive therapy, or ECT, and, at times, a lobotomy, without their consent.

In "The Sleep Room: A Sadistic Psychiatrist and the Women Who Survived Him," Jon Stock tells the harrowing history of the British doctor who subjected them to medical abuse and gives voice to those who survived him.

With interwoven firsthand testimony from surviving patients and rigorous research, Stock provides a haunting account of what the psychiatrist did to his patients without their knowledge.

Throughout the book Stock also works to hold the medical establishment accountable for the neglect that occurred, but at times can simplify the complexities of psychiatric care during the '60s that most likely led to the abuse endured by many patients.

Written with nuance and tact, the "The Sleep Room" is a chilling exposé into psychiatric care that will resonate deeply readers and, especially, true crime fans.



This cover image released by Gallery Books shows 'Gwyneth: The Biography' by Amy Odell. (AP)

Books

'Philanthropy can't save US'

Walker pens a book of hope in unequal times

NEW YORK, July 29, (AP): Darren Walker needed to be convinced of his new book's relevance.

The outgoing Ford Foundation president feared that "The Idea of America," set to publish in September just before he leaves the nonprofit, risked feeling disjointed. In more than eight dozen selected texts dating back to 2013, he reflects on everything from his path as a Black child from rural Texas into the halls of premiere American philanthropies to his solutions for reversing the deepening inequality of our "new Gilded Age."

"To be clear, not everything I said and wrote over the last 12 years is worthy of publication," Walker said.

A point of great regret, he said, is that he finds American democracy weaker now than when he started. Younger generations lack access to the same "mobility escalator" that he rode from poverty. And he described President Donald Trump's administration's first six months as "disorienting" for a sector he successfully pushed to adopt more ambitious and just funding practices.

Despite that bleak picture, Walker embraces the characterization of his upcoming collection as patriotic.

"My own journey in America leaves me no option but to be hopeful because I have lived in a country that believed in me," he said.

Walker recently discussed his tenure and the book's call for shared values with the Associated Press inside his Ford Foundation office - where an enlarged picture of a Black child taken by Malian portrait photographer Seydou Keita still hangs, one of many under-represented artists' works that populated the headquarters under his leadership. This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

Question: Upon becoming Ford Foundation's president, you suggested that "our most important job is to work ourselves out of a job" — a 2013 statement you include in the book. How would you grade your efforts?

Answer: The past 12 years have been both exhilarating and exhausting. Exhilarating because there's never been a more exciting time to be in philanthropy. And exhausting because the political, socioeconomic dynamics of the last 12 years are very worrisome for our future. Philanthropy can play a role in helping to strengthen our democracy. But philanthropy can't save America.

I would probably give myself a B or a B-. I don't think where we are as a nation after 12 years is where any country would want to be that had its eye on the future and the strength of our democracy.

Q: Is there anything you would do differently?

A: In 2013 and those early speeches, I identified growing inequality as a challenge to the strength of our democracy. And a part of that manifestation of growing inequality was a growing sense of disaffection - from our politics, our institutions, our economy. For the first time, a decade or so ago, we had clear evidence that working class white households were increasingly downwardly mobile economically. And the implications for that are deep and profound for our politics and our democracy.

We started a program on increasing our investments in rural America, acknowledging some of the challenges, for example, of the trends around the impacts of the opioid epidemic on those communities. I underestimated the depth and the collective sense of being left behind. Even though I think I was correct in diagnosing the prob-



Ford Foundation President Darren Walker speaks at the opening of the Afro-Atlantic Histories exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Gallery of Art in Washington, April 7, 2022. (AP)

lem, I think the strategy to respond was not focused enough on this population.

Q: Many people credit you for using Ford Foundation's endowment to increase grantmaking during the pandemic. Is that sort of creativity needed now with the new strains faced by the philanthropic sector?

A: One of the disappointments I have with philanthropy is that we don't take enough risk. We don't innovate given the potential to use our capital to provide solutions. I do think that, in the coming years, foundations are going to be challenged to step up and lean in in ways that we haven't since the pandemic.

The 5% payout is treated as a ceiling by a lot of foundations and, in fact, it's a floor. During these times when there's so much accumulated wealth sitting in our endowments, the public rightly is asking questions about just how much of that we are using and towards what end.

Q: Where do you derive this sense of "radical hope" at the end of your book?

A: As a poor kid in rural Texas, I was given the license to dream. In fact, I was encouraged to dream and to believe that it will be possible for me to overcome the circumstances into which I was born. I've lived on both sides of the line of inequality. And I feel incredibly fortunate. But I'm also sobered by the gap between the privileged and the poor and the working-class people in America. It has widened during my lifetime and that is something I worry a lot about.

But I'm hopeful because I think about my ancestors who were Black, enslaved, poor. African Americans, Black people, Black Americans have been hopeful for 400 years and have been patriots in believing in the possibility that this country would realize its aspirations for equality and justice. That has been our North Star.

Q: Heather Gerken, the dean of Yale's law school, was recently named as your successor. Why is it important to have a leader with a legal background and an expertise in democracy?

A: She is the perfect leader for Ford because she understands that at the center of our work must be a belief in democracy and democratic institutions and processes. She is also a bridge builder. She is a coalition builder. She's bold and courageous. I'm just thrilled about her taking the helm of the Ford Foundation.

It is a signal from the Ford Foundation Board of Trustees that we are going to double down on our investment and our commitment to strengthening, protecting and promoting democracy.

Film



Harriet Slater arrives at the premiere of 'Outlander: Blood of My Blood' on Monday, July 28, in Los Angeles. (AP)

'A sweeping, romantic adventure'

A small Serbian town is home to Robin Hood... in a new TV series

SIMANOVCI, Serbia, July 29, (AP): Villages and castles from 12th-century England came to life in a small town in Serbia for the filming of a new series about Robin Hood that has just wrapped in the landlocked country in southeast Europe.

The 10-episode take on England's beloved medieval outlaw who, in lore, stole from the rich to give to the poor, comes from Lionsgate Television, and is expected to premiere on MGM+ in the US and parts of Europe later this year.

The Associated Press recently visited the set in Simanovci, the village which is home to a film studio and not far from the capital of Belgrade. Thorough research for the series was visible in the scenography and costumes, taking the cast - and the studio - back in time to the stony interiors of a candlelit castle, complete with stained-glass lancet windows.

The "sweeping, romantic adventure" offers a historically grounded look into how Robin Hood grew up to become an outlaw-turned-hero in the wake of the Norman conquest of England, the producers say.

"We actually show the beginning of Robin Hood," producer, director and writer Jonathan English, who was a main driving force behind the project, said in an interview. "We start the story with him as a child."

Self-described as a "huge fan of all things medieval," English marveled at Robin Hood's persistent global appeal.

"You can stop a pensioner on the streets of Belgrade and he knows



Actor Lauren McQueen as Marian smiles during an interview with The Associated Press about the Robin Hood ten-episode series, in Belgrade, Serbia, Monday, May 5, 2025. (AP)

who Robin Hood is. You can stop a teenager on the streets of Beijing, and they know who Robin Hood is," he said.

Asked whether the story is still relevant, following countless cinematic and small-screen adaptations, English insisted that "it is incredibly relevant, probably more today than ... 50 years ago or 100 years ago, even."

"It's a story about class and the absolute tyranny of class, people who believe that they can have everything and control everything and can own everything and everybody else could just, you know, get lost," he said. "There's always been wealthy people, but now you have uber-rich people. And the divide between the uber-rich and the rest of the world is extraordinary now."

The show's plot centers strongly

on the romance between Robin and Marian. He is a Saxon forester's son and Marian is the daughter of a Norman lord but they overcome the divide to jointly fight for freedom and against injustice.

Australian actor Jack Patten plays Robin, joined by Lauren McQueen as Marian. The two appear alongside Sean Bean as the notorious Sheriff of Nottingham, and Connie Nielsen, who plays Eleanor of Aquitaine, the queen of England and wife of Henry II.

