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## SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTRY DEBUNKS AIR BASE ATTACK CLAIMS



### Opinion

**Ahmed Al-Jarallah**

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

## Build with the smoke of cannons and sell with the music of peace

IN major crises, especially wars, governments act to enhance national economic sustainability through plans that differ from those adopted during periods of pre-war prosperity. Taxes and fees are reduced, and investors are allowed to operate more freely, without restrictive regulations.

In times of war, governments may instruct banks not to pursue borrowers and may lower interest rates to stimulate a more active financial cycle.

These measures enhance stability, reduce social tension, support the continuity of financial flows, and help control the rise in commodity prices, especially domestic manufactured products.

The wartime economy is fundamentally different, due to which the primary focus of governments becomes mitigating problems so that the government is not preoccupied with anything other than the war.

For years, the region has suffered from instability. Kuwait has experienced several crises, each of which has placed pressure on local investment and exacerbated the challenges faced by business owners.

These have led to a number of consequences that have gradually begun to emerge, further intensified by decisions that discourage local investment.

One of the most significant of these measures is the restriction on investors disposing of their usufruct rights in industrial plots and agricultural holdings, while banks insist on obligating borrowers to repay loans despite the difficult circumstances facing the region and Kuwait.

We must acknowledge that Kuwait has suffered greatly since the Iraqi invasion as a result of that exceptional situation, especially since the invaders destroyed much infrastructure and paralyzed commercial activity. Despite its recovery, Kuwait continues to struggle.

The COVID-19 pandemic added further burdens, the effects of which are still felt today.

The internal political situation from 1992 until December 20, 2023, influenced the direction of investment priorities that had previously been focused on strengthening the local economy, particu-

larly in the period following the 2003 liberation of Iraq from Saddam Hussein's regime.

The current war represents a new setback that has negatively impacted the internal situation, resulting in stagnation in the local economy.

One of the reasons behind this stagnation is laws that do not support companies and investors, especially as the government has not implemented protective measures to mitigate the effects of the war, which are likely to last for several years. This may lead to further pressure on the investment climate and the economy in general.

Therefore, the Cabinet has responsibilities towards its citizens, foremost among them being to alleviate their burdens by enacting laws that help maintain a strong economy.

During crises, governments work to ease pressure on individuals and businesses and avoid procedures that may reduce production by imposing financial obligations, while businesses require support to sustain commercial activity.

Former US Secretary of Defense George Marshall said, "When you hear the roar of cannons, you must start planning for reconstruction and revitalizing the economy."

By the way, he was the architect of the European Recovery Program, which bears his name and helped Europe recover after World War II.

Undoubtedly, the recovery process requires easing the burden on borrowers, who represent the majority of citizens and form the backbone of the national economy through the circulation of capital, which ultimately benefits the country as a whole.

Therefore, when the government asks people to make sacrifices, it must also make sacrifices during difficult times to ensure a strong economy in times of prosperity.

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# Strikes end in uneasy pause

Iran-Israel hostilities revive war fears

**RIYADH, June 8, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Defense on Monday denied reports circulating on social media claiming that Prince Sultan Air Base in Al-Kharj Governorate had been targeted.**

In a statement, the ministry's official spokesperson, Major General Turki Al-Maliki, said the reports were inaccurate and unfounded.

Al-Maliki noted that the activation of warning sirens in Al-Kharj in the early hours of Monday was a precautionary measure taken following the launch of a ballistic missile from Yemen.

The missile disappeared near the border area and that investigations are still underway to determine the circumstances and details surrounding the launch, he added.

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Children cool off and enjoy the water fountains at Souq Al-Mubarakiya in Kuwait City on a hot Monday, seeking relief from soaring summer temperatures. Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

## Outdoor work breaches face legal penalties

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) announced a ban on employing workers under eight hazardous weather and health conditions, including dust storms, heavy rain, high temperatures, high humidity, natural disasters, epidemics or with infectious diseases, low temperatures, and floods or water accumulation, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decision aims to protect workers from potential hazards during work.

PAM urged the public to report any cases of workers being employed outdoors during the midday hours by contacting the Occupational Health and Safety Inspection Team at 24936192.

It emphasized that violations of the outdoor work ban will be subject to penalties stipulated in Law No. 6/2010.

PAM also reserves the right to suspend an employer's file until the violation is rectified.

## Geopolitical pressures fuel calls for KPC privatization

By Najeh Bilal  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: With the government's move to amend the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Law, the idea of privatizing some oil activities of the corporation and those of its subsidiaries has emerged.

Questions were raised regarding privatization amidst the anticipated amendments. What are the most important oil sectors suitable for privatization? Will privatization boost the revenues of KPC?

These questions are important in view of the geopolitical tension in the region and its impact on oil production levels compared to before Feb 28, in addition to the suspension of Kuwaiti and Gulf oil exports.

Oil expert Kamel Al-Harami told the newspaper that he supports the move of KPC to diversify its sources of income to mitigate losses due to the ongoing war in the region, the repercussions of which are still being felt in the economic landscape.

He suggested that the corporation should seize the opportunity presented by amending certain provisions of its founding law to move towards the privatization of some sectors unrelated to oil and gas exploration and extraction.

He also emphasized the need to privatize five sectors to maximize profits, the first of which is the local refining sector.

He said the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), established in October 1960 as a public shareholding company jointly owned by the Kuwaiti government and the private sector, initially had 60 percent government stake and 40 percent private sector stake until it became wholly government-owned in 1975.

He asked about the hindrances to the private sector's participation in Zour Refinery, Mina Al-Ahmadi Port and Mina Abdullah Port, especially since KNPC does not fully own its overseas refineries.

Kuwait holds 50 percent stake in the Duqm Refinery in Oman, 35.1 percent stake in the Nghi Son Refin-

ery in Vietnam (in partnership with international companies), and 50 percent stake in the Milazzo Refinery in Italy (shared equally with another company -- the Italian company Eni).

He is surprised that foreign companies are allowed to participate in the overseas refining sector of Kuwait, while the Kuwaiti private sector is denied the opportunity to participate in local refineries. He said the private sector has substantial capital, enabling it to support the budget of the corporation during crises.

He argued that allowing the private sector to enter the refining sector will lead to a significant boom and that this sector will share the burden of employee salaries with the government.

He pointed out that KPC could also expand its overseas refining operations, particularly in countries that import Kuwaiti oil.

Regarding his second proposal, he stated that it involves privatizing the fuel marketing sector (gasoline). "This will put all fuel distribution stations under the responsibility of the private sector, while KNPC and Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) will be solely responsible for manufacturing, refining and managing the three major refineries in Kuwait, or the overseas refineries owned by KPI on behalf of KPC," He added.

His third proposal is the privatization of the management of gas cylinder filling plants bearing the logo and name of KNPC, instead of Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC). He wondered why the Umm Al-Aish and Shuaiba gas cylinder filling plants were not handed over to the private sector, so KNPC could focus on managing refineries, especially since it already assumed responsibility for the Zour Refinery after the merger with KOTC.

His fourth proposal is the privatization of KOTC, which owns a vast fleet of tankers, considering the private sector previously owned 100 percent of KOTC.

His fifth proposal is privatizing the petrochemical sector, indicating that the private sector, either through partnerships or independently, already owns successful petrochemical projects. "Therefore, this sector should be privatized, so KNPC can concentrate on developing production. If KNPC wishes to expand its refining,

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### NewsWatch

**BAGHDAD:** Iraq's Civil Aviation Authority announced on Monday the reopening of Iraqi airspace to all incoming and outgoing flights and the resumption of air traffic at all Iraqi airports in accordance with approved operational procedures.

The authority said in a statement that flight operations have resumed following the reopening of the country's airspace, allowing airlines to operate services to and from all Iraqi airports. (KUNA)

**MUSCAT:** Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman issued a Royal Decree on Monday promulgating a new Civil Society Institutions Law, replacing the Associations Law that had been in force since 2000.

According to Oman's Government Communication Center, the new law will apply to 261 civil society institutions and is aimed at strengthening community partnerships and enhancing their contribution to national development. (KUNA)

### Day by Day

ONE day, a prisoner asked the prison administration for a book. The officer informed him that the book was not available in the prison library, but that its author was incarcerated there. The prisoner then asked whether he could meet the author, as he hoped to learn a great deal from him. The officer agreed and assured him that the prison administration would grant his request, along with other requests.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

## Kuwait tightens FTS oversight of humanitarian aid reporting

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff  
KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The Ministry of Social Affairs urged the chairpersons of the boards of directors of charitable societies to register the

contributions of the State of Kuwait in the Financial Tracking System (FTS), particularly those related to humanitarian aid in the occupied Palestinian territories.

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## 28 more in new revocation tally

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: In a special supplement to the official gazette "Kuwait Al-Yaum", Decision No. 53/9/2026 issued by the Supreme Committee for Kuwaiti Citizenship Investigation regarding the revocation of Kuwaiti citizenship from 28 individuals was published on Monday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

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## OPEC+ meetings bolster 'stability'

K U W A I T

CITY, June 8,

(KUNA):

Minister of

Oil Tareq Al-

Roumi affirmed

on Sunday that

periodical and

regular meetings

held within the

framework of

following developments

contribute to the

enhancement of the

supply security and

stability of global oil



Al-Roumi

markets. Al-Roumi made the following chairing Kuwait's delegation participating in the meeting of the seven countries involved in the gradual phase-out of the voluntary production cuts, the 66th Meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC), the 41st OPEC+ Ministerial Meeting, and the 193rd OPEC Ministerial Conference.

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**8** Zain, URC partner to redefine digital infrastructure in Kuwait's urban development



**8** Bursa Kuwait participates in fifth HSBC GGC Exchanges Conference & organizes its 17th Corporate Day in London



### Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:13	Asr	15:21
Sunrise	04:48	Maghrib	18:46
Zohr	11:47	Isha	20:18

## Other Voices

### Do we really act the same way in all situations?

One of the most ingrained beliefs people hold is that personality is constant and consistent; we anticipate that people will react the same way in every situation. We are quick to judge those who are loud in front of work colleagues, but subdued at family gatherings as being inconsistent, false, or even fake. But a growing body of research suggests this isn't the case.

Many psychologists now believe personality is not a fixed trait that we carry in the same way everywhere. Instead, while people have certain relatively stable tendencies, they do not express themselves the same way in all settings. We could all have many different aspects of our personality that come out at different times.

For example, we know that the employee who confidently leads meetings and speaks in front of large groups may have acted quite differently at their home gatherings over the weekend. Similarly, the individual who is

highly organized and disciplined at work yet struggles to maintain the same structure in personal life is probably quite different when they get home.

