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Congratulations pour in on 2nd 'versary in office Page 2



Opinion

Your Highness the Crown Prince, your integrity reflects the greatness of your character

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THERE is a saying - "Your integrity reflects the greatness of your character." This applies to His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, who has proven, since entering political life, his commitment to fulfilling his responsibilities with the utmost competence.

This is why His Highness the Amir chose Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled to bear this weighty responsibility.

Experience over the past two years has shown that the Amiri choice was the result of wisdom and clear vision, especially given that the internal situation before the new era included setbacks that caused Kuwait to regress in several areas.

Today, Kuwait is moving forward on its path toward progress, and the political leadership is working to overcome difficulties, no matter how great, because the nation requires many sacrifices.

The commitment of good people to dedicating themselves to their nation, its progress, and the stability of its people, who love their land, state, and government, yields great results.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled is no stranger to the people of Kuwait. Everyone knows him, as he shares in their joys and sorrows. Therefore, citizens consider him one of them, thanks to his humility, which elevates his status.

During the two years since His Highness assumed the responsibility of Crown Prince, Kuwait and the region have witnessed many events.

His Highness the Crown Prince has remained consistently present among the people, playing a prominent role alongside the armed forces and other sectors.

This reflects the fact that Kuwait is rich in capable figures who understand how to protect its land and people and preserve its achievements.

Therefore, the supreme directives were issued with a unified focus - to confront the aggressor and protect the nation - which culminated in Kuwait's victory without significant losses.

wait's victory without significant losses.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled has a distinguished career in political work, during which he has demonstrated success in every position he has held, including in highly sensitive circumstances. With wisdom and sound judgment, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled has helped Kuwait overcome difficult challenges.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad's selection of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled as Crown Prince reflects wisdom and foresight.

The Crown Prince's own record is sufficient testimony to his merit, as expressed in His Highness the Amir's message to him, "We value the dedication to service, integrity, and unwavering commitment that have characterized your blessed career. These noble qualities and principles helped you to obtain the love, appreciation, and pride of the people of Kuwait."

This appreciation and pride reflect the feelings of all Kuwaitis toward His Highness the Crown Prince, who is leading the nation toward further

progress and stability.

This is the aspiration of every citizen who loves this country, for which its people have made countless sacrifices and are always ready to offer even more, under a leadership striving to place Kuwait in a leading and stable position in all fields.

Your Highness, Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, you are a statesman of the highest caliber and integrity. Your Highness is known among Kuwaitis for your uprightness and integrity, and you are a loyal and supportive partner to His Highness the Amir in leading the country.

On this occasion, the testimony of His Highness the Amir regarding His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, who has a distinguished record of dedication, is sufficient.

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Expert urges reforms

War losses put Kuwait budget under pressure

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: With geopolitical tensions in the region seemingly subsiding, many are wondering what the Ministry of Finance should do to address the financial losses resulting from the war, given the halt in Kuwaiti oil exports since the start of the American-Israeli war against Iran.

In addition, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) stated that Kuwaiti oil production will fully resume within the next three or four months, raising the question on the economic demands to mitigate the impact of the war on the State budget.

Dr. Sadiq Al-Bassam, Professor and Head of the Accounting Department at Kuwait University, stated in an exclusive interview with the newspaper that he expects the current budget deficit to reach 14 to 20 percent due to the war.

He pointed out that the current economic situation in the country necessitates implementing measures and economic reforms to reduce the anticipated budget deficit. He emphasized that the losses incurred due to the three-month suspension of Kuwaiti oil exports will be substantial, leading to decline in oil revenues - the lifeblood of Kuwait's budget.

Despite this potential decline, he stressed the need for the Ministry of Finance to focus on capital spending on major projects, as these will bolster the future State revenues. He urged the ministry to issue a supplementary budget for 2026/2027, covering all aspects related to the war. "This supplementary budget will clarify the actual impact on the current budget, the figures for which were released before the outbreak of hostilities," he added.

He argued that this clarification is now essential, as well as studying the situation in the event of a resumption of hostilities or a final ceasefire.

He underscored the importance of analyzing oil price projections in the post-war period and the impact of the halt in Kuwaiti oil exports on oil revenues.

He emphasized the need to address real GDP growth rates during and after the war, especially since pre-war growth estimates for Kuwait indicated a recovery in 2026, with GDP growth projected between 3.8 percent and 3.9 percent due to increased non-oil revenues and Kuwait's increased oil quota

Continued on Page 4

Kuwait power grid stability holds despite attack fallout

No blackout fears as summer peak approaches

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Adel Al-Zamel affirmed that the ministry is implementing its operational and preparatory plans to meet the demand during summer.

Al-Zamel made the statement when he visited the pavilion of the 'Save' campaign - the national campaign for conserving electricity and water - at 360 Mall on Tuesday.

He said the implementation of plans is proceeding well despite the repercussions of the Iranian aggression, specifically the attacks on some components of the electricity grid in the country, which had a limited impact on the maintenance schedule for power generation units.

Continued on Page 5



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday. — See Page 4

Grounded in 24 hours

Desert manhunt ends with arrest of 3 armed fugitives

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Security officers from the Ministry of Interior apprehended three escaped prisoners in a desert area less than 24 hours after the prison break was reported.

In an official statement on Tuesday, the ministry revealed that the fugitives had two firearms in their possession at the time of arrest. It then confirmed the successful conclusion of the highly efficient manhunt.

Continued on Page 5

Lebanon urges dialogue over war

BEIRUT, June 2, (KUNA): Lebanon's president Joseph Aoun said on Tuesday that negotiations are the only option to end the war with the Israeli Occupation, citing that true power "does not lie in fighting war but in courage to end it via negotiations."

Lamenting the staggering death toll that Lebanon has incurred from the war, in which more than 3,000 people were killed and a million others displaced, he told Beirut's Bar Association chief Imad Martinos during talks that dialogue was the "only option" to end the violence.

He went on to emphasize that power lies in unity and the nation's armed forces were the "backbone" of internal security and stability, according to a statement by his office.

The US has been mediating talks between Lebanon and the Israeli Occupation since April in a bid to end the conflict.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health announced on Tuesday that the death toll from Israeli occupation attacks on Lebanon has risen to 3,468 people.

Continued on Page 4

Outgoing envoy praised

Sheikh Hamad, Sheikh Thamer receive Australian Ambassador

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): Minister of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Head of the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Australian Ambassador to Kuwait Melissa Kelly Tuesday on occasion

of ending her tenure.

The two sides discussed deep partnership between the State of Kuwait and Australia, and how to develop cooperation and relations in many domains.

Continued on Page 4



Minister of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Head of the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receive Australian Ambassador Melissa Kelly during a farewell meeting marking the end of her tenure in Kuwait.

Full steam ahead for strategic Kuwait-Saudi rail connection

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Municipal Council approved the organizational plan and right-of-way for the railway link project between the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during its May 18

session.

This step brings one of the important joint Gulf projects back to the forefront of implementation after years of studies and technical coordination among the relevant authorities.

Continued on Page 5

Exam season starts for 80,000 students

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Around 80,000 students in public, private and religious education schools have started their high school exam preparation for Grades 10 and 11 in the literary and scientific strands.

Organizational, administrative and technical preparations continue in order to guarantee that the exams run smoothly, as Grade 10 students take the Physics exam, Grade 11 literary students take the Geography and Economics exams, and Grade 11 science students take the Mathematics exam.

Continued on Page 4

8 National Bank of Kuwait's eSavings Account: A 100% digital savings experience that is smarter and easier



9 KFH reinforces student support through 'Wajhni' campaign



Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:15 Asr 15:20
 Sunrise .. 04:49 Maghrib .. 18:44
 Zohr 11:46 Isha 20:15

Other Voices

A lifetime of service, two years as Crown Prince

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

Two years have passed since His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah was appointed Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait. It is a fitting moment to reflect on a man whose life has been devoted to serving his country. For many Kuwaitis, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled represents a generation of leaders who spent decades working quietly behind the scenes before assuming the nation's highest responsibilities. Long before becoming Crown Prince, he was a familiar and respected figure in Kuwait's diplomatic and political life, earning the trust of colleagues and citizens alike through years of dedicated service.

Throughout his career, he has been known for his calm nature, measured judgement, and ability to bring people together. Whether representing Kuwait abroad or serving in senior government positions at home, he carried himself with dignity and a clear sense of duty. These qualities continue to define his role today.

The past two years have not been with-



Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled

out challenges. The region has witnessed uncertainty, tensions, and rapid developments. During such times, experience matters. Steady leadership matters. Kuwait has been fortunate to benefit from leaders whose decisions are guided by wisdom rather than haste, and Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled has long embodied that approach. Throughout this service, he has faithfully carried out his responsibilities under the leadership and guidance of His Highness the Amir, whose vision continues to lead the nation.

Those who have followed his career know that public service has never been simply a profession for him. It has been a lifelong

commitment. Over the years, he has helped strengthen Kuwait's international relationships while remaining deeply committed to the country's interests and values.

What stands out most about His Highness is perhaps not the positions he has held, but his long record of public service. Over the years, he has contributed to Kuwait through a range of diplomatic and governmental responsibilities, carrying out his duties with dedication and commitment. These are qualities that have been evident throughout his career in service to the nation and under the leadership of His Highness the Amir.

As Kuwait marks the second anniversary of his appointment as Crown Prince, it is also recognizing a lifetime dedicated to the nation. His leadership has been characterized by patience, experience, and quiet confidence.

May Allah continue to bless His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled with good health and success as he continues to serve Kuwait and its people.

Kuwait marks Crown Prince's 2 years in Gov't

Congratulations pour in on 2nd 'versary in office



Sheikh Mubarak



Dr. Adel Buresli



Mohammad Al-Mannai

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): The National Guard leadership extended congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the second anniversary of assuming his post.

In a statement, the National Guard said President of the National Guard Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah conveyed, on his own behalf and on behalf of all National Guard personnel, his sincere congratulations and best wishes to His Highness the Crown Prince on this national occasion.

He expressed pride in the Crown Prince's career and achievements across various fields aimed at advancing Kuwait's development and realizing the aspirations of its loyal citizens, noting that these accomplishments come because of the wise guidance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He prayed to Allah to preserve His Highness, grant him good health and well-being, and to continue blessing Kuwait with security, safety, progress and stability under the leadership of His Highness the Amir, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

In turn, Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also extended his congratulations, expressing pride in the Crown Prince's achievements and leadership role in advancing the nation's development and prosperity.

He also prayed for continued health and success for His Highness the Crown Prince, and for Kuwait's continued progress, prosperity, and security under its wise leadership.

Supreme Judicial Council chief

The President of the Supreme Judicial Council and President of the Court of Cassation, Counsellor Dr. Adel Buresli, extended his congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the second anniversary of assuming the post.

In a statement, Dr. Buresli said, "On my own behalf and on behalf of members of the Supreme Judicial Council, all members of the judiciary, and their staff, we extend to Your Highness our sincerest congratulations on this occasion, praying to Allah to grant you long life, good health, and well-being."

"We pray that you remain a steadfast support to His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and that Allah may guide your steps toward further progress, prosperity, and development for our beloved Kuwait, and grant our nation continued security, stability, and prosperity," he added.

Kuwait governors congratulate

Governors across Kuwait congratulated on Tuesday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the second anniversary of assuming the post, commending his dedication and vital contributions to Kuwait's continued progress and stability.

In a statement to KUNA, Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah congratulated His Highness the Crown Prince on the second anniversary of assuming the post, highlighting His Highness the Crown Prince's continued dedication to advancing Kuwait.

His Highness the Crown Prince's wisdom and dedicated service have significantly strengthened Kuwait's position both regionally and globally, he added.

Sheikh Athabi wished for His Highness the Crown Prince lasting health and guidance in advancing the country as well as wished Kuwait continued security, stability, and prosperity under its leadership.

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor and Acting Hawali Governor Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah also congratulated His Highness the Crown Prince on the second anniversary of assuming the post, praising his distinguished record of public services and his role in boosting national development.

He reaffirmed in a statement that His Highness the Crown Prince's wisdom have earned him the trust and appreciation of the Kuwaiti people for his unwavering dedication to serving the nation and protecting its interests.

Sheikh Sabah wished for His Highness the Crown Prince lasting health and guidance in advancing the country as well as wished Kuwait continued security, stability, and prosperity under its leadership.

Al-Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habshi congratulated His Highness the Crown Prince on the second anniversary of assuming the post, calling this anniversary a reflection of trust placed in him by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his years of service to Kuwait.

He reaffirmed the governorate's commitment to supporting development efforts and cooperation with state institutions.

He wished for His Highness the Crown Prince lasting health and guidance in advancing the country as well as wished Kuwait continued security,

stability, and prosperity under its leadership.

Al-Ahmad Governor Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah congratulated His Highness the Crown Prince on the second anniversary of assuming the post, commending his distinguished political and diplomatic career, as well as his dedication to Kuwait's development and national unity.

In a statement to KUNA, he said His Highness the Crown Prince continues to support national efforts and empower the youth in line with the aspirations of the Kuwaiti people for a more prosperous future under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The governor also wished for His Highness the Crown Prince continued health and wellbeing as well as lasting security, stability and prosperity for Kuwait.

Al-Assima Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah congratulated His Highness the Crown Prince on the second anniversary of assuming the post, describing the milestone as an opportunity to reflect on the career of a leader who has dedicated himself to serving Kuwait and its people.

In a statement to KUNA he noted His Highness the Crown Prince's wisdom, foresight and deep political and diplomatic expertise that have continuously strengthened Kuwait's global standing and advanced its strategic interests.

The governor added that over the past two years, His Highness the Crown Prince has shown dedication in carrying out his responsibilities, supporting development efforts and promoting stability.

Sheikh Abdullah wished for His Highness the Crown Prince lasting health and guidance in advancing the country as well as wished Kuwait continued security, stability, and prosperity under its leadership.

KUNA Acting Chief congratulates

Acting Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Mohammad Al-Mannai congratulated on Tuesday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the second anniversary in office.

In a statement, Al-Mannai praised his national role and long record of public services and his role in boosting national development.

He reaffirmed His Highness the Crown Prince's strong support for His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, praising him as a wise leader whose initiatives continue to boost Kuwait's development forward.

Al-Mannai highlighted His Highness the Crown Prince's role in representing Kuwait's positions and strengthening its regional and international presence.

He also praised the His Highness the Crown Prince's support for the media and their vital role in covering the country's development, while wishing him good health and for Kuwait's lasting security and prosperity.

UN official congratulates

UN Resident Coordinator in Kuwait, Ghada Al-Taher congratulated on Tuesday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the second anniversary in office.

In a statement, Al-Taher praised the long-standing record of His Highness the Crown Prince of Kuwait and his contributions over decades in strengthening dialogue and cooperation among nations, and in reinforcing Kuwait's position as a trusted partner in supporting peace and humanitarian work.

Al-Taher added that His Highness the Crown Prince, through his extensive experience in foreign policy and international relations, has played a pivotal role in advancing international cooperation efforts and promoting the values of peaceful coexistence, respect for international law, and sustainable development.

She also affirmed that His Highness the Crown Prince's commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter continues to inspire efforts aimed at building a more stable, prosperous, and inclusive world.

Al-Taher noted that the United Nations and the State of Kuwait are marking this year the 63rd anniversary of their partnership, which is based on mutual trust, constructive diplomacy and leadership in humanitarian work.

She expressed the UN pride in its close partnership with Kuwait, affirming that under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the continued support of His Highness the Crown Prince, Kuwait continues to play an active role as an international partner in promoting peace, sustainable development, humanitarian action, and achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Furthermore, the UN representative renewed the United Nations commitment to further strengthening its partnership with the State of Kuwait, wishing His Highness the Crown Prince continued health and wellbeing, and wishing Kuwait and its people continued progress and prosperity.

'Economy boost, creating job opportunities priority'

National Fund, CINET MoU to provide entrepreneurs liquidity

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development and Kuwait Credit Information Network (CINET) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance the integration of credit information exchange in order to support the entrepreneurs, such that the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have access to financing in a more efficient and transparent manner.

This step is in line with efforts to develop the financing environment for entrepreneurs through the provision of a more comprehensive and accurate database, which will help financing entities to make informed decisions based on complete information about the credit history and financial obligations of SMEs.

Under the MoU, data on transactions and financing facilities provided by the National Fund will be included in the credit reports of CINET. This expands the scope of credit coverage to include, for the first time, government financing data, in addition to data from the financial and banking sectors.

This collaboration coincides with the recent launching of the SME Score creditworthiness assessment service by CINET, which aims to provide financiers with a specialized tool to measure the financial solvency of enterprises and assess their ability to meet their financial obligations based on objective data and actual repayment behavior.

Both parties affirmed that the memorandum is a significant step towards developing the financing decision-making system in the coun-



KUNA photo

The National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development and Kuwait Credit Information Network (CINET) signing the memorandum of understanding (MoU).

try. This is achieved through the exchange of credit information and the provision of a more comprehensive picture of the financial standing of entrepreneurs, enabling financing entities to assess risks and opportunities more accurately and fairly.

The integration will enhance market transparency by including financial obligations and facilities granted to enterprises in credit reports, allowing financiers to gain a complete understanding of the financial solvency of entrepreneurs while supporting the sustainability and growth of SMEs.

Basma Al-Jassem, acting Director General of the National Fund, stated that the fund continues to work towards achieving its objectives of developing the national economy and creating job opportunities by supporting business owners.

She added that the memorandum aims to develop financing tools for SMEs in accordance with Law No. 98/2013 and Law No. 9/2019.

She indicated that the integration with CINET will provide accurate historical information on credit facilities and repayment patterns, giving committed entrepreneurs more competitive advantage when applying for financing.

She pointed out that providing more comprehensive credit data will raise the level of trust between entrepreneurs and financing entities and facilitate access to financing for the expansion of promising enterprises.

CINET Chairperson Alia Bader Al-Humaidhi affirmed that the company has been committed for nearly 25 years to provide the banking and financial sectors with credit information and reports that support financial decision-making.

She considers the partnership with the National Fund a significant expansion of credit coverage to include the government sector, which raises the efficiency of the financial system and contributes to supporting economic growth in Kuwait.

She added that the creditworthiness assessment service for SMEs will provide financiers with an accurate and effective tool for evaluating the financial viability of projects. She believes this will enhance confidence in financing the vital sector.

She emphasized that SMEs are considered the cornerstone of the national economy and that providing accurate and comprehensive credit information about their financial performance will boost their growth and sustainability, thereby, encouraging increased funding.

This collaboration is a valuable shift towards establishing a data-driven financial culture in Kuwait by linking government financing data with the credit reporting system used in the private sector, ensuring that local enterprises are evaluated based on a more comprehensive and equitable financial record.

Experts believe this step will contribute to enhancing financial transparency and improving the quality of financing decisions.

Furthermore, it will support the State's efforts to diversify the national economy and empower entrepreneurs and business owners to access the necessary financing to develop their businesses and achieve sustainable growth.

Kuwaiti acquitted of drug peddling, sent for rehab

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Criminal Court acquitted a 53-year-old citizen of possessing and trafficking narcotics and psychotropic substances, but convicted him of possessing the substances for personal consumption and ordered to put him in a rehabilitation center for two years, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This ruling was based on the amended Anti-Narcotics Law, which stipulates the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, instead of imprisonment.

Lawyer for the defendant, Attorney Abdulmohsen Al-Qattan, argued that the warrant of the Public Prosecution was invalid due to the inconclusive investigations, and that there was no intent to engage in drug trafficking.

As a precautionary measure, he requested that his client be considered a user and placed in a specialized treatment facility.

In its reasoning, the court affirmed that the presented evidence did not reach the level of certainty required to prove the trafficking charge. It indicated that the investigations and the arresting officer's statements were insufficient on their own to establish this intent, especially since the de-

fendant was not apprehended during sale or purchase transaction, and no cash or technical evidence was found to support the accusation.

It added that the investigation did not determine the source of the seized substances, which created a reasonable doubt that should be interpreted in favor of the defendant, necessitating his acquittal on the drug trafficking charge.

On the other hand, the court established that the defendant possessed the narcotics for personal use based on his confession, forensic reports and testimony of the arresting officer.

Results of tests also showed that his urine sample had narcotics and psychotropic substances. He admitted to using heroin, methamphetamine and synthetic cannabinoids, as well as relapsing after a certain period of abstinence.

Based on the established fact of his addiction and his prior drug-related offenses, the court ordered putting him in a rehabilitation center for two years. It obligated the center to submit periodic reports on his condition, and ordered the confiscation of the narcotics, psychotropic substances and drug paraphernalia found in his possession.

Measures to strengthen industrial base discussed

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Minister of State for Development and Sustainability Dr. Reem Al-Fuleij recently met with Chairman of Kuwait Industries Union (KIU) Hussein Al-Kharafi to strengthen ties and promote cooperation between governmental bodies and the industrial sector.

They discussed ways to strengthen cooperation to support the industrial sector and improve the business environment and obstacles and challenges in relevant areas, while stressing the need for collective action to resolve issues.

By simplifying administrative processes, they aim to serve the public interest and increase the effectiveness of collaborative efforts between the industrial sector and the appropriate authorities.

In separate diplomatic engagements, Al-Fuleij also hosted Ambassador of Uzbekistan Dr. Ayub Khan Yunusov and Ambassador of Serbia Filip Katij to explore opportunities for enhanced bilateral cooperation.

In a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) following his meeting with the Serbian Ambassador, Al-Fuleij disclosed that their talks focused on advancing cooperation in sustainable development and associated projects to meet developmental targets, as well as environmental conservation and the sharing of technical knowledge in these fields.



Farwaniya Governorate photo

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah with the visiting journalists.

Media, gov't coordination eyed

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah had a meeting with Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) President Dr. Zuhair Al-Abbad at his office in the headquarters of Farwaniya Governorate on Tuesday.

A group of media specialists and members of the Board of Directors of the association also attended the

meeting. They discussed ways to strengthen coordination and ties with local media organizations.

During the meeting, the Governor greeted the delegation and lauded the professional and patriotic contributions of the media to national development and the promotion of responsible journalism.