Patten admitted he was nervous ahead of his "third gig since getting out of drama school." His Robin is "any young 24-year-old ... trying to find his place in the world" and who "gets dealt some pretty tricky cards."

McQueen said Marian's character will be "quite empowering" for young women watching the series.

Filmed in multiple locations in Serbia and with hundreds of staff and crew, the series is "huge" even by Hollywood standards, showrunner and writer John Glenn said. He described the new show as "much more Peaky Blinders in tone" than previous incarnations, referring to the hit U.K. TV series about gangsters in 1920s Birmingham.

Both Glenn and English said they chose Serbia because of high-standard facilities and crews but also because of the natural scenery that could mimic a medieval English landscape.

"It's hard to find ancient forests now in England," English said. "There's not a lot of undeveloped wilderness."

Variety

DAKAR, Senegal: US singer Ciara is one of the first public figures to become a citizen of Benin under a recent law by the small West African country granting citizenship to descendants of enslaved people.

The Grammy-winning performer's acquisition of citizenship at a ceremony Saturday in the city of Cotonou is part of a broader initiative by Benin to attract the Black diaspora, acknowledge the country's role in the transatlantic slave trade, and promote tourism focused on slavery-related sites of remembrance.

"By legally recognizing these children of Africa, Benin is healing a historical wound. It is an act of justice, but also one of belonging and hope," Justice Minister Yvon Déchénou said at the ceremony.

In September, Benin passed a law granting citizenship to those who can trace their lineage to the slave trade.

It is open to anyone above 18 who doesn't already hold other African citizenship and can provide proof that an ancestor was deported via the slave trade from anywhere in sub-Saharan Africa. Beninese authorities accept DNA tests, authenticated testimonies and family records.

Last week, the government launched My Afro Origins, the digital platform that processes applications.

While Benin is not the first country to grant citizenship to descendants of enslaved people, its citizenship law carries added significance, in part because of the role it played in the transatlantic slave trade. (AP)

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BEIRUT: Hundreds of people in Lebanon paid tribute Monday to iconic composer, pianist and playwright Ziad Rahbani, who died over the weekend. His mother, Fayrouz, one of the Arab world's most esteemed singers, made a rare public appearance.

Rahbani, also known as a political provocateur, died Saturday at age 69. The cause of death was not immediately known.

His passing shocked much of the Arab world, which appreciated his satire, unapologetic political critique and avant-garde, jazz-inspired compositions that mirrored the chaos and contradictions of Lebanon throughout its civil war from 1975 until 1990. He also composed some of his mother's most famous songs.

The Rahbani family was a cornerstone in Lebanon's golden era of music theater that today is steeped in idealism and nostalgia in a troubled country.

Top Lebanese political officials and artists paid tribute after the death was announced. Rahbani, a leftist Greek Orthodox, often mocked Lebanon's sectarian divisions in his work.

Hundreds of people holding roses and photos gathered by Khoury Hospital near Beirut's busy Hamra district, solemnly singing some of his most famous songs and applauding as a vehicle carrying his body left its garage. (AP)

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VIENTIANE: The "New Perspective: China-Laos Young Artists Exchange Exhibition" has opened in Lao capital Vientiane with over 100 guests from the cultural and tourism sectors of both countries attending the opening ceremony.

Co-organized by the China Cultural Center in Laos and the China Center of International Cultural Exchange and Tourism Promotion, the exhibition showcases 48 artworks by emerging Chinese and Lao artists, including 13 new pieces by Chinese artists inspired by their travels in Laos, as well as six standout works by Lao artists.

The showcase reflects Chinese artists' appreciation of Lao culture, while providing a platform for Lao artists to share their stories with Chinese audiences.

Speaking at the opening ceremony on Sunday, Khamsouk Keovongxay, director general of the Lao National Institute of Fine Arts, praised the exhibition for strengthening cultural ties under the Belt and Road Initiative and fostering deeper mutual understanding between artists from both nations. (Xinhua)



Ciara

Active living boosts brain health in aging adults

Stay sharp with age: Exercise both mind and body, eat well

WASHINGTON, July 29, (AP): It's official: Older Americans worried about cognitive decline can stay sharper for longer by exercising both their bodies and their brains and eating healthier.

That's according to initial results released Monday from a rigorous US study of lifestyle changes in seniors at risk of developing dementia. People following a combination of healthier habits slowed typical age-related cognitive decline - achieving scores on brain tests as if they were a year or two younger, researchers reported in JAMA and at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference.

It's not too late to get started -- study participants were in their 60s and 70s -- and it doesn't require becoming a pickleball champ or swearing off ice cream.

"It was the first time I felt like I was doing something proactive to protect my brain," said Phyllis Jones, 66, of Aurora, Illinois, who joined the study after caring for her mother with dementia and struggling with her own health problems.

It's too soon to know if stalling



An elderly couple walks down a hallway in Easton, Pa., on Nov. 6, 2015. (AP)

age-related decline also could reduce the risk of later Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. But Jones and other study participants underwent brain scans and blood tests that researchers now are analyzing for clues - such as whether people also saw a reduction in Alzheimer's-re-

lated protein buildup.

"We're all on a cognitive aging clock and anything we can do to slow that clock down, to me, that is a significant benefit," said Laura Baker of Wake Forest University School of Medicine, who led the study.

Doctors have long encouraged

physical activity and a healthy diet for brain fitness. Those steps fight high blood pressure and cholesterol, heart disease and diabetes, factors that increase the risk of dementia.

But until now the strongest evidence that specific lifestyle changes later in life could improve how people perform on brain tests came from a study in Finland.

Would it work for a more sedentary and culturally diverse U.S. population? With funding from the Alzheimer's Association and the National Institute on Aging, Baker's team tested the strategy for two years in 2,100 adults ages 60 to 79.

Half of participants were randomly assigned to group classes for exercise and dietary changes plus brain-challenging homework - with peer support and coaches tracking their progress.

They did a half-hour of moderately intense exercise four times a week -- plus twice a week, they added 10 to 15 minutes of stretching and 15 to 20 minutes of resistance training.

They followed the "MIND diet" that stresses lots of leafy greens and berries plus whole grains, poultry

and fish. Nothing is banned but it urges limiting red meat, fried or "fast food" and sweets, and substituting olive oil for butter and margarine.

They also had to meet someone or try something new weekly and do brain "exercises" using an online program called Brain HQ.

Other study participants, the control group, received brain-healthy advice and minimal coaching - they chose what steps to follow.

Both improved but the groups fared significantly better.

Combining social engagement with exercise and dietary steps may be key, said Jessica Langbaum of the Banner Alzheimer's Institute, who wasn't involved with the study.

"Americans want to have that one easy thing - 'If I just eat my blueberries,'" Langbaum said. "There is no one magic bullet. It is a whole lifestyle."

Moderately intense physical activity means raising your heart rate and panting a bit yet still able to talk, said Wake Forest's Baker. Pick something safe for your physical capability and start slowly, just 10 minutes at a time until you can handle more,

she cautioned.

Make it something you enjoy so you stick with it.

Likewise there are many options for brain exercise, Baker said - puzzles, joining a book club, learning an instrument or a new language.

Jones, a software engineer-turned-tester, learned she loves blueberry-spinach smoothies. Her favorite exercise uses an at-home virtual reality program that lets her work up a sweat while appearing to be in another country and communicating with other online users.

Researchers will track study participants' health for four more years and the Alzheimer's Association is preparing to translate the findings into local community programs.

Will people with stick with their new habits?

Jones lost 30 pounds, saw her heart health improve and feels sharper especially when multitasking. But she hadn't realized her diet slipped when study coaching ended until a checkup spotted rising blood sugar. Now she and an 81-year-old friend from the study are helping keep each other on track.

UVC light fights infections

Experts find weak spot to fight aggressive cancers

SYDNEY, July 29, (Xinhua): Researchers in Australia have discovered a new way that could curb aggressive and hard-to-treat cancers by targeting a specialized molecular process known as "minor splicing."