These people are probably not false. We can all have different sides to our personalities that show up in different situations. Researchers have called this the difference between traits and states. A person may tend to be extroverted yet be more reserved in a particular setting. Or they may generally be calm and composed yet become assertive when the situation calls for it.

This understanding of the dynamic nature of personality undermines the idea that authenticity means acting in the same manner across different contexts. In fact, healthy adaptation is often a sign of emotional intelligence and social awareness. Many of us are good at acting in a particular way at work, while being less open or outgoing in our personal time. Perhaps we need to be able to do

the same when we are leading, for example, or giving advice.

The ability to act a certain way at work or with other people may be helpful and effective. So maybe, instead of questioning whether we're acting like the same person all the time, we should wonder how true to our true selves are our different sides of us. Personality is something more flexible and varied than previously thought.

And perhaps it's something that allows us to better understand others and ourselves, to judge each other less and embrace more. After all, perhaps, not acting the same in all situations doesn't make us fake. It makes us human.



Hala Al-Humaidhi

## PAI shuts down 51 industrial plots breaching laws & rules

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi/Fares Ghaleb  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The Public Authority for Industry (PAI) shut down 51 industrial plots for violating the Industry Law, its executive regulations and amendments.

This action was based on violation reports submitted by the Industrial Inspection Department at PAI.

The closure decisions, published Sunday in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Today', included the withdrawal of industrial plots in six industrial areas -- Mirqab, Al-Mustaqbal, Shuwaikh (Second), Subhan, Amghara and Al-Rai Industrial Area.

Major violations leading to these closures included constructing worker accommodations without official permits, illegally using some plots, operating as garages without commercial licenses, prolonged closure of plots without actual operation, constructing buildings or structures without official approvals, encroaching upon and misusing surrounding areas, and subdividing industrial plots.

In accordance with the laws and regula-

tions governing the industrial sector, the authority gave the owners of the violating plots a one-month grace period from the closure date to remove all violations and rectify their status. It emphasized that failure to comply within this period will result in more severe legal and administrative actions.

**KLA election postponed:** The Ministry of Social Affairs postponed the Kuwait Lawyers Association (KLA) Board of Directors election, so the current board will continue performing its duties until a new election date is set.

The election was originally scheduled for June 10, but the electoral scene witnessed significant developments in recent days, including the withdrawal of several candidates from the electoral race through their social media accounts.

The Profession List announced the withdrawal of five of its candidates, indicating that the decision is for the best interest of the profession, unity of lawyers, and ensuring the stability of the association in the coming period.

# Kuwait cares for wildlife, marine habitats

Joint teams pluck nets, waste, dead fish from sea



Kuwait Dive Team removes discarded fishing nets.



Dead fish removed from sea.



Kuwait Dive Team after cleaning the Fahaheel Marina. KUNA photos

**KUWAIT CITY, June 8, (KUNA):** The Kuwait Dive Team (KDT), affiliated with the Environmental Voluntary Foundation, reaffirmed its commitment to protecting the country's marine environment on World Oceans Day, observed annually on June 8.

The team marked the occasion through a series of coastal cleanup campaigns and environmental initia-

tives carried out in cooperation with the Environment Public Authority (EPA).

Team leader Waleed Al-Fadhel told KUNA that the activities form part of the team's ongoing efforts to protect wildlife and marine ecosystems and support this year's World Oceans Day theme, "Strong Marine Protected Areas for Our Blue Planet."

He said the initiatives included cleaning beaches, removing harmful waste and abandoned fishing nets from key marine locations, and collecting more than five tons of dead fish.

Al-Fadhel noted that the team responded to an environmental report at Al-Bidaa beach, where divers removed large quantities of dead small fish from the shoreline, helping prevent foul odors, protect beachgoers, and reduce environmental risks associated with decomposition.

He added that the team also carried out a cleanup operation at Fahaheel Marina, removing abandoned fishing nets, large plastic debris, ropes, and wood that posed hazards to marine life and obstructed boat movement.

The campaign further extended to Kuwait Bay, a vital natural habitat for fish and marine species in the Arabian Gulf.

In cooperation with the Jahra Reserve administration of the EPA, the team removed significant amounts of plastic waste and discarded fishing nets from the reserve's coastline to help protect migratory birds.

Al-Fadhel stressed that protecting Kuwait's marine environment requires joint efforts from government agencies, the private sector, fishermen, and sea-goers.

He called for responsible environmental practices, including proper waste disposal and adherence to fishing regulations, to ensure the sustainability of marine resources for future generations.

## Judicial officers vital gov't tools to track down fraud

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The authority of judicial officers is one of the most important oversight tools that government agencies use to deal with violations, protect markets and consumers, and enforce laws and regulations governing commercial, food and economic activities.

Despite the importance of these exceptional powers, their misuse or exploitation outside the scope of their intended purpose compels the relevant authorities to take decisive measures, which may include withdrawing this authority from certain employees.

Recently, several administrative decisions were issued to withdraw judicial officer status from a number of employees in various government agencies.

This step reflects stricter oversight of those holding this authority and underscores that its granting does not imply continuation as it remains contingent upon work requirements, professional commitment and integrity.

Given the expanding oversight role of government agencies and the increasing number of inspectors holding this authority, the challenge is striking a balance between empowering inspectors to perform their duties efficiently and ensuring that these exceptional powers are not exploited outside the bounds of the law or the public interest.

A reliable source from Ministry of

Commerce and Industry revealed to the newspaper that the number of inspectors with judicial authority in the ministry ranges between 600 and 850, distributed in different regulatory departments.

He disclosed that the Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Sector employs the largest share of these inspectors, with about 600, while the remainder are distributed among the Precious Metals, Money Laundering, Trademarks and Patents, and other departments with a regulatory nature.

He emphasized that these powers constitute a fundamental pillar in the efforts to combat commercial fraud and price manipulation, protect consumers, and ensure market compliance with laws on commercial activities.

He pointed out that judicial authority is a crucial regulatory tool in addressing economic, commercial and food-related violations, but its effectiveness depends on the extent to which those holding it adhere to impartiality, integrity and professionalism in performing their duties.

He revealed that the recent decisions to withdraw judicial authority from some employees reflect a clear trend towards strengthening governance and internal oversight within government entities, and reinforcing the principle of accountability and zero tolerance for practices that might harm the reputation of oversight bodies or affect public trust in them.

## MoE dismisses exam panel heads, supervisors & staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The Ministry of Education (MoE) announced the dismissal of the heads of two examination committees at a secondary school, along with several supervisors and invigilators working on those committees, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement, the ministry explained that the case has been referred to an urgent administrative investigation to determine all circumstances and take the necessary action.

These measures were taken in accordance with the directives of the Minister of Education, Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, who had emphasized the need for close monitoring of examination committee work and immediate action against any violations or irregularities.

The decision was based on observations in national supervisor reports indicating breaches of examination regulations and suspicions of practices that could undermine the integrity of the examinations.

Minister Al-Tabtabaei issued directives to form two new administrative and supervisory teams to take over the management and monitoring of the two committees' work as quickly as possible, and to ensure the application of all regulations, bylaws, and instructions governing examination procedures.

He also directed a comprehensive review and audit of all the work of the two committees, including the resulting results and grades, to verify the integrity of procedures and the accuracy of the work completed, and to take any necessary legal and administrative measures.

The ministry affirmed that field monitoring and oversight teams continue their work in various examination committees during the final examination period of the second semester to identify any observations or violations and address them immediately, thereby enhancing confidence in the assessment system and ensuring a fair and secure examination environment for all students.



Al-Tabtabaei



KUNA photo  
Dr. Abdullah Al-Harbi, Professor of Arabic Language at the Arab Open University (AOU), aims to introduce the concept of journalistic language, its characteristics, journalistic sentences, and common stylistic errors.

## Big turnout as KUNA launches journos language skills course

KUWAIT CITY, June 8, (KUNA): The KUNA Center for Development of Media launched its training program, "Language Skills for Journalists," on Sunday with the participation of several KUNA staff members.

The program, which runs until June 11, is presented by Dr. Abdullah Al-Harbi Professor of Arabic Language at the Arab Open University (AOU), and aims to introduce the concept of journalistic language, its characteristics, journalistic sentences, and common stylistic errors.

The program employs both theoretic-

cal and practical approaches, and covers journalistic grammar, introductory verbs, common linguistic errors, as well as topics such as grammatical number, editorial procedures, spelling rules, punctuation, and news introductions.

Established in 1995, the KUNA Center for Development of Media is considered one of the most important media training centers and has offered hundreds of training programs in various media fields, with the aim of developing media capabilities and advancing professional media work.

## KEPS urges stronger protection of Gulf waters

KUWAIT CITY, June 8, (KUNA): The Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) stressed the importance of protecting the waters of the Arabian Gulf and preserving its marine life from pollution.

Speaking to KUNA on World Oceans Day, observed annually on June 8 under the theme "Strong Marine Protected Areas for Our Blue Planet," KEPS Chairperson Dr. Wijdan Al-Oqab said the theme promotes the responsible use of ocean resources to ensure healthy and sustainable oceans for future generations.

She warned that the overexploitation of water

bodies could lead to the loss of a vital ecosystem that plays a key role in regulating the climate and mitigating the effects of climate change, in addition to serving as a major source of food.

Dr. Al-Oqab noted that life on Earth is directly linked to the existence of oceans, which cover around 71 percent of the planet's surface and constitute its largest ecosystem.

She called on the international community to pay closer attention to environmental challenges facing the Arabian Gulf, describing it as a shallow and semi-enclosed body of water that is particularly vulnerable to repeated oil and fuel pollution incidents amid current regional developments.

The KEPS chairperson stressed the need to enforce regional and international regulations aimed at protecting the Gulf and its natural re-

sources.

She pointed to the phenomenon of floating garbage patches found in remote ocean areas, saying they demonstrate that approximately 80 percent of marine litter originates from land-based sources and coastal areas.

Dr. Al-Oqab said marine pollution causes the death of living organisms and disrupts ecological balance, identifying oil and petroleum products, particularly plastic waste, among the most significant pollutants.

She cited recent studies indicating that more than 150 million tons of plastic are currently present in the world's oceans, with an additional 12 million tons entering marine environments each year. Plastic waste can remain suspended in the water or settle on the ocean floor for up to 600 years or more.



Dr. Al-Oqab

# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## Why is Kuwait being hit despite selecting peace?

“THROUGHOUT its history, Kuwait has never sought conflict or fueled crises. Instead, it has been known for its wisdom, moderation, and commitment to diplomacy, serving as a voice of reason and dialogue in a region often marked by tension and complex challenges,” Kuwaiti lawyer Dr. **Abdullah Mohammad Al-Turajji** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Yet despite this balanced and peaceful approach, Kuwait continues to face threats and attacks that undermine its security, stability, and sovereignty.