World Cup peacemaker in world at loggerheads

"THE qualification of eight Arab teams for the World Cup, which will begin in a few weeks, is an unprecedented achievement, as it is the highest number in the tournament's history, made possible by the increase in the total number of participating teams to 48," columnist **Sheikh Eng. Fahad Dawood Al-Sabah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The qualified Arab teams are Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria. This confirms that Arab football has gained a global presence and shows that this long-standing yet ever-evolving industry can be a source of income for Arab countries if they work to develop it.

"I want to discuss the budget for the 2026 World Cup, which will be held in the United States and Mexico. It is the largest in terms of participation and revenue. The significant financial increase is mainly due to the rise in the number of participating teams from 32 to 48, which increased the number of matches to 104.

"The expected revenues and FIFA gains are around \$13 billion, of which approximately \$9 billion will be generated this year alone.

"Digital and television broadcasting rights are estimated at approximately \$3.4 billion. Ticket sales are expected to reach \$3 billion, meaning the indirect financial returns from this tournament will be among the highest, boosting the local economies of the host countries - Canada, Mexico, and the United States, which are suffering from inflation due to the ongoing war in the region and its impact on the global economy.

"The figures related to the World Cup are not merely numerical, but they carry significant implications regarding the influence of soft power versus hard military power. The former fosters peace among nations, while the latter leads to death and destruction.

"I believe the world now needs to prioritize sports as a form of soft power. Sports bring people closer together, allowing them to experience diverse cultures simultaneously. They also facilitate cultural, knowledge, and economic exchange, benefiting nations and their people.

"This year's World Cup is expected to have numerous indirect financial impacts on global and local markets that go beyond FIFA's figures. The total projected economic return is estimated at \$80.1 billion in direct and indirect gains from tourism, aviation, hotels, and consumer spending.

"The tournament is expected to create approximately 824,000 full-time jobs of varying durations related to the event. More than 6.5 million fans are expected to attend matches in stadiums. This economic boost will also have social benefits and may help ease political tensions between nations.

"The world must now focus on utilizing soft power rather than hard power, which has caused so many casualties since the beginning of the 20th century."

Also:

"The critical and bitter experience we lived through during the Forty Days War, along with its accompanying repercussions, divisions, and shocking stances, left no room for silence or complacency among Arab Shiite intellectuals, who today bear a significant historical, moral, and national responsibility," former Bahraini Minister of Labor and Social Development **Abdulnabi Al-Shoula** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Shiite intellectuals are now more than ever required to address, calmly, honestly, and courageously, that limited segment of Arab Shiites who, in recent decades, have fallen under the influence of a new political and ideological discourse. This discourse has succeeded in reinforcing their sense of victimhood and linking their sectarian identity to a continuous feeling of injustice and targeting.

"It is important here to distinguish between historical Arab Shiism, as an ancient Islamic school of thought with its intellectual, jurisprudential, and civilizational contributions, and some modern political interpretations that have sought to exploit the school's heritage within transnational political projects that are incompatible with the nature of Arab societies and the concept of the modern nation-state.

"Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (PBUH), the sixth Imam in the Twelver Shi'a faith, established the intellectual and jurisprudential foundations of this school of thought, which are entirely unrelated to the targeting of Shiite Muslims or to the concept of 'Guardianship of the Jurist' (Wilayat al-Faqih).

"Imam al-Sadiq lived during a tur-

bulent era, witnessing the fall of the Umayyad Caliphate, the rise of the Abbasid Caliphate, and the clash of political and revolutionary movements.

"Despite this, Ja'far al-Sadiq did not adopt a policy of armed conflict, nor did he establish a school based on internal strife or the mobilization of followers on a perpetual basis of feelings of oppression and persecution.

"He dedicated his efforts to building a profoundly influential school of thought, jurisprudence, and intellectual tradition that endured for centuries and contributed to the enrichment of Islamic civilization.

"His approach was not a call to surrender to tyranny, but rather a call for wisdom in confronting injustice, when it exists, through awareness and a focus on building the individual and society. He avoided being drawn into futile confrontations for which people would pay a heavy price.

"However, recent decades have witnessed the rise of a different political discourse, linked to the theory of 'Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist' (Wilayat al-Faqih), developed by Imam Khomeini under the pretext of 'supporting the oppressed and the marginalized,' and within a specific vision of governance and authority.

"The theory of Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist has not received Shiite consensus; in fact, many prominent Shiite scholars and jurists have rejected it, most notably the Najaf religious authorities, who have adopted the concept of the nation-state and advocated distancing religion from politicization and from its association with expansionist or transnational projects.

"Nevertheless, this discourse has succeeded, among some groups, in cultivating and exploiting a sense of victimhood, transforming historical narratives into a sustained psychological and political condition through which followers are mobilized and driven, and linked to projects that do not serve their homelands or societies.

"Undoubtedly, Islamic heritage, both Shiite and otherwise, includes historical narratives of injustice, suffering, and political conflict. However, the issue does not lie in invoking history or engaging with it emotionally, but rather in transforming the feeling of victimhood into a deeply ingrained complex that governs a person's perception of themselves, their community, and the world around them.

"When a Shiite is convinced that they are always targeted, always oppressed, and always a victim, they become more susceptible to isolation, withdrawal, and extremism, and less capable of positive integration and trust in society, the state, and the future.

"Herein lies the responsibility of Shiite intellectuals and thinkers, who are best positioned to dismantle this discourse and redirect the energies of this group toward national belonging, peaceful reform efforts, and community partnership, instead of reinforcing feelings of alienation or persecution.

"There are malicious parties who seek to keep this group convinced that they are the oppressed, targeted, and deprived group within the Islamic world, while reality confirms that oppression in our Islamic world is not exclusive to any one sect.

"The millions of Palestinians who have lived for decades, and continue to live, under the burden of occupation, killing, injustice, and deprivation are not Shiites. Since October 2023, more than seventy thousand martyrs have been killed in the Gaza Strip alone, in addition to millions of Muslims who have been killed, displaced, and starved in Sudan, Syria, Bosnia, Myanmar, and elsewhere, and they were not Shiites.

"Poverty, tyranny, and political oppression afflict diverse Muslim peoples and societies, regardless of sectarian or ethnic affiliations.

"Reducing the suffering of the Muslim world to a narrative claiming that 'only Shiites are targeted' is inconsistent with reality. It may lead to further isolation and tension, weakening the chances of building cohesive societies that share the same concerns and challenges.

"The current stage requires a new discourse, one that is more rational, calm, and balanced, and that reveals the truth and rejects the perpetuation of a sense of victimhood, which can become a tool for political mobilization.

"Nations are not built on historical grudges, nor by feeding feelings of victimhood, but rather by building an individual who is confident in himself, believes in his homeland, is open to his society, and can distinguish between legitimate rights and attempts to exploit him and direct him toward endless battles."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



Al-Sabah



Al-Shoula



KUNA photo
Kuwait's team responsible for establishing the National Center for Emergency, Crisis, and Disaster Management (AMAN) during the virtual meeting with the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Protection (FOCP).

Kuwait's AMAN eyes Swiss expertise to fight disasters

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): A team responsible for establishing the National Center for Emergency, Crisis, and Disaster Management (AMAN) held a virtual meeting on Tuesday with the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Protection (FOCP) to exchange expertise.

According to a press statement, the meeting focused on exchanging expertise and learning from advanced international practices in emergency, crisis and disaster management. Discussions covered the Swiss model for

managing emergencies and crises, coordination between civilian and military authorities, best practices in national preparedness, risk management and business continuity during emergencies, the statement added.

Both sides also explored opportunities for cooperation, knowledge sharing and specialized expertise to support the development of a comprehensive national system for emergency, crisis, and disaster management in Kuwait, it explained.

Saving lives, property

Rescue centers geared up 24/7 for emergencies

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Colonel Bader Saadoun Abdullah, Head of Section C at the Salmiya Fire and Marine Rescue Center, disclosed that the marine rescue centers under the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) responded to 1,444 reports last year.

Abdullah told the newspaper that the center operates round the clock, handling various reports and marine incidents through an integrated system involving the centers, boats and trained personnel. He revealed this system aims to expedite response times and ensure the safety of seagoers, indicating that the marine rescue teams deal with reports promptly in order to save lives and properties.

He said KFF established the centers along the Kuwaiti coast according to a plan covering all maritime areas. He added that the sector is divided into three main areas -- northern, central and southern -- to guarantee immediate response to emergencies.

He stated that the northern area includes Al-Joun and Shuwaikh centers, while the central area in-

cludes Salmiya and Failaka centers, which provide support in major incidents, and the southern area includes Shuaiba, Muhallab and Khairan centers.

He indicated that the Operations Unit (112) receive different reports like drowning, maritime collision,

technical malfunction of marine vessels and jet skis, and incidents related to commercial ships such as fire, evacuation and other emergencies.

He confirmed that the marine rescue teams also handle public services, pointing out that some reports are about the need for assistance in case a boat breaks down or run out of fuel at sea. He stressed that these incidents are dealt with immediately to ensure the safety of those involved and prevent the problem from escalating. He explained that response times vary depending on weather conditions, type of report and speed of the vessel used, adding that different types of vessels are used based on the nature of the incident.

He said some vessels are for rapid rescue purposes and others are for controlling marine inci-

dents. He indicated that in some major incidents, more than one vessel is deployed to deal with the situation professionally and swiftly, focusing on the speed of arrival at the scene and the provision of rescue services.

He revealed that Al-Joun Marine Center is new and it was established near Sheikh Jaber Bridge as part of the new development projects implemented by KFF.

He added that the number of marine reports vary according to the season. The number of incidents decreases in winter, while it increases significantly during summer due to increased sea activity and the use of jet skis, speedboats and vessels.

He affirmed that KFF continuously convey awareness messages through the social media to raise awareness among sea-goers and prevent accidents.

He urged everyone to adhere to maritime safety procedures before setting sail, emphasizing the importance of checking weather conditions, wearing life jackets, ensuring the vessel is in good condition, and selecting an appropriate time for sea trips. He stressed the importance of using navigation lights on vessels, confirming that the Coast Guard issues a violation citation to those who fail to comply.

He added that the maritime

rescue teams reaffirmed their commitment to respond to all reports in a serious manner and to intervene swiftly whenever a life-threatening situation arises. He confirmed that the maritime rescue personnel are highly trained in dealing with various emergencies, including drowning, ship fire and being lost at sea.

He said the marine rescue teams have modern equipment and resources, including speedboats and advanced rescue devices, which contribute to the efficient execution of tasks and rapid response times.

He asserted that marine rescue operations play a crucial role in reducing drowning and maritime accidents through swift intervention, raising awareness, enhancing maritime safety procedures, and continuous monitoring of maritime locations.

He clarified that the reports handled by the marine rescue teams are not limited to incidents in the open sea, as they include drowning in swimming pools and parks.

He pointed out that the implementation of the mandatory tracking system for marine vessels over the past three years eased access to the locations of reports and maritime accidents. "It is now easier to locate a vessel and reach it more quickly in the event of an emergency," he elaborated.

Kuwaiti disabled 20%

'Winch man' gets 4 years jail in violent traffic spat

By Jaber Al-Humoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Criminal Court sentenced a tow truck driver to four years in prison with hard labor for intentionally causing the 20 percent permanent disability of a citizen.

The case was filed when a traffic dispute escalated into a hit-and-run, resulting in severe injuries to the victim.

Attorney Inam Haidar, who represented the victim in court, argued for the civil rights and compensation of her client.

Case files indicate that the defendant and the victim had an altercation after a minor collision of their vehicles. The situation escalated into a verbal argument, after which the defendant drove the tow truck towards the victim, who was standing between the two vehicles. This resulted in the victim being trapped, falling and sustaining serious injuries.

The court based its ruling on witness testimonies, police investigations, and technical and medical reports that established the defendant's responsibility for the incident.

The forensic report confirmed that the victim suffered multiple fractures in the lumbar and sacral vertebrae and pelvic bones, necessitating surgical intervention and the insertion of metal plates and screws, resulting in a permanent disability estimated at 20 percent of his total bodily function.

The court also relied on the report of the technical expert from the Traffic Accident Investigation Department, who held the defendant fully responsible, confirming that the injuries resulted from the victim being run over by tow truck he was operating.

In its reasoning, the court affirmed the presence of criminal intent and the defendant's commission of the crime based on corroborating oral and technical evidence, sentencing him to four years in prison with hard labor.

Meanwhile, the civil aspect of case was referred to the competent court to adjudicate the compensation claims submitted by the victim through his lawyer, Inam Haidar.

Manager not found guilty

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Criminal Court acquitted a company manager of charges related to forging bank documents and embezzling an employee's salary, finding him unconnected to the alleged offenses, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The charges stemmed from a complaint filed by a company employee alleging that the director had forged his bank documents, obtained a bank card without his knowledge, deposited salaries, and embezzled funds from his account.

Mol ensures efficiency as staff return to work

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The civilian employees at the Ministry of Interior resumed work on Monday, after the Eid Al-Adha holiday.

The resumption of official duties ensured the efficient processing of transactions and continuous provision of services to the public. All departments are now fully operational, as employees arrived at the start of the workday to serve clients.


Operations returned to the standard pace, guaranteeing a seamless experience for those requiring administrative services.

Sources said the civilian units at the ministry are performing their duties in line with the established strategies. Sources pointed out that such a systematic approach aims to maintain high quality of services for the citizens and residents.


On the other hand, the Service Centers Department announced its official working hours during summer. From June 1 to Aug 31, the center is open from 7:30 am to 1:30 pm, with evening shift from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

The ministry then reaffirmed its commitment to better serve the public by expediting the completion of transactions and other measures.

It added that many services are available on 'Sahel' - the unified government e-services application, which offers a more convenient and time-saving alternative for the public.



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Cabinet condemns Iranian missile and drone attacks

Kuwait affirms full right to defend sovereignty

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): Kuwait's Cabinet strongly condemned the repeated Iranian missile and drone attacks targeting the country's territory, describing them as a dangerous escalation, a flagrant violation of Kuwait's sovereignty and security, and a direct threat to civilians and vital facilities.

Following its weekly meeting, chaired by His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Tuesday, the Cabinet stressed that the attacks undermine ongoing regional and international efforts aimed at de-escalation and preserving security and stability in the region.

In a statement delivered by Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar, the Cabinet demanded that Iran immediately and unconditionally halt the attacks and bear full responsibility for their consequences.

The Cabinet reaffirmed Kuwait's categorical rejection of what it described as aggressive actions and emphasized the country's full right to take all necessary measures to protect its security, territory and vital installations in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter and international law.

The Cabinet also reviewed the latest regional developments during a briefing by Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah on the current military situation and the implications of recent attacks targeting Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

On Lebanon, the Cabinet expressed strong condemnation of the continued Israeli occupation military escalation and the large-scale ground incursion into Lebanese territory, warning that such actions threaten civilian lives and constitute a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

The Cabinet called for an immediate halt to the escalation, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Lebanese territories, and full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 and other relevant international resolutions.

The ministers also received a briefing from Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on diplomatic efforts undertaken by Kuwait and its missions abroad to address regional and international developments, including consultations with foreign ministers from friendly and sisterly countries.

The Cabinet was further informed of the outcomes of the foreign minister's meeting with the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi, during



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

his official visit to Kuwait, which focused on enhancing cooperation and discussing regional developments.

On domestic affairs, the Cabinet approved draft decrees-law aimed at restructuring government institutions, including abolishing the Public Authority for Youth and transferring its responsibilities to a new entity under the name Public Authority for Youth and Sports.

The proposals will be submitted to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The Cabinet also approved amendments to the law establishing the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation to enhance its ability to respond to developments in the global energy industry and strengthen its operational efficiency and competitiveness.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi briefed the Cabinet on precautionary measures related to the global spread of Ebola, affirming that Kuwait continues daily risk assessments and has reinforced surveillance, laboratory readiness and border health measures.

The Cabinet also reviewed a presentation by Education Minister Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabai on the "Schools for the Gifted" project, which aims to identify and nurture talented students as part of efforts to support innovation and achieve the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035.

Furthermore, the Cabinet congratulated the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the successful conclusion of the Hajj season for the year 1447 AH, praising the Kingdom's distinguished efforts and comprehensive services provided to pilgrims.

The Cabinet reviewed preparedness measures undertaken by ministries and government agencies to ensure the safety of citizens and residents and secure essential services amid current regional developments, affirming that it remains in continuous session to monitor all emerging local and regional developments.

IAEA Chief visits KISR, hails partnership

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi and his accompanying delegation paid an official visit on Monday to the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

KISR's Director General, Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan, affirmed in a press statement the importance of the strategic partnership between the State of Kuwait and the agency.

He highlighted the crucial role played by joint programs in supporting scientific research and building national capacities.

The statement added that the National Liaison Officer for the IAEA, Dr. Habibah Al-Manaie, provided a briefing during the visit on aspects of bilateral cooperation.

She also presented prominent joint projects that contribute to developing scientific research and utilizing peaceful

nuclear applications to serve sustainable development.

The statement noted that the visit's itinerary included a field tour of several laboratories and research facilities affiliated with the institute.

During the tour, Grossi was briefed on the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity Building and the Transfer of Technology for West Asia, which is hosted by KISR.

The visiting delegation learned about the center's role in supporting countries in the region to implement the requirements of the convention regarding persistent organic pollutants.

This support is provided through training programs, capacity building, technology transfer, and enhancing regional cooperation in the sound management of chemicals and environmental protection.



A group photo of the IAEA delegation with leaders of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.



The Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan, presents a commemorative plaque to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi.



KISR photos
IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi inspects one of the devices during his tour of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research laboratories.

MPW boosts project momentum; 6-hour workday proves a success

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Attendance rates among Ministry of Public Works employees have been high since the implementation of the decision to reduce working hours to six hours and the return from the Eid Al-Adha holiday.

This is significant given the crucial

role of the ministry as a technically advanced entity responsible for numerous development projects, which include the repair and maintenance of internal and express roads, Terminal Two at Kuwait International Airport, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, and many construction and sanitary engineering projects, such as operating wastewater pumping and treatment plants.

Continued from Page 1

Exam season

Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabai asserted that the ministry and the parents are partners in supporting the children and helping them to achieve success and excellence.

He confirmed that the Ministry of Education exerted tremendous efforts to fully support the students during the examination period.

"The ministry and parents are in the same boat, and their role is complementary to support our students and ensure they succeed," Al-Tabtabai stressed in a statement to Al-Akhbar channel, urging secondary school students to remain composed, concentrated and self-assured during exams.

He advised students not to worry about the results or think about them beforehand, emphasizing that the best way to get the desired results is to concentrate on studying and taking the test. He pointed out that excessive anxiety and incessant thinking about the results could have a negative impact on academic achievement and performance.

Meanwhile, sources from the educational sector confirmed to the newspaper that the concerned committees and schools are fully prepared to serve the students following the completion of hall preparation, seat assignment, and information boards for exam guidelines.

According to the sources, the ministry is coordinating with its interior counterpart to monitor electronic accounts that encourage cheating or leaking techniques. They said the school administrations were given instructions to strictly implement the anti-cheating regulations, do not tolerate any attempt to disrupt the integrity of the exams, and ensure that students do not carry devices or means they could use to cheat.

Lebanon urges

The ministry's Emergency Operations Center said in its daily report that the total number of fatalities resulting from Israeli attacks between March 2 and June 2 reached 3,468, while the number of injured climbed to 10,577.

On the ground, the Israeli military renewed its warning for residents of the city of Nabatieh to evacuate their homes and move north of the Zaharani River.

Israeli occupation warplanes and artillery also continued targeting villages and towns in southern Lebanon, causing additional casualties and widespread damage to property and buildings.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Army announced that two soldiers sustained mod-

erate injuries after an Israeli drone strike targeted them on the Habboush-Deir Al-Zahrani road in southern Lebanon.

Lebanon has witnessed a major military escalation since March 2, with intensive Israeli airstrikes targeting various regions across the country. The attacks have resulted in thousands of casualties, extensive destruction of residential buildings and infrastructure, and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people.

Sheikh Hamad,

They also discussed regional and international developments, and how it was important to coordinate efforts to boost security and stability in the region.

Sheikh Hamad and Sheikh Thamer commended Kelly's efforts during her tenure which contributed to improving relations and cooperation between the two countries, wishing her best of luck in her future duties.

War losses

following the gradual lifting of the OPEC+ production cuts.

He explained that the idea of establishing an authority to transform Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub was proposed 20 years ago, taking into account the expansion of industrial cities to make them more attractive to foreign direct investment.

He indicated that the Mubarak Port project will improve the export of Kuwaiti goods and products.

He also pointed out that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Kuwait need not only direct financial support but, more importantly, greater administrative and service facilitation.

He enumerated the following measures to mitigate the war losses:

- The government should provide the private sector with numerous incentives to contribute to diversifying income sources.
- Attract foreign capital to help diversify non-oil revenues.
- Provide alternative oil export routes that bypass the Strait of Hormuz to avoid wars and political crises.
- Develop the country's agricultural land to reduce reliance on imports and increase dependence on local products.
- Establish a special body or committee to oversee the transformation of Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub.
- Support SMEs as a vital tool for diversifying income sources and a key component of the economy.



Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)

Price

One night stay in a Queen Bed Cabana for 2 persons with inclusive of Breakfast

BHD 46.000 / Net

One night stay in a Two Bedroom Chalet for 4 persons inclusive of Breakfast

BHD 102.148 / Net

Weekends (Thursday & Friday)

Price

One night stay in a Queen Bed Cabana for 2 persons with inclusive of Breakfast

BHD 53.361 / Net

One night stay in a Two Bedroom Chalet for 4 persons inclusive of Breakfast

BHD 119.173 / Net

Terms & conditions apply

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait power

He stated that the ministry has expedited the implementation of more effective measures to address the evolving situation, confirming that the current indicators for the summer season remain positive.

He added the summer season is an annual challenge as it is the peak consumption period, but the ministry is optimistic about its ability to navigate the current season, barring exceptional circumstances or incidents.