The study shows that blocking minor splicing significantly slows tumor growth in liver, lung and stomach cancers without harming healthy cells, according to a statement released Monday from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI) in Australia's Melbourne.

Splicing is how cells turn long strands of RNA into shorter pieces called messenger RNA, which provide the template for the production of proteins. Major splicing carries out 99.5 percent of this work.

Minor splicing is an indispensable process for the remaining 0.5 percent of genes, affecting about 700 of the 20,000 genes in the human genome.

The new research reveals that blocking minor splicing causes the accumulation of DNA damage in cancer cells and activates a key tumour suppressor pathway that leads to cell death. Remarkably, healthy cells are largely unaffected, the researchers found.

"Instead of trying to target specific mutations that may only apply to a subset of patients, we're disrupting a fundamental process that these fast-growing cancers rely on," said Professor Joan Heath, lead researcher at WEHI.

The team worked to screen over 270,000 drug-like molecules to find promising candidates to develop therapies targeting minor splicing.

"We've validated minor splicing as a compelling therapeutic target -- now the challenge is to develop a drug compound that can safely and effectively inhibit it," Heath said.

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Respiratory infection: Ultraviolet C (UVC) light technology can substantially lower respiratory infections among elderly care facility res-

idents, an Australian study revealed on Tuesday.

Researchers installed germicidal ultraviolet (GUV) devices in South Australian aged care homes to purify air by emitting UVC rays that deactivate viruses and bacteria, according to a statement released by South Australia's Flinders University.

The randomized trial in four aged care facilities showed that using commercial GUV devices cut viral respiratory infections by 12.2 percent, about 0.3 fewer cases weekly, said the study detailed in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine, published by the American Medical Association.

"Some of the key advantages of germicidal ultraviolet air-treatment appliances are that they are easily installed into existing facilities and cost-effective to use," says lead author Andrew Shoubridge from Flinders University and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute.

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Hepatitis: Hepatitis Australia calls for more testing and awareness as new data reveals changing hepatitis demographics and gaps in diagnosis and treatment.

Nearly 300,000 Australians live with hepatitis B or C, and about 1,000 die each year from related complications, a situation Hepatitis Australia called "a serious concern" on Monday, the United Nations World Hepatitis Day.

"Most people have no symptoms of hepatitis B or hepatitis C until much later, when their liver might be seriously affected," said Hepatitis Australia President Joseph Doyle.

Lucy Clynes, CEO of Hepatitis Australia, the peak organization, highlighted that one-third of hepatitis B patients are unaware of their status, and many hepatitis C patients miss treatment as they are outside typical high-risk groups.

Over 60,000 Palestinians killed in 21-month war

‘Worst-case scenario of famine’ is happening in Gaza, experts say



Naima Abu Ful holds her malnourished 2-year-old child, Yazan, at their home in the Shati refugee camp in Gaza City on Wednesday, July 23. (AP)

TEL AVIV, Israel, July 29, (AP): The "worst-case scenario of famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip," the leading international authority on food crises said in a new alert Tuesday, predicting "widespread death" without immediate action.

The alert, still short of a formal famine declaration, follows an outcry over images of emaciated children in Gaza and reports of dozens of hunger-related deaths after nearly 22 months of war. The international pressure led Israel over the weekend to announce measures, including daily humanitarian pauses in fighting in parts of Gaza and airdrops. The United Nations and Palestinians on the ground say little has changed, and desperate crowds continue to overwhelm and unload delivery trucks before they can reach their destinations.

Blockades

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, said Gaza has teetered on the brink of famine for two years, but recent developments have "dramatically worsened" the situation, including "increasingly stringent blockades" by Israel.

A formal famine declaration, which is rare, requires the kind of data that the lack of access to Gaza and mobility within has largely denied. The IPC has only declared famine a few times - in Somalia in 2011, South Sudan in 2017 and 2020, and parts of Sudan's western Darfur region last year.

But independent experts say they don't need a formal declaration to know what they're seeing in Gaza.

"Just as a family physician can often diagnose a patient she's familiar with based on visible symptoms without having to send samples to the lab and wait for results, so too we can interpret Gaza's symptoms. This is famine," Alex de Waal, author of "Mass Starvation: The History and Future of Famine" and executive director of the World Peace Foundation, told The Associated Press.

An area is classified as in famine when all three of the following conditions are confirmed:

At least 20% of households have an extreme lack of food, or are essentially

starving. At least 30% of children six months to 5 years old suffer from acute malnutrition or wasting, meaning they're too thin for their height. And at least two people or four children under 5 per 10,000 are dying daily due to starvation or the interaction of malnutrition and disease.

Malnourished

Over 60,000 Palestinians have been killed in the 21-month Israel-Hamas war, Gaza's Health Ministry said Tuesday. At least 77 were killed over the past 24 hours, most while seeking food.

Israel's offensive has destroyed vast areas of Gaza, displaced around 90% of the population and fueled a catastrophic humanitarian crisis.

The report is based on available information through July 25 and says the crisis has reached "an alarming and deadly turning point." It says data indicate that famine thresholds have been reached for food consumption in most of Gaza - at its lowest level since the war began - and for acute malnutrition in Gaza City. The report says nearly 17 out of every 100 children under the age of 5 in Gaza City are acutely malnourished.

Mounting evidence shows "widespread starvation." Essential health and

other services have collapsed. One in three people in Gaza is going without food for days at a time, according to the World Food Program. Hospitals report a rapid increase in hunger-related deaths in children under 5. Gaza's population of over 2 million has been squeezed into increasingly tiny areas of the devastated territory.

The IPC's latest analysis in May warned that Gaza will likely fall into famine if Israel doesn't lift its blockade and stop its military campaign. Its new alert calls for immediate and large-scale action and warns: "Failure to act now will result in widespread death in much of the strip."

Israel has restricted aid to varying degrees throughout the war. In March, it cut off the entry of all goods, including fuel, food and medicine, to pressure Hamas to free hostages.

Israel eased those restrictions in May but also pushed ahead with a new US-backed aid delivery system that has been wracked by chaos and violence. The traditional, UN-led aid providers say deliveries have been hampered by Israeli military restrictions and incidents of looting, while criminals and hungry crowds swarm entering convoys.

Sarepta back

FDA to review gene therapy

WASHINGTON, July 29, (AP): Shares of beleaguered drugmaker Sarepta Therapeutics jumped in afterhours trading Monday after the company said it would resume shipping its gene therapy for some patients, following a brief pause requested by regulators.

The Food and Drug Administration said it recommended lifting the hold for young patients with Duchenne's muscular dystrophy who are still able to walk. Regulators had requested the pause after the deaths of two older teenagers who were taking the therapy. The FDA also said in a statement it determined that a recently reported death of an 8-year-old boy was unrelated to the therapy.

Company shares surged more than 16% after the announcement to \$13.86 in afterhours trading. The jump is the latest in a series of drastic stock movements triggered by changing fortunes for the company's best-selling product.

Elevidys is the first gene therapy approved in the US for Duchenne's muscular dystrophy, the fatal muscle-wasting disease that affects boys and young men, resulting in early death. It received accelerated approval in 2023 for a narrow range of young patients and was expanded last year for use in older patients, including those who can no longer walk.

The FDA decision Monday "significantly improves Elevidys' sales outlook in the near-term," Jefferies analyst Andrew Tsai told investors, in a note after the announcement. "The street will feel relieved about the situation, suggesting meaningful stock upside potential."

Sarepta's therapy has been under scrutiny from regulators after two teenage boys died earlier this year from acute liver injury, a known side effect of the treatment. The FDA then requested a pause in shipments of the drug after the death of a third patient taking a different Sarepta therapy.

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Holder dismisses Maxwell for golden duck

Australia’s Caribbean tour ends with perfect 8-0 record in tests and T20s

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts, July 29, (AP): Australia completed a sweep of the Twenty20 international cricket series with a three-wicket victory over West Indies to finish its Caribbean tour with an 8-0 record.