“Why is Kuwait repeatedly targeted by entities linked to Iran? Why should a nation that has consistently chosen peace, cooperation, and openness bear the consequences of wars in which it plays no part?”



Abdullah Al-Turajji

“The drone attack that targeted Kuwait International Airport a few days ago, resulting in one fatality and several injuries, was far more than an isolated security incident. It represented a direct assault on civilian safety and the sovereignty of an independent state.

“Civilian airports are not military sites, but they are essential infrastructure that facilitates travel, commerce, and human connection. The gravity of this attack is further amplified by the series of escalating threats Kuwait has faced in recent years, involving networks and cells linked to Iran and Hezbollah.

“Attempts to evade responsibility or promote conflicting narratives do not alter the fact that Kuwait has never been a party to these confrontations. It has consistently pursued a balanced and pragmatic foreign policy while firmly reserving its right to safeguard its national security and defend its sovereignty against any threat.

“Military cooperation between Kuwait and a number of sisterly and friendly nations, including the use of facilities such as Ali Al-Salem Air Base, does not reflect a desire for escalation or confrontation. Rather, it underscores the legitimate need of a small state with significant strategic importance to strengthen its security in a complex regional environment.

“Kuwait is not an adversary of Iran, nor has it ever harbored hostile intentions towards any nation or people.

“Kuwait is an Arabian Gulf state known for its diplomatic role and its initiatives aimed at de-escalation. It has always supported humanitarian causes and welcomed all with open arms.

“However, maintaining friendly relations does not mean turning a blind eye to aggression, nor does advocating for peace entail accepting violations of national sovereignty.

“Standing with Kuwait today is not only about defending its borders, but also about supporting an Arab model based on moderation, respect for nations, and a rejection of turning people into fuel for conflicts.

“Supporting Kuwait affirms the right of nations to live in security and stability, and the right of peoples to build their future away from the language of missiles and drones.

“Throughout its history, Kuwait has demonstrated that true strength lies not in bluster, but in wisdom, steadfastness, and effective crisis management.”

**Also:**

“I read with great interest the article by Dr. Bader Malallah, President of the Arab Planning Institute of the Arab League, on “The Gaps in International Positions,” which was recently published in Al-Jarida newspaper. The article addresses a real issue in our development diplomacy, highlighting the need to move from reactive to proactive diplomacy,” columnist Major General **Faisal Musaed Al-Jazzaf** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Kuwait’s international standing, built on its humanitarian legacy and political balance, is a true asset, but it is not being properly utilized.

“Strengthening our presence in international organizations is not merely a matter of protocol, but a security and development imperative. Legislation that affects our sovereignty, our economies, and the future of our generations is formulated in global decision-making centers. We need a national strategy for leadership positions based on three pillars, the first of which is preparedness and readiness.

“We should not wait for an international position to become vacant before searching for a candidate. Instead, we need to build a “human reservoir” of young talent, nurturing and developing them within our national and regional institutions so they are prepared for global engagement with accumulated real-world experience.

“The second pillar is benefiting from soft power. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development’s record of humanitarian work is not merely about financial contributions, but it is also a political asset that can be used diplomatically to support our candidates.

“We need to link our development contributions to the standing of our personnel in international forums, transforming development and charitable work into a powerful tool that serves national interests in the corridors of power.

“The third pillar is the integration of roles. The responsibility does not

rest solely with the state, as civil society and the private sector also have an important role in supporting candidates through think tanks and cross-border professional partnerships.

“We possess a rich history, a strong reputation, and qualified individuals. What we really lack is the bold decision of recognizing that international presence is an investment no less important than any local development project.

“It is time to move toward the stage of influence through empowerment. International positions are not granted by wishful thinking; rather, they are the result of proactive planning, continuous effort, and a firm belief that Kuwait has a voice that deserves to be heard.”

“Hamas, the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, has become a partner, not a neutral party, in the Iranian aggression against the Gulf states, after declaring itself part of the war with Iran, not merely an observer,” Kuwaiti writer **Khaled Ahmad Al-Tarrah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Hamas recently issued a statement mourning the “martyrs” of Iran, while its leadership ignores the Iranian attacks against Gulf states, their victims, and the resulting damage to infrastructure.

“The repercussions of the Iranian aggression against the Gulf states reached even the deafest ears in the world from its very first moments.

“However, it took Hamas nearly two weeks to issue a perfunctory statement, merely to throw dust in the eyes of the Gulf states, without reflecting a clear position commensurate with the scale and severity of the attack.

“Hamas’s recent statement regarding the war with Iran should not be viewed solely through the lens of a political or Islamic movement, but also as an attempt to coordinate with the Muslim Brotherhood in Kuwait (the Islamic Constitutional Movement).

“These groups exploit gaps in human memory and manipulate historical narratives to serve their positions.

“In the most egregious language and with the ugliest image, Hamas issued a statement 15 days after the start of the war against the Gulf states, expressing moral distancing and solidarity at the same time.

“The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait revealed Hamas’s position at the time, when supported the invasion. Later, the Muslim Brotherhood in Kuwait (the Islamic Constitutional Movement) attempted to reframe or rehabilitate the positions taken by this political Islamic current, relying on lapses in public memory while continuing to express support for Hamas and the events of October 7, 2023.

“The Muslim Brotherhood in Kuwait and abroad, as well as its Palestinian branch Hamas, will never change.

“This movement applies the same Machiavellian politics in both religion and politics, and employs the same tools and mindset.

“Hamas’s statement clearly expressed solidarity with the Iranian regime.

“This statement should be approached from a purely Palestinian or Islamic perspective. Concerns arise when Iranian interests align with those of Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood, resulting in closely aligned positions and narratives.

“The Muslim Brotherhood prioritizes its political interests over those of the Gulf states and their populations, and have no qualms about maintaining relations with the Iranian regime even during moments of aggression against the Gulf states.

“We are in a critical situation that does not allow for distraction from the core challenge, which is the Iranian aggression against the Gulf states.

“I will later return to highlight the scandals of political Islamic parties in Kuwait, based on documented positions taken by Hamas during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and after its liberation.

“The Muslim Brotherhood, represented by Hamas and the Islamic Constitutional Movement, views political and military crises through the lens of its own organizational interests, without regard for the interests of the Gulf states, which have never ceased in providing political and financial support. The movement tends to justify its ambiguous positions and deny established facts without shame.

“Hamas’s statement is not viewed merely as a political mistake but it also exposes the true nature of its allegiance.

“When Gulf states are exposed to direct Iranian aggression, silence or delayed responses are not seen as neutral moral positions, but instead become an indictment of bias that cannot be disguised by slogans.

“At this moment, it is clear that these Islamist groups do not view the Gulf as a partner in shared destiny, but rather as a source of funding and support.

“The Gulf states today face not only Iranian missiles but also the duplicity of political discourse from groups that speak in the name of nation and religion while acting according to organizational calculations and political interests.

“Therefore, the Gulf’s collective memory is called upon today, more than ever, to remain vigilant and keep its memory vivid.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

## 1 drowns at sea, other in pond

By **Munif Naif**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: An individual drowned off the coast of Fintas on Sunday afternoon. The Kuwait Fire Force explained in a press release that fire and marine rescue teams from the Salmiya and Shuaiba marine centers responded to the drowning incident. The body was handed over to the relevant authorities.

evant authorities.

In another development, an individual died in a pond on a farm in Al-Wafra Agricultural area early Monday morning.

According to a statement issued by the Kuwait Fire Force, Al-Wafra Fire Station responded to the drowning incident, which had resulted in the death of one person. The body was handed over to the relevant authorities.

# Maid threatens to kill ‘sponsor’

Fake doctor goes to jail

**KUWAIT CITY, June 8: Jahra security forces apprehended a female domestic worker after she allegedly threatened to kill her Gulf citizen sponsor inside his home, reports Al-Anba daily.**

According to security sources, the Ministry of Interior’s Operations Room received a report about the incident on Sunday night, prompting immediate response from security patrols.

Upon arrival, officers found the domestic worker in a state of extreme agitation and distress. Necessary measures were taken to ensure the safety of the family and prevent the situation from escalating.

The sponsor informed security personnel that he refused to allow the domestic worker to return to his home or continue working for him, and requested legal action to be taken against her, including transfer of sponsorship or deportation.

Security personnel began questioning

the woman to determine the circumstances behind the threat before taking appropriate legal action.

**Fake doctor jailed:** The Criminal Court sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen to three-year imprisonment with hard labor and imposed a fine of KD 3,000 for impersonating a physician, deceiving patients at a public hospital, and defrauding a woman under the pretext of arranging cosmetic surgery, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The defendant entered the hospital wearing a doctor’s uniform, leading patients and staff to believe he was a licensed physician. He then convinced a woman that he could facilitate cosmetic surgery in exchange for payment.

Investigations revealed that the defendant received KD 950 from the victim after promising to arrange the required medical procedures. Hospital surveillance cameras recorded his movements inside the medical facility while wearing a doctor’s uniform, which helped uncover the crime and identify him.

# Court adjourns hearing in ex-MPs ‘false news’ case

**KUWAIT CITY, June 8:** The Court of Cassation adjourned until Sept 6 the hearing of a case against several former members of Parliament and activists accused of spreading false news to review the previous ruling on the case, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The case was filed based on posts published on the X platform concerning former MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri, which included information about him being barred from entering the country due to biometric fingerprinting procedures – information deemed inaccurate by the investigating authorities.

The Public Prosecution referred the defendants to trial, arguing that the content of the posts in question constituted the dissemination of false news and statements intended to incite public opinion. The defendants, however, maintained their legal position before the court.

**Cancer patient wins case:** The Administrative Court overturned the decision to

remove a citizen with eye cancer from the list of people covered by the Disability Law and ordered the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) to provide the benefits associated with permanent and moderate visual impairment, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Attorney Falah Al-Baloud, lawyer for the plaintiff, explained that his client suffered from a cancerous tumor in her left eye and underwent surgery during which the eye was removed, resulting in complete vision loss in that eye.

He added that the Technical Committee at PADA declared that she did not meet the criteria for disability despite medical reports confirming her condition.

He presented to the court documents, including translated medical reports proving his client’s eligibility to be included under the Disability Law, based on previous court rulings that affirmed the right of individuals with monocular vision impairment to benefit from legally mandated benefits.

## MoJ okays performance bonus for 5,264 staffers

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, June 8:** The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice, Awatif Abdul Latif Al-Sanad, issued an administrative decision to disburse the outstanding performance bonus to 5,264 employees.