He disclosed that the ministry worked hard this year to increase transmission capacity in conjunction with the Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCCIA), in addition to taking advantage of the results of the conservation campaign last year and the development of load management mechanisms in the industrial and agricultural sectors, all of which contributed to the stability of the electricity grid.

On the smart meters, he said the ministry made a remarkable progress in the smart meter project and the pace of installation in various facilities has been accelerated. He unveiled the plan to complete the project ahead of the schedule, taking into consideration that the completion rate is expected to surpass 90 percent by the end of this year.

He added the ministry continues to coordinate with the government and private entities to manage loads and present solutions that deliver sustainable benefits for the coming years based on the positive indicators achieved last year.

About the maintenance work, he revealed that the ministry prepared a comprehensive maintenance program since the end of last summer, and implementation is proceeding as per the schedule. "However, the repercussions of attacks on certain components of the electrical grid affected the timeline for some work. The technical teams are rapidly adapting to developments and that maintenance work is ongoing according to the plan that ensures readiness of production units," he added.

Regarding the water situation, he stressed that water reserves are in good and reassuring condition, urging citizens,

residents and the residential, commercial and industrial sectors to consider water conservation a national responsibility and trust placed upon them by adopting water-saving practices.

He pointed out that reducing the average individual consumption from about 450 liters per day to just 250 liters, a rate close to that of the average individual consumption in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, will save nearly half of the consumed quantity, positively impacting the natural, financial and environmental resources of the country.

On future projects, he revealed that the tender for the first phase of Khairan project closed on Tuesday and two bids were submitted. The winning investor for the Shagaya Renewable Energy Project (Phase Three - Project One), with a capacity of 1,100 megawatts, is expected to be announced within the next two months.

He added that the bidding period for the Shagaya Project (Phase 3 - Project 2), with a capacity of 500 megawatts, was extended until the end of July.

He said the ministry is also negotiating other solar energy projects and energy storage battery systems as part of its plan to increase capacity, diversify electricity production sources, and strengthen energy security.

Full steam

The project constitutes the first phase of connecting Kuwait to the unified Gulf railway network, which extends from Kuwait in the North to the Sultanate of Oman in the South.

This will improve transportation, trade and logistic services in the Gulf Cooperation (GCC) countries and support the goals of Gulf economic integration. It is vital due to the expansion that the region is currently witnessing in terms of port projects, economic zones and supply chains.

It is considered a strategic project capable of bringing about a qualitative leap in the movement of goods and passengers and strengthening the position of Kuwait as a regional logistics hub, in line with the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035.

The newspaper obtained copies of the approved project plans and technical study, stating that the Kuwait-Saudi Arabia railway link project will start from the southwestern border in Al-Shadadiya in the North, with a total length of 85.8 kilometers.

The route lies in the designated right-of-way with a width of 200 meters in some areas. A portion of this right-of-way overlaps with the Gulf Railway project, which was approved as per the Municipal Council resolution issued on Jan 21, 2015, which spans 43.38 kilometers.

The project itself has a separate right-of-way measuring 37.42 kilometers. The connection with Saudi Arabia is the first phase of Kuwait's integration into the Gulf network. The total length of tracks within Kuwait is estimated at about 111 kilometers, including lines for passenger and freight transport, in accordance with the unified Gulf technical standards.

The Gulf railway network idea dates back to more than two decades, when the GCC countries adopted a shared vision to establish a unified railway network linking the capitals, economic centers and major ports in the region.

Over the years, the project faced challenges related to financing, design and coordination among member states. Nevertheless, new economic developments and the increasing importance of global supply chains have brought the project back to the forefront of Gulf priorities.

At the GCC level, the total length of the Gulf network is around 2,177 kilometers, starting in Kuwait in the North, passing through Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), until Oman in the South.

The network is expected to reduce land transport costs and ease the movement of goods and merchandise between Gulf

ports and markets, in addition to supporting economic integration and achieving sustainable development goals.

In terms of cost, the announced estimates for the project over the past years range from \$15 billion to \$25 billion (about KD4.6 to KD7.7 billion).

The cost of the Kuwaiti railway project and its connection with Saudi Arabia is estimated at hundreds of millions of Kuwaiti dinars, depending on the final designs, associated infrastructure, and operation and maintenance stations.

In Kuwait, the project had a significant boost after the signing of the cooperation agreement for rail connectivity and transport between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which was approved by the Council of Ministers on May 3, 2023.

The Ministry of Public Works was authorized to activate and implement the agreement through direct contracting with the relevant parties, in coordination with the competent government agencies, to finalize the necessary regulatory and technical aspects to proceed with implementation.

The technical studies and government coordination took a considerable amount of time, including reviewing plans, discussing alternatives, and addressing conflicts over the proposed route.

Several government entities participated in the project study, such as the Ministry of Public Works, Kuwait Municipality, Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Environment Public Authority (EPA), Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA), Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), and other service and security agencies.

One of the issues that the project faced during the planning phases was addressing encroachments within the proposed right-of-way.

The project encompassing open areas and plots used for various purposes necessitated a comprehensive review of existing land uses to ensure the route is free of obstacles that could affect implementation or operation.

The procedures included studying the status of several sites, farms and facilities located within the project area and finding regulatory solutions that protect the rights of owners, while preventing the disruption of such a vital project.

The relevant government authorities focused on the agricultural sites near the railway route. Coordination was established with agricultural authorities to preserve existing agricultural assets and services, in addition to developing mechanisms to prevent conflicts that may arise during the implementation phases.

This is in line with the commitment of the State to balance the implementation of vital projects and preserving agricultural activities, especially since they are crucial for maintaining food security.

The proposed route passes a number of vital facilities, necessitating meticulous engineering reviews to assess the impact of the project on freshwater and treated water networks, main power lines, KOC facilities, telecommunications networks, and the existing and future highways. The technical study concluded that relocating or protecting these facilities will be among the most complex engineering aspects in the implementation phases, given their sensitivity and importance to the national economy.

The project is one of the cornerstones for achieving the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035, which aims to transform the country into a regional financial, commercial and logistics hub.

Upon completion, Kuwait will be able to further leverage its strategic geographic location between Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the rest of the GCC countries.

The project will provide opportunities to connect Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Shuaiba ports, Shadadiya City, industrial zones, and new logistics centers to a sophisticated regional transportation network capable of accommodating the anti-

ipated growth in trade over the coming years.

From the Saudi perspective, the project is a natural extension of the Saudi railway network, which has witnessed significant expansion over the past decade.

The direct link between Kuwait and the Kingdom will provide a new strategic transport channel for goods and passengers. It will support the Kingdom's mega-economic projects under Vision 2030 and is expected to contribute to increasing the volume of trade between the two countries and reducing land transport time, considering the ongoing development of Saudi ports and industrial zones.

Desert manhunt

The Criminal Investigation General Department spearheaded the manhunt operation, with vital reinforcement from the Police Air Wing and Special Police Unit. The arrest of the fugitives happened after an intensive pursuit, detailed investigations and rigorous security operations.

The relevant authorities pointed out that the effective field coordination and immediate security measures led to the identification of the exact location of the fugitives, who were referred to the concerned authorities for legal action.

The ministry explained that the discovery of weapons during the operation necessitated a response strictly aligned with established security mandates, stressing that societal security remains an absolute priority.

It warned that the law is strictly enforced on individuals attempting to dodge accountability or offering help to criminals and wanted persons, adding that the security personnel are always vigilant and keen on maintaining public order and upholding the rule of law.



Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Kuwait

Recall Information



Mitsubishi Motors
MODEL: MONTERO SPORT
Model year: 2024
Total Vehicles Involved: 65

RECALL REASON

Possible interference between the automatic transmission oil cooler tube and the engine oil filter bracket due to incorrect tube shape, which may lead to damage and an oil leak.


REMEDY

To replace the automatic transmission oil cooler tube assy with a new part by referring a Workshop Manual.

CONTACT


Please call to confirm recall eligibility of the vehicle to serve you better:
22055967 - 22055888
Matselah Trading Company
www.mitsubishi-motors.com.kw

This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48) of no. (27/2015) issuing the executive by law no. (39/2014) on Consumer Protection




وزارة التجارة والصناعة
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
State of Kuwait - دولة الكويت

RECALL INFORMATION



Zwilling Enlargo Water Kettle (1.5 l)



Zwilling Enlargo Pro Water Kettle (1.5 l)

RECALL REASON

Zwilling identified a potential safety defect in the affected electric water kettle models as above. The handle of the water kettles may loosen or break off entirely during use. In isolated cases, this may cause hot water to spill from the kettle, creating a risk of injury.

REMEDY

Zwilling is currently initiating a product recall of the affected water kettles. As part of the recall, Zwilling offers end customers monetary compensation in exchange for returning the defective water kettle reusable.

CONTACT

For any questions, please contact: @Home Wholesale and Retail Trading Company S.P.C.
Phone: +965 22251451
WhatsApp: +965 9812721

This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47 and 48) of no. (27/2015) issuing the executive by law no. (39/2014) on Consumer Protection



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Thune wasn't sure if immigration spending bill would move this week

GOP wants more answers on \$1.8b settlement fund as Trump considers its future

WASHINGTON, June 2, (AP) — Senate Republicans were to meet Tuesday to discuss next steps after the Justice Department said it would comply with a court order pausing the implementation of a \$1.776 billion settlement fund designed to compensate President Donald Trump's political allies.

GOP senators who revolted against the settlement before leaving for a Memorial Day recess two weeks ago say they want more information from the administration about the future of the fund, which could potentially go to Trump supporters who beat police and attacked the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Meanwhile, Trump is reconsidering whether to move forward with it at all, according to a person familiar with his thinking.

Caught in the middle is legislation that would fund Trump's immigration enforcement agencies for three years. Republicans abruptly left town without passing it after Democrats said they would offer amendments to scrap or scale back the judgment fund, forcing Republicans to go on the record for or against it and endangering the money for Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol.

Returning to Washington on Monday evening, Senate Majority Leader John Thune said he wasn't sure if the immigration spending bill would move this week.

"To be determined," he told reporters.

The extraordinary standoff comes after Trump announced the fund with no heads up to lawmakers as part of a settlement to resolve his lawsuit against the IRS over the leak of his tax returns. When word of the settlement broke, the Senate was navigating tricky passage of the immigration legislation with an added \$1 billion in White House security costs - including for Trump's ballroom project.

Furious, Senate Republicans jettisoned the White House security money from the bill and made clear they would not pass the legislation at all unless the White House made major changes to the settlement.

"I do think the best way to handle it is if the administration decides to shut it down themselves," Thune told reporters Monday, referring to the fund.

He said Republicans will have a better idea of how to proceed after they meet for their weekly conference lunch on Tuesday.



Rioters loyal to US President Donald Trump are pictured at the US Capitol in Washington on Jan 6, 2021. (AP)

The Justice Department said it would comply with a ruling Friday from US District Judge Leonie Brinkema, who temporarily halted the fund for two weeks. The judge scheduled a June 12 hearing for arguments on whether to extend her order.

The department said in a statement that it strongly disagrees with the ruling but would comply.

Republican senators weren't satisfied. They said Monday evening that they need more detail from the administration on what happens after that deadline before deciding next steps.

"It's pretty clear that the president has to say very explicitly that there's not going to be a weaponization fund," said Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley,

R-Iowa.

Oklahoma Sen. Jim Lankford said Trump administration officials "need to say what they actually mean."

"They need to say, we're setting this whole thing aside," Lankford said.

Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski said that if the settlement is "completely pulled, then I'm satisfied. But I haven't heard anybody say that."

Republican Sen. John Kennedy of Louisiana said the administration already has to abide by the court decision, "that's in the Constitution. I have to know more about their position."

"Right now, the reconciliation bill looks like a broken arm with the bones sticking out," Kennedy said. "It won't move this week, in my opinion, unless we have some resolution on the weaponization account."

The outrage of the fund came to a head last month at a closed-door meeting between senators and acting Attorney General Todd Blanche that Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas described on a recent episode of his podcast as "one of the roughest meetings I've seen in my entire time in the Senate."

GOP senators had been discuss-

ing several ways that they could curb the fund, including limiting who can receive payouts, changing the makeup of the commission in charge of settlement decisions, adding some sort of judicial review for applicants or scrapping the fund altogether.

Amid the backlash, a person familiar with the matter, who insisted on anonymity to discuss the president's thinking, said Monday that Trump was reconsidering whether to move forward with the fund. But the president has not said publicly what he intends to do.

Also complicating matters is Trump's campaign-year push to defeat GOP lawmakers whom he sees as disloyal, including some of Thune's most reliable Republican votes in the narrow 53-47 Senate. Sens. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and John Cornyn of Texas both lost reelection bids in May after Trump endorsed their primary opponents, and it's unclear how supportive they'll be of the president's agenda going forward.

"I think it's hard to divorce anything that happens here from what's happening in the political atmosphere around us," Thune said before the Senate left town.



From left: Katie Porter speaks as Chad Bianco, Antonio Villaraigosa, Xavier Becerra and Matt Mahan listen during a California gubernatorial debate hosted by CBS Bay Area and the San Francisco Examiner in San Francisco on May 14. (AP)

California holds crowded primary in race to replace Democratic Governor Newsom

SACRAMENTO, Calif., June 2, (AP) — California's gubernatorial primary comes to a close Tuesday as voters choose from an extensive field of candidates hoping to replace termed-out Democratic Gov Gavin Newsom.

The end of the voting period, which began in early May, concludes a chaotic contest without a clear front-runner. Candidates tried to elbow each other out in the final stretch as each sought to convince voters that they were best prepared to lead the most populous state and one of the world's largest economies.

California puts all candidates on a single primary ballot regardless of party, and the top two finishers advance to the November general election. About 60 candidates were on the ballot, most of them largely unknown to the state's roughly 23 million voters.

On the Democratic side, top contenders include Xavier Becerra, a former state attorney general and US

health secretary; Tom Steyer, a billionaire climate activist; Katie Porter, a former member of Congress; and Matt Mahan, the mayor of San Jose.

The two most prominent Republicans are conservative commentator Steve Hilton and Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco.

The Democrats campaigned on fighting Trump administration attacks on the state's liberal policies, while Republicans vowed to bring change after more than 15 years of Democratic leadership in Sacramento. But the through line of the race was how to tackle the state's notoriously high cost of living.

Drivers were paying \$6.08 per gallon at the pump as of the end of May, \$1.65 higher than the national average, according to AAA. Meanwhile the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office has estimated that the typical home is about \$775,000, more than double the national average. And Californians pay the sec-

ond-highest residential electricity rates behind Hawaii, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Some candidates proposed suspending the state's gas taxes, which total roughly 70 cents a gallon, while others floated subsidizing in-state tuition at public colleges. A few of the Democrats said they would eliminate private health insurance in favor of a government-run system with no premiums, while the Republicans vowed to increase oil and gas production and reduce regulations.

"The truth is that we've gone off track - we've got one-party rule," Hilton said at a debate in May. "The results have been such a disappointment. It is time for some balance."

Earlier in the race, Democrats worried about possibly being locked out of the general election even though they count 45% of the state's registered voters compared to Republicans' 25%.

Social Democrat Frederiksen set to start third term as Denmark's prime minister

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, June 2, (AP) — Social Democrat Mette Frederiksen is set to begin a third term as Denmark's prime minister, leading a center-left coalition of four parties after two months of negotiations.

Besides Frederiksen's own party, the new government will include the centrist Moderate party of outgoing Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen, the Green Left (SF) and the Danish Social Liberal Party, the Danish Royal House said in a statement Monday.

It will be a government working for "the people of Denmark, for the generations to come and for the animals," Frederiksen said Monday night.

Animal welfare was one of several issues that was debated during the campaign.

Frederiksen had called an early election in February, apparently hoping her party would receive a boost from her straight-talking image in the standoff with US President Donald Trump over the future of the



Acting Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen waves from the royal ship Dannebrog on Monday, June 1, 2026, as the royal ship Dannebrog is docked at Odense Harbor. (AP)

kingdom's semiautonomous territory of Greenland.

Neither left-leaning nor right-leaning blocs won a majority in

Parliament after the March vote. Denmark's system of proportional representation typically produces coalition governments that are traditionally made up of several parties from either left or right.

Frederiksen's ruling coalition was created after two failed attempts to form a government, one by Frederiksen and another by outgoing Defense Minister Troels Lund Poulsen, who had sought to form a center-right government.

The new government's priorities will be presented Tuesday with the names of new ministers announced Wednesday.

The 48-year-old prime minister has led the European Union and NATO member country since mid-2019. This time around, her party won 38 seats in the 179-seat single-chamber parliament, which was 12 less than in the 2022 elections.

Frederiksen is known for strong support of Ukraine in its defense against Russia's invasion and for a restrictive approach to migration.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Services on June 2, a rescue worker puts out a fire of a residential building destroyed after a Russian strike on Dnipropetrovsk region, Ukraine. (AP)

Russian attack on Ukraine kills 16 and traps others in damaged buildings

KYIV, Ukraine, June 2, (AP) — Russia launched hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles against Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities overnight, killing at least 16 civilians and wounding more than 100 others, authorities said Tuesday.

The damage trapped some people under the rubble of apartment buildings. Emergency crews digging through the wreckage pulled out the body of a 3-year-old child and the bodies of a mother and her 8-year-old son in the central Ukrainian city of Dnipro, officials said.

The attack stretched from night into day and the boom of explosions reverberated across cities.

Kyiv residents had been on edge for days after Russia warned that a massive aerial attack was coming and warned foreign diplomats to leave the Ukrainian capital. None appeared to heed the call.

"A large-scale attack and an explicit statement by Russia: If Ukraine is not protected from ballistic missiles and other missile strikes, those strikes will continue," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in response to the attack, urging more support from the U.S. and European countries.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has stepped up Moscow's aerial campaign against Ukraine, with



Olga Mudra, 35, and her daughter Natalia, 6, walk in the yard of their house damaged after a Russian strike on Kyiv, Ukraine, on June 2. (AP)

Russian forces recently launching a powerful hypersonic Oreshnik ballistic missile for only the third time in the four-year war.

The Russian strategy seeks to take advantage of Ukraine's shortage of U.S.-made Patriot air defense missiles, with international stocks depleted by the Iran war. That has left civilians especially vulnerable to the Russian ballistic missile barrages,

even as air defenses stop most of the attack drones.

At least 64 people were wounded in the capital, emergency services said. Kyiv resident Iryna Salikova, 37, spent the night lying in a bath tub for protection with her 3-year-old daughter, as blasts reverberated across the city.

"Our window was broken, a cobblestone flew into the children's room," Salikova said, though they weren't hurt. "Thank God we're alive. Today we're alive, today we're lucky."

Russia unleashed 73 missiles and 656 drones across Ukraine, according to the country's air force, with the main targets including Kyiv, the central city of Dnipro, and the eastern cities of Poltava, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia. Ukrainian air defense forces destroyed or suppressed 40 missiles and 602 drones.

Putin is keen to generate some positive news from the conflict that began with Russia's February 2022 invasion of its neighbor and hasn't gone according to plan.

Western officials and analysts say Ukrainian drones are pinning down Russian troops on the front line, choking Russian supply lines in occupied regions of Ukraine and disrupting oil facilities deep inside Russia that provide vital revenue for Moscow.

EU strikes migration deal for more deportations, detention centers abroad

BRUSSELS, June 2, (AP) — The European Union has moved forward with a vast overhaul of its migration policy, aiming to ramp up deportations and ink controversial deals to build detention centers abroad, in what rights groups compare to the Trump administration's aggressive immigration policies.

"The new regulation will speed up the return process and increase returns of persons who have no legal right to stay in the EU," said Nicholas Ioannides, deputy migration minister for Cyprus, which holds the rotating presidency of the 27-nation bloc.

The deal was struck between the EU's three main institutions - the European Commission, the European Council and European Parliament - during a so-called "trilogue" Monday evening.

"Europe cannot afford another period of standstill," said Dutch lawmaker Malik Azmani, who shepherded the regulation through the European Parliament.

"There is an urgent need for an effective return policy with higher return rates," he said, adding that only 28% of rejected asylum seekers return to their country of origin, with



Police conduct a search operation at a makeshift camp of migrants who want to cross the English Channel to Britain near Dunkirk, northern France on May 27. (AP)

the majority staying put in the EU. "This situation is deeply concerning. It undermines public confidence in our common migration policies."

Critics compared the regulation to the immigration policies of the Trump administration, which has struck a series of secretive agreements with nations around the world to deport thousands of people to countries that are not their own. The United Kingdom also planned to deport migrants to Rwanda, but the

plan was bogged down in legal red tape and was dropped when a new government came to power in July 2024.

"Across the Atlantic, we see the violence and fear created by ICE's brutal immigration enforcement," said Silvia Carter, spokesperson for the Brussels-based Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, referring to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

INTERNATIONAL

Experts say US targeting of Brazilian gangs an attempt to sway election

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 2, (AP): The US decision to classify two Brazilian gangs as terrorist organizations is a political one aimed at boosting an ally of President Donald Trump, the son of former Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro, politicians and analysts say.

The gangs join eight other Latin American organized crime groups designated by the US as foreign terrorist organizations. But unlike the rest, they don't operate in the United States.

The listing of First Capital Command, known as PCC, and Red Command, or CV, followed a visit by presidential hopeful Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro to Washington last week. He said he asked Trump administration officials to extend the designation to them.

Bolsonaro hopes to unseat incumbent President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in October's elections. The US decision shores up the senator's tough-on-crime credentials while highlighting Bolsonaro's criticism



A suspected member of the criminal group Comando Vermelho, or Red Command, is led in handcuffs by a police officer into a police station in Rio de Janeiro on May 29. (AP)

of Lula's handling of public security.

"The main driver of this decision was politics," to pressure Lula and help Flávio prior to the October election," said Latin America expert Brian Winter, who edits Americas

Quarterly, a publication of the New York-based Council of Americas.

Carolina Grillo, a sociology professor at Fluminense Federal University in Rio de Janeiro and an expert on organized crime in Brazil, agreed that the Trump administration's decision was aimed at potentially swaying the elections.