Australia went into the last game on a 7-match winning streak following the 3-0 test series sweep and victories in the first four of the T20 internationals. It was Australia’s first sweep of a five-game T20 series and only the second at the most elite level after India’s in New Zealand in 2019-20.

“To be honest, I didn’t expect 5-0,” Australia captain Mitchell Marsh said. The sweep “was something we spoke about after the fourth game. We knew no Australian team had done it.

“It’ll be something we’re very proud of. Across the board over the five games, we played some really good cricket.”

After winning the toss for the eighth straight time, Australia sent the home team in to bat and dismissed West Indies for 170 two balls short of the allotted 20 overs.

Shimron Hetmyer’s 52 from 31 balls and Sherfane Rutherford’s 35 off 17 propped up the innings but the target wasn’t big enough to put genuine pressure on the Australian batters.

Ben Dharshuis took 3-41 and Nathan Ellis finished with 2-32, while spin-

ner Adam Zampa returned 1-20 in his 100th T20 international after taking a wicket and having a chance dropped off his bowling in the penultimate over.

The Australians reached 173-7 with 18 balls to spare, with a 63-run fifth-wicket partnership between Mitchell Owen (37 off 17 deliveries) and Cameron Green (32 off 18) stabilizing the innings. Aaron Hardie finished not out on 28.

West Indies had Australia in trouble in the opening powerplay with Jason Holder and Alzarri Joseph taking two wickets apiece, but the runs kept flowing. Holder dismissed Glenn Maxwell for a golden duck, the first ball of the second over, when the Australian allrounder swung at a ball that shaped away and edged to short third-man where Jediah Blades juggled the catch but held the second grab.

Holder also removed Josh Inglis (10) at the end of the second over.

Joseph bowled Marsh (14) as Australia slipped to 29-3 after 2.2 overs and, after on onslaught of sixes, he had Tim David (30 from 12 balls) caught in the deep as Australia slipped to 60-4 in the fifth over.

From there, Owen and Green dominated with a succession of sixes, including one by Owen that landed on the roof on a pavilion.

Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein was finally introduced to the attack to

change the pace, and had an immediate impact with his second delivery to dismiss Owen and break up the important partnership.

Hosein also dismissed Green and Ben Dwarshuis to return 3-17.

Australia had a three-wicket win to open the T20 series before Josh Inglis and Cameron Green spearheaded an eight-wicket victory that spoiled Andre Russell’s last game for West Indies in the second game at Kingston, Jamaica.

The tourists then clinched the series on the back of a 37-ball century by Tim David in St. Kitts on Friday before Inglis and Green again combined to help them win the fourth game.

“A lot of guys had great series,” Green, who batted at No. 4 and was voted player of the series, said. “We’ve got about half a team who’re allrounders. That’s the beauty of what we’re trying to build here. A lot of depth.”

The sweep, he said, was a “massive” boost ahead of next year’s T20 World Cup.

“You always want to win every game you can. T20 can be a bit of a lottery at times, so to build a bit of consistency is important,” he said. “Good signs.”

The Australians will host South Africa in a T20 series next month, and West Indies takes on Pakistan in another home series involving three T20s and three one-day internationals.

Diggins has another triple-double as Seattle blows past Connecticut



New York Liberty forward Isabelle Harrison (21) and Dallas Wings guard Haley Jones (30) reach for the ball during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

Wings hang on to defeat Liberty

UNCASVILLE, Conn., July 29, (AP): **Skylar Diggins had a triple-double, Nneka Ogumike scored 26 points and the Seattle Storm blew past the Connecticut Sun 101-85.**

Nine days after recording the first triple-double in WNBA All-Star Game history, Diggins did it again with 11 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists against the Sun.

Seattle led 57-46 at halftime, then Ogumike had nine points and Diggins scored four as the Storm added 13 points in the first three minutes of the third quarter. Seattle scored 30 points in the period and took an 87-58 lead into the fourth.

Ogumike shot 11 for 13, including 4 of 5 on 3-pointers. She did not attempt a shot in the fourth quarter.

Seattle’s 86.7% shooting in the third quarter was a franchise record for any quarter.

The Storm cooled down in the fourth quarter, scoring 14 points. They finally reached the 100-point mark when Zia Cooke hit a jumper

with nine seconds left.

Williams scored 16 points, Dominique Malonga had 12 and Ezi Magbegor 10 for Seattle (16-11).

Bria Hartley scored 17 and Tina Charles added 11 for Connecticut (4-21). Jacy Sheldon scored 11 off the bench and Olivia Nelson-Ododa had 10.

The Storm’s 57 first-half points were one less than they managed in a 69-58 loss to Washington on Saturday.

Seattle has alternated wins and losses for eight straight games since defeating Eastern Conference leader New York 79-70 on July 6.

Wings 92, Liberty 82

In Arlington, Arike Ogunbowale had 20 points and 14 assists, Paige Bueckers scored 20 points and the Dallas Wings hung on to beat the New York Liberty despite making only one field goal in the fourth quarter.

Dallas led 85-62 through three quarters but a 3-pointer from Aziaha James with about 7 minutes remaining was the Wings’ only basket of the

final period.

New York outscored Dallas 20-3 over the first 8 1/2 minutes, capped by Jonquel Jones’ 3-pointer that made it 88-82.

Bueckers - with former UConn teammate Azzi Fudd in attendance wearing an “I Heart PB” T-shirt - finally scored for Dallas, making two free throws with 1:06 remaining. After Jones missed a jumper, DiJonai Carrington made two free throws for a 92-82 lead with 54 seconds left.

The Wings led 31-19 after the first quarter and extended their lead to 63-36 at halftime, when Ogunbowale became the first player in WNBA history to have at least 15 points and 10 assists in one half.

Jones had 18 points for New York (17-8), which was playing without Breanna Stewart because of a right leg injury and lost its second straight. Sabrina Ionescu scored 17.

Luisa Geiselsoder had 14 points for Dallas (8-19).

Unfinished business

Paul back with Clippers and it means so much to him

INGLEWOOD, Calif., July 29, (AP): Chris Paul walked into an empty Intuit Dome on Monday, looked up at the massive halo board and saw his name. His No. 3 jersey hung in the home locker room.

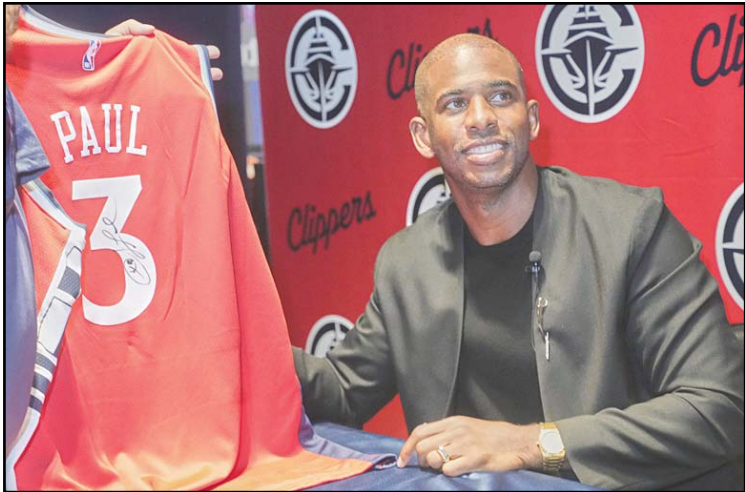
Both things confirmed that Paul was back where he’d wanted to be for a long time, with the Los Angeles Clippers. He signed on last week for an off-the-bench role in the hopes of winning an NBA championship alongside Kawhi Leonard and James Harden.

“It’s kind of wild, kind of crazy, still kind of speechless,” Paul said. “This is one of those things I kind of manifested for a long time, sort of tried to speak it into existence, but you just never know if it’s really going to happen.”

Last summer, Paul reached out to Clippers owner Steve Ballmer and asked for a tour of Intuit Dome, which opened nearly a year ago.

“I was just sort of peeking because I didn’t know if a guy on the current team was here and they were like, ‘What the hell he doing here walking around?’” Paul said, smiling. “Walking around just now it’s a totally different feeling.”