The decision was made in accordance with Civil Service Commission (CSC) regulations and ministerial decrees governing the criteria and conditions for granting the bonus.

Al-Sanad explained that this year’s disbursement of the bonus is the first since the electronic submission of employees’ annual reports, which reflects the ministry’s progress in digital transformation and technological development. The relevant departments are currently finalizing the necessary financial and administrative procedures to transfer the funds to the bank accounts of eligible employees.

She emphasized that the outstanding performance bonus recognizes the efforts and dedication of distinguished employees in fulfilling their job responsibilities and aims to encourage them to continue their achievements and enhance overall institutional performance.

## Two Kuwaitis driving at 171 km/hour in lock up

By **Munif Naif**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, June 8:** The General Traffic Department continued its campaigns in various governorates to clamp down on speeding violations and arrest traffic violators.

In recent campaigns, seven citizens were apprehended for committing grave violations. They were referred to the traffic police station and their cars were impounded.

A security source revealed that the traffic officers arrested one citizen for driving recklessly, in addition to four others involved in car racing and two in the Capital Governorate.

The source indicated that two citizens were arrested in Jahra for driving at 171 kilometers per hour. Both citizens are awaiting further legal proceedings at the traffic police station and their cars remain impounded.

Meanwhile, highway patrol officers referred an Arab expat to the traffic police station after arresting him for driving at 150 kilometers per hour on a highway.

A security source stated that traffic officers spotted the Arab exceeding the speed limit. The officers stopped him, completed the necessary procedures, and then transferred him to the traffic police station to finalize the legal proceedings.

## Other Voices

### The story of aspirin, panadol, and lineage

By **Ahmad alsarraf**

FOR nearly half a century, I have never taken any medication other than panadol or aspirin, given their effectiveness in relieving pain.

Recently, I began enquiring about the origins of these medications, the difference between aspirin and panadol, and whether one is considered more authentic or superior than the other.

Class distinctions exist in every society, with significant variations between countries.

Since the dawn of society, boasting or showing off to others has been a natural human behavior.

Some families rise to higher social standing through knowledge, prestige, or marriage, while others fall to a lower status due to poverty or scandal.

The health of any society can be judged by the size of its middle class, as it represents the driving force, the most productive, knowledgeable, educated, and generous segment, and the backbone of any advanced society. This is evident in many developed European societies, which do not suffer significantly from segregation or rigid class systems.

Panadol and aspirin are different, as each serves a distinct function. Aspirin is the older of the two, with origins linked to natural sources containing salicylates, particularly willow bark.

Panadol is the common brand name for paracetamol, a drug developed in the late 19th century in its modern pharmaceutical form. It has a different composition and mechanism of action and is primarily used to relieve certain types of pain and reduce fever.

Aspirin is characterized by its anti-inflammatory and antiplatelet properties, and is sometimes used under medical supervision to help prevent blood clots. However, it is not suitable for everyone due to its blood-thinning effect.

Initially, Aspirin received little attention, and people continued to use salicin to treat fever, inflammation, and joint pain.

In 1893, the young German chemist Felix Hoffmann experimented with aspirin at the German company Bayer, which had been founded in 1863 by the dye merchant Friedrich Bayer and his assistant Johann Weskott, both of whom were likely of German origin.

Panadol was also used to treat fever, inflammation, and joint pain. Hoffmann reportedly experimented with various compounds in an attempt to relieve his father’s joint pain, including aspirin, and unexpectedly observed a positive effect. Bayer chemists soon realized that Hoffmann had discovered a new medicine.

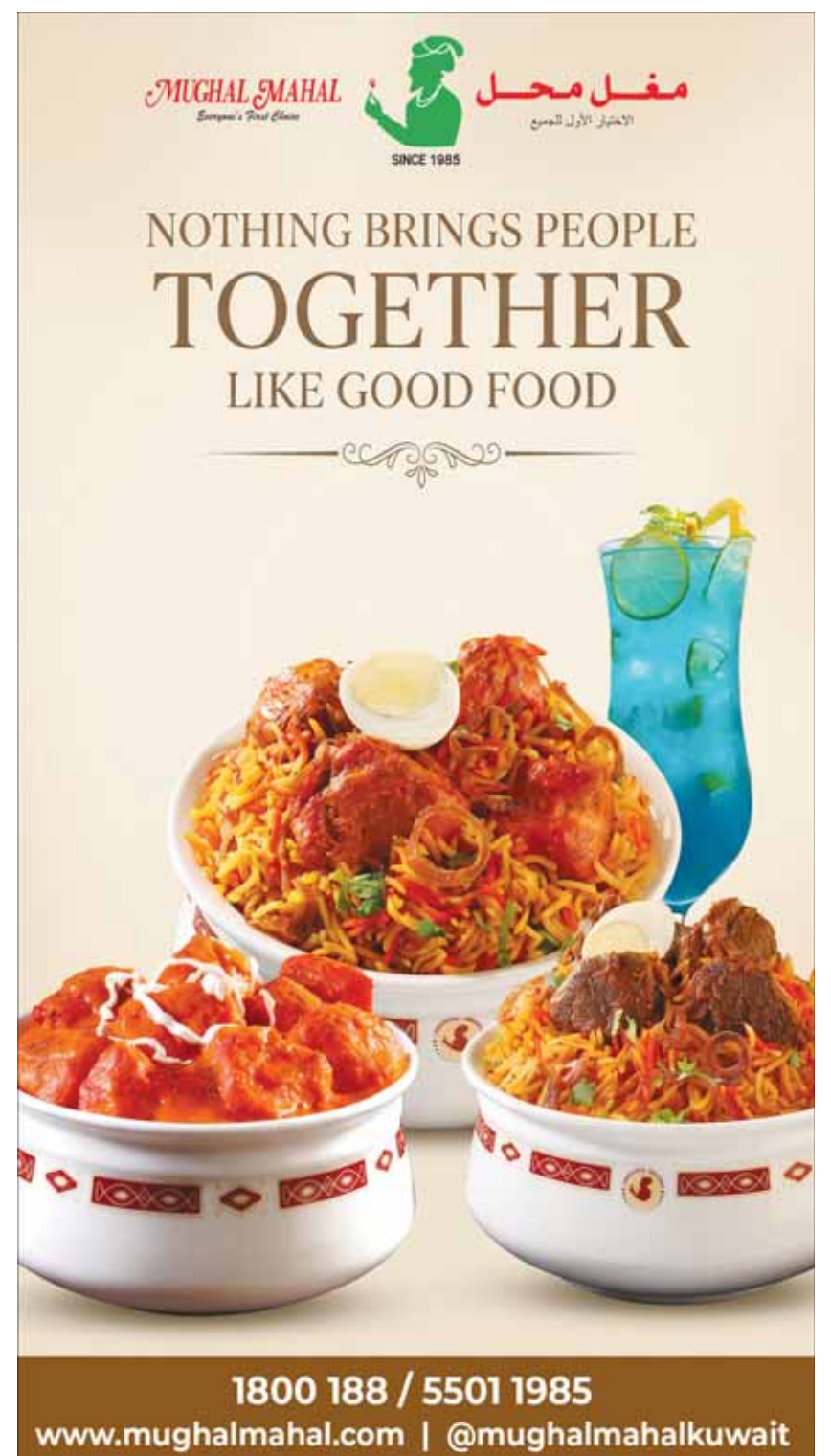
His trade name, “Aspirin,” was formed from three parts - “A” for acetyl, “spir” from the Latin name of the plant “Spirea ulmaria”, and “in”, a common suffix used at the time for naming medications.


Aspirin, which evolved from powder to tablets, became one of the most widely used drugs in the world.

Germany’s defeat in the war led the Allies to seize the trademark as part of the reparations imposed on it. Germany relinquished its rights to France, Britain, the United States, and Russia in 1918. For the following two years, pharmaceutical companies disputed the rights to the aspirin brand name, leading to legal action. A 1921 ruling determined that no single company could own the name due to its widespread global use, thus denying exclusive ownership.

Today, nearly a century after aspirin was first used, scientists still have not fully understood how this remarkable drug works in the body or exactly how it relieves pain.

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Ministry confirms inter-agency collaboration on inspections

MEW details judicial enforcement powers for specialized employees

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff  
 KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The official spokesperson for the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Eng. Fatima Hayat, stated that judicial enforcement powers are granted to specialized employees in accordance with specific legal regulations and procedures, under Article 5 of Law No. 48/2005

and Ministerial Resolution No. 87/2024.

Hayat explained that these powers include field inspection and monitoring, recording violations, issuing official reports, collecting relevant data and documents, and monitoring any infringements affecting the ministry's jurisdiction, in addition to submitting reports and taking regulatory measures in coordination with the relevant authorities.

Judicial enforcement teams work within a clear legal and legislative framework based on relevant laws, in line with the ministry's jurisdiction and oversight responsibilities.

The importance of judicial enforcement lies in protecting the ministry's facilities, which represent a key element in maintaining infrastructure and public assets under its supervision.

There are specific foundations

and criteria for selecting judicial officers and monitoring their performance to ensure competence and the ability to assume responsibility.

Among the most prominent selection criteria are technical and administrative experience, familiarity with legal and regulatory frameworks, integrity and professional discipline, the ability to handle field cases, and completion of relevant training and qualification

programs.

The work of judicial enforcement teams is subject to continuous monitoring and follow-up by the head of the committee responsible for monitoring the implementation of Law No. 48/2005, through reviewing reports and records, measuring performance, and ensuring compliance with regulations.

Hayat noted that there is a coordination mechanism with other government entities during

inspection campaigns, particularly the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Interior, and Kuwait Municipality.

She confirmed that the number of judicial officers is determined in accordance with the ministry's organizational structure, the needs of field work, and plans to expand oversight and inspections in line with current requirements, as stipulated in Resolution No. 87/2024.

Ministry moves forward with juvenile court design project

MPW secures approval for rainwater pump tender

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The Ministry of Public Works obtained approval from the Central Agency for Public Tenders during its meeting last Wednesday to award the tender for the study and design of the Juvenile Court building in Sulaibiya at a cost of KD250,000, which will be completed within 540 days from the date the contract is signed.

The tender will be supervised by the Construction Projects Sector at the ministry, which is tasked with the study, design and implementation of

projects for ministries and other government entities.

The sector consists of qualified engineers and technical specialists who undertake these projects with the aim of delivering sustainable and environmentally friendly facilities that meet the needs of the beneficiary entity, including the Ministry of Justice, for which this project is being developed.

Upon completion of the study and design phase, the ministry will proceed with issuing a separate tender for the construction of the building.