"The supply routes for cocaine entering the United States pass through Colombia, Mexico and Central American countries - not through Brazil," Grillo said, adding that more than 90% of the cocaine seized in Brazil is destined for European countries.

Lula has protested the US decision, saying that Brazil is taking care of its own issues, as shown by recent arrests and an ongoing investigation into PCC.

"I am very sad today, after the news that the secretary of state of the United States, a certain Marco Rubio, said that our criminals here are terrorists and that the Americans can intervene," Lula said on Friday.



Sen Flávio Bolsonaro gives a thumbs up to supporters upon arriving at Brasília International Airport from the United States, where he met with US President Donald Trump, in Brasília, Brazil on May 28. (AP)

Opposition candidate González calls for presidential elections

Venezuela's ruling party unity cracks as Rodríguez shifts Chávez-era policies

CARACAS, June 2, (AP): It's a slogan that's long encapsulated the unique ability of Hugo Chávez's fiercely nationalistic revolution to stay in power in Venezuela for 27 years: "United, we will win!"

The young, the old, ruling party leaders and propagandists alike shout it at official events, street demonstrations and on state television, pumping their fists to show loyalty to the self-described socialist government - and its traditional antipathy toward the United States. Even when confronted with overwhelming truths that defy such bravado, the diverse coalition of military, ideological and opportunistic hangers-on has acted in lockstep.

But cracks in that unity have emerged after the stunning U.S. military operation that captured then-President Nicolás Maduro in January. Longtime loyalists are airing disagreements with the government of acting President Delcy Rodríguez and even discussing publicly rumors that an insider's betrayal helped the US depose Maduro.

Rodríguez, has done away with some of Chávez's policies, complied with U.S. demands and shuffled the government to her liking, removing ministers, pushing legislation through the National Assembly to

overhaul the nation's oil industry and releasing political prisoners.

Supporters of Chavismo are making their disapproval known. Many criticize the warming relationship between Rodríguez's government and the White House, whose occupant, regardless of party, Chavismo has historically seen as its main adversary.

May's deportation of a former minister to face criminal investigations in the US and Rodríguez's recent authorization for the US military to conduct a training exercise in Venezuela's capital laid bare internal divisions.

Mario Silva spent years spreading pro-government propaganda as the host of a program on state TV before being removed from the airwaves after Maduro's capture. Silva questioned the legality of the deportation of Alex Saab, a close ally of Maduro's, arguing that it violated a constitutional ban.

He contended that Rodríguez is not governing freely, as some decisions "are being made in the US Embassy."

"The imperialists don't negotiate. They conquer, test and probe - until our country shatters," Silva said in a livestream. "Nobody is safe right now. And that is a concrete, terribly



Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodríguez bids farewell to U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright after their meeting at Miraflores Palace in Caracas, Venezuela, on Feb 11. (AP)

dangerous fact."

On May 23, a few dozen people in Caracas protested the training that saw two Marine Corps Osprey aircraft land at the US Embassy. They held a Venezuelan flag with the message, "No to the Yankee drill" written over it. Participation was minimal, which stood out in a city used to frequent demonstrations with at-

tendance in the thousands.

Eliás Jaua, who served as Chávez's vice president and in Maduro's cabinet in his first years in office, repudiated the exercise on social media. He later told The Associated Press he was speaking up to raise awareness among Venezuelans of the "humiliating" situation facing the country. "At this stage, the most impor-

tant thing is to prevent this occupation and this colonial administration to which a nation like Venezuela is being subjected from becoming normalized," Jaua said.

Chávez and Maduro - as well as Rodríguez, in her previous roles as vice president and communications and foreign affairs minister - had long prophesied that the U.S. would use force to take control of Venezuela's oil industry, which has opened up to private capital after Maduro's capture. The Trump administration oversees oil sales and administers revenues as part of its phased plan to turn the troubled South American country around.

The social, political and economic crisis that took hold when Maduro became president in 2013 drove more than 7.7 million people to leave Venezuela and pushed millions of others into poverty. It also led to rounds of anti-government protests and US economic sanctions, both of which the ruling party survived.

Party stalwarts celebrated a Maduro victory in a 2024 election despite overwhelming evidence showing he had lost. They also echoed the party leadership's denial of a surge of migration. Their loyalty was often rewarded, be it with food and basic

goods for the poor or multimillion-dollar contracts and bodyguards for the better-off.

Meanwhile, Venezuela's former opposition candidate Edmundo González called on Saturday for presidential elections as the five-month mark of Rodríguez's administration approaches in the wake of the US military intervention that ousted Maduro in early January.

The 76-year-old former diplomat was recognized by several countries as the legitimate winner of the July 2024 elections amid a post-election crisis and street protests as the opposition alleged fraud.

Electoral records that showed González's victory over Maduro were deemed credible by international observers.

In a message posted on social media, González stated that it is time to "build the conditions for holding presidential elections that serve as citizen instruments for change" and contribute to the re-institutionalization of the country and lay the foundations for a stable government.

His message comes just shy of the five-month anniversary of Rodríguez assuming power on Jan 5, following the arrest of Maduro and his wife, who are being prosecuted in the United States.



Ivan Ferreiro rides down the street in his wheelchair in Moreno, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, Argentina on May 13. (AP)

Court battles playing out over allocation of money

Under Milei's austerity, disabled Argentines risk losing essential services

MORENO, Argentina, June 2, (AP): Analía Celis, a 34-year-old with intellectual disability and cerebral palsy, cannot walk, but sports therapy eased her taut muscles. She cannot work, but baking gave her a sense of independence. She struggles to speak, but painting with her peers helped her connect without words.

Now President Javier Milei of Argentina has taken his signature chain saw to these specialized therapy programs that for decades have represented a lifeline to Celis - and many more of the estimated 5 million Argentines with disabilities.

In recent months, the government has frozen payments to organizations providing therapeutic and educational services to people with disabilities. Participants have been deprived of carefully designed routines, their advocates and families say, and elements of a social safety net once regarded as robust by regional standards have been dismantled.

"I never imagined we'd be at this point, selling our vehicles because we don't have enough money to keep the lights on," said Martín Lucero, the legal representative of Ar-

gentine nonprofit Andar that runs a day center for people with disabilities outside Buenos Aires.

Andar has been so squeezed that it stopped running round-trip bus commutes to the center two months ago, stranding Celis and dozens of others across the sprawling Buenos Aires suburb of Moreno who depended on its free, customized transport to attend.

"The only solution can't be cutting off a person from a space they need for their development," Lucero said. "This is a political choice."

Since Milei took office in late 2023, his austerity agenda has made him an icon of the global conservative backlash against the liberal establishment. Much like its allies in the Trump administration, his government has portrayed the cuts to disability programs as part of a reform process aimed at eliminating fraud and waste in federal bureaucracy.

A spokesperson for the president did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Argentina's disability care providers - including day centers like

Andar but also residential programs, special education and job and skills training - operate on revenue received through billings of state-run insurance programs.

The debts of these nonprofits has been mounting due to irregular government payments and reimbursement rates held below sky-high inflation. But things got worse six months ago, they say, when the flow of money stopped altogether. To reduce costs, they have increasingly slashed staff, delayed salaries, shrunk meals and shortened their hours. There is no official tally of how many therapeutic centers have been forced to close, but disability rights groups estimate up to 50 shut down this year, many in Argentina's rural provinces.

"I want to tell the president to look at us, to really see us, to come here and meet us," said Roman Pontecorvo, a 28-year-old with intellectual disability who discovered a passion for acting at Andar. "If Andar closes, many of us will be left with nothing. It will be total chaos."

Andar says around 30% of the 150 people with disabilities enrolled in

its day program can no longer reach the center, a bucolic stretch of land with a soccer field, vegetable garden and professional-grade kitchen where participants can earn a monthly wage working for its catering service.

Without programming, therapists say, people with disabilities can quickly regress.

"She wakes up three or four times every night screaming that she wants to go to the farm," said Celis's mother, Clementina Tabares, 74, who now misses her own medical appointments because Celis requires round-the-clock care. Celis spends all day in bed with a blanket hanging over the window to block out the sun and rock music blaring from her phone, occasionally groaning in agitation.

"She's shutting herself away," Tabares said. "That scares me."

There's a simple fix, rights advocates say: implementing a law passed last year that declared an emergency for people with disabilities. It boosts benefits that have lost 30% of their value to inflation and guarantees funding for providers until at least December 2026.

US to drastically cut number of embassies, consulates in Africa that can process visas

WASHINGTON, June 2, (AP): The State Department plans to drastically slash the number of US embassies and consulates in Africa that can process visas for foreigners seeking to come to the United States.

The almost 50 US embassies and consulates that are processing visa applications will be reduced to 20 in the coming weeks, according to three U.S. officials and an internal memo obtained by The Associated Press. There is not yet a set date for the change, but it is expected in June, according to the officials, who were not authorized to comment to the media and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The move is part of the Trump administration's effort to crack down on issuing both immigrant and non-immigrant visas as part of its broader aim to limit immigration to the US and clamp down on those who travel on temporary visas but then overstay them. The administration also has scaled back personnel at embassies and consulates around the world.

On a conference call last Friday,



US President Donald Trump, next to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, speaks during a Cabinet meeting at the White House on May 27, in Washington. (AP)

US diplomats, including consular chiefs, were told the U.S. would be scaling back its visa services across Africa, according to one of the officials who was on the call.

Under a directive approved by Secretary of State Marco Rubio last week, the State Department will reduce consular operations in all but 20 "hubs" in Africa, according to the

officials and the memo.

Visa processing in Africa has already been affected by a travel ban on certain countries as well as a requirement for applicants to post up to \$15,000 bond in order to apply and more recently by restrictions caused by the Ebola outbreak.

The new rules mean that a citizen of a non-hub country will have to travel to one of the 20 approved sites, which could pose formidable travel challenges and costs.

Consular sections in non-hub countries will stay open but be limited in the services they can offer. They will still be able to assist American citizens with passport renewals and emergency consular requests as well as special national interest cases and diplomatic visa applications.

The State Department did not address the specific issues in the memo but said it "is constantly evaluating its overseas operations in order to deploy taxpayer resources in a way that advances America's priorities as efficiently and effectively as possible."

Africa

Kenyan president defends quarantine center: Kenya's president on Monday defended the establishment of an Ebola quarantine facility by the US, a move that led to protests despite a court order blocking the plan.



Ruto

President **William Ruto** on Monday night said the US had a long-standing partnership with Kenya on health matters and that the quarantine facility at Laikipia Air Base was one of 24 facilities that had been established in the event of an Ebola outbreak in the country.

Some Kenyans have opposed the Laikipia facility after the US last week said no American Ebola patient would be allowed to return home and that patients would instead be quarantined at the facility in Kenya. The US intends to commit \$13 million to the partnership with Kenya.

The high court on Tuesday extended orders issued Friday suspending the construction of the facility and the arrival of foreign patients. (AP)

Insecurity disrupts some voting in Ethiopia: Ethiopians voted Monday in an election marred by insecurity but widely expected to see the ruling Prosperity Party secure the majority of legislative seats and give Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed another five-year term.

A heavy military presence was observed in the capital, Addis Ababa, as watchdogs called for a peaceful vote in the country that is Africa's second most populous and host of the African Union. The head of the electoral commission, Melatework Hailu, said security incidents were reported at polling stations in two volatile regions, Oromia and Amhara. Voting resumed at some but did not at 143 others, and it was not clear whether voters would have another chance to cast ballots. (AP)



Strengthening ESG integration

KIPCO publishes 5th sustainability report

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – published its fifth sustainability report, highlighting the Group's continued progress in strengthening sustainability integration and ESG-related governance practices across its diversified portfolio in 2025.

Prepared in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards, the report aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Kuwait Vision 2035, while reflecting KIPCO's evolving institutional approach to sustainability, disclosure and long-term value creation.

The report also includes an expanded scope of environmental data, measurement and disclosure practices, aligned with KIPCO's ongoing efforts to further enhance its sustainability and corporate governance frameworks across the Group.

Commenting on the report, Ms Eman Al Awadhi, Group Senior Vice President – Corporate Communications and Investor Relations at KIPCO, said:

"The publication of our fifth sustainability report reflects KIPCO's continued efforts to strengthen sustainability integration across the Group and further embed ESG considerations into institutional practices, governance frameworks and long-term decision-making."

She added: "As a holding company operating across multiple sectors and markets, our focus continues to be on enhancing coordination, alignment and knowledge-sharing across the Group companies in a way that supports the ongoing development of sustainability-related reporting, risk management and disclosure practices."

The report reflects KIPCO's continued efforts to keep pace with evolving regulatory developments and increas-



Eman Al Awadhi - Group SVP, Corp Comms & IR

ing stakeholder expectations related to environmental, social and governance practices, while supporting greater institutional alignment across the Group.

As part of these efforts, KIPCO continues to strengthen collaboration and coordination across its portfolio companies through a dedicated ESG Working Group comprising representatives from several Group entities. The Working Group has contributed to greater alignment, knowledge-sharing and the development of more consistent sustainability-related practices across the Group through workshops, training programs and ongoing engagement initiatives.

The report also outlines a number of environmental, social and governance indicators and initiatives, in addition to employee development and women empowerment programs, social initiatives and case studies related to digital transformation and stakeholder engagement across the Group companies.

Through this report, KIPCO reaffirms its commitment to continuously strengthening its sustainability framework and institutional governance practices in support of long-term value creation for shareholders, stakeholders and the communities in which the Group operates.

Other Voices

New face of time-wasting

By Hala Al-Humaidi

The new face of time-wasting is this: when the average person hears that someone is "wasting time," they tend to think of hours upon hours of sitting around, or not doing much of anything. But times have changed. Today, we have people busy from the start to the end of the day. They are always responding to messages or emails, always consuming information, always on social media or at meetings. When these busy people go to sleep, they often go to bed asking, "Where did all my time go?"

Today, technology has altered many aspects of our lives, including our working habits, communication and learning practices. It has changed them in positive ways too. We can get hold of information in seconds, reach out to and communicate with people across the world in real-time. However, it has brought with it distractions that leave our attention constantly split. Each of us is always being alerted by something new, each of us is always being invited on yet another website. For many of us, technology means being more often on the run than in charge of our own actions.

Many of us waste our time on the most common distractions, which are electronic distractions. We open our phone to send a response to an e-mail, but thirty minutes later find ourselves watching videos or browsing pages unrelated to the original purpose. Not only have we wasted a large portion of our time, but we have also lost concentration. Studies have shown that even when a small break from an activity occurs, it takes time for us to regain focus. The more frequent the distraction, the more difficult it becomes for us to finish a task.

Another major form of time wasting is the illusion of being productive. There are people who may have spent

a good few hours organizing schedules and tasks, or who may be attending an unnecessary meeting, or even spending the morning replying to e-mails and checking on projects. These activities may make us feel like we've achieved something, but often they don't actually result in much change. It is not about being busy. It is about being effective. We should evaluate our daily efforts by the results they achieve rather than the hours they take.

Still another form of wasting time that we see today is the lack of action. There are many of us, including myself, who spend hours and hours consuming information, reading books, watching videos or attending workshops. We acquire knowledge, we learn skills, yet in many instances, we fail to take our next steps to put what we have learned into practice. Today, getting information is more easily available than it has ever been before. However, knowledge on its own will not change anything for any of us. What we must do is to apply the knowledge and the lessons that we have gathered.

Wasting time has effects beyond that of the tasks or goals that we are not able to achieve. When we're distracted, creative thought, decision-making, and general mental health can suffer. These distractions can lead to an array of emotions and thoughts, such as frustration, anxiety, and unhappiness, especially if you realize that, despite all that you're doing, you're still nowhere closer to achieving your goals.

Of course, this is not a call for us to give up technology entirely, nor to stop using it for entertainment, which is an integral aspect of life. The idea is instead to become more mindful with our attention. Setting limits on our activities, eliminating time-wasters, and making space in our day to get things done can help.

The biggest threat to any of us is not the lack of time but rather our inability to use time well. Time is irreplaceable. Once it's gone, it cannot be returned. As there are distractions for our attention in abundance, learning to be protective over our time may be one of our most precious talents.

Launched exclusively through the NBK Mobile Banking App

National Bank of Kuwait's eSavings Account: A 100% digital savings experience that is smarter and easier

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: National Bank of Kuwait announced the launch of its eSavings Account, a fully digital savings account designed to help customers build effective savings plans and effortlessly achieve their financial goals.

This account is available exclusively through the NBK Mobile Banking App, offering an intuitive, personalized savings experience powered by a suite of smart tools that make saving more flexible and seamless, keeping pace with the evolving needs of customers in a rapidly digitizing banking world.

The eSavings Account relies on three innovative features that provide customers with a practical way to manage their savings. The Auto Saver option allows periodic transfers of specified amounts to the savings account. Additionally, the Save the Change service rounds up every purchase made at the point of sale or online using the selected debit card and transfers the difference directly to the account. Finally, the Tap to Save feature lets customers transfer a set amount with a single tap in the app.

These tools represent a comprehensive savings system that helps customers grow their savings effortlessly and in a way that suits their financial lifestyle. Whether customers are saving for a summer vacation, building an emergency fund, or planning for upcoming school fees, the eSavings Account offers tools that seamlessly fit into everyday life. For example, a young professional can use Auto Saver to automatically set aside part of their salary each month, ensuring consistent progress toward a financial goal without extra effort. Someone who frequently shops—both online and in stores—can enable Save the Change to turn small everyday purchases into meaningful savings over time, without even noticing the difference. And for those who prefer more flexibility, Tap to Save provides a quick way to move money into their savings whenever they feel they can spare a little extra. Together, these features empower customers to grow their savings organically and effortlessly, making it easier to stay disciplined and achieve short- or long-term financial aspirations.

Moreover, the new account offers flexible reward options, allowing customers to choose the most suitable way to use their savings. This includes receiving competitive monthly interest or earning loyalty points on the eSavings Account upon meeting target deadlines. This flexible system enhances the overall experience and offers customers multiple options aligned with their future aspirations.

A fully Digital Experience

The eSavings Account offers a 100% digital experience. Any customer aged 18 or older can open an account electronically, set up a savings plan, and track their progress step-by-step through an interactive and user-friendly savings journey. This can be done via the NBK Mobile Banking App, anytime and anywhere, without the need to visit branches or conduct any paper transactions.

The account also helps customers create a personal savings plan with a duration ranging from one month to five years, with the option to set a target amount starting from KD 200 up to KD 5,000, giving customers high flexibility in designing their financial plans.

The launch of this eSavings Account comes as part of NBK's strategy to enhance digital innovation and provide advanced banking solutions that meet the evolving needs of customers and keep pace with their aspirations for easier and smarter services.

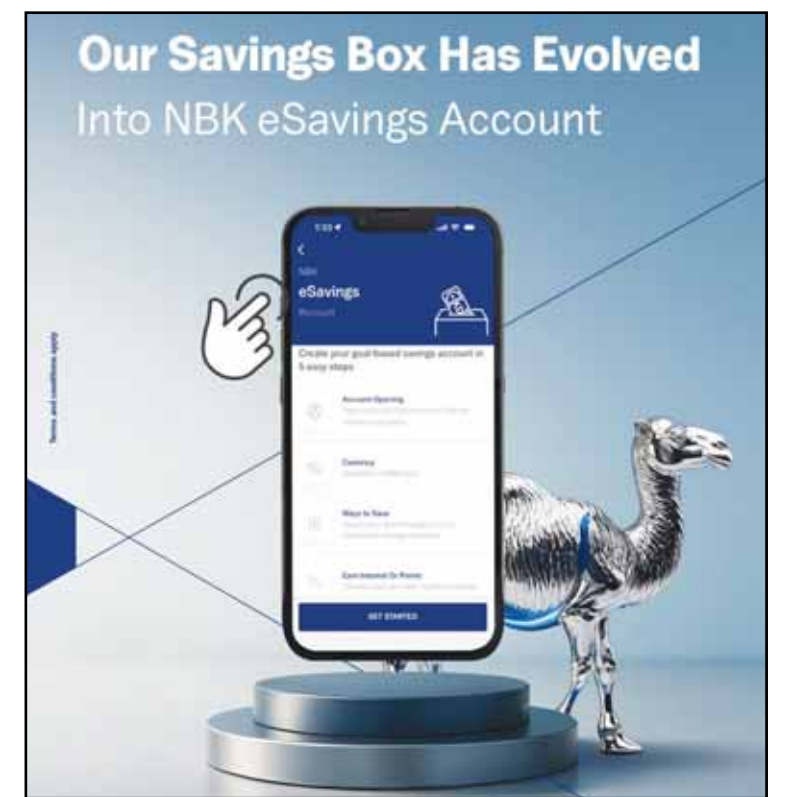
In this context, Mr. Fahad Abdulrahman Al-Baker, Principal - Liabilities Products at NBK, said: "The eSavings Account represents a new step in the Bank's journey towards enhancing digital innovation and developing more advanced and user-friendly banking solutions. The account is designed to give customers a comprehensive savings experience that combines smart tools, flexible rewards, and a seamless digital experience, helping them plan their financial future with confidence and clarity."



Fahad Al-Baker

Al-Baker:

- A new step in NBK's journey towards enhancing digital innovation.
- A comprehensive savings experience combining smart tools, flexible rewards, and a seamless digital experience.



Al-Baker also explained that customers today are looking for practical and user-friendly solutions, which is why NBK has been keen to develop innovative features such as Auto Saver, Save the Change, and Instant Tap to Save, to facilitate the saving process and make it a natural part of daily transactions.

Finally, he noted that through this new product, NBK reaffirms its unwavering commitment to developing innovative digital services that enhance the customers' experience and support their financial vision, especially with the rapid shift towards digital banking services, which have become an essential part of modern financial lifestyles.

NBK will continue to invest in modern technology to ensure the provision of banking services that enhance the daily customer experience and meet their evolving needs, with a focus on developing digital products that contribute to promoting financial literacy, facilitating money management, and achieving customers' financial goals, which reflects the Bank's ongoing commitment to providing real and sustainable value to the community.