Paul frequently glanced down at



Chris Paul signs Los Angeles Clippers jerseys after being introduced as the newest member of the team during an NBA basketball news conference in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

his family sitting in the first row - wife Jada, 16-year-old son Chris Jr. and 12-year-old daughter Camryn. They continued living in Los Angeles when he left the Clippers six years ago. That led to watching their father on TV and sharing quick phone conversations before school.

“I love to hoop, I love to play this game but I love my family more

than any of it,” he said.

He’s already making up for lost time.

He lifted weights with his son and recently returned from attending his daughter’s AAU basketball tournament.

“To tell you the truth, my wife and my kids probably tired of me already,” he said. “Ever since I got the news, every time we’re home,

I’m just jumping around talking about ‘I’m home, I’m home.’”

Paul left the Clippers for the Houston Rockets in 2017 because he felt it was time for a change and he wanted to compete for a championship with Harden.

“It’s wild that you get this opportunity again after those two years and the success that we had,” Paul said. “We definitely know we had unfinished business so we get a chance to see what’s going on here.”

After two seasons in Houston, Paul went to Oklahoma City for one season. He then spent three years with Phoenix and one with Golden State before joining the Spurs last season. They finished 13th in the Western Conference at 34-48.

“I wanted to get back and play here by any means necessary,” Paul said. “I didn’t even care what the team looked like, I just wanted to be home, be here with the Clippers.”

Paul joins Los Angeles Lakers superstar LeBron James as active 40-year-olds in the NBA.

“It’s going to be cool,” he said. “It’s a lot of gratitude to still get a chance to play at this age.”

Tinubu hosts women’s team

Super Falcons rise above poor management to clinch trophy

LAGOS, Nigeria, July 29, (AP): Nigeria’s President Bola Tinubu hosted and splashed gifts on the triumphant national women’s soccer team who overcame poor preparations and missing payments to win their record-extending 10th Women’s Africa Cup of Nations title.

The Super Falcons’ comeback 3-2 victory over host Morocco in Saturday’s thrilling final was applauded by Tinubu and many in Nigeria, a soccer-loving nation where passion and hard work often triumphs over institutional challenges.

The continental success, analysts say, papers over the mismanagement of the women’s team by the country’s authorities. The success of the country had come in spite of the country.

“They have been able to dominate even though the Nigerian soccer authorities do not put as much funding, care, attention, and planning into the way the women’s national team is run,” Solace Chukwu, a Lagos-based soccer analyst, told The Associated Press.

The team had been owed match bonuses for years, once resulting in a training boycott in 2022. Even as they triumphed on the way to the finals in Morocco, the backlog of payments was only approved by the president days before Saturday’s final. They also could not hold competitive friendly matches and their training kits were said to not have been available.

It is a common problem in Nigeria where sporting competitions are often dogged by issues of underfunding, corruption, and mismanagement that have led to high-profile scandals resulting in athletes choosing to represent other countries in protest.

Women’s teams are affected the most, partly because of how women have always been viewed in the Nigerian society, according to Oluwashina Okeleji, a sport analyst with focus on Africa.

“The argument from the (Nigerian) federation is that the men bring more money than the women, but the truth is the women bring most prestige, honours, and titles to Nigeria,” Okeleji said.

A spokesperson for the Nigeria Football Federation, the country’s governing soccer body, declined to respond to the allegations.

The Nigerian women’s team has exercised a near-total dominance in African soccer, which is partly credited to a head-start in the women’s game. Nigeria created the first soccer league for women in 1978, years before their counterparts on the continent.

However, the gains have not catapulted the team to similar achievements on the global stage in what analysts say is a failure of the authorities to capitalize on this early advantage.

“The men’s team is huge generally within the administration of Nigerian football as the cash cow,” Chukwu said.

The gifts now promised by the president, including money and property, have not convinced the fans.

“This one-time payment and apartment does not make any sense. For what? What they need is investment in the facilities, the staff, and payment. The lack of investment in women’s football is one of the reasons why it is not as high quality as the men’s,” Funmi Obasa, a football fan in Abuja who follows the women’s team, told AP.



Nigeria’s captain Rasheedat Ajibade, center, holds the Women’s African Cup of Nations trophy upon arrival at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International airport in Abuja, Nigeria. (AP)

‘We are ready for the tournament’

Co-host Uganda names squad

KAMPALA, July 29, (Xinhua): Uganda’s coaching duo of Morley Byekwaso and Fred Muhumuza named the final 25-man squad that will feature at the 2024 CAF African Nations Championship.

The tournament, which is contested solely by players featuring in their respective domestic leagues, is co-hosted by Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania and runs from August 2 to 30.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) rescheduled the tournament from last year to 2025, citing concerns over the readiness of facilities and infrastructure.

In the Ugandan squad, Vipers SC attacking midfielder Allan Okello has been named captain, to be assisted by Joel Mutakubwa and Rogers Ochaki Torach.

Uganda will be making its seventh appearance in the competition, and sits in Group C alongside South Africa, Niger, Guinea and Algeria.

“We have named a very competitive team, and we are ready for the tournament. The two matches we played last week against Tanzania and Senegal in the CECAFA pre-CHAN tournament also helped us improve on a few things,” said Byekwaso.

Uganda has never previously made it out of the group stage in their previous six appearances in the competition.

The Cranes will start their campaign against 2023 runners-up Algeria on August 4 at the Mandela National Stadium in Kampala, then return to action against Guinea on August 8, before facing Niger three days later and winding up the group stage against South Africa on August 18.

Following is the Ugandan squad: Goalkeepers: Denis Kiggundu (Vipers SC), Joel Mutakubwa (Bidco FC), Chrispas Kusiima (Kitara FC) Defenders: Arnold Odong (SC Villa), Nicholas Mwere (Bidco FC), Gideon Odong (NEC FC), Herbert Achai (KCCA FC), Rogers Torach (Vipers SC), Lazarro Muhindo (KCCA FC), Hilary Mukundane (Vipers SC), Gavin Kizito (KCCA FC) Midfielders: Joseph Youngman Marvin (Vipers SC), Elvis Ngonde (SC Villa), Patrick Jonah Kakande (SC Villa), Allan Okello (Vipers SC), Joel Sserunjogi (KCCA FC), Enock Ssebagala (Vipers SC), Abdu Karim Watambala (Vipers SC).

Forwards: Jude Ssemugabi (Kitara FC), Ivan Ahimbisibwe (KCCA FC), Arafat Kiza Usama (KCCA FC), Yunus Junior Sentamu (Vipers SC), Reagan Mpande (SC Villa), Emmanuel Anyama (KCCA FC), Shafik Nana Kwikiriza (KCCA FC).

Al-Musallam announces \$10m athlete fund

FINA adds new events to 2028 Olympics, expands global aquatics development

SINGAPORE, July 29: The International Aquatics Federation (FINA) has announced significant additions to the aquatics program for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. The 50-meter events in breaststroke, butterfly, and backstroke have been added to the Olympic schedule. Additionally, the women’s water polo tournament will be expanded to include 12 teams – matching the number of men’s teams for the first time in Olympic history.

The announcement was made during the FINA Congress in Singapore, held on the sidelines of the World Championships. The session was attended by prominent figures including IOC President Christie Coventry, IOC Honorary President Dr. Thomas Bach, and FINA President Husain Al-Musallam.

Al-Musallam also revealed that the federation’s scholarship program has been expanded to support 111 athletes, up from 87 in 2021. For the first time, the program now includes water polo players, offering them access to training and educational opportunities.

To further support athlete development, the number of FINA training centers has grown from four to six, with new facilities established in Thailand, the United States, France, Canada, Australia, and Hungary. A seventh center is slated to open soon in Bahrain, which will host more than 50 swimmers and divers and provide academic support.