The facility will serve court users, visitors and personnel involved in juvenile cases.

The project site, located in Sulaibiya, measures 21,430.4 square meters and it will include number of courtrooms and administrative buildings.

Following the approval of CAPT, the

ministry will submit the study and design tender to the State Audit Bureau (SAB) for pre-audit procedures and review.

The bureau will approve the signing of the contract with the successful bidder, provided that no objections are raised.

In another development, the ministry also got approval from the Board of Directors of CAPT during the same meeting to award the tender for the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of various rainwater pumps to the lowest bidder for KD 456,950.

The objective of this tender is to strengthen the operational capabilities of the ministry, particularly within the maintenance sector, in dealing with rainfall during the winter season.

The emergency teams of the ministry depend on these pumps and related equipment to drain rainwater from locations prone to flooding during heavy rains.

Dr. Jasim Alabbad appointed Director General of Dasman Diabetes Institute

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: Dr. Jasim Yousif Alabbad has assumed the position of Director General of the Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), which was established by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

Dr. Alabbad brings extensive leadership and administrative experience to the role. He previously served as Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Mubarak Al Kaber Hospital and chaired the Council of Surgical Departments at the Ministry of Health. Academically, Dr. Alabbad served as an Associate Professor of Surgery at the Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait University, where he played a significant role in the development of medical curricula and training programs at both Kuwait University and the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS).

On the international level, Dr. Alabbad currently serves as Kuwait's governor for the American College of Surgeons and is also a member of the Self-Assessment Committee of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons.

Dr. Alabbad earned his medical degree from Kuwait University before completing his General Surgery residency training at McGill University in Canada. He subsequently pursued fellowship training in Colon and Rectal Surgery at Michigan State University in the United States.

His clinical interests focus on the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease and colorectal cancer, while his research and academic work concentrate on colorectal disorders and the advancement of medical



Dr. Jasim Yousif Alabbad

education.

Commenting on his appointment, Dr. Alabbad said: "I am honored to join the Dasman Diabetes Institute and lead this pioneering institution, which has established itself as a center of excellence in diabetes research, prevention, education, and healthcare. I look forward to working alongside the Institute's distinguished team to further strengthen its mission and contribute to improving the health and quality of life of people living with diabetes." Dasman Diabetes Institute welcomes Dr. Jasim Alabbad and looks forward to the leadership, expertise, and strategic vision he will bring to support the Institute's continued growth and enhance its efforts in combating diabetes through scientific research, prevention, training, education, and specialized healthcare services.

PADA orders standard uniforms for technical, engineering staff

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The Public Authority for Disabilities Affairs (PADA) issued an administrative circular requiring all employees in engineering and technical support positions within the Public Services Department to wear a standardized professional uniform appropriate to their work and conducive

to their duties.

PADA clarified in a press release that Administrative Circular No. 18/2026 implements the directives of the Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, and is part of the efforts to enhance the work environment, comply with safety and security standards, and improve the level of services provided.

Kuwait University conducts second batch of 3rd-chance aptitude tests

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The Kuwait University conducted the second batch of third-chance academic aptitude tests on Saturday at Sabah Al-Salem University City.

The tests included English, Arabic, Mathematics and French, in addition to tests for students with special needs, which were both paper and online.

The tests were conducted in two sessions -- 9:00 am to 11:00 am and from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm.

The university explained that the academic aptitude test is a vital tool

in its assessment and measurement system, and a part of its ongoing efforts to improve the quality of the educational process and evaluation mechanisms.

This will raise the students' level of readiness for admission to different courses according to the academic standards and objectives of the university.

Comprehensive organizational and technical preparations ensured a suitable testing environment, and the smooth and efficient conduct of the tests.

News in Brief

GAC enhances inspection skills with advanced security training programs

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The General Administration of Customs (GAC) continues to implement specialized training programs for customs inspectors in security systems and radiation scanning techniques, in addition to developing image analysis skills and enhancing the efficient use of security equipment that supports customs inspections, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The program is part of a plan to implement advanced technology and modern methods in customs instructions and procedures, thereby strengthening inspectors' ability to detect prohibited materials and deal with sophisticated smuggling methods with high efficiency and accuracy.

The program aims to improve field performance and enhance the speed and precision of detection, thereby supporting the security system and contributing to the protection of society and the safety and security of customs ports.

**KU resumes in-person summer classes:** Kuwait University resumed in-person classes for students, faculty, and teaching assistants on Sunday for the summer session of the 2025/2026 academic year in all colleges and campuses, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The university congratulated staff and students and wished them a successful semester.

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Cybersecurity MoU, standards coop program signed

## Kuwait, Oman deepen strategic partnership

AL-JABAL AL-AKH DAR, OMAN, June 8, (KUNA): The 11th session of the Kuwait-Oman Joint Committee convened in the Sultanate on Monday, co-chaired by Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Oman's Foreign Minister Bader Al-Busaidi, with the participation of senior officials from both sides.

In a statement, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the committee reviewed the strong fraternal ties between the two countries and peoples, as well as key areas of cooperation, particularly in the economic, development, trade, industrial, investment, customs, food security, education, media, tourism and cultural sectors, in addition to cooperation among various institutions and agencies in both countries.

The two sides also discussed ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation and advance it towards greater strategic partnership and integration, reflecting their shared desire to strengthen and deepen Kuwaiti-Omani relations across all levels.

The ministry noted that the discussions embodied the visions and directives of the leaderships of both countries and their commitment to elevating bilateral cooperation to broader horizons.

The committee's session concluded with the signing of the minutes of the 11th Joint Committee meeting, a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in cybersecurity, and an executive program for the memorandum of understanding on standardization covering the period from 2026 to 2030.



MoFA photo  
Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Bader Al-Busaidi during the signing of a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of cybersecurity.

Continued from Page 1

## Strikes end

Meanwhile, Israel and Iran traded fire Monday in their first attacks since the U.S. struck a ceasefire with Tehran two months ago. The Iranian military said hours later that it was halting offensive operations as the renewed hostilities threatened to drag the Middle East back into a full-scale war.

The Israeli occupation has decided to halt attacks against Iran, following what was described as a request from US President Donald Trump, said occupation local media.

Israel's Channel 12 quoted an unnamed Israeli official as saying that the decision to stop the attacks on Iran was made "at the request of President Donald Trump."

The channel added that military strikes in southern Lebanon would continue in the coming days, noting that the Israeli occupation military would also target Beirut's southern suburbs if attacks by Hezbollah persist.

The reports came shortly after Iran's Khatam Al-Anbiya Central Headquarters announced earlier the suspension of military operations by the Iranian armed forces against Israel, while warning of a stronger response to any future attacks.

Since the U.S. and Israel began striking Iran on Feb. 28, the war has shaken the global economy, driven energy prices up around the world and made many basics, including food, more expensive. Officials have been unable to turn the April

ceasefire into a deal to permanently end the conflict.

During the truce, Iran has maintained its stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz - a crucial passage for the world's oil and natural gas whose closure was the primary reason global fuel prices skyrocketed. Israel has continued to strike Hezbollah, Iran's ally in Lebanon, and pushed deeper into that country. And on Monday, Yemen's Houthi rebels, another Iranian ally, fired at Israel and warned they would target Israel-affiliated ships in the Red Sea.

With little apparent progress in peace talks, Israel and Iran exchanging fire, and the Houthis joining the fight, the risk of the war fully erupting again appeared higher than at any point since the ceasefire.

In the wake of the new attacks, U.S. President Donald Trump wrote online: "Israel and Iran must immediately stop 'shooting.'"

Shortly after, the Iranian military's joint command issued its statement. It said further "aggression and hostile acts" by Israel and its supporters, including in southern Lebanon, would be met with "much more severe and crushing measures than before."

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed concern Monday over the surge in violence. In a post on X, Sharif urged all parties to "exercise restraint and give peace a little more chance."

Two regional officials said diplomatic efforts were underway to salvage the ceasefire.

Officials from Egypt, Saudi Ara-

bia, Turkey, Pakistan and Qatar urged the Trump administration to pressure Israel to halt strikes on Iran and Beirut. They also urged Iranian officials to stop attacks on Israel, the officials said. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

Trump said talks were ongoing for a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, though he gave no details.

Iran launched waves of attacks on Israel on Monday, and Israel launched strikes on central and western Iran. It was their first exchange of fire since the ceasefire.

Iranian state television reported the sound of explosions in Tehran and other cities. Iran closed the airspace around Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport after the Israeli attack.

The semiofficial Fars and Mehr news agencies said Israeli strikes hit a petrochemical factory in the city of Mahshahr. They did not elaborate on any damage. The Israeli military confirmed the strike on the plant, saying it targeted sites that produce materials for ballistic missiles. Israel said it also targeted truck-based missile launchers.

Israel said its strikes were in response to an Iranian missile attack. Tehran warned Sunday that it would retaliate after Israel struck Beirut's southern suburbs without warning. When Israel struck back, Iran fired again.

Explosions could be heard in central Israel as air defenses sought to intercept incoming Iranian fire. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary

Guard said it had targeted two military bases in Israel.

Iran blamed the United States for the escalation.

"No one believes that the Israeli regime would take any action without coordination with the United States," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei told journalists in Tehran.

The White House did not immediately respond to messages about Israel's strikes.

## Geopolitical

petrochemical and other projects, it could do so by expanding internationally," he elaborated.

Asked if the local private sector has the capability to lead the proposed privatization, he affirmed that the Kuwaiti private sector has the full financial capacity, expertise and competencies to lead these projects. He asserted that the private sector has proven its success in numerous sectors over the years, adding that the privatization of certain oil projects is not related to the natural oil wealth of the country.

He cited Saudi Arabia as an example as it privatized a portion of Aramco, one of the largest oil companies in the world, in addition to privatizing many other sectors. "Through this, Saudi Arabia has had enormous economic successes and substantial returns, as well as improved operational efficiency," he stated.

He stressed that privatization should not be viewed as just a means to alleviate the burdens of KPC, but as a vital tool for achieving sustainable oil development.

He emphasized that oil privatization process must be preceded by a thorough study by oil experts to ensure the benefits and balance between the private and public sectors.

The benefits of privatization include:

1. Relieve the government of its operational burdens in these sectors,
2. A more developed and dynamic Kuwaiti oil environment,
3. Provide the optimal path to increase KPC's revenues,
4. Support national talent and retain their expertise even after retirement,
5. An opportunity to reduce dependence on oil and to diversify the economy,
6. Strengthen the role of the private sector and encourage its contribution to leading the national economy.