Main 50 outperforms

Boursa Kuwait sees modest gains

KUWAIT CITY, June 2. (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Tuesday's trading session on a mixed but largely positive note, with its general index edging up 3.74 points, or 0.04 percent, to close at 8,764.31 points. Total trading activity reached 400.13 million shares across 24,919 cash transactions, with a combined value of KD 99.2 million (approximately USD 303.5 million).

The Main Market Index advanced 11.31 points, or 0.13 percent, to settle at 8,695.35 points. Trading on the index totaled 237.6 million shares through 11,825 transactions, valued at KD 34.7 million (around USD 106.18 million).

Meanwhile, the Premier Market Index recorded a modest gain of 2.32 points, or 0.03 percent, closing at 9,233.80 points. A total of 162.4 million shares were

traded in 13,094 transactions, with a value of KD 64.5 million (approximately USD 197.3 million).

The Main 50 Index outperformed the broader market, rising 39.35 points, or 0.41 percent, to reach 9,736.59 points. Trading volume stood at 209.8 million shares across 9,303 transactions, with a total value of KD 30.2 million (about USD 92.4 million).

Al-Nassar stresses data-driven analytics to accelerate financing for national projects

Warba signs strategic partnership with Central Tenders Company to enhance project financing

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Warba Bank's Corporate Banking Group signed a strategic partnership with Central Tenders Company to enhance its corporate project financing operations in Kuwait. The collaboration aims to utilize advanced analytical tools and a specialized data platform to improve financing efficiency and decision-making accuracy.

Under the partnership, Warba Bank will access comprehensive daily updates on active, upcoming, and historical tenders and projects through a unified data platform. This centralized information hub will enable the bank to evaluate market dynamics and identify viable financing opportunities with greater accuracy.

Data-Driven Financing Decisions:

The platform provides advanced analytics and search tools, allowing the bank's specialized teams to quickly access relevant data and identify key



Faisal Al-Nassar

indicators to assess targeted sectors and projects.

Faisal Al-Nassar, Chief Corporate Banking Officer at Warba Bank, stated: "Effective financing decisions rely heavily on the quality and accessibility of information, alongside the capability to analyze data strategically. This partnership provides our corporate banking teams with advanced market intelligence to evaluate investment and financing opportunities with greater efficiency."

Supporting Strategic Projects:

The partnership will strengthen Warba Bank's capacity to track major infrastructure, services, energy, and development projects across Kuwait. It will also allow the bank to strengthen its understanding of market trends, facilitating the development of tailored financial solutions that meet the requirements of corporate clients while improving credit decision-making efficiency.

About Warba Bank:

Warba Bank is a leading Islamic bank in Kuwait with a strong focus on Sharia-compliant digital banking. With one of the largest shareholder bases in the country, the bank continues to deliver innovative financial products and services, reinforcing its position as a digital-focused institution.

Asian, European markets up as conflict fears ease

Global stocks mixed as geopolitics and oil weigh

TOKYO, June 2. (AP): Global shares mostly rose Tuesday, after U.S. President Donald Trump said Israel and Hezbollah had agreed to dial back fighting. France's CAC 40 jumped nearly 1.0% in early trading to 8,223.71, while the German DAX gained 1.1% to 25,275.57. Britain's FTSE 100 added 0.3% to 10,372.39.

U.S. shares were set to drift lower with Dow futures down 0.3% at 51,004.00. S&P 500 futures dipped 0.1% to 7,605.75.

In Asia, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 slipped 0.3% to finish at 66,734.24. South Korea's Kospi inched up 0.2% to 8,801.49.

The Hang Seng gained 2.5% to 26,038.32, while the Shanghai Composite rose 0.4% to 4,075.10.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 shed less than 0.1% to 8,724.40.

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude lost \$1.25 to \$90.91 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, slipped \$1.49 to \$93.49 a barrel. The levels are still well above the roughly \$70 level they were at before the war.

Much hinges on whether the United States and Iran will reach an agreement to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, allowing deliveries of oil to resume from the

Persian Gulf and easing the upward pressure on inflation.

Japan imports almost all its oil, although the effects on prices of gas and other products have been relatively contained by the release of the nation's reserves so far.

"Crude shortages have already forced refiners across Asia and Europe to aggressively reduce runs," said analyst Stephen Innes. "The result is that the squeeze is no longer confined to crude inventories. It is spreading into the fuels that actually power economies: gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, LPG, and naphtha."

On Monday, the United States said it bombed Iranian radar and drone sites after Tehran downed an American drone. Iran said it targeted U.S. soldiers in Kuwait with missiles that the U.S. said it shot down.

Trump said the Israel and Hezbollah comments came after he spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and communicated with the Lebanon-militant group through mediators.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar rose to 159.73 Japanese yen from 159.66 yen. The euro cost \$1.1648, up from \$1.1631.

AlShamlan: Education is a true, sustainable investment in Kuwait's future

KFH reinforces student support through 'Wajhni' campaign



Minister Dr. Nader Al-Jalal and Khaled Al-Shamlan cutting the ribbon.



Khaled Al-Shamlan and Undersecretary of the Ministry, Dr. Bader Al-Basiri with officials from the Ministry of Higher Education and Kuwait Finance House.



Officials of the Ministry of Higher Education and Kuwait Finance House.



Students flock to the 'Wajhni' campaign booth.



A tour of the 'Wajhni' campaign pavilion.

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continues to support youth through its strategic partnership with the 2026 "Wajhni" national external scholarship campaign, helping students confidently choose academic paths aligned with their interests and the Kuwaiti labor market's requirements.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking the start of campaign activities at The Avenues Mall through June 5, was attended by His Excellency the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Nader Abdullah Al-Jalal; KFH Group CEO, Khaled Yousef Al-Shamlan; the Undersecretary of the Ministry, Dr. Bader Al-Basiri; and the media advisor to the Minister's office, Wissal Al-Zamel. Representing KFH were the Acting Group Chief Retail Banking Officer, Sameh El-Meligy; Head of Public Relations and Media, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh; and Executive Manager of Social Media and the PR Services Center, Abdullah Al-Saif. Numerous officials from the bank and participating campaign

entities also attended.

The Minister commended KFH's national and community role, praising its strategic partnership in sponsoring the "Wajhni" national scholarship campaign. He highlighted KFH's contributions to supporting students and academic awareness, reflecting the vital integration between state institutions and the private sector. This partnership serves youth and supports national development by empowering students to make informed educational decisions.

KFH Group CEO, Khaled Yousef Al-Shamlan emphasized that participating in "Wajhni" campaign stems from the bank's national role and social responsibility leadership. He expressed pride in their strategic partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education, emphasizing KFH's commitment to continuously developing and strengthening it.

He added: "Our joint cooperation aims to support and guide students before their scholarship journey, enhancing their academic readiness and

helping them confidently chart their educational paths with awareness."

He explained that KFH prioritizes supporting and developing Kuwait's educational process, aligned with its commitment to state institutional efforts through strategic initiatives and programs. This approach, he indicated, stems from a deep belief that education is a real, sustainable investment in Kuwait's future.

AlShamlan pointed out that KFH's fruitful partnership with the Ministry in the "Wajhni" campaign models constructive cooperation and strategic integration between the public and private sectors, contributing to human capital development.

He stressed KFH's keenness to effectively support all initiatives and activities launched by Kuwait's higher education institutions, including Kuwait University, private universities, PAAET, and cultural offices abroad, to boost the educational process and help students achieve their ambitions.

Expands energy portfolio

KNPC absorbs KIPIC

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) has been merged with Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) through acquisition, as per the announcement of KNPC in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Youm', on Monday.

This is in line with the decision issued by the Supreme Petroleum Council on April 29 regarding the merger of the two companies through acquisition and dissolution of KIPIC.

The Extraordinary General Assembly of KIPIC approved the merger with KNPC, which will legally replace KIPIC in all its rights and obligations and all the effects of the merger.

The minister of oil, who is also the chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), is authorized to determine the effective date of the merger.

The consequences of the decision include the complete termination of the legal status of KIPIC, with the authorization to delegate any of these powers to another party.

The decision that the Supreme Petroleum Council issued at its 132nd meeting (April 29, 2026) regarding the merger of KIPIC and KNPC states the following:

First: The Extraordinary General Assembly of KNPC issued its resolution approving the merger of KIPIC (the merged company) into KNPC (the acquiring company).

Second: Approval to increase KNPC's capital by an amount equivalent to the book value of KIPIC's assets as of March 31, 2026, so that KNPC's capital becomes KD2,632,616,000.

Third: Approval to amend Article Five of KNPC's Articles of Association to stipulate the following:

"The company's capital is set at KD 2,632,616 distributed as 2,632,616 shares, fully paid up. The capital may be increased or decreased by a resolution of the Extraordinary General Assembly based on a proposal from the

Board of Directors, in accordance with the procedures, conditions and regulations stipulated in the Companies Law and the Articles of Association.

KNPC approved the amendment of Article Four of its Articles of Association to align with the objectives of the KIPIC as follows:

The objectives for which the company was established are:

1. Engage in the petroleum industry in Kuwait or abroad, at any stage of this industry, including exploration and drilling for oil, gas and other hydrocarbon materials, and the production, refining, processing, manufacturing, transportation and storage of said materials and any of their products and preparations, as well as their sale and export.

2. Develop and advance the petroleum industry, its products and preparations, and related industries.

3. Cooperate with similar petroleum companies to facilitate production, refining, transportation, distribution and marketing operations, including agreements on petroleum production quantities and prices, and the necessary facilities to achieve these objectives.

4. Establish the petrochemical and petrochemical industries of all types, including petrochemicals and their derivatives.

5. Undertake all supporting activities and operations that contribute to the proper management and execution of the aforementioned processes.

The company may directly conduct the aforementioned activities or pursue any other objectives it deems appropriate, either directly or through an agent, within the State of Kuwait or abroad.

With the approval of the Board of Directors of KPC, the company may have an interest in or participate in any way with entities or companies that conduct similar activities or that may assist it in achieving its objectives in Kuwait or abroad.

The company may also establish, participate in or acquire such entities and companies to merge with them.

Iran's inflation hits World War II levels, deepening economic pain

Prices in Iran jump sharply, nearing 80% inflation

DUBAI, June 2, (AP): Year-on-year inflation in Iran reached a level in May unseen since World War II, underlining the economic pain average Iranians face as the Islamic Republic worries about the war with Israel and the United States restarting.

A report Monday by Iran's Central Bank represents the first official acknowledgment of what Iranians shopping, paying for a taxi or visiting a medical clinic already know: The rial currency is battered by the war and uncertainty around it resuming.

Meanwhile, longtime problems of economic mismanagement and government corruption also appear to be dragging down Iran's oil-backed economy as it remains under a U.S. naval blockade.

Economic pressure in the past has sparked nationwide protests, something Iran's theocracy has been trying to avoid since a crackdown on demonstrators in January killed over 7,000 people, according to activists' estimates.

But even as hard-liners hold gun-handling workshops and organize marriages under the shadow of a ballistic missile to bolster spirits, experts note that new demonstrations could emerge if people find themselves priced out of feeding



Pro-government demonstrators chant slogans as they wave Iranian flags during their gathering at a square in downtown Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, May 19, 2026. (AP)

their families.

"I have no doubt that if Trump leaves (Iran without a formal peace deal) ... most probably, we will see something like January by the end of summer because of the economic and social situations," analyst Mohsen Jalilvand said in a video published by Iran's Fararu news website.

Iran's Central Bank said the consumer price index, which measures a basket of goods and services, reached 77.2% in May compared to the year before. It added the rate is 8.5% higher than in April. Inflation in daily and general needs - like

medicine, taxi fares, tobacco and communication fees - rose 113.8% from the year before.

Iran only saw worse inflation in 1942 during World War II, sparked by the British and Soviets invading the country and taking over its railway, disrupting food supplies. The lack of food, worsened by a poor harvest, sparked hyperinflation and a famine. Hunger and a typhus outbreak killed many.

A private economic think tank in Iran, the Bamdad Institute of Economic Studies, described the current figures as "an unprecedented rate since World War II." Iran's

Central Bank did not acknowledge the significance of the figures.

Airstrikes this year have greatly damaged Iranian businesses and its oil industry. Meanwhile, the U.S. blockade has been targeting Iranian crude oil shipments trying to reach the international market, a key source of hard revenue. Tax revenues have been depressed by businesses struggling even after the fighting paused.

The rial, which traded at 32,000 to \$1 in 2015, now trades at over 1.7 million to \$1.

"We will definitely have higher prices," Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian warned in May. "We are fighting and we must accept this hardship."

In 2017 into 2018, rising food prices sparked demonstrations that killed over 20 people and saw hundreds arrested. An increase in government-subsidized gasoline prices caused protests that saw over 300 people reportedly killed.

Then came the protests over the rial at the start of this year, the most intense demonstrations since its 1979 revolution and chaotic years that followed.

Tehran-based economist Saeed Leilaz, speaking to The Associated Press, warned that annual inflation in Iran could reach 80%.

"Iran's society cannot tolerate above 25%" annual inflation, he said.

Libya, Oman strengthen energy cooperation

OQEP, LIA sign oil and gas investment partnership

MUSCAT, June 2, (KUNA): Oman's OQ Exploration and Production Company (OQEP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) Tuesday to establish an investment partnership in the exploration and production of oil and gas in both countries and internationally.

According to the Oman News Agency (ONA), the agreement comes at a vital stage of OQ's strategy for growth and international expansion by developing its asset portfolio, increasing production and reserves, and seizing promising investment opportunities.

The MoU gains special significance amid global energy transformations and renewed interest in key producing regions, particularly Libya, which holds promising oil and gas resources and enjoys a strategic location in regional and international energy markets, ONA added.

The signing ceremony was held in Tripoli, Libya, in the presence of Libyan Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah, according to the agency.

It was signed by Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of OQ Ashraf Al-Mamari and CEO of LIA Dr. Ali Hassan.

What's On

SPOTLIGHT

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Kuwait to mark International Yoga Day with three-day festival

India Embassy to host Yoga festival in Kuwait for IDY 2026

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Embassy of India is pleased to announce a three-day Yoga Festival in Kuwait on 19–21 June 2026 to commemorate the 12th International Day of Yoga 2026 (IDY-2026). The flagship event of the three-day Yoga Festival will be held on Saturday, 20 June 2026, at Boulevard Cricket Stadium, Salmiya.

The IDY-2026 was launched in Kuwait on 29 May 2026 with a women-led wellness session at the lawns of the India House. Inaugurated by the Ambassador of India to Kuwait, HE Mrs Paramita Tripathi, and HE Sheikha Shaikha Al Sabah, Padma Shri awardee, founder of Dar Atma and President of Kuwait Yoga Committee, the launch event saw participation by members of the diplomatic community, and friends from Kuwait.

To commemorate IDY-2026 in Kuwait, the Embassy of India is organising a wide range of activities aimed at promoting yoga and making it accessible to the broader community. Curtain-raiser events are being conducted with the aim to foster greater engagement and encourage inclusive participation across diverse sections of society, highlighting yoga's universal relevance and holistic benefits.

Several curtain raiser events of IDY-2026 are being held across various locations in Kuwait. On 30 May, the Embassy in collaboration with Indian Dentists' Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK) and Kerala Ayurvedic Health Institute held a Yoga Workshop at the Embassy premises. A series of yoga sessions were held at Indian schools across Kuwait. Several other yoga activities will be organised by Indian community groups, yoga institutes, and Kuwaiti organisations in the coming days in the lead-up to the IDY-2026.

The International Day of



India Embassy promotes wellness with Kuwait yoga events.

Yoga traces its origin to a landmark proposal made by Prime Minister Shri Narendra

Modi during his address to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2014.

The initiative received unprecedented global support, with 177 countries co-spon-

soring the resolution declaring 21 June, the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere, as the

International Day of Yoga, symbolising harmony between humanity and nature. Since its first observance in 2015, the International Day of Yoga has evolved into a global movement promoting the holistic benefits of yoga and its role in fostering a balanced, healthy, and sustainable lifestyle.

The theme for IDY-2026 is "Yoga for Healthy Ageing" which highlights the important role of yoga in promoting physical health, mental well-being, and emotional resilience throughout all stages of life. The theme draws attention to the growing need for healthy and active lifestyles in the face of ageing populations and evolving global health challenges. Yoga contributes to improved flexibility, balance, strength, and mindfulness, while also helping reduce stress and enhance overall quality of life. The theme further reinforces yoga's value as a holistic and accessible approach to preventive healthcare, encouraging individuals and communities to adopt healthier and more balanced ways of living.

As part of its sustained wellness outreach, the Embassy also conducts year-round yoga workshops every Friday and Saturday to encourage regular practice and promote healthy lifestyles within the community.

The Embassy invites all in Kuwait to actively participate in the forthcoming IDY 2026 activities and promote holistic health, well-being, and a balanced lifestyle through yoga.

Details regarding venue, timing, and registration will be announced shortly through the Embassy's official communication channels and social media platforms. For further information, please visit the Embassy's website: <https://www.indembkwt.gov.in>.



Photos during the event.

Pilipino Catholics in Kuwait celebrate Santa Cruzan '26

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: On May 29, 2026, the Pilipino Catholics in Kuwait (PCK) gathered at the Holy Family Co-Cathedral Kuwait City to celebrate Santa Cruzan 2026 with the theme, "Maria, Reyna ng mga Pilipino, Ipanalangin Mo Kami."

Santa Cruzan is a beloved Filipino Catholic tradition held in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary and in commemoration of the discovery of the Holy Cross by Reyna Elena (St. Helena). The celebration features a prayerful procession of biblical and historical figures, including the Hermana Mayor, Hermana, and the various Reynas, culminating with Reyna Elena, symbolizing faith, devotion, and the triumph of the Cross.

Though thousands of miles away from the Philippines, Pilipino Catholics in Kuwait (PCK) continue to preserve their cherished tradition, keeping alive their faith, culture, and devotion to Mama Mary. Through the collaborative efforts of the Pilipino Catholics in Kuwait (PCK), the Filipino Catholic

Community in Kuwait (FCCK) and Ina Ng Laging Saklolo (INLS) Communities, together with volunteers, sponsors, and ministry members, this meaningful celebration once again united the community in prayer and fellowship.

Families, children, youth, and parishioners participated in the Procession and Presentation of the Reynas, Hermana, and Hermana Mayor, offering a beautiful witness of faith and a reminder that Filipino traditions continue to flourish even far from home.

The celebration concluded with the Holy Eucharist presided over by Rev. Fr. Marlon A. Magdoza, as the faithful offered thanksgiving and entrusted their prayers and intentions to the loving intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Santa Cruzan 2026 was a joyful testament that while Filipinos may live far from their homeland, their faith remains deeply rooted in Christ. Through Mary, may we continue to grow in faith, hope, and unity as one Church and one family of God.

Viva Maria! Viva la Reina!

Recycling event in Kuwait boosts green awareness

Türkiye Embassy joins Kuwait recycling drive

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Khe Healthy City Project on Juwait participated in the recycling event organized within the framework of June 1, 2026, in cooperation with the Asimah Governorate of Kuwait and Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem, with the aim of promoting environmental awareness and fostering a culture of sustainable living.

The event focused on the collection and recycling of used household oil, glass bottles, cardboard and paper, plastic waste, used clothes, and electronic waste. The Embassy contributed to this environmental awareness initiative both institutionally and individually. In addition to Embassy personnel, Kuwaiti volunteers actively joined the effort at the designated recycling point.

Citizens demonstrated meaningful unity for an environmentally friendly future by delivering recyclable materials to the authorities at the waste collection area established within the event site.

During the event, Türkiye's Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Tuba Nur Sönmez briefed participants on the Zero Waste Project, which was initiated under the auspices of First Lady H.E. Emine Erdoğan and is being successfully implemented across Türkiye, while also outlining Türkiye's broader environmental policies. It was emphasized that the Embassy has adopted the necessary practices in line with this project and continues to act with institutional sensitivity regarding zero waste.

In recognition of its sustained commitment to environmental responsibility, the Embassy of Türkiye in Kuwait was previously awarded a certificate of achievement for collecting 1.1 tons of recyclable paper in 2025. This distinction reflects the Embassy's dedication to sustainability and its active role in promoting environmental awareness both within the institution and among the wider community.



Türkiye Embassy promotes sustainability in Kuwait event.

Passionate community keeps Argentine tradition thriving across the city

Where tango never sleeps: Inside Istanbul's vibrant dance community

ISTANBUL, June 2, (AP): Far from tango's birthplace in working-class districts and port areas of Buenos Aires and Montevideo in Argentina and Uruguay, dance enthusiasts in Istanbul have built a close-knit and passionate community.

Every night, they gather at milongas - sessions of Argentine ballroom dancing - on both sides of this vast city that bridges Europe and Asia, drawn together by music, movement and the embrace of tango.

Turkish locals, foreign residents, visiting international teachers and travelers keep the dance alive while a multitude of dance schools and studios foster a vibrant tango scene.

Once a beginner and now a tango teacher, Gonca Çetin describes the city's tango community as both diverse and welcoming.

"It's possible for everyone to find a tango environment that suits them. There's a constantly growing and developing community," she says.

At Istanbul's milongas, where changing dance partners is part of the tradition, friends and strangers are eagerly share the dance floor.

"I believe tango is a conversation without words," Çetin added. "What draws me to it is the unique balance between connection and freedom. Through music and embrace, I am able to communicate, create, and express my emotions in a way that feels both deeply personal and profoundly shared."

The city's tango culture also extends beyond the dance floor.

In his small Istanbul workshop, master shoemaker Ercan Umay handcrafts tango shoes for dancers who glide through the city's milongas, preserving another essential tradition of tango culture.



A couple dances tango during a milonga session at 333, a tango studio in Istanbul, Turkey, Jan. 10, 2026. (AP)



Left: A couple dances tango next to a portrait of modern Turkey founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk during a milonga evening at La Cumparsita in Istanbul, Turkey, Jan. 27, 2026. Right: An employee works on crafting tango dance shoes at Necmi Usta's workshop in Istanbul. (AP)



A city landscape is reflected in a window as people dance tango during a training session at 333 in Istanbul, Turkey, on Jan. 11, 2026. (AP)

Stage

Tony-nominated choreographers unveil magic behind scenes

How do you make vampires fly effortlessly on Broadway?