Highlighting the progress of the “Pools for All” initiative, Al-Musallam pointed to the success of the world’s highest-altitude pool built in Bhutan last year. He confirmed that the next pools under the program will be inaugurated



FINA President Husain Al-Musallam

in the Maldives before year-end and in Granada thereafter.

The federation has also made significant strides in coach and official development. Since 2021, the number of certified coaches has grown from 15 to 346, while certified technical referees have risen from 132 to 873 across 77 countries.

Al-Musallam noted that financial support for national federations under the IAAF Support Program has increased by 25% over the past four years, benefiting a record 193 federations. Furthermore, 42% of the IAAF’s total expenditure has been dedicated to development programs—ranking highest among all international federations.

In a landmark move, Al-Musallam announced the launch of an Athlete Retirement Compensation Program, with an initial investment of \$10 million. He called it a pioneering step among international federations, driven by the recommendations of a dedicated working group. Further details are expected to be shared in due course.

Additionally, the IAAF has increased the prize money pool for athletes, distributing more than \$12 million last year, and has adopted a gender equity policy to protect and support female athletes – setting a benchmark for other sports bodies.

Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Al-Musallam stressed that the federation maintained its high standards, successfully organizing nine major events in the past four years.

England head coach wants more investment to mark Euro 2025 win



England’s soccer players celebrate with fans during a ceremony on a stage in front of Buckingham Palace in central London after their victory in the Women’s EURO 2025 final. (AP)

LONDON, July 29, (AP): England head coach Sarina Wiegman has called for greater investment in women’s soccer as her side celebrated Euro 2025 success at a “very, very special” reception at 10 Downing Street.

The Lionesses successfully defended their Women’s European Championship title with a penalty shoot-out victory over Spain in the final in Basel, Switzerland on Sunday. Having become the first England team to win a major tournament on foreign soil, the squad flew home to attend a reception hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and sports minister Stephanie Peacock in central London.

The team arrived just before 7pm, with Number 10 decorated for the occasion with St George’s flags – also known as the flag of England – draped over windows and bunting along the railings.

As Wiegman rose to speak to those gathered in the Downing Street garden she joked that “this is different from standing next to a pitch”.

She added: “I have to make my apologies (for giving) you lots of heart attacks. You all made it through and we made it through and that’s why we’re here now.

“The team is just incredible, we won the Euros but making the final, we’re already legendary, what the team has done and the team behind the team.

“Thank you so much for having

Champions given a heroes’ welcome



England’s soccer head coach Sarina Wiegman, center right, and singer Burna Boy celebrate with players and fans during a ceremony on a stage in front of Buckingham Palace in central London after their victory in the Women’s EURO 2025 final. (AP)

us here. It’s very, very special to be here and to be in this very nice garden with the way you set it up with all these pictures, it makes it more special, it’s the first moment it sinks in a little bit because it was surreal what happened last night.”

Wiegman, speaking a few hours before the UK government announced a new package of measures to boost access to grassroots soccer, used the moment to call for further investment in the game.

“This incredible team won the Euros and then straightaway sent a letter to you, the Government, asking for attention and asking for access to football for all girls,” Wiegman said. “Steps have been taken but we’re not done yet, we have to keep moving forward and we need a little bit more.”

“We need some more investment,” she said. “We’re not there

yet. In England we’re up there but England needs to stay the trailblazer, it needs to be the big example. The players first but also the FA, the clubs, the Government, the country, the fans – let’s keep being the trailblazers.”

In her own speech, Rayner congratulated Wiegman’s team on defending their title “with grit, with determination and with skill”.

Thousands of fans came out to celebrate England’s back-to-back Women’s European Champions in London on Tuesday as coach Sarina Wiegman and her players were given a homecoming to remember.

Led by a marching band along the iconic Mall and later serenaded on stage by music stars Burna Boy and Heather Small, England’s players and staff partied in front of Buckingham Palace.

“I was crying all the way down

The Mall. This is unbelievable. This is probably one of the best things we’ve ever been a part of,” said captain Leah Williamson, fighting back more tears.

England made history by becoming the country’s first national soccer team across the men’s and women’s game to win a tournament on foreign soil with the penalty shootout victory against world champion Spain in Basel on Sunday.

Arriving on two open-top buses with “Champions” emblazoned on them, the players waved to the fans who, wearing face paint and waving flags, had lined the streets to welcome their heroes.

“We didn’t really know what to expect coming into it today, but everyone was so excited on the bus and it was so nice to come back to England and celebrate with our fans,” said Alessia Russo, who scored England’s equalizing goal in the final, which ended 1-1 after extra time. “It’s just a bit surreal. It’s crazy to see this many people come out in the home of England, in London, heading up to Buckingham Palace, I’d never have dreamt of anything like it.”

The central band of the Royal Air Force got the atmosphere going – playing England soccer anthems “Three Lions” and “Sweet Caroline.”

There was more music on stage with a special surprise for Wiegman, who is a fan of Burna Boy. The Nigerian Afro-fusion star joined her to sing his hit song “For my Hand,” with Wiegman dancing along and joining in.

The Dutch coach completed a three-peat of Euros titles, having previously won with her native Netherlands in 2017 and England in 2022.

Christopher faces possible exit

Al-Arabi signs Belgian striker Ngoyi

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Al-Arabi Club officially announced the signing of their fifth foreign player, Belgian striker of Congolese descent Julian Ngoyi, who joins from Belgian side Mechelen to strengthen the team’s attacking options for the upcoming season.

At 27 years old, Ngoyi is versatile, capable of playing both as a central striker and on the wings. His career includes stints in England, Switzerland, Turkey, and Belgium, having represented clubs such as Stoke City, Swindon Town, Grasshopper Club Zürich, Union Saint-Gilloise, and Kasimpasa. Ngoyi has also featured for Belgium’s youth national teams, including five appearances for the U21 side.

Al-Arabi aims to leverage Ngoyi’s international experience and physical prowess to boost its offensive firepower in the new campaign.

Ngoyi becomes the fifth foreign professional in Al-Arabi’s squad, joining French-Guinean Hassimi Fadiga, Ugandan Kenneth Ssemakula, and Nigerians Ayano Ewuala and Christopher John.

Meanwhile, with the departures of Hassan Hamdan and Algerian Sofiane Bouchare, Portuguese coach Marco Alves is keen on signing a new defender. Jordanian international Abdullah Nassib is reportedly on Al-Arabi’s shortlist for the position, though he has also attracted offers from Iraqi clubs Al-Zawraa and Al-Qawa Al-Jawiya.

Should Al-Arabi finalize a deal with Nassib or another defender, Nigerian Christopher John is expected to leave the



Julian Ngoyi

club ahead of the new season.

Al-Arabi is currently training twice daily at its camp in Abu Dhabi, which began last week. The team will hold a final training session this evening ahead of their season opener tomorrow against UAE side Hatta Club.

The squad is preparing for an August 12 playoff match against Maldivian club Maziya S&RC, part of the Asian Challenge League, to be held in the Maldives.

Before departing for the Maldives on August 8, Al-Arabi will play a friendly against UAE’s Baniyas Club on August 6.

Coach Alves is emphasizing training in humid conditions to help players acclimate to the high humidity typical of the Maldives throughout much of the year.

Best of the Rest

Kazma’s Azzi joins Makhachkala: Kazma has confirmed the transfer of Algerian defender Imad Azzi to Russian side Dynamo Makhachkala, following approval from the club’s board. The announcement was made by Kazma’s treasurer and head of football operations, Omar Al-Mulla.

Al-Mulla thanked Azzi for his contributions during his time with the club and praised the board’s role in finalizing the deal, wishing the player success in his next career step.

However, sources revealed tension between Azzi and the club, as the player was reportedly reluctant to join a team based in Moscow and expressed a preference to return to Algeria. Despite this, Kazma stood firm, favoring the Russian club’s \$500,000 offer over a \$300,000 bid from USM Alger.

Kazma ultimately rejected the lower Algerian offer and moved ahead with the transfer to Russia, securing a more financially favorable outcome.