## OPEC+ meetings

The meetings were attended by Kuwait's Governor to OPEC Mohammad Al-Shatti and Kuwait's Representative to OPEC Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

The minister noted that the meetings are characterized by the spirit of a collective responsibility, constructive dialogue and common coordination to boost balance between the

interests of producers and consumers and back markets' stability in the long run.

He extolled all the decisions resulting from the ministerial meetings, including the approval to raise total oil production for July 2026 by 188,000 bpd per day. Kuwait's share of this rise will be 16,000 bpd, raising its allocated production quota from 2.628 million bpd in June to 2.644 million bpd in July, he stated.

Al-Roumi elaborated that the decision is part of the continued implementation of the plan to phase out the voluntary production cuts, within the framework of a gradual and balanced approach aligned with the needs of oil markets.

## Kuwait tightens

This move aims to document the humanitarian and charitable contributions of Kuwait within the system.

The ministry affirmed receiving a letter from its foreign affairs counterpart, requiring charitable societies to register the abovementioned contributions on the FTS using a certain electronic form, according to the correspondence addressed to the board chairpersons. It stressed the need for charitable societies to fully abide by this directive.

## 28 more

The decision was issued in accordance with Article 11 of Nationality Law No. 15/1959.



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People stand near an area roped off after a stabbing at Penn Station on Sunday, June 7, 2026, in New York. (AP)

### NY's Penn Station stabbing injures 6

Six people were injured in a stabbing inside New York's Penn Station on Sunday evening, authorities said, less than a day before thousands of fans are expected to descend on neighboring Madison Square Garden for Game 3 of the NBA Finals.

A suspect was taken into custody after the attack, which unfolded around 7 p.m. in one of the nation's busiest transportation hubs. The sprawling rail complex beneath Madison Square Garden serves Amtrak, Long Island Rail Road, NJ Transit and New York City subway

lines and is used by hundreds of thousands of commuters and travelers each day.

Paramedics found one victim with serious injuries, two with moderate injuries and two with minor injuries, according to the city's fire department. All five were taken to Bellevue Hospital. Another person, whose condition was not immediately known, was transported to a separate hospital.

Authorities did not immediately release details about what led to the stabbing or whether the victims were targeted. (AP)

## As America 250 approaches, fewer Americans see country as exceptional, AP-NORC poll finds

WASHINGTON, June 8, (AP): As the US prepares for an extravagant celebration of its founding principles, fewer Americans see their country as exceptional, a new poll finds.

The survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research highlights many Americans' feeling of unease over the future of its representative government - particularly among young people. It presents a jarring contrast as communities around the country commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary.

Only about one-quarter of Americans say the US stands above all other countries in the world, the new poll found, while 44% say it's one of the greatest countries in the world, along with some others. About 3 in 10 say there are better countries than the US, an increase from 19% in an AP-NORC poll conducted in June 2016.

Americans remain divided about whether diversity is an essential feature of the US's identity, and agreement about other aspects of the country's underlying character appears to be eroding, the survey found. Americans are less likely to see a democratically elected government as "extremely" or "very"



Students cross the campus of Dartmouth College on March 5, 2024, in Hanover, NH. (AP)

important to the United States' identity as a nation than they were just a few years ago. About two-thirds of U.S. adults now say a democratically elected government is highly important to the US's identity as a nation, down from 80% in 2021.

"It's not that the democracy part is not working," said Derricka Wall, 24, of Chickasaw, Alabama. "It's the people that are actually being put in office that is the problem."

Wall believes politicians have damaged America's governing system, which was designed to ensure representation and guard against government misuse.

America, she said, "is not what it used to be. I feel like our founding fathers would be kind of disappointed with how it is now."

Young adults are much less likely than older Americans to believe the U.S. is special, compared with other

nations, the poll found.

About 4 in 10, 44%, of U.S. adults under 30 say there are other countries better than the US, compared with 22% of US adults ages 60 and older.

Fewer, too, see democracy as a key element of the US's identity. Only about half of Americans under 30 believe this, compared with 81% of those 60 and older.

Wall said the people who established the government with co-equal branches thought they were erecting safeguards to keep any one person or group from attaining too much power. But she believes they didn't foresee how easily those guardrails would crumble if the people in the system stopped enforcing them.

"I feel like they would actually roll out of their graves," she said. "I feel they would be very disappointed in us."

The belief that politics isn't working for everyday people extends beyond the youngest generations. Kent Stage, 62 and a retired senior enlisted man in the Army, is a registered Republican in Indiana. He does not think the current political system addresses the country's problems. He'd like to see term limits on politicians and more working-class people serving.

### Sand rallies with Beshear as Democrats aim to flip Iowa governor seat

## Raman, Spencer Pratt locked in tight race to make runoff for LA mayor

LOS ANGELES, June 8, (AP): Days after California's primary, Nithya Raman and Spencer Pratt are still waiting to see who makes the November runoff for Los Angeles mayor against incumbent Karen Bass.

The race was still too early to call on Sunday as the vote tally showed Raman moving into second place behind Bass for the first time since Tuesday, when voting ended and the count began. That puts Raman, a progressive city council member, ahead of Pratt, a former reality television personality from "The Hills."

Raman had been running in third, but she has gained more votes than Pratt with every update provided by election officials in Los Angeles since Tuesday.

Vote counting in California is a notoriously slow process because state law practically mandates a drawn-out tally. Ballots are mailed to every eligible voter and they are counted if they are postmarked by Election Day and arrive at an election office within seven days.

Los Angeles, like other counties in California, processes and counts mail ballots in roughly the order

they are received, so the last ones returned are the last ones counted.

On Tuesday night after polls closed, Los Angeles released results from mail ballots that had been returned early and already processed as well as votes cast that day. Since then, the county has been processing and releasing results from mail ballots that arrived later.

Election data shows that large numbers of Democrats held onto their mail ballots and returned them in the race's final days, which helps explain why Bass and Raman have been doing better than Pratt in the votes counted since primary day.

The mayor's race is nonpartisan, so none of the candidates had party identification next to their names on the ballot. Raman and Bass are both Democrats, while Pratt is a Republican.

On election night, Bass held a 4.4 percentage point lead over Pratt, who in turn had an 8.1-point lead over Raman. Since then, Bass' lead over Pratt has grown to nearly 8 points while Raman now leads Pratt by about 0.4 points, or 3,100 votes. The Associated Press estimates there



Nithya Raman, a candidate in the Los Angeles mayoral race, speaks during a campaign event about tenant protections with renters in Los Angeles on June 1. (AP)

are a little less than 150,000 ballots left to be counted.

The slow count has prompted claims of fraud, without providing evidence, from some Republicans, including President Donald Trump, who said his Department of Justice would investigate.

crat Xavier Becerra has advanced to the general election in the governor's race but The AP has not yet called the second slot. Hilton leads Democrat Tom Steyer by 4.3 points in the race to advance to the general election as the second-place candidate, though his lead has been nearly cut in half since election night.

The general election in Los Angeles is likely to be a referendum on Bass's leadership regardless of whether she faces Raman or Pratt. But the two would come at the campaign from very different directions.

Pratt, a conservative, would mount a more aggressive challenge to liberal governance in the city dominated by Democrats. He has made reducing homelessness a key part of his campaign, and he's sharply criticized Bass's leadership during the January 2025 wildfire in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood that destroyed his home and thousands of others. His candidacy had drawn outsized attention because of his celebrity, but it's unclear if the buzz will translate into enough votes to make the runoff.

Raman, meanwhile, is taking on

Bass from the left. She has promised to speed up housing construction, bring back entertainment industry jobs and improve services in a city known for dirty streets and buckled pavement.

#### Also:

**DES MOINES, Iowa:** Rob Sand rallied a crowd for the first time as the official Democratic nominee for Iowa governor on Sunday, kicking off a countdown to November with the support of Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear.

The race for governor between Sand and Republican Zach Lahn stands to be one of the most competitive in the country as Iowans face a state budget deficit, struggling agricultural economy and cancer crisis. Democrats are putting faith in him to blaze a trail in the state after struggling electorally in recent cycles, hoping his message of unity will resonate with their fellow Iowans.

A few hundred people in Des Moines roared, waved campaign signs and snapped photos as Sand took the stage, a state flag hanging behind him.



Pope Leo XIV is applauded at the end of his speech during his visit at the Spanish Parliament in Madrid on June 8. (AP)

## Pope demands respect for migrants, int'l law during address to Spanish parliament

MADRID, June 8, (AP): Pope Leo XIV called Monday for newfound respect for the rights of migrants and international law during an address to the Spanish parliament that signaled a new level of acceptance of the Catholic Church in the public sphere in the overwhelmingly secular country.

In the first papal address to the Spanish legislature, the American pope said a "moral renewal" was necessary in legislatures and public life to ensure respect for the inherent dignity of all people, including migrants, the unborn and the most vulnerable.

"The moral greatness of a nation is manifested, above all, in its capacity to accompany, protect and love those lives that are most fragile," Leo said.

Speeches by popes to foreign legislatures are rare, since they can imply recognition of a religious leader by lawmakers. Pope Francis addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress in 2015, and Pope Benedict XVI addressed his native German Bundestag in 2011.

The mere fact that Leo was invited to speak at Las Cortes Generales, as the parliament is known, showed a

level of acceptance for the Catholic Church in a political setting that might have been unthinkable even a few years ago. The Catholic Church was a pillar of Gen. Francisco Franco's dictatorship, during which it enjoyed broad control and influence over Spanish society, but that waned after democracy took root in the 1970s.

While many Spaniards still identify as Catholic, religious observance has dropped off sharply amid secularizing trends seen in other once-staunchly Christian countries.

And yet at the end of his speech, lawmakers from across the political spectrum gave Leo a minutes-long standing ovation with chants of "Viva el Papa!" - "Long live the pope!"

Leo's speech came as Israel and Iran traded fire in retaliatory strikes that threatened to drag the Middle East back into a full-scale regional war, and the American pope repeated his demand for dialogue to resolve disputes.

"Peace demands diplomatic courage, ethical responsibility and a vision for the future grounded in respect for the identity of every people and in the obligation of states to

resolve their disputes through the peaceful means offered by international law," he said.

He again lamented that European defense budgets were being built up, as countries move to confront the threat posed by Russia following its war in Ukraine and the Trump administration's threats to reduce its financial and military support for the continent.

"It is therefore a cause for concern that, in various parts of the world - and in Europe as well - rearmament is once again being presented as an almost inevitable response to the fragility of the international situation," he said.

He repeated his demand for "rigorous ethical oversight" of automated weapons systems created by artificial intelligence "so that decisions regarding life and death are never left to automated systems nor removed from the moral responsibility of the human person."