NEW YORK, June 2, (AP): For their third Broadway show, husband-and-wife choreographing team Lauren Yalango-Grant and Christopher "Cree" Grant faced a high-stakes challenge: They were asked to make vampires fly.

Not just fly, but also fight and hang upside-down, 60 feet off the stage. Not just that but also make it effortless, like gliding. And, of course, completely safely, despite darkness and haze and props whizzing by.

Making "The Lost Boys" soar was a little like a real-life game of Tetris, the couple say. And for creating some of the best visuals of the season, the couple has earned their first Tony Award nomination.

"You just have to break it down slowly and bit by bit, build one block and then you just keep adding so that no one's going to get hurt or feel too chaotic. Because gravity is going to gravity," says Yalango-Grant. "As much as Elphaba taught us you can defy it, you cannot."

"The Lost Boys," an adaptation of a 1987 teen movie vampire thriller starring Jason Patric and Corey Haim, follows a pair of brothers who tangle with a gang of young vampires who have taken over a California beach town.

It became a cult hit due to its stylish neck-biters on motorcycles, with feathered hair, earrings, leather jackets and gloves. That meant the stage flying had to be awesome.

"They have to look cool, effortless, a little bit sexy, a little dangerous, but they don't have to try too hard because they're vampires - they're all powerful, right?" says Yalango-Grant. "So, we worked really hard on just this effortless cool, laid-back kind of vibe, not circus-y, not a lot of tricks."

She and her husband choreographed flying for the four Lost Boys and two other characters, all who wear harnesses with thin wires covered in a black paint that absorbs light. The couple coordinated with the lighting team to ensure the wires never get a blast of light, making them almost impossible to detect from the seats.



L.J. Benet (center) and Ali Louis Bourzgui (second from right) perform alongside fellow cast members in The Lost Boys in New York on March 26, 2026. Inset: Benet (left) and Bourzgui are seen during the same performance. (AP)

Credit also goes to the company Flying by Foy, a leading specialist in aerial effects, for the rigging, tracks and winches, and aerial designers Gwyneth Larsen and Billy Mulholland.

"It took so much fine-tuning to get to where we are," says Yalango-Grant. "And I'm just so proud of the work of all of us because it took every single person to make this

look how it looks now."

Grant and Yalango-Grant began their careers as dancers, met while auditioning for the same dance company, Pilobolus, and then toured for eight years. They're married and have a 5-year-old daughter.

It made sense that if they were going to ask performers to put on harnesses and soar 60 feet up, they'd do it first. "We're the OG

vamps," says Yalango-Grant, laughing.

"I think, as dancers, we already have this intuitive nature of understanding how our bodies operate and move, and then just applying that in a different way to flying wasn't that much more difficult," says Grant.

None of the performers had any aerial skills so the choreographers had to start with the basics: Each was assigned a X taped on

the stage where they needed to stand before their flights and ensure their wires were hanging perfectly vertical. Eating a full meal before a performance turns out to be a bad idea.

Each flight is carefully coordinated with music, sets and lighting cues and run by stage managers using computers. Producers gave the teams one of the most valuable resources to get it right: time.

"You can rehearse all you want. You can talk about it all you want. But until you're in the harness in the air, you just don't know. So they allowed us to start training with the guys early on," says Yalango-Grant.

Speaking of harnesses, fliers put on a base layer like compression shorts to protect from rubbing, and costume designer Ryan Park designed clothes to hide and accommodate the harnesses. He also designed a quick-release way to detach from the wire, leaving audiences amazed.

"They have to unclip with their pointer finger and their thumb and we just drilled it. We drilled it so it became muscle memory and as easy as brushing your hair behind your ear," says Yalango-Grant. "It's like a magic trick. It's a sleight of hand."

The harnesses aren't that comfortable, but the actors aren't in them all night. The musical has been mapped out to allow each actor time to put them on, get checked, fly and then remove the harness.

Ali Louis Bourzgui, who earned a Tony nomination as the leader of the vampires, says it took a while to condition his body to fly, requiring strength training and months of practice.

"It's just a totally different movement pattern," he says. "Your hips suddenly become your axis point of how you turn and how you move."

He and his fellow vampires have become best buds, and there are times during performances when he looks over and really believes they're all flying.

"It is kind of a magical experience," he says. "It's pretty fun for us for the most part. The harnesses that we're wearing, not so fun."

Variety

NEW YORK: Dua Lipa and actor Callum Turner are married, local officials in London confirmed to The Associated Press.

They tied the knot Sunday at Old Marylebone Town Hall.

Photographs of the couple leaving the town hall began to circulate on social media Sunday, depicting Lipa, 30, in a white skirt suit by Schiaparelli, news outlets reported, citing a press release. She also wore a wide-brimmed hat and matching gloves. Turner, 36, was shown in a custom, blue, double-breasted jacket with matching pants, shirt and tie by Ferragamo.

Representatives for Lipa and Turner did not immediately respond to AP's request for comment.

The pair first sparked relationship rumors at the beginning of 2024.

Lipa confirmed her engagement to Turner last year after months of speculation in a cover story for British Vogue's July issue. Fans had theorized the ring Lipa began sporting in photos in December 2024 signaled an engagement.



Dua Lipa, left, and Callum Turner arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party on March 15, 2026, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in Los Angeles. (AP)

The London-born, British Albanian singer is celebrated for revitalizing a disco-pop sound in the musical mainstream, beginning with the release of her 2017 self-titled album and carrying through 2020's "Future Nostalgia" and 2024's "Radical Optimism."

"Dance music has such a long history of creating such a safe space. And I just want to embody that," she told AP.

She has won three Grammys and boasts five top 10 hits on the Billboard Hot 100.

Turner is known for his roles in the "Fantastic Beasts" movies as well as the George Clooney-directed "The Boys in the Boat" and World War II drama series "Masters of the Air" on Apple TV+. He recently starred opposite Elizabeth Olsen in "Eternity," a clever romantic comedy about the afterlife. (AP)

NEW YORK: In a remarkable sign of the turmoil at CBS's top-rated "60 Minutes," correspondent Scott Pelley said CBS News head Bari Weiss was "murdering the show" and accused its new producer of having "slender qualifications" for the job, according to reports.

Pelley made his accusations in an introductory meeting Monday between the newsmagazine's staff and Nick Bilton, the new executive producer named by Weiss last week, according to a detailed report on the Status website, which said it had heard a recording of

the meeting. Weiss herself was not present, according to the report. Status specializes in media news and analysis.

Status reported that Pelley, the longtime "60 Minutes" correspondent, began grilling Bilton at the 10 a.m. meeting about the firings last week of Bilton's predecessor, Tanya Simon, and correspondents Sharyn Alfonsi and Cecilia Vega. Status also reported that Pelley told Bilton, a former technology journalist and filmmaker with no traditional broadcast news experience, that his qualifications for the position were "slender."

Pelley also charged, according to Status, that Weiss herself had "no qualifications for her job," and said the changes she had made to "CBS Evening News," which Pelley once anchored, "have been catastrophic."

It added that Bilton insisted that "Bari loves this institution" and "she loves '60 Minutes'" - to which Pelley countered, "She's murdering '60 Minutes.' She does not love this place. She was brought in to kill it and she's doing exactly that."

Two spokespeople for CBS News did not immediately respond to a request for comment. (AP)

Archaeology

Discoveries aim to boost tourism in the land of pyramids

Egypt reveals stunning trove of ancient treasures

CAIRO, June 2, (AP) — Archaeologists unearthed a set of ancient artifacts in Egypt including Pharaonic funerary furniture, remains of a Roman basilica and a marble head of Aphrodite, the ancient Greek goddess of love and beauty.

The discoveries, announced Sunday, are part of the Egyptian government's efforts to boost the country's tourism industry and bring cash to the troubled economy. At the center of these efforts was the November inauguration of the long-delayed Grand Egyptian Museum, a megaproject located near the famed Giza Pyramids and the Sphinx.

The remains of the basilica and Aphrodite's head were found in an ancient necropolis in the province of Beni Suef, 130 kilometres (80 miles) south of Cairo, the Tourism and Antiquities Ministry said.

The Ehnasiya necropolis, which is also known by its ancient Roman name, Heracleopolis Magna, was one of the most significant cities of ancient Egypt.

Archaeologist Mohammed Abdel-Badei, head of the antiquities department at the Supreme Council of Antiquities, said that they found large stone blocks supporting columns, weighing up to 45 tons, that had been used in building the basilica. Three of the blocks remain standing in their original positions, he said.

Aphrodite's head, measuring about 24 centimeters by 25 centimeters (9½ inches by nearly 10 inches), includes detailed features of the goddess' face and curly hair, reflecting the classical artistic traditions of the Greek and Roman periods, he said.

Archaeologists found inscriptions linked to Senusert III, who ruled between 1837 B.C. and 1819 B.C. during the ancient 12th Dynasty. The inscriptions include his throne, birth names of the Pharaoh, who is also known as Sesotris III, and was one of the most prominent rulers of

Egypt's Middle Kingdom.

Also unearthed were fragments of wall statues and terracotta molds, believed to have been used in coin crafting during the Roman period. The findings show that Ehnasiya had been an active economic and commercial hub when Egypt was part of the Roman Empire between 30 B.C. and A.D. 395, Abdel-Badei said.

In Cairo, archaeologists found a nearly complete set of funerary furniture in the Matariya neighborhood of Cairo, which was once part of the ancient city of Heliopolis, the ministry said.

Abdel-Badei, the head of the antiquities department, said that they unearthed a mudbrick burial with gilded remains in a coffin, believed to be for a military figure. They also found a cache of cosmetic tools, including a copper mirror and alabaster kohl containers.

Also found was a collection of yellow-colored metal earrings, consisting of five pairs of varying sizes, believed to be made of gold, he said.

The discoveries in Beni Suef and Cairo are the latest archaeological findings, which the government hopes will boost the vital tourism sector, partially driven by antiquities sightseeing.

Tourism has suffered during years of political turmoil and violence following the 2011 uprising. In recent years, it has started to recover from the coronavirus pandemic and economic effects of the Russia-Ukraine war - both countries are major sources of tourists visiting Egypt.

A record number of about 19 million tourists visited Egypt last year, a 21% increase from 2024, according to official figures. The first four months of 2026 saw 6.1 million tourists visiting the country, compared with 5.7 million during the same period in 2025, the prime minister's office said in May.



Left: In this photo provided by Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, recently unearthed ancient artifacts are displayed on May 31, 2026, in Ehnasiya district in Beni Suef, 130 kilometers (80 miles) south of Cairo, Egypt. Right: In this photo provided by Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, recently unearthed ancient artifacts are displayed on May 31, 2026, in Ehnasiya district in Beni Suef, 130 kilometers (80 miles) south of Cairo, Egypt. (AP)



In this photo provided by Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, recently unearthed ancient artifacts are displayed on May 31, 2026, in Ehnasiya district in Beni Suef, 130 kilometers (80 miles) south of Cairo, Egypt. Right: In this photo provided by Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, recently unearthed ancient artifacts are displayed on May 31, 2026, in Ehnasiya district in Beni Suef, 130 kilometers (80 miles) south of Cairo, Egypt. (AP)

Cultural exchange



Participants pose for a group photo after the 19th 'Chinese Bridge' Chinese Proficiency Competition for secondary school students and the 6th 'Chinese Bridge' Show for primary school students in Hannover, Germany, on May 30, 2026. (Xinhua)

Students shine in storytelling, quizzes, and cultural acts

Chinese proficiency contest held in Germany

HANNOVER, Germany, June 2, (Xinhua) — The German finals of the 19th "Chinese Bridge" Chinese Proficiency Competition for secondary school students and the 6th "Chinese Bridge" Show for primary school students were held on Saturday in Hannover, Germany.

A total of 11 secondary school students and 15 primary school students from across Germany participated in the events.

The secondary school competition consisted of three segments: a themed speech, a quiz on Chinese language and culture, and a talent show. Contestants shared their experiences of learning Chinese and engaging with Chinese culture.

The primary school event featured themed speeches and talent performances. Participants demonstrated a variety of skills, including dancing, musical performances, calligraphy, and martial arts.

"Since its launch in 2002, the 'Chinese Bridge' competition has attracted more than 1.8 million young participants from over 160 countries," Chinese Ambassador to Germany Deng Hongbo said. "It has become an important platform for young people to showcase their Chinese-language skills and deepen cultural exchange and friendship."

"Language is one of the best keys to understanding a country," Deng told the contestants. "By learning Chinese well, you are helping build a solid foundation for friendship between the Chinese and German peoples."

The events were organized by the Center for Language Education and Cooperation under China's Ministry of Education and the Chinese Embassy in Germany, and hosted by the Leibniz Confucius Institute Hannover.



A contestant participates in the 19th 'Chinese Bridge' Chinese Proficiency Competition for secondary school students and the 6th 'Chinese Bridge' Show for primary school students in Hannover, Germany. (Xinhua)



A contestant participates in the 19th 'Chinese Bridge' Chinese Proficiency Competition for secondary school students and the 6th 'Chinese Bridge' Show for primary school students in Hannover, Germany, on May 30, 2026. (Xinhua)

Arts & Culture

Event mixes fashion, fantasy and playful engineering on historic streets

Steampunk festival turns New Zealand town into Victorian sci-fi hub

ŌAMARU, New Zealand, June 2, (AP) — The woman in the pink frock coat announced herself as steam curled from a strange brass contraption on her back.

"I am Lady Sarsaparilla Ova-byte, of the Coventry Ovabytes," she said. "We are purveyors of fine cordials."

Her companion peered through glasses made from fused-together forks.

"Captain Bob McSpoon, inventor-trepreneur," he said.

On a Victorian-era street in rural Ōamaru, New Zealand, Ova-byte and McSpoon, who usually go by Juliet and Greg Thorn, weren't the only ones wearing goggles or forks, or emitting steam. They were in the small town to attend the annual steampunk festival, a four-day love letter to being as odd as possible, which draws thousands of visitors from around the country and abroad.

Steampunk fuses Victorian aesthetics and mechanics with a science fiction twist to create a parallel universe imagining what the age of steam might have produced if it had continued to the present day. The genre is limited only by imagination, and the weirder the better.

Steampunks pride themselves on a knack for recycling and DIY, honing skills in sewing, metalworking, hat-trimming and steam mechanics as they dream up fantastical personas with outfits to match. During the year, attendees are bricklayers, engineers, artists and farmers, with many describing themselves as normally shy or reserved. But they had come to the festival to be seen.

"The first time you dress up and go out in public is really scary and then people get such a buzz out of it," Juliet Thorn said. "It's so cool that you take on a different personality."

In its 17th year, whole traditions and sporting codes have sprung up around the steampunk festival, which is among the world's best-known.

Hundreds crowded into upstairs



Steampunk NZ Festival attendees Ross McKay and T.S. Taylor, who goes by Miss Purple, pose during the annual event in Ōamaru, New Zealand, Friday, May 29, 2026. (AP)



Steampunk NZ Festival chair Lea Campbell, dressed as her steampunk persona Dusty Traveller, poses for a portrait during the annual event in Ōamaru, New Zealand, Friday, May 29, 2026. (AP)

rooms and old community halls for steampunk-themed contests. They raced to dunk cookies in cups of tea and cram the soggy results into their mouths before their competitors. A parasol-dueling contest looked like competitive voguing judged on speed and style.

Michele Cotten won a fashion show displaying wild and upcy-

clad outfits that participants spent months finessing. Cotten fused steampunk with the Star Trek universe to create a hooped dress made in the style of a navy Starfleet uniform. It was rigged with Christmas lights to evoke a galaxy and Cotten, a crowd favorite, strutted and posed to whoops from onlookers.

Then there was the teapot racing,



Lukas Hazlehurst drives a remote-controlled vehicle around an obstacle course during a teapot racing contest at the Steampunk NZ Festival in Ōamaru, New Zealand. (AP)



Left: Steampunk NZ Festival attendee Carl Yates, dressed as his steampunk persona Sir Gideon Steamcrank, poses for a portrait during the annual event in Ōamaru, New Zealand, Friday, May 29, 2026. Right: A participant rides a tractor during a parade at the Steampunk NZ Festival in Ōamaru, New Zealand, on May 30, 2026. (AP)



in which competitors sent remote-controlled vehicles mounted with teapots around a fiendish obstacle course to the gasps and groans of a watching crowd.

"If you go out of bounds, that's a disqualification," said Ross McKay, one of the sport's creators, who dreamed it up with his late wife and a friend. He has since introduced

teapot racing to other steampunk events worldwide.

"It's lots of fun and the judges will take bribes," he added.

When McKay's wife showed him pictures of steampunks, he recalled thinking, "What a bunch of weirdos," but the self-confessed "history geek and science fiction nerd" found plenty to love about

the genre. The retired banker was soon enrolled in night classes for sewing.

Now he is Captain Nuisance Dangerfield, Inspector of Nuisances to Her Majesty Queen Victoria III, which combines the historical element of a real Victorian job with the fiction of a monarch who never lived.

Dr Al-Jarki praises Kuwait's role in supporting physical therapy centers

MoH marks World Multiple Sclerosis Day at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital

KUWAIT CITY, June 2, (KUNA): The Ministry of Health launched the Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day on Monday at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital to mark World Multiple Sclerosis Day, aiming to raise awareness about the disease. A number of specialist physicians attended the event.

In a press statement, Senior Neurologist Dr. Namariq Al-Jarki, a specialist in brain and nervous system diseases, especially in the treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS), explained that multiple sclerosis is a chronic autoimmune disease affecting the central nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, and optic nerve. Several factors contribute to the disease, including genetic, environmental, and hereditary factors, as well as vitamin D deficiency, obesity, lack of exercise, and smoking.

The disease's symptoms include impaired movement and vision, balance problems, and bladder issues. Early diagnosis helps reduce the risk of relapse and slows disease progression.

Dr. Al-Jarki praised Kuwait's role in supporting physical therapy centers and providing the latest treatments for managing multiple sclerosis.

She also highlighted the Ministry of Health's efforts in raising awareness about the disease.

Meanwhile, Head of the Internal Medicine Department at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, Dr. Waleed Al-Dahi, explained in a press statement that multiple sclerosis (MS) is an autoimmune disease that leads to a variety of neurological symptoms throughout the body, affecting the limbs and bladder, and causing other health problems. MS treatments rely on immune modulation, which alters the body's immune response to reduce attacks on the nerves and help patients move from an active neurological state to long-term remission with minimal symptoms.



Senior Neurologist Dr. Namariq Al-Jarki



Head of the Internal Medicine Department at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, Dr. Waleed Al-Dahi



The head of the medical staff at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, Dr. Moudi Al-Mutairi and Dr. Namariq Al-Jarki in a group photo.



Part of the Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day event at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital. KUNA photos



Vaccines are prepared for students during a pop-up immunization clinic at a school in Louisville, Ky on Aug 8, 2024. (AP)

Trump tells agencies to align with study calling for narrower childhood vaccine recommendations

WASHINGTON, June 2, (Agencies): US President Donald Trump on Friday gave his endorsement to a January study by the Department of Health and Human Services that calls for cutting the number of vaccines recommended for every American child.

An executive order from Trump directs federal agencies to align their policies behind the study, which recommended an overhaul long called for by Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. The study found that the United States recommends more childhood vaccines than many peer nations.

The Trump administration previously moved to narrow the number of recommended childhood vaccines in response to the report, but the move was blocked by a federal judge in Massachusetts. The administration is appealing the decision.

The study recommends vaccinating all children against 11 diseases. Several others would be recommended only for high-risk groups or when doctors recommend them in what's called "shared decision-making." That includes vaccines for flu, rotavirus, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, some forms of meningitis and RSV.

Trump's order adds weight behind the study at a time when the administration had appeared to be trying to shift focus away from Kennedy's more contentious vaccine policies and toward more mainstream topics like healthy eating.

The order directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to review the study and "take any appropriate steps" to update its vaccine recommendations. It says the CDC should "provide maximum flexibility to parents and doctors" and directs agencies to make sure all actions, regulations and funding are aligned with the study.

The order adds that any changes should ensure that Americans retain their current access to vaccines.

States, not the federal government, have the authority to require vaccina-

tions for schoolchildren. While CDC requirements often influence those state regulations, some states have begun creating their own alliances to counter the Trump administration's guidance on vaccines.

Trump directed HHS to carry out the study in December.

Kennedy is a longtime activist against vaccines and has sought ways to inject his skepticism about the shots into national guidance. Last year, he announced the CDC would no longer recommend COVID-19 vaccines for healthy children and pregnant women, a move questioned by public health experts who saw no new data to justify the change.

Last June, he fired a 17-member CDC vaccine advisory committee and later installed several of his own replacements, including multiple vaccine skeptics.

The January report found that vaccine recommendations for American children had increased in recent decades. It also highlighted countries where no vaccines are required to attend school.

Also:

DAR ES SALAAM: Tanzania has continued to strengthen its national immunization program, with child vaccination coverage surpassing the global target, a senior official told parliament.

Minister of Health **Mohamed Mchengherwa** said the number of children receiving the third dose of the pentavalent vaccine increased from 2,093,412 in the 2021/2022 financial year to 2,361,701 by March 2026. He made the remarks while presenting his ministry's budget estimates for the 2026-2027 financial year in parliament in the capital, **Dodoma**.

The minister said the average vaccination coverage rose from 93 percent in 2021-2022 to 94.3 percent by March 2026, exceeding the global target of 90 percent.

Patients find help with therapy donkeys at psychiatric hospital near Paris

NEUILLY-SUR-MARNE, France, June 2, (AP): Therapy donkeys are helping patients with mental health conditions recover in a psychiatric hospital unit outside Paris that's unique to France.

The 19th century farm buildings and wooded surroundings are a haven within the Ville-Evrard hospital complex in Neuilly-sur-Marne. On Friday, patients took the five donkeys for a walk and cared for them. Some confidently lifted their hooves to remove dirt. Many ended the session with a hug.