Venus receives a wild-card entry: Venus Williams’ comeback is headed to the U.S. Open next month, when she will enter the redesigned mixed doubles tournament with Reilly Opelka via a wild-card entry.

The 45-year-old Williams, who returned to the tennis tour last week after more than a year away, and Opelka were among the 14 teams announced Tuesday by the U.S. Tennis Association for its mixed doubles event on Aug. 19-20.

Eight of the pairings received direct entry into the field based on having the highest combined current singles rankings, and six were given wild cards by the USTA. (AP)

□ □ □

Marseille loans Koné to Sassuolo: Marseille midfielder Ismaël Koné has been loaned to Serie A side Sassuolo, with an option to buy.

After joining Marseille from Watford last year, the Canada international struggled to settle and played just nine games for the nine-time French champions before being loaned to Rennes for the second half of last season. (AP)

Beijing to host Short-Course Swimming Championships

SINGAPORE, July 29, (Xinhua): Beijing has been confirmed as the host city for the 2026 World Aquatics Short-Course Swimming Championships following a decision by the World Aquatics Bureau.

The announcement was made during the World Aquatics General Congress in Singapore, held alongside the ongoing World Aquatics Championships.

More than 1,000 elite swimmers from over 200 countries and regions are expected to compete in the Chinese capital over six days in late 2026.

Beijing, known for its extensive experience in hosting major international sporting events, was selected after a competitive bidding process, World Aquatics said.

“Beijing has demonstrated time and again its

capacity to deliver world-class events across all aquatic disciplines,” said World Aquatics president Husain Al-Musallam. “We are confident that this tradition of excellence will continue in 2026.” Beijing has previously hosted 38 World Aquatics events and is also set to stage the full-scale World Aquatics Championships in 2029, which will include open water swimming and high diving in addition to the five core disciplines.

This will be the third time China has hosted the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m), following Shanghai in 2006 and Hangzhou in 2018.

Chinese Swimming Association president Zhou Jihong welcomed the decision. “We are thrilled and deeply honored to host this prestigious championship in Beijing, a city with a

strong Olympic legacy and enduring passion for aquatic sports,” said Zhou. “This is an important opportunity to showcase the talents of the world’s best swimmers, and we will work tirelessly to ensure a world-class experience for athletes, officials, and fans alike.” Among those anticipating the event is Chinese Olympic champion and men’s 100m freestyle long-course world record holder Pan Zhanle.

“I can’t wait to compete in front of a home crowd,” said Pan. “The short-course championships bring a unique intensity and excitement. I hope to make history in Beijing and inspire the next generation of swimmers.” With the successful bid, China further strengthens its role as a major contributor to the global aquatics community, having hosted more than 100 World Aquatics events to date, the federation said.

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Draw Assistant Sangita Besfore of India displays Philippines during the draw for next year's Women's Asian Cup in Sydney, Australia. (AP)

Sports

Kuwaiti vows to drive growth and unity in AHF

Al-Dhiyab elected Asian Handball Federation president

KUWAIT CITY, July 29, (KUNA): The Asian Handball Federation officially announced the unopposed appointment of Kuwaiti official Bader Al-Dhiyab as President for the upcoming 2025–2029 electoral term. Elections for the remaining positions are scheduled to take place in Egypt this December.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Dhiyab described his appointment as a “great responsibility” that demands persistent effort and strategic planning to achieve lasting success.

He revealed that work has already begun on a comprehensive strategy aimed at advancing Asian handball and positioning it prominently on the global stage.

His vision includes sustained support for the sport, development initiatives, and direct assistance to national federations to foster growth.

Al-Dhiyab emphasized his commitment to collaborating with stakeholders across the continent to develop all aspects of the game. This includes enhancing the technical capabilities of national teams, strengthening referee committees, and implementing elite-level training programs.

“Success is never the result of individual effort – it is achieved through collective teamwork and shared dedication,” he said.

He extended his gratitude to Abdulrahman Al-Mu-

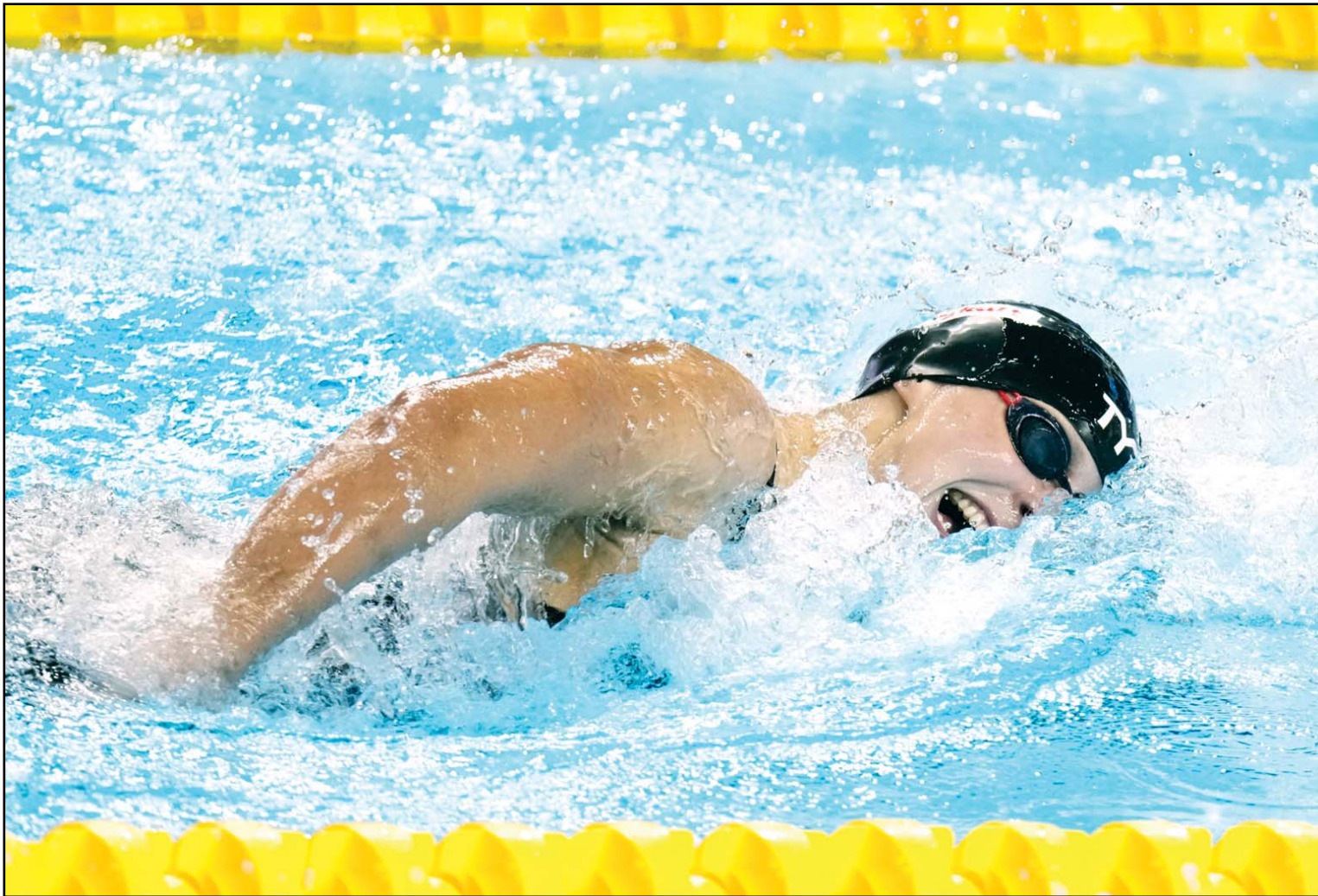
tairi, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, for his invaluable support in securing the position. Al-Dhiyab also thanked the member federations for their trust and confidence, underscoring that he always carries Kuwait’s name with pride – and views his success as a reflection of the nation’s excellence.

Al-Dhiyab brings extensive experience to the role, having previously served in senior positions within both the Asian and International Handball Federations, including Vice President of the International Handball Federation and Treasurer of the Asian Handball Federation.