Leo cited the 16th century Spanish intellectual tradition, known as the School of Salamanca, that gave rise to concepts of international law and inherent human rights, that arose after Spain's colonial conquests of the Americas.

### 'Urgent need' to bolster Kyiv defenses

## Ukraine strikes hit oil sites in Russia, Crimea

KYIV, Ukraine, June 8, (AP): Ukrainian forces struck oil facilities in Russia and occupied Ukraine, Ukrainian and Russian officials said on Monday, as part of their campaign aimed at making Moscow pay an economic cost for the war.

Russia's defense ministry said its forces shot down 310 Ukrainian drones overnight into Monday, including over the Moscow region, western and southwestern Russia, Russian-occupied Crimea, and the Black and Azov Seas.

Russia targeted Ukraine with 155 drones, of which Ukrainian air defenses shot down or suppressed 124, according to Ukraine's Air Force.

Ukraine's General Staff said Ukrainian forces had struck Russia's Krasnodar Krai region overnight. The General Staff said the Grushovaya oil transshipment base near Novorossiysk. The complex is one of the largest transshipment hubs in southern Russia for oil and petroleum products.

Russian regional authorities confirmed a Ukrainian drone sparked a fire at the facility, adding that there were no casualties. While they did not comment on the extent of damage, they said 130 rescue workers and 39 pieces of equipment were involved in putting out the blaze.

The Krasny Yar "linear production and dispatching station" in the Volgograd region was also hit, the General Staff said. A fire broke out at the site, according to the statement. Russian Gov. Andrei Bocharov didn't specify what the facility produces, but said there were no injuries.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Services on June 8, a rescue worker puts out a fire at a storage facility after a Russian strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine. (AP)

Ukraine also carried out strikes overnight in the Semykolodezkaya oil base in the Russian-occupied Crimean Peninsula on Sunday night, sparking a fire at the facility.

The base is used to store fuel reserves supplying the Russian military, according to the statement posted on Telegram.

Ukrainian forces also struck an oil depot near Feodosia in Crimea, the General Staff said.

Separately, a Ukrainian drone overnight struck a passenger train from Moscow to Simferopol in occupied Crimea, injuring the driver and killing the driver's assistant, Kremlin-installed regional leader

Sergei Aksyonov reported early Monday.

Aksyonov added that no passengers were hurt.

But all passenger train traffic in Crimea was halted following the attack, with passengers evacuated and replacement buses provided, Russian operator Grand Service Express reported on Telegram that same morning.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the UK, Ukraine, France and Germany discussed the "urgent need" to ramp up production of weapons to combat Russia's powerful hypersonic Oreshnik ballistic missiles in a meeting in London on Sunday.



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan speaks at his Armenia Ruling Civil Contract party headquarters after parliamentary elections in Yerevan, Armenia on June 8. (AP)

## Armenian PM claims victory

YEREVAN, Armenia, June 8, (AP): Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan early Monday claimed victory in a general election seen as a test of Russia's influence in the South Caucasus state, as the latest preliminary results showed his governing Civil Contract party came first with 49.82% of the vote.

Pashinyan and the governing Civil Contract party were looking for a strong mandate for a new geopolitical course for Armenia, including distancing the former Soviet republic from Moscow, seeking to join the European Union and deepening cooperation with the West.

Disaster crews mobilize as families search for missing

# 7.8 quake devastates Philippine south, leaves dozens dead

MANILA, Philippines, June 8, (AP): An offshore magnitude 7.8 earthquake rocked the southern Philippines on Monday, killing at least 32 people, injuring more than 200 others mostly in ruined buildings and sending a 1-meter (3-foot) tsunami into nearby coasts.

Several mostly low-slung buildings collapsed or sustained heavy damages in the hard-hit city of General Santos. Tsunami damage was reported in at least one southern coastal village. Smaller waves were measured in Indonesia and Palau and as far away as southern Japan.

The quake also triggered a landslide in Glan, Sarangani province, that killed 13 villagers, Rene Punzalan, a provincial disaster-mitigation official, told the DZBB radio network. Four other villagers died in Sarangani, he said.

The major earthquake was the strongest to hit the Philippines this year, Teresito Bacolcol, the director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said. He warned people to seek advice before returning to damaged buildings and houses, which could collapse due to aftershocks.

The United States, a treaty ally of the Philippines, said it was coordinating with Manila and was ready to support Philippine response efforts. France and New Zealand also expressed support.

"Our pickup truck suddenly jerked and I thought we had a flat tire," Rod Sosmeña, a regional director of the Office of Civil Defense, told The Associated Press from General Santos, where he was traveling when the quake struck at 7:37 a.m.

"The shaking was very strong and people dashed out of houses into the streets," Sosmeña said.

Ednar Dayanghirang, another



This image made from video provided by DepEd Mahayahay Elementary School shows school children reacting as a canopy roof, rear, collapsed, caused by a powerful earthquake on June 8, in Malita, Davao Occidental Province, Philippines. (AP)

disaster-response official, told AP that he was able to "hardly stand and keep my balance when the ground shook as I was leaving my house" in the southern port city of Davao.

At least 12 people remained missing in General Santos, a port city of more than 700,000 people and a regional hub for the tuna export industry. Search and rescue teams scrambled to find people who may have been trapped in a supermarket,

a warehouse, a grade school, and other small buildings that either collapsed or were severely damaged, officials said.

The international airport in General Santos was temporarily shut due to the earthquake and 17 domestic flights were canceled, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines said.

The quake was centered at sea off Mindanao, the second most populous island in the Philippine archipelago.

According to Bacolcol, the quake occurred at a depth of 33 kilometers (20 miles), about 32 kilometers (20 miles) southwest of Maasim town in Sarangani province.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr ordered the cancellation of classes and directed disaster-response agencies to immediately get to work in quake-hit provinces, saying "the national government is moving and we will not leave Min-

danao behind."

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said the threat of a tsunami largely passed about five hours after the quake. Philippine officials also lifted a tsunami warning by mid-afternoon. Six shanties on stilts were damaged in a coastal village in Zamboanga del Sur province due to the quake and taller waves, officials said.

Aside from the landslide in Saran-

gani, most of the other deaths were caused by collapsing buildings and falling debris, including in a damaged mosque, in the southern provinces of South Cotabato and Davao Occidental, and on Balut Island, according to Sosmeña and Dayanghirang.

Public schools had reopened nationwide Monday after the summer vacation from April to May. Dayanghirang said more than 100 students attending morning flag-raising ceremonies in his southern region sustained bruises and some fainted in panic.

The DZRH radio network in Manila reported that a four-story commercial building where its provincial station was located partly collapsed and staffers dashed to the ground floor without injuries.

Waves of 1 meter (3 feet) were monitored in the provinces of Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani. A 1.4-meter (4.6-foot) wave hit at one time in Kibamba town, Bacolcol said.

The quake was also felt in Malaysia's Sabah state on Borneo island. Sabah is just a boat ride away from southern Philippines. An 83-centimeter (2.7-foot) tsunami was measured by a gauge off Indonesia's Sulawesi island, and the PTWC said 30-centimeter (1-foot) waves were measured in Palau.

Waves up to 20 centimeters (7.8 inches) were detected on the remote Japanese island of Chichijima and the central Japanese town of Kushimoto, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The Philippines, one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, is often hit by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of seismic faults around the ocean.

The archipelago is also lashed by about 20 typhoons and tropical storms each year.

## Xi and Kim express hopes for greater ties between China, North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea, June 8, (AP): Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un underscored their commitment to deepen cooperation in a closely watched summit on Monday, as Xi made a rare visit to Pyongyang in a likely attempt to reassert Beijing's unique influence over its socialist neighbor.

It's Xi's first visit to North Korea in seven years. Earlier Monday, he was given a lavish welcome upon arrival at Pyongyang's international airport. He and his wife Peng Liyuan were greeted by Kim and his wife Ri Sol Ju, who broadly smiled and clapped.

Xi later arrived at Pyongyang's main square, where a military honor guard and thousands of people, including children carrying balloons and hopping, staged a welcoming ceremony. Buildings surrounding the plaza were draped in the two countries' flags, giant portraits of Kim and Xi and red-and-yellow banners welcoming the Chinese leader and celebrating the nations' "friendship and unity."

In a summit later Monday, Xi expressed China's willingness to expand cooperation in a wide range

of areas including trade, agriculture, construction and technology, China's state broadcaster CCTV said in an online report.

Xi said the two countries should strengthen strategic cooperation and firmly safeguard their respective sovereignty and security interests, according to the report.

Kim said Xi's visit "clearly demonstrates how unbreakable" the North Korean-China relationship is, CCTV said. It cited Kim as saying that consolidating a new era of friendship between the two countries is the "unchanging strategic choice" of North Korea.

Full details of the meeting weren't available. But foreign experts earlier predicted the meeting would have big ramifications on bilateral ties and beyond, as they both seek to fully restore their traditional alliance in the face of separate confrontations with the US.

Xi and Kim last met in Beijing in September, after viewing a military parade alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin and other foreign leaders.

Xi's trip comes after his back-to-

back summits with US President Donald Trump and Putin in Beijing last month. Xi is expected to meet Trump again on a planned US visit in September.

Xi will try to demonstrate China's "sway over the Korean Peninsula" and "a leadership role in entire Northeast Asia in the age of strategic competition with the US," said Kwak Gil Sup, the head of One Korea Center, a website specializing in North Korea affairs.

China has long been North Korea's economic lifeline and main diplomatic backer. Experts say China has avoided fully enforcing U.N. sanctions on North Korea and sent clandestine aid to help its impoverished neighbor stay afloat. This year marks 65 years since the two countries signed a mutual defense treaty.

But there have been questions about their ties in recent years, with North Korea prioritizing cooperation with Russia by supplying troops and weapons to support its war against Ukraine. In return, North Korea has received economic and military assistance from Russia.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspect the honor guard of the three services of the Korean People's Army in Pyongyang on June 8. (AP)

## Clashes in Pakistan-administered Kashmir kill 7 ahead of protest over refugee seats

ISLAMABAD, June 8, (AP): Clashes between supporters of an outlawed group and security forces in Pakistan-administered Kashmir have killed at least seven people, including four security personnel, officials said Monday, a day before a planned protest over political rights and legislative representation.

Dozens more, including police officers and civilians, were wounded in the violence that erupted Sunday after the Supreme Court of Pakistan-administered Kashmir ruled that 12 legislative seats reserved for Kashmiri refugees living in Pakistan are constitutionally protected and cannot be abolished without a constitutional amendment.