"When you take medication that helps you relax ... it's exactly the same," said Nathalie, a 60-year-old patient. She and others were identified by their first names only to protect their privacy.

"I'd call it animal medicine," she said. "It brings relief. You stop thinking about everything else."

Patients attend the sessions free of charge as part of their treatment, which is funded by France's public health system.

Participants are usually paired with a donkey - Nono, Pitou, Oscar, Manolo or Malraux. Over time, they become familiar with each other's personalities.

Audrey Seffar, a nurse at the animal therapy unit, said Nathalie's progress after only a few sessions was significant.

"At first, she wouldn't get out of the cart (provided for people with physical difficulties). But little by little, with encouragement, she did," Seffar said. "The animal serves as a mediator. It's such an extraordinary one that today she was able to leave the cart and stand beside her donkey."

Another patient, Jérôme, 52, said the program helps reduce loneliness.

"Talking with people, taking part in activities I wouldn't normally do, it helps me in my daily life," he said.

He added: "It helps you break away from the routine of treatment and medication. Staying at home isn't good for me."

The first donkeys arrived at Ville-Evrard hospital in 2016 as part of a project launched by Ermelinda and François Hadey.

Ermelinda, a nurse specializing in psychiatry, strongly believed in animal therapy benefits and thought donkeys, known for their calm and social nature, would be perfect. Her husband learned how to train donkeys for therapy work. Some of the animals were adopted through shelters after experiencing neglect or mistreatment.

"A donkey is very intelligent. It understands things very quickly, but you have to explain slowly," François Hadey said. "Donkeys are calm, serene animals that are generally close to people. Once they're involved in these interactions, they connect very well with patients. They're emotional sponges."

Since 2022, the animal therapy program has had official status as a health care unit in the hospital, allowing it to employ three full-time nurses. Volunteers with a nonprofit group help care for the animals.

The program has expanded to include guinea pigs, chickens, doves, goats, turtles and rabbits. Sessions are tailored to people's needs and preferences, and smaller animals can be brought to hospital rooms.

Alicia Fabi, an 18-year-old nursing student, said the activity gives

patients a chance to leave the hospital environment.

"Every time we come back from the activity, they say they feel good, calm and relaxed, and that they enjoyed the outing. That's really positive," she said.

Walking together also allows patients and health workers to develop a deeper relationship.

"We talk about many different things, their illness, their lives and just about everything else. We don't focus only on the illness because we don't want them dwelling on it all the time," Fabi said.

Health workers say the sessions are designed as therapeutic interventions for living with anxiety, depression, autism, schizophrenia or other conditions. Staff said they can help improve emotional regulation, communication, social interaction and self-esteem.

"Everything we do with the animals allows us to work with the patient," Ermelinda Hadey said. "We work on feeding the animal, which helps us address the patient's own eating habits. We work on the animal's hygiene, and by mirror effect, we work on the patient's hygiene as well."



Patients with mental health conditions care for donkeys during the animal therapy session at a psychiatric hospital in Neuilly-sur-Marne, in the eastern suburbs of Paris, on May 29. (AP)



A group of flamingos feed in the Venetian lagoon, in Venice, Italy, Monday, May 4, 2026. (AP)

Venice's growing flamingo population finds refuge in recovering wetlands

VENICE, Italy, June 2, (AP): Perhaps nothing better illustrates the flamingo's status as a newcomer to the Venetian Lagoon than the fact that the local dialect has no word for them.

But the pale pink birds - called "fenicotteri" in Italian - are now flocking to Venice in record numbers, as ecological efforts to restore damaged wetlands could help expand their habitat and possibly induce them to nest in the lagoon.

Flamingos - which most famously nest in Spain and France - started showing up in the vast Venetian Lagoon in the early 2000s, mostly in fishing valleys and mudflats in the lagoon's furthest reaches, with only rare sightings in the canaled historic center of Venice that is most frequented by global tourists.

Environmentalists say their arrival in Venice as the European flamingo's range expands is a sign of the lagoon's health and suitability as a feeding ground.

Last year, the number of wintering flamingos in Venice peaked at

a record of nearly 24,000. That is 6,000 more than the previous year, numbers "that position the Venetian Lagoon as one of the most important wintering spots in its entire habitat range," said ornithologist Alessandro Sartori.

Sartori surveys the lagoon weekly by boat for signs of nesting, which would indicate a self-sustaining Venetian colony. So far there are no fresh signs after two nesting attempts, in 2008 and 2013, in northern lagoon fishing valleys suffered serious setbacks, including violent hail that killed dozens of birds.

More than 90% of the birds counted in last year's census were in the northern lagoon, which contains a large area of natural salt marsh. The flamingos are also attracted by the traditional fishing valleys, semi-natural embanked wetlands that provide abundant food but can also bring them into conflict with human activity.

A project to reconstruct salt marshes in the more isolated south-

ern lagoon - past the historic center and the industrial port - raises prospects that flamingo numbers will increase there as well by offering a new habitat in an area of the lagoon where wetland erosion has been especially severe. It could also draw the birds away from competing human uses in the north.

The Venetian Lagoon, covering an expanse of 550 square kilometers (more than 200 square miles), was originally nearly half salt marsh. Today the area of salt marsh - or "barene" in the Venetian dialect - is just about 7%, about half of it reconstructed, said Jane da Mosto, the executive director of We Are Here Venice, the local partner in the EU's 23.6 million euro (\$27.5 million), 5-year WaterLANDS project to restore wetlands across Europe.

The damage is especially stark in the central and southern lagoon, due to the combination of natural erosion and the dredging of shipping channels to access the Marghera industrial port in the 1960s.

SPORTS

Wings rout Storm as James provides spark off bench

ARLINGTON, Texas, June 2, (AP): Aziaha James scored 18 points off the bench, Paige Bueckers had 10 points, nine rebounds and seven assists and the Dallas Wings beat the Seattle Storm 79-56 on Monday night.

Bueckers scored all 10 of her points in the first half to help Dallas lead 36-25. She finished the game 4 of 12 from the field as the Wings shot just 36%. Dallas began the third quarter on an 8-0 run to extend its lead to 44-25. Seattle did not make its first field goal of the second half until the 5:39 mark of the third.

Four other starters for Dallas (6-3) finished with nine points. Arike Ogunbowale was just 2 of 13 from the field and Maddy Siegrist made 3 of her 10 attempts.

Jessica Shepard grabbed eight rebounds to help Dallas rebound Seattle 48-36. Flau'jae Johnson led Seattle (3-7) with 16 points and 10 rebounds before fouling out with 39.7 seconds left. Natisha Hiedeman added 11 points. Johnson became the second rookie guard in WNBA history to reach 15 blocks in 10 games, joining Elena Delle Donne.

Lynx blows out Mercury

In Phoenix, Courtney Williams scored 30 points on 13-of-20 shooting, Olivia Miles had 19 points and nine assists, and the Minnesota Lynx eased past the Phoenix Mercury.

Minnesota jumped out to a 35-22 lead after the first quarter, began the second on an 11-4 run and ended the half with 67 points. It was the third-most points in any half of a road game in WNBA history.

Williams made eight of her 10 shots in the first half for 19 points to help Minnesota build a 67-40 lead after shooting 75% from the field (27 of 36). Miles had 13 points and five assists by halftime and Natasha Howard added 11 points on 5-of-6 shooting.

Minnesota led 88-56 after three. Antonia Delaere scored 13 points off the bench, Anastasiia Olairi Kosu added 12 and Howard finished with 11 for Minnesota (7-2). Miles has scored in double figures in all nine games to start the season, tying the longest streak in franchise history by a rookie with Seimone Augustus and Tonya Edwards.

Kahleah Copper led Phoenix (2-8) with 18 points. Noemie Brochant added 11 and Monique Akoo Makani 10. Natasha Mack had 11 rebounds. Phoenix was 23 of 27 at the free-throw line and 22 of 64 (34%) from the floor.

Club aims to enhance services & reputation

Kuwait Sea Sports Club approves administrative & financial reports

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Ordinary General Assembly of the Kuwait Sea Sports Club unanimously approved the administrative and financial reports for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2026, along with the Board of Directors' proposed plan for the club's activities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The Assembly also authorized the Board to appoint an external auditor from among the submitted bids and approved the formation of the club's electoral committee.

The meeting was chaired by Club President Fahad Al-Fahad, in the presence of Secretary-General Khaled Al-Foudari, Treasurer Faisal Al-Qusair, a representative of the auditing firm, Board members, and several General Assembly members, meeting the required quorum.

In remarks following the meeting, Al-Fahad said the Board remains committed to continuing its efforts to provide the highest level of service and comfort for members, while enhancing the club's reputation and standing. He added that the club is



Club President Fahad Al-Fahad, Secretary-General Khaled Al-Foudari, Treasurer Faisal Al-Qusair, and an auditing firm representative during the general assembly meeting.

keen to actively participate in national, sporting, and social events, improve its facilities, and offer a diverse range of sports, social, and recreational activities.

He also highlighted the achievements of the club's teams and athletes across various marine and

water sports at international, continental, Arab, Gulf, and local levels. Al-Fahad expressed appreciation to the Minister of Youth and Sports, the Public Authority for Sports, the Kuwait Olympic Committee, and all supporting ministries, institutions, and media outlets.

Team takes on Cook Islands

Afghan women's soccer team rises again

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, June 2, (AP): Fatima Yousufi escaped the Taleban, arriving in Australia with a backpack and a burning ambition to play international soccer.

Through their own determination and courage, and with family support, Yousufi and others like Mona Amini had been able to study, to play soccer for clubs and for the Afghanistan women's team. But when the Taleban returned to power in 2021 it shut down all women's sports, and the players of the Afghan team went into hiding.

After a frantic evacuation, 13 of the players settled in Australia where for five years they lived, played and trained in the hope of once again being allowed to represent their country.

The Afghanistan soccer federation doesn't recognize the women's team. But in April, soccer's world governing body granted the Afghan women's team eligibility for international competition.

This week, 23 members of the Afghan Women United program are in a training camp in Auckland, New Zealand and will play games against a team from the Cook Islands.

"It was a special day that we heard that Afghanistan can represent again



Afghan women's players pose for a team photo during a training session in Auckland, New Zealand. (AP)

our flag in international tournaments," Amini, a midfielder, told The Associated Press in a Zoom call Tuesday. "This is the result of hard work that we did in the past four or five years."

Seven months ago, the Afghan women played in the so-called "Unite" tournament in which they achieved a win over Libya.

"It was a very special moment because we played in an international friendly tournament, and after three years we heard our anthem," Amini said. "That was amazing for me."

FIFA's subsequent recognition was another important milestone on a long and perilous journey.

Yousufi, a Melbourne-based goalkeeper, remembers her reaction vividly.

"We're going to have the national team! That's the greatest thing ever that could have happened to the team," she said. "It was super important to us, especially thinking of the time when we arrived in Australia and we had lost everything: family, our childhood memories and that national

team." Yousufi said she left home with one backpack, "to be safe and to continue to be alive."

"When we came here the most important part of our life was to be a soccer player and to be a soccer team," she said. "When we saw we could not be (officially) a national team and we could not represent our country... it was like I lost the game."

While many ended up in Australia, there are Afghan players spread across Europe and some in the United States. Coach Pauline Hamill holds talent identification camps and helps pull the squad together for games.

Memories of their darkest days remain a strong part of the team's motivation to succeed, and to represent women and girls still in their homeland. The Afghan women's team played its first official competitive match in 2018.

"We couldn't play freely in Afghanistan," Amini said. "Going out from home was tough because there was the risk of the Taliban seeing

us and finding that we were playing soccer. "It was a very tough time and I'm pretty sure every one of the girls, every single one of us, fought hard to create this team and we are very happy right now to stay with each other."

Yousufi was a student and a soccer player, and she said it was difficult even before the Taliban returned to power "for a girl to play football in Afghanistan with such difficulties as family barriers and difficulties of the society to accept a woman in sport."

"We were thinking of any other outcomes like the danger we were facing, everyday dangers in Afghanistan like bomb explosions. Considering all those things - and it was the same for the other girls - we took all those risks to be part of the national team and to be a football player."

Then life became even more difficult.

"The only thing humans want is freedom, and the Taliban took our freedom," Amini said. "It is really difficult that you cannot educate, you cannot play sport, you cannot go outside or you cannot do what you love... (or) follow your dreams."

Amini said the refugee players now were determined to represent all women and girls in Afghanistan.

"We are here and we are going to be trying our best to do something for them, to be the voice of them so that we could have a new generation for the future for the Afghanistan women's national team," she said.

Yousufi said she was among a group of players "adopted by the Australian government," and "we're now living our life and continuing our journey with football, with our education and also being a voice for all those girls who are in Afghanistan."

Youth results approved – Al-Nimash

Volleyball competitions set for Sept return

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Kuwait Volleyball Association has announced that senior-level competitions for the 2025-2026 season will resume in September, coinciding with the start of the 2026-2027 campaign. The decision comes after domestic leagues and age-group tournaments were left incomplete due to exceptional circumstances in the region.

KVA Secretary-General Talal Al-Nimash said the board, in its latest meeting, reviewed mechanisms for handling the suspended competitions and agreed to complete the remaining senior league fixtures in a tournament-style format. He added that the Federation Cup and Super Cup will also be staged in early September, with detailed regulations and schedules to be issued later.

Al-Nimash confirmed that the board has approved the results of the youth competitions for the current season. In the Under-19 category, Kazma were crowned champions, with Al-Arabi finishing second and Kuwait Club third. Kuwait Club won the Under-16 title ahead of Al-Sulaibikhat and Al-Arabi, while Al-Qadsia claimed the Under-14 championship, followed by Kuwait Club and Al-Sulaibikhat.

In the younger categories, Kazma se-



Talal Al-Nimash, Secretary-General of Kuwait Volleyball Association.

cured the Under-12 title, while Al-Arabi lifted the Under-10 crown, bringing the youth competitions to a close for the season.

He emphasized that the federation is keen to complete all remaining competitions in a way that ensures fairness among clubs and maintains an organized domestic calendar ahead of the new season.

In other developments, Kuwaiti vol-

leyball referee Hussein Al-Tamimi successfully completed an international beach volleyball refereeing course held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from May 25 to 31.

With this achievement, Al-Tamimi becomes the first Kuwaiti referee to obtain international accreditation in beach volleyball officiating, marking a notable milestone in Kuwait's refereeing standards.

Spurs superstar takes center stage

Knicks face Wemby in blockbuster finals clash

SAN ANTONIO, June 2, (AP): The marquee outside of Madison Square Garden in December 1949 once promoted the following event, which was happening a couple of days later: "Geo Mikan vs Knicks."

Not "Minneapolis Lakers vs. Knicks." Just George Mikan. The NBA's first one-of-a-kind big man.

It feels like history repeating itself now. The NBA Finals start Wednesday, with the San Antonio Spurs facing the Knicks for the title. And the marquee for this series - in San Antonio, in New York, in Paris and countless other points around the globe - may as well say "Wemby vs Knicks."

Victor Wembanyama keeps stepping onto bigger and bigger stages. The latest version of the NBA's one-of-a-kind big man - a title once held by the likes of Mikan, Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Shaquille O'Neal - will have all eyes on him in this series, and probably for every game he plays for the rest of his life. He's not "on the way" to superstardom. He's there. And this series is giving him his first chance at putting champion on his resume.

"This is the best basketball on the planet that's being played right now," Wembanyama said after San Antonio won Game 7 at Oklahoma City to capture the Western Conference title. "And the crazy thing is... I want to do that 15, 20 more times. Let's hope it doesn't become an addiction. Maybe it is already."

It may as well be an addiction. San Antonio is clearly addicted to him.

There's no Major League Baseball in San Antonio, no NHL team, no NFL team. As far as big-time pro sports go, it's the Spurs and nothing else. And those who drive five minutes in any direction in this city will see the proof.

School's out in San Antonio. It's summer. The city's public library was buzzing Monday, and a few kids just happened to be noticing a new display not far from the front desk. "Read Like Wemby," it said, and it featured five books that Wembanyama has been known to read in the past. An Instagram account - wembybooks - starting posting images of him with books, local media in San Antonio caught on and the library came up with an idea.

"We want to make sure people have access to those and people can read them," said Scott Williams, the marketing manager for the San Antonio Public Library. "And so, we thought, 'Let's do a display and let's do a book list and make sure that people can easily find what Wemby's reading so that they can read it too.'"

The results? "The interest has been huge," Williams said. "Ultimately, we're looking at two things. We want people to pay attention to the library, we want people to come here and notice us, and we want people checking out these books and reading. It's been a success on both fronts."



San Antonio Spurs guard Dylan Harper (2) dribbles the ball against Oklahoma City Thunder guard Cason Wallace (22) during the second half of Game 7 of the Western Conference finals of the NBA basketball playoffs series Saturday in Oklahoma City. (AP)

Saint stand by Eckert after Spygate storm

SOUTHAMPTON, England, June 2, (AP): Southampton manager Tonda Eckert will keep his job despite helping to orchestrate the Spygate controversy that cost the club a chance of promotion to the Premier League, owner Dragan Solak said on Tuesday.

Southampton was expelled from the second-tier Championship playoffs last month after admitting to repeatedly spying on opponents' training sessions and also given a four-point

deduction for next season.

In its written reasons published on Monday, an arbitration panel laid bare the influence of Eckert in the scandal, saying it was "a contrived and determined plan from top down to gain a competitive advantage" and analysts who carried out the unauthorized filming "felt pressurised to do the observations that Mr. Eckert and the senior coaches wished them to do."

However, Solak said in a video mes-

sage to fans published on Tuesday that the club believes Eckert "is the man to take us forward."

"As a board, we are fully behind him," the Serbian owner said, "and together we only have one objective - we want promotion back to (the) Premier League."

In an interview with the BBC, Solak said Eckert "deserves a second chance and I would give it to him."

Southampton qualified for the playoff final - after beating Middlesbrough, one of the clubs it spied on - before get-

ting expelled. That deprived the Saints of the chance of promotion to the top flight and a guaranteed windfall of at least \$270 million in future earnings.

In a separate video message published by Southampton after Solak's, the 33-year-old Eckert said: "I am a young coach, I have made a mistake, and I take full responsibility."

In what he described as a "bitter irony," Eckert said: "None of what has happened had any effect on the sporting performance."

Queiroz explains Partey World Cup selection amid trial

CARDIFF, Wales, June 2, (AP): Ghana coach Carlos Queiroz has explained why he picked Thomas Partey in his World Cup squad while the former Arsenal midfielder is awaiting a trial in London.

Queiroz cited a presumption of innocence for Partey - who now plays in Spain for Villarreal and has pleaded not guilty - criticized the quick judgements of modern social media and spoke philo-

sophically in comments late Monday ahead of a warmup game in Wales.

"Let events run its normal course, let the river flow and one day when the river meets the ocean we will find the truth," said Queiroz, a veteran coach going to his fifth straight World Cup after leading his native Portugal and Iran at previous editions.

The 32-year-old Partey is due

to stand trial in November or later on allegations dating to his time with Arsenal from 2020-25. A second World Cup player, Morocco's Achraf Hakimi, also is awaiting trial on similar charges, in Paris.

"Today, and this is not only about Thomas, very unfortunately the way social media, and the media sometimes, act with full and total impunity we are condemned even before we have the opportunity to defend

ourselves," Queiroz said in Cardiff where his team plays on Tuesday against Wales.

"If the player is here with me, my answer is clear, so I don't have to make comments about my own decisions," said the coach who was hired by Ghana in April.

At the World Cup, Ghana plays one group game in Canada then two in the United States, and has a training base in Rhode Island.

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'Rayan will become extraordinary player with mindset and mentality'

Cherki emerges as France's secret weapon for World Cup challenges

PARIS, June 2, (AP) - If matches get tight for France at the World Cup and a defense is particularly hard for the star-studded attack to breach, Rayan Cherki is a dream player to bring on.

The 22-year-old enjoyed a brilliant first season with Manchester City, lighting up the Premier League with his maverick skills and amazing passing. He finished second with 12 assists behind only Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes, an established Premier League player.

One of Cherki's assists saw him dribble across the penalty area with his right foot before playing a blind pass - where a player does not look in the direction of where he is passing - with his left foot to Marc Guéhi. Afterward, City coach Pep Guardiola - who coached all-time great Lionel Messi at Barcelona - spoke of his disbelief at the creativity shown because he had not even seen that pass as an option.

In another match, Cherki assisted on Phil Foden's goal with an audacious Rabona pass, where the player's kicking leg is crossed behind the back of the standing leg.

Cherki is more of a passer, but when he does score the goals highlight his amazing close control. Take his brilliant goal on his City debut against Wolverhampton, where he started the move with an outrageous backheel flick.

He can also run directly at players at speed with the ball glued to his feet, attributes he shares with the record eight-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi. His goal during his debut for France last June saw him net a brilliant volley against Spain in the Nations League.

"Rayan has something special," Guardiola said. "He will become an extraordinary player with his mindset and mentality."

Cherki gives France coach Didier Deschamps wider options thanks to his versatility. He can play as an attacking midfielder or a right winger as he does with City, or as a playmaker just behind the center forward.



In this file photo, Lyon's Rayan Cherki, right, is challenged by Reims' Mamadou Diakhon during the French League One soccer match between Lyon and Reims at the Groupama stadium in Decines, outside Lyon, central France. (AP)

He was positioned behind Marcus Thuram in a 3-1 win against Colombia in March, where he was involved in two goals, and behind Kylian Mbappé against Ukraine last November.

When he was called up to the France squad for the first time in May last year, Cherki called it "the beginning of a beautiful adventure." It could take him to greatness, for Cherki has the soccer world at his feet.

It's hard to tell which is his stronger foot, although like Messi his best magic comes from his left.

In an interview with France Football magazine in March, Cherki was asked to name City's best technical player.

Without hesitation, he replied: "Me."

Cherki also described himself as "one of the most unpredictable players on the planet."

Perfect if France needs him to break down a solid defense.