Newly-elected Asian Handball Federation President Bader Al-Dhiyab.

Ledecky rules the pool again with epic worlds 1,500m win



Katie Ledecky of the United States competes in the women's 1500m freestyle final at the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore. (AP)

Australian McKeown nears world record

SINGAPORE, July 29, (AP): Katie Ledecky may have ceded a bit of ground in some other events, but she remains unbeatable in the 1,500-meter freestyle.

She claimed victory again on Tuesday at the Swimming World Championships in Singapore, finishing in 15 minutes, 26.44 seconds. Simona Quadarella of Italy took silver in 15:31.79, setting a new European record, while Australia’s Lani Pallister earned bronze in 15:41.18 in a fast-paced race.

“I was just trying to get out fast, but comfortable enough that I could go from there,” Ledecky said. “I’m happy with the time and happy with the swim.”

“I love this race,” she added. “It was the race where I broke my first world record in 2013. Lots of great races over the years.”

Ledecky was ahead of her own world-record pace through 1,250 meters, pushed early on by Pallister. This marked her second medal of the championships, having previously taken bronze in the 400-meter freestyle behind Canadian Summer McIntosh.

The numbers continue to underscore Ledecky’s dominance. The most decorated female swimmer in history, she has stayed at the top for over a decade. With Tuesday’s performance, she now holds 25 of the top 26 times ever recorded in the 1,500 meters. Her time in



Gold medalist Kaylee McKeown of Australia, center, flanked by silver medalist Regan Smith of the United States, left, and bronze medalist Katharine Berkoff of the United States pose on the podium after the women's 100m backstroke final at the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore. (AP)

Singapore was the fifth fastest in history, just shy of her world record of 15:20.48 set in 2018.

This was her 22nd world championship gold medal, and her 28th overall. Add to that nine Olympic golds and 14 total Olympic medals, and the total climbs to 42 Olympic and world championship medals – 31 of them gold.

Watching from the stands was newly elected International Olympic Committee President Kirsty Coventry, joined by former president Thomas Bach. Coventry is a former Olympic gold medalist for Zimbabwe, winning

the 200-meter backstroke in 2004 and 2008.

The Americans entered four finals on Tuesday with the top qualifying times, winning one gold and three silver medals, with close finishes in all three silver-medal events.

The U.S. team has been battling what officials described as “acute gastroenteritis,” picked up during a training camp in Thailand before arriving in Singapore.

“If you were in our team area, you’d never know that the majority of the team has gone through something over the last few days,” Meehan added, not-

ing that the team “vibe” remains strong.

Summer McIntosh, who won two gold medals in the first two days, did not compete on Day 3.

In other events:

David Popovici of Romania, the reigning Olympic champion, won the men’s 200-meter freestyle, overtaking American Luke Hobson in the final 50 meters to win in 1:43.53. Hobson was second in 1:43.84, and Tatsuya Murasa of Japan took bronze in 1:44.54.

Kaylee McKeown of Australia claimed gold in the women’s 100-meter backstroke, closing strong in the final 50 meters to beat American Regan Smith. McKeown clocked 57.16, just 0.03 seconds off Smith’s world record. Smith finished in 57.35, with Katharine Berkoff of the U.S. taking bronze in 58.15.

McKeown is the two-time defending Olympic champion in both the 100 and 200 backstroke and defeated Smith in Paris last year as well.

Pieter Coetzee of South Africa won the men’s 100-meter backstroke in 51.85 seconds, signaling a new generation of talent. Thomas Ceccon of Italy took silver in 51.90, while Yohann Ndoye-Brouard of France earned bronze in 51.92. Ceccon holds the world record of 51.60.

In the night’s final event, Anna Elendt of Germany, swimming from Lane 1, surprised the field by winning the women’s 100-meter breaststroke in 1:05.19. American Kate Douglass earned silver in 1:05.27, while Tang Qianting of China took bronze in 1:05.64.

Australia drawn with South Korea, Iran, Philippines

SYDNEY, July 29, (AP): Women’s Asian Cup host Australia has been drawn into Group A with South Korea, Iran and Philippines for tournament in March next year.

The Matildas, semifinalists at the 2023 World Cup on home soil and

Asian champions in 2010, lost to the South Koreans in the quarterfinals in the last continental championship.

At the official ceremony Tuesday, the Australians were drawn to open the tournament against Philippines in Perth on March 1.

Defending champion China, which rallied from 2-0 down to beat South Korea in the 2022 final, is in Group B with three-time champion North Korea, first-time qualifier Bangladesh and Uzbekistan.

Japan, aiming for a third title, is

in Group C with Vietnam, India and Taiwan.

The top two teams in each of the three groups and the two best third-place teams will advance to the quarterfinals. The final is set for Sydney on March 21.

Kuwait seeks win against Algeria after tough start

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

MANAMA, July 29: Kuwait is determined to improve its performance and erase the setbacks from the first three rounds of the 26th Arab Basketball Championship currently underway in Bahrain. The team will face Algeria today at 6:00 pm in the fifth round of the competition, which concludes in Manama on August 2. Earlier matches today feature Qatar vs. UAE at 4:00 pm and Tunisia vs. Egypt at 8:00 pm.

Kuwait has been eliminated from contention for the top three spots after suffering defeats against the UAE (79-87), Tunisia (61-86), and Egypt (65-96) in the opening rounds.

Under the leadership of Serbian coach Oliver Kostic and assistant Khaled Al-Qallaf, Kuwait’s squad largely comprises young players competing in such tournaments for the first time, providing them valuable experience on the international stage.

The team will be without promising young player Hussein Ashkanani in today’s match, as he recovers from a serious shoulder dislocation



Kuwaiti goes for a basket.

sustained in the recent game against Egypt. Ashkanani underwent successful surgery and is currently hospitalized.

The current standings see Tunisia and the UAE leading with 5 points each, followed by Egypt and Algeria with 4 points each. Bahrain also has 4 points but from fewer wins. Kuwait holds 3 points from three losses, while Qatar sits last with 2 points.

Kuwait U-20 builds momentum with 3-1 win over Serbian club



Players celebrate their victory over the Serbian club.

BELGRADE, July 29: The Kuwait U-20 national team claimed a 3-1 victory against Serbian club Sevojino in a friendly match during its training camp in Serbia.

The goals were netted by Misfer Al-Adwani, Abdullah Al-Rashidi, and Hadi Al-Enzi, showcasing the team’s attacking strength.

Kuwait is now gearing up for the Gulf Youth Championship, set to take place in Abha starting August 28. Drawn into Group A, Kuwait will face off against Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. Meanwhile, Group B includes Oman, Iraq, Bahrain, and Egypt, which is participating as a replacement for the United Arab Emirates.

Williams takes pride in being Athletic’s first Black captain

MADRID, July 29, (AP): Iñaki Williams is taking pride in becoming the first Black captain for Athletic Bilbao at a time when he said the “far-right is fashionable.”

The 31-year-old Williams, one of the first Black players to ever join the club, will take over as the squad’s main caption this season.

Athletic historically has had few Black players because it only fields people from Spain’s northern Basque Country region or adjoining areas.

Williams and his younger brother, Nico, were born in the northern industrial city of Bilbao from Ghanaian parents who made the long journey to Europe looking for a better life.

“This means a lot,” Williams said in a news conference. “It’s seems like destiny that my mom and dad gave birth to me in Bil-

bao 31 years ago,” Williams said. “We are lucky to represent many people who come from abroad to make a living. And to be a reference in Basque Country and in Spain, is important for us.”

“We come from humble families, and being able to express this is good for everyone,” he said. “It seems like the far-right is fashionable, and those of us who have a voice have to keep working and keep proving people wrong and keep overcoming barriers.”

Both Williams brothers, who have been subjected to racist insults in Spain, have been playing for Athletic since their youth. Iñaki Williams chose to play for Ghana’s national team at the last World Cup, while his 23-year-old brother Nico has been a regular in Spain’s squad.