Cherki came through Lyon's renowned youth academy, which has produced the likes of 2022 Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema and the wonderfully skilled Hatem Ben Arfa.

He made his Ligue 1 debut at just 16 years old in October 2019 and scored his first senior goal a few weeks later in a French Cup match, when Cherki's astounding talent shone bright. He scored two clinical goals, set up a teammate with a brilliant pass from midfield, won a penalty which his teammate missed, then provided another assist. Oh, he also hit the crossbar with an audacious lob.

It was a mesmerizing performance for his age and put him on the radar of Europe's biggest clubs.

In his final season at Lyon, he ended with a league-high 11 assists. City landed him last summer for 36 million euros (\$41 million), perhaps benefitting from Lyon's dire financial situation to buy him for what now looks like a bargain price in soccer transfer terms.

Guardiola must have already known what he was getting, since Cherki scored against City in a Champions League youth game just after turning 15 - the youngest scorer in the competition.

Germany looking for redemption after successive early WCup exits



Head coach Julian Nagelsman, center, prepares for a photo on the gangway with his team at the airport in Frankfurt, Germany before they depart to the United States to prepare for the World Cup. (AP)

'Neuer's return is a blow for Baumann'

BERLIN, June 2, (AP): The memories of two successive World Cup group-stage exits weigh heavily on the Germany team before another attempt at restoring lost pride.

Surely it couldn't happen again? Germany, the four-time world champion, has been on a quest for redemption since its ignoble exit from the 2022 World Cup in Qatar marked a new low for the national team. Hansi Flick, the Germany coach at the time, held on for six more games before making way after three straight defeats.

Julian Nagelsmann took over in time for the 2024 European Championship and marked a new beginning with young, exciting players. Germany, the host, lost to eventual champion Spain in the quarterfinals, when Nagelsmann said there had been little between the teams and bullishly lamented having to wait two years before becoming world champion.

Nagelsmann has maintained that stance and repeated it again Thursday, even if his late decision to recall veteran goalkeeper Manuel Neuer from two years of international retirement indicates a lack of conviction in Oliver Baumann, whom he'd previously indicated would be the

No. 1 in goal after solid performances in qualifying.

Neuer is the only remaining member of the World Cup-winning team from 2014 in the Germany squad.

Nagelsmann acknowledged that Neuer's return is "a blow" for Baumann, a team player who is unlikely to grumble in public about the decision. But the 40-year-old Neuer's experience over 124 games for Germany could be a boon for the squad in what will be the goalkeeper's fifth World Cup tournament.

"Everyone knows what kind of aura he possesses and the quality he brings to a team," Nagelsmann said. "We don't have a goalkeeper problem."

Neuer is just over two years older than the 38-year-old Nagelsmann - who will be at his first World Cup.

His inclusion lifts the average age of the squad to 27.98 years, the oldest since the 2002 World Cup under Rudi Völler, Kicker magazine reported.

Neuer's teammate at Bayern Munich, Joshua Kimmich, will captain the side.

The only concerns are Neuer's recurring injuries. Neuer was to miss Bayern Munich's German Cup final against Stuttgart because of a calf injury.

Germany's problems at the last two World Cups

started with opening defeats to Mexico and Japan in Russia and Qatar, respectively.

Tournament newcomer Curaçao is unlikely to spring a surprise when they meet for their Group E opener in Houston on June 14.

Germany next faces Ivory Coast and Ecuador, potentially more difficult rival, but Germany should still have enough firepower to advance from the group - particularly because FIFA's expanded version of the tournament means 32 of the 48 participating teams will reach the knockout stage.

Germany had few problems in World Cup qualifying but has struggled against other European heavyweights like France, Portugal and Spain, suggesting it still has some way to go before it can compete against its main rivals.

Defensive stability is Nagelsmann's biggest worry as Germany conceded four goals in two friendly wins over Switzerland (4-3) and Ghana (2-1) in March.

Jonathan Tah and Nico Schlotterbeck formed the central defensive partnerships for both games, with Kimmich - who plays in midfield for Bayern - at right back with David Raum or Nathaniel Brown on the left. Brown got the nod at left back for Germany's 4-0 warmup win over Finland on Sunday, when Tah and Schlotterbeck again formed the central defense.

FIFA says match tempo and limiting time-wasting, will be point of emphasis

WASHINGTON, June 2, (AP) - FIFA's on-field officials for the World Cup will insist on keeping matches moving by taking rule changes designed to limit time-wasting seriously, the sport's governing body said Sunday with the start of the 48-team tournament now less than two weeks away.

Also among the points of emphasis for referees and officials: a commitment to issuing red cards to any player who covers his mouth while talking to an opponent in a "confrontational situation," FIFA said.

"We are continuing on trying to achieve an objective, which is to eliminate from matches - as much as possible - the disruption of the tempo of the match," said Pierluigi Collina, FIFA chief refereeing officer and chair of the referees committee.

Other issues that referees will be mindful of during the tournament:

- If a player leaves the field of play after being angered by an official's decision, a red card can be issued.

- To speed up play, referees can institute a five-second visual countdown on goal kicks and throw-ins. If the goal kick is not taken before the end of that countdown, a corner kick will be awarded to the opposing team. If the throw-in is not executed by the end of the five-second count, a throw-in for the opponents will be the reward. It's along the same lines of the so-called eight-second goalkeeper rule that has been in place for some time to release the ball after making a save.

- Players getting subbed off must leave the field within 10 seconds, except for special situations such as ones involving injuries or a security issue.

- The protocol for Video Assistant Referee, or VAR, is being clarified in certain areas. VAR can be used to check when red cards are issued following a clearly incorrect second yellow card, or when cards are issued in the case of mistaken identity. Incorrectly awarded corner kicks can also be checked by VAR, FIFA said.

Players covering their mouth with a hand, arm or shirt will be given red cards if refer-



FIFA President Gianni Infantino holds the World Cup trophy as he makes comments during the opening ceremony of the International Broadcast Center in Dallas. (AP)

ees deem it not to be a friendly conversation, FIFA said. Conversations that are not confrontational but still have players shielding their mouths from public view will continue to be permitted without penalty.

"Confrontational ... a completely different story," Collina said.

There has also been a clarification on VAR protocol "regarding clear offenses committed by the attacking team before the ball is in play at a corner kick or free kick" that directly impacts goals, penalty kicks or sanctions.

VAR can be used in those moments and "if the referee determines that an offense occurred before the ball was in play, the appropriate disciplinary action will be taken."

But all the emphasis on speedy play won't necessarily mean quicker matches. There will be three-minute water breaks midway through each half of every match, FIFA said.

Best of the Rest

Iniesta signs with UAE's second-tier club: Former Spain and Barcelona star Andres Iniesta has signed with United Arab Emirates second-tier club Gulf United for his first coaching job.

Iniesta played his final season as a player with Emirates Club FC until retiring in 2024.

He has a coaching license that allows him to be with Gulf United in the second tier but remains in the process of obtaining the Pro Coaching Licence, according to a statement by the club.

"Gulf United FC feels like the perfect place to begin this new chapter," Iniesta said. "Football has given me everything, and now I want to give something back through coaching, through learning and through daily work with young players who have the hunger and the talent to go far."

Gulf United is known for its academy and for developing young players. (AP)

South Africa departs for World Cup without assistant coach

Iran finalizes 26-man World Cup squad

ANTALYA, Turkey, June 2, (AP) - Iran finalized a 26-man World Cup squad to play in the United States including 17 home-based players whose clubs have not played since February due to the Middle East regional war.

Star forward Mehdi Taremi, who plays in Greece for Olympiakos, was among nine overseas players but they did not include his strike partner at the 2022 World Cup, Sardar Azmoun.

Azmoun was dropped from coach Amir Ghalenoei's squad in March, reportedly because of a social media post that angered Iranian authorities during the ongoing war with the United States and Israel. His teammate at Dubai club Shabab Al-Ahli, Saeid Ezatollahi, was picked.

Iran features five players with clubs in the United Arab Emirates, two in Belgium, Taremi in Greece and one in Russia. Belgium-based Dennis Dargahi on the official squad list is known as Dennis Eckert Ayensa at his club Standard Liege.

Iran is preparing for the World Cup at a training camp in Antalya, Turkey, before a scheduled departure on Friday to its tournament base in Tijuana, Mexico.

Citing complexities with visa issues to enter the U.S., Iran got FIFA approval 10 days ago to move from a planned training base in Tucson, Arizona.

Iran plays two games in World Cup Group G in

Inglewood, California - against New Zealand on June 15 and Belgium six days later - then goes to Seattle to face Egypt on June 26.

Iran and the U.S. could meet in the round of 32 on July 3 at the Dallas Cowboys' stadium in Arlington, Texas, if both place second in their groups.

Iran Squad:
Goalkeepers: Alireza Beiranvand (Tractor), Hossein Hosseini (Sepahan), Payam Niazmand (Persepolis)



Iran's Mohammadhossein Kananizadegan, left, and Mehdi Taremi fight for the ball during a training session, in Antalya, southern Turkey. (AP)

Defenders: Danial Eiri (Malavan), Ehsan Hajsafi (Sepahan), Saleh Hardani (Esteghlal), Hossein Kanaani (Persepolis), Shoja Khalilzadeh (Tractor), Milad Mohammadi (Persepolis), Ali Nemati (Foolad), Ramin Rezaeian (Foolad)

Midfielders: Rouzbeh Cheshmi (Esteghlal), Saeid Ezatollahi (Shabab Al-Ahli), Mehdi Ghayedi (Al-Nasr), Saman Ghoddos (Kalba), Mohammad Ghorbani (Al-Wahda), Alireza Jahanbakhsh (Dender), Mohammad Mohebi (Rostov), Amir Mohammad Razzaghinia (Esteghlal), Mehdi Torabi (Tractor), Aria Yousefi (Sepahan)

Forwards: Ali Alipour (Persepolis), Dennis Dargahi (Standard Liege), Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh (Tractor), Mehdi Taremi (Olympiakos), Shahriar Moghanlou (Kalba)

South Africa's World Cup squad departed for the tournament and left its assistant coach behind after problems securing travel visas for the United States.

South Africa plays co-host Mexico in the opening game of the World Cup on June 11 in Mexico City. It plays one of its group games in the U.S.

The team was due to depart on Sunday but that was delayed because it had not received visas for some players and staff members, the sports minister said.

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The FIFA World Cup soccer trophy is displayed during the opening ceremony of the International Broadcast Center in Dallas. (AP)

Sports

An important test

Kuwait steps up preparations for friendly against Thailand



Players training for the friendly.

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Kuwait continues its intensive training camp in Bangkok as it prepares for a friendly match against Thailand, scheduled for the day after tomorrow, as part of its build-up for upcoming regional and continental competitions.

The friendly is part of "Al-Azraq's" broader preparation program for key assignments over the coming months, which begins with the Arabian Gulf Cup (Gulf 27) in Saudi Arabia next October, followed by the West Asian Championship in Oman in November, and the 2027 AFC Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia, starting January 7.

The team is set to hold its penultimate training session today, with the technical staff focusing on improving both physical fitness and tactical sharpness. The camp has also been affected by minor injuries sustained by several players during the latest round of the Zain Premier League.

The medical staff is working closely to ensure full recovery ahead of the match, while also managing the impact of the four-hour time difference between Kuwait and Thailand, which requires specific adaptation programs to maintain players' physical readiness.

The Thai Football Association has scheduled the match for 4:30 p.m. Kuwait time at Thammasat Stadium in Pathum Thani, north of Bangkok. The encounter is viewed as an important test before the team enters its final preparation phase for upcoming competitions.

Head coach Helio Sousa has named a 26-player squad for the camp during the June international window.

The selection includes Saud Al-Houshan, Khaled Al-Rashidi, Abdulrahman Al-Fadhli, Mahdi Dashti, Fahad Al-Hajri, Rashid Al-Dosari, Khaled Sabah, Jasem Al-Matar, Reda Hani, Youssef Al-Haqan, Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi, Abdullah Al-Qurzaie, Abdullah Al-Awadhi, Ali Hassan, Nasser Falah, Muntasir Abdul Salam, Muath Al-Dhafiri, Fawaz Al-Mubailesh, Bandar Al-Barazi, Khaled Al-Murshid, Shabib Al-Khaldi, Youssef Nasser, Mohammed Daham, Youssef Majed, Mohammed Khaled, and Eid Al-Rashidi.

Sousa has also included several young players who have recently impressed at club level, including Abdullah Al-Awadhi, Abdullah Al-Qurzaie, Youssef Al-Haqan, Ali Hassan, and Bandar Al-Barazi, highlighting his intent to integrate emerging talent.

The squad also features the return of several previously absent players, including Abdulrahman Al-Fadhli, Mahdi Dashti, Jasem Al-Matar, Muntasir Abdul Salam, Fawaz Al-Mubailesh, and Mohammed Khaled.

At the same time, a number of regulars from the Arab Cup squad in Qatar last year have been left out, including Suleiman Abdulghafour, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Sultan Al-Anzi, Fawaz Ayyad, Hassan Hamdan, Adhbi Shihab, Mohammed Al-Sharifi, and Muath Al-Osaimi.

Separately, the Kuwait Olympic football team began its preparations at the Kuwait Football Association's Adailiya pitch under newly appointed Spanish coach David Doneig. The first training session saw 31 players participate, with plans in place for an overseas training camp in the coming period.

New Kuwait Premier League season to begin on August 25



A file photo of players in action.

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: The Kuwait Football Association has informed clubs that the 2026-2027 Premier League season will begin on August 25.

The decision comes nearly two months after the current campaign concludes on June 29, when the final round of the championship group is scheduled to be played.

The earlier start reflects efforts by the federation to better structure the domestic football calendar amid a busy schedule of competitions and international commitments. These include the national team's participation in the Arabian Gulf Cup (Gulf 27) in Saudi Arabia from September 23 to October 6, as well as the AFC Asian Cup sched-

uled in Saudi Arabia from January 7 to February 5. FIFA international breaks in November, March, and June are also part of the calendar.

This season has already experienced multiple interruptions due to regional circumstances, which disrupted the flow of domestic competitions. League action resumed in May with rounds 15, 16, and 17, in addition to the Crown Prince Cup final, before being halted again due to the national team's training camp in Bangkok, where they are preparing for a friendly against Thailand on Friday.

The second phase of the league is set to conclude on June 13 with the 18th round. The championship group will then begin on June 16, with matches scheduled for June 19, 22, and 25, before the season wraps up on June 29.

Management working to resolve issues

Burgan faces financial and visa hurdles ahead of championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Burgan Club is facing growing concerns ahead of the 28th Asian Club Championship for Men's Handball, which begins on June 6 and runs until June 15, amid delays in financial allocations and the late issuance of visas for its three Egyptian professional players.

A club source said the challenges are affecting the team's final preparations, with only a few days remaining before the start of the tournament. The delay has limited the ability of the foreign players to fully join training sessions and build chemistry with the squad ahead of the competition.

The source added that the club's management is working urgently to resolve both issues, stressing their importance in ensuring proper technical and administrative readiness. Burgan will represent Kuwait in a highly competitive tournament featuring Asia's top clubs, marking its first appearance in the continental championship.

The club has renewed its appeal to sports authorities, including Minister of Youth and Sports Dr. Tareq Al-Jalhem and Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sport Bashar Abdullah, calling for immediate intervention to resolve the visa and funding problems to ensure the team can compete under suitable conditions and represent Kuwaiti handball effectively.

Burgan previously announced the



A file photo of Burgan player preparing to take a shot.

signing of three Egyptian internationals on loan from Al-Ahly – goalkeeper Abdelrahman Hamed, left back Nabil Sherif, and right back Mohsen Ramadan – alongside Japanese player Kosuke Yasuhira to strengthen the squad for the tournament.

Elsewhere, Saudi club Al-Khaleej have signed Austrian right back Janko Bozovic (40), arriving from Kuwait's Al-Salmiya, completing their foreign player quota for the Asian championship.

In other news, Al-Qadisia has renewed the contract of player Abdulaziz Salmeen for four years following his strong performances last season, and also approved the loan of several players to Kazma for two seasons.

Total of 10 medals won at Gulf Games

Al-Otaibi hails shooting stars for strong performance



Kuwait Shooting Federation led by Eng. Duaij Al-Otaibi poses with the shooting delegation.

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Kuwait Shooting Federation President Eng. Duaij Al-Otaibi praised the achievements of Kuwaiti shooters who competed in the recent Gulf Games held in Doha, Qatar, where they collected a total of 10 medals – four gold, four silver, and two bronze.

Speaking during a ceremony organized by

the federation to honor the medal winners, Al-Otaibi said the national shooters delivered strong performances despite limited numbers and insufficient preparation time ahead of the competition.

He noted that the athletes showed great determination in overcoming difficult circumstances, stressing that their results reflect the continued strength and competitiveness of Kuwait's shooting sport on the regional and international stage.

Al-Otaibi also expressed his gratitude to Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Tareq Al-Jalhem, Kuwait Olympic Committee President Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sport Bashar Abdullah, and all supporting institutions that contributed to the team's participation.

He further thanked the State of Qatar for its hospitality and excellent organization of the Gulf Games.

Andreeva, Kostyuk set up Paris thriller

Jodar powerless against Zverev

PARIS, June 2, (AP): Marta Kostyuk, the best player on clay this season and a vocal supporter of Ukraine amid the war with Russia, will play her first major semifinal at the French Open against a Russian.

Kostyuk won an intense all-Ukraine quarterfinal against Elina Svitolina 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 on Tuesday. That set up Kostyuk against Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva, who thumped Romanian veteran Sorana Cirstea 6-0, 6-3.

In men's play, up-and-coming Rafael Jodar of Spain was powerless against second-seeded Alexander Zverev, losing 7-6 (3), 6-1, 6-3.

Kostyuk leads Andreeva 2-0 on the tour; the second win in the Madrid final a month ago. Kostyuk didn't shake

hands at the net, following protocol for Ukrainians with opponents from Russia and its ally Belarus since the war started four years ago.

"We had a very difficult night again in Ukraine, especially in Kyiv, so many people dead," Kostyuk said. "I want to give this match to Ukrainian people and to their resilience. Slava Ukraini! (Glory to Ukraine!)"

Russia launched hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles against Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities overnight, killing at least 18 civilians and wounding more than 100 others, authorities said on Tuesday.

"I texted my family if they were OK. This is pretty much all I can do," Kostyuk said. "The biggest thing I can do is sit here and talk about it so more people can find out about it so they don't get used to this terrible life."

Svitolina said friends in Ukraine told her about the attacks just hours before the match.

"Just very sad that we all have to really put up with this heaviness and pain every single day, and scared moments not knowing what's going to bring the next day," Svitolina said.

She will leave Roland Garros to look after the daughter she has with French tennis player Gael Monfils, but will be cheering on Kostyuk.

"Hopefully she can get the title," Svitolina said. "It's going to be massive for Ukraine."

No. 7-seeded Svitolina got off to a slow start but worked her way back, matching No. 15 Kostyuk's power from the baseline. Kostyuk was better on the important points in the decider and improved her impressive 2026 record on clay to 17-0.

She's the first Ukrainian woman to reach the semifinals at Roland Garros in the Open era since 1968. Svitolina has reached the semis at the other three Grand Slams but failed for the sixth time to win a French Open quarterfinal.



Germany's Alexander Zverev returns to Czech Republic's Jakub Mensik during the quarterfinal tennis match at the French Open in Paris. (AP)

Injured Canada captain Davies rejoins team

Embolo faces WC delay as US reviews travel documents

ZURICH, June 2, (AP): Switzerland forward Bree Embolo was delayed flying to the United States for the World Cup because his travel documents were under review.

"Unfortunately, Bree Embolo is currently unable to travel to the United States with the team," the Swiss soccer federation said, saying his ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) was no longer approved.

The Swiss were due to fly from Zurich around lunchtime local time Tuesday to Los Angeles before going to a World Cup training camp in San Diego.

It is the third World Cup where Embolo is set to be Switzerland's first-choice striker, after 24 goals in 86 internationals.

"However, at 10:30 a.m., we were informed that his ESTA application had been placed under further review," the Swiss federation said without elaborating.

It is unclear why the U.S. has concerns about 29-year-old Embolo, who had previous issues with authorities in Germany and Switzerland around the COVID-19 pandemic.

He was disciplined in 2021 by this then-club Borussia Mönchengladbach for attending a party with friends during a lockdown. In 2024, he was linked in a criminal case in Basel to buying forged test certificates in 2021.

The Swiss federation said on Tuesday it was "in contact with the relevant authorities and expect that Bree will either join the team later today (Tuesday) or travel tomorrow and join the squad then."

Switzerland looks favored to advance from a World Cup group including co-host Canada, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Qatar.

Alphonso Davies has joined the Canadian national team as it prepares for

the World Cup, although he's not quite ready to play.

The left back injured a hamstring last month while playing for Bayern Munich in 1-1 draw with Paris Saint-Germain that knocked the German club out of the Champions League semifinals.

On Monday, Davies was on the sideline when Canada beat Uzbekistan 2-0 in a rainy World Cup tuneup in his hometown of Edmonton, Alberta. The Canadian captain ran laps on the field before the game.

"It feels nice to get back on the pitch and do some running. I'm happy to be home, I'm happy to be with the boys and support them, whether it's just on or off the pitch," said Davies, who joined the squad.

Davies, who has 15 goals in 58 games for Canada, was named Friday to its 26-player squad for the World Cup. He would not speculate about when he might be able to play. Canada

opens the World Cup on June 12 in Toronto against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"We just have to see how everything goes over the next couple days," Davies said. "I'll just continue my rehab, my progression, and see how I'm feeling, day by day, step by step."

Davies has not played for Canada since March 2025, when he tore an ACL in the CONCACAF Nations League finals.

"It was tough. I mean, the last year was obviously an up-and-down moment for me, with the ACL that happened, with the low muscle injuries here and there, but at the end of the day I think I just have to keep my head down, keep working, can't let that affect me," he said. "Obviously, it was tough mentally and physically, but I'm feeling good now, and hoping to recover as quickly as possible."

Canada coach Jesse Marsch said Davies should not feel pressured to return too soon.