The landmark ruling came ahead of a rally planned for Tuesday by the outlawed Joint Awami Action Committee, or JAAC, which has long demanded greater political rights for people in the region and the abolition of the refugee seats on the ground that the refugees have disproportionate influence. The group has organized large protests in recent years, some of which have turned violent.

Police said the dead were four security personnel and three JAAC supporters.

According to the regional police, armed supporters of the group opened fire on security forces in Rawalakot, a city in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, and later surrounded the Combined Military Hospital, disrupting medical services. Authorities said security forces eventually dispersed the crowd and restored order.

Police accused protesters of setting fires and damaging government and private property.

Authorities said normal hospital operations had resumed and that major highways, markets and com-



Police officers fire tear gas shells to disperse members of the Awami Action Committee, a civil rights alliance holding a rally demanding subsidized food, electricity and other services, in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir on Sept 30, 2025. (AP)

mercial centers were functioning normally by Monday. Officials said legal action was underway against those involved in the unrest.

Tensions have been rising in the region for weeks but escalated after the court issued its opinion in response to a presidential reference seeking guidance on constitutional questions related to the refugee seats and upcoming elections for the 45-member Legislative Assembly.

In its ruling, the court said Sunday that the 12 refugee seats could not be abolished through executive action and that any change would require a constitutional amendment by the Legislative Assembly. The court also said public order could not be disrupted in the name of political protest and that elections must be held within the constitutionally prescribed time frame.

The current assembly has completed its term, and elections are scheduled for next month.

The regional government recently banned the JAAC, citing threats to public order, and police arrested dozens of its supporters last week. The refugee seats at the center of the dispute are reserved for people who migrated to Pakistan from Indian-controlled Kashmir decades ago and are intended to represent communities displaced by the long-running conflict over the Himalayan region.

The regional government says it accepted 36 of JAAC's 38 demands during negotiations last year involving the group, regional authorities and Pakistan's federal government. Two remaining demands concerned constitutional matters that could only be addressed by the Legislative Assembly.

## South Africa's leader acknowledges rising tensions over migration

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, June 8, (AP): South Africa's president promised Sunday to act on what he called concerns over illegal migration following a rise in anti-immigrant protests and sentiment in Africa's most advanced economy, with other nations claiming their citizens have been targeted in xenophobic attacks.

President Cyril Ramaphosa's comments in a speech on national television dedicated to the issue were an acknowledgment of the tensions. Anti-migrant protest groups have said they've set a June 30 deadline for foreign nationals who are in South Africa illegally to leave and have requested talks with the government.

South Africa has a history of violence sparked by anger over the presence of migrants, including in 2008 when more than 60 people were killed in what international rights groups called xenophobic attacks on foreigners.

Groups calling for a new crackdown on immigration have gained attention in recent months with a series of protests. They say foreign nationals in South Africa illegally are exacerbating its extremely high unemployment and placing more pressure on already strained public health and education services.

"Many South Africans are raising difficult but legitimate questions," Ramaphosa said. "These concerns are real. They deserve to be heard, and they deserve to be addressed."

But Ramaphosa also said that authorities would not tolerate anyone taking the law into their own hands. "Only authorized government officials can act against violations of our law," Ramaphosa added.



Ghanaian nationals queue with their luggage at O.R. Tambo International Airport as they prepare to board a repatriation flight home following unrest concerns in Johannesburg, South Africa on May 27. (AP)

warning that some groups were "inciting" tensions.

There are no official figures for how many migrants are in South Africa illegally, though various estimates have put the number at between 2 million and 5 million out of a population of 62 million.

As the richest country in the region, South Africa has traditionally attracted migrants from neighboring countries Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Lesotho, as well as from others like Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi and Ethiopia. That has been a trend for decades.

Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and Mozambique said recently that their citizens have faced threats and violence in South Africa because they are foreigners. Ghana repatriated around 300 of its citizens from South Africa last month and said more will be offered the chance to return home because of what it

called threats against them.

Mozambique's government said this week that five of its citizens were killed in what it referred to as xenophobic attacks in the town of Mossel Bay on South Africa's south coast.

South Africa's coalition government placed a new focus on the issue of immigration after it was formed in 2024 and says it has deported over 100,000 people in the last two years who were in the country illegally. Ramaphosa said Sunday that around 450,000 people trying to enter South Africa without documents had been stopped at the border in the last year.

Ramaphosa said there had been "weaknesses" in the way South Africa previously managed migration and the government would take "decisive" action now, but he also appealed that people "not turn on each other" over the issue.

## Zain, URC partner to redefine digital infrastructure in Kuwait's urban development

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: Zain Kuwait today announced an exclusive partnership with United Real Estate Company (URC), one of the leading real estate developers in Kuwait and the MENA region, to power the entire connectivity and digital infrastructure of Hessah District, the first-ever comprehensive, mixed-use district in Kuwait.

The partnership was signed by Zain Kuwait CEO Nawaf Al-Gharabally and URC Group CEO Mishary Al-Muhailan. It reinforces Zain's role as a main digital enabler for Kuwait's major developmental projects, bringing advanced connectivity, security, and smart home solutions to a modern urban destination that combines residential living, business, retail, dining, healthcare, hospitality, and community experiences within one integrated district.

Through this collaboration, Zain is powering the digital infrastructure for both the residential and commercial areas of Hessah District, including Byout Hessah and Hessah Towers, as well as Hessah Work, Hessah Health, Hessah Hub, and Hessah Plaza. The step enables residents, businesses, tenants, visitors, clinics, offices, and retailers across the district to benefit from reliable, high-performance connectivity and access to state-of-the-art solutions and world-class content powered by Kuwait's most awarded 5G network.

Zain is also introducing exclusive offers for residents and businesses across Hessah District, giving them access to tailored solutions that support modern lifestyles, smart homes, connected workplaces, and smart retail experiences, while enabling seamless day-to-day connectivity and access to world-class content through its MAX plans. The offers reflect Zain's customer-centric approach and its commitment to delivering integrated digital experiences that meet the evolving needs of individuals, families, entrepreneurs, and enterprises.

Commenting on the announcement, Nawaf Al-Gharabally said: "Hessah District represents a new model for modern urban living in Kuwait, and we are proud for Zain to be the exclusive partner powering its digital foundation. This partnership reflects our belief that connectivity is no longer a supporting service, but a core enabler of how people live, work, interact, and grow within future-ready communities. By deploying our advanced capabilities across Hessah District, we are helping create an integrated environment where residents, businesses, visitors, and



Mishary Al-Muhailan and Nawaf Al-Gharabally sign the partnership.



Al-Gharabally delivers his remarks.



Al-Muhailan speaks at the event.



Al-Gharabally and Al-Muhailan with Zain and URC executives.

service providers can benefit from seamless, reliable, and intelligent digital experiences."

Al-Gharabally added: "At Zain, our strategy is closely aligned with Kuwait's broader development ambitions and the country's vision to build smarter, more connected, and more sustainable communities. Our role extends beyond providing network services. We aim to contribute to the success of national landmark projects by enabling the digital infrastructure they need to thrive in the digital era. Our partnership with URC is a strong example of how collaboration between leading private sector institutions can support Kuwait's urban transformation, el-

- Zain lays the digital foundation for Hessah District, setting a new standard for smart cities in Kuwait
- **Nawaf Al-Gharabally:** "Zain evolves from connectivity provider to key digital partner building Kuwait's next-generation smart cities"
- **Mishary Al-Muhailan:** "This partnership will equip Hessah District with the latest technologies, making it one of the first smart residential and commercial districts in Kuwait"

evate quality of life, and create new opportunities for businesses and communities."

Mishary Al-Muhailan commented:

"We are pleased to sign this agreement with Zain Kuwait, as it reflects our commitment to developing a smart residential and commercial

experience built on innovation and the latest technologies."

Al Muhailan added: "Through this partnership, Hessah District will be equipped with the latest digital solutions and technologies, positioning it among the first fully integrated smart districts in Kuwait."

Al Muhailan concluded: "This collaboration highlights URC's ongoing efforts to develop real estate projects that keep pace with future aspirations. We firmly believe that community development extends beyond constructing real estate projects; it is about creating integrated environments that meet the evolving needs of future generations."

Hessa District is located within

Hessah Al-Mubarak District in the Capital Governorate, in a strategic location that connects it to key areas across Kuwait City. Designed as a walkable, mixed-use destination, the district brings together residential, commercial, healthcare, retail, dining, and lifestyle components within a connected environment that supports convenience, accessibility, and community interaction.

The district includes Byout Hessah, a residential development featuring luxury townhouses and upscale apartments, and Hessah Towers, a landmark twin-tower residential development offering premium living spaces with views of Kuwait City and the Arabian Gulf. Together, these components reflect the district's focus on elevated community living, where high-quality residences are supported by modern amenities, accessibility, and connected services.

Hessah District's commercial components are designed to support the needs of businesses, residents, and visitors. Hessah Work offers a modern environment for companies and professionals, supported by advanced technology and direct access to the district's wider facilities. Hessah Health provides access to healthcare services within the community, while Hessah Hub and Hessah Plaza bring together retail, dining, and everyday services that support an active and connected lifestyle.

With Zain's network serving as the cornerstone of the district's connectivity, Hessah District's infrastructure will support the growing demand for fast, reliable, and high-capacity digital services, enabling various components to operate within a unified digital ecosystem.

The partnership builds on Zain's continued investments in network leadership, digital innovation, and customer experience. As Kuwait's most awarded 5G network, Zain continues to expand the role of 5G beyond traditional mobile connectivity, using its capabilities to power smarter homes, more agile businesses, more efficient operations, and more connected urban environments.

Zain remains committed to supporting major national projects with world-class digital infrastructure and advanced connectivity solutions that contribute to Kuwait's digital transformation. Through its partnership with URC, the company is helping shape the digital backbone of one of Kuwait's most ambitious mixed-use destinations, further strengthening its position at the heart of the country's connected future.

## Corporate Day links Premier Market firms with global investors during Kuwait's market transformation

# Boursa Kuwait participates in fifth HSBC GCC Exchanges Conference & organizes its 17th Corporate Day in London

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: Boursa Kuwait is participating in the fifth GCC Exchanges Conference, organized in collaboration with British multinational investment bank HSBC in London on Monday and Tuesday, 8 and 9 June 2026, in conjunction with its 17th Corporate Day.

This participation forms part of Boursa Kuwait's ongoing efforts to strengthen its international presence, promote promising investment opportunities in the Kuwaiti capital market and expand direct channels of communication between listed companies and global institutional investors.

It gains particular importance amid the rapid transformations and volatility witnessed across global markets, further enhancing the appeal of GCC markets, which are supported by robust regulatory environments and economic resilience that attract long-term investment.

With the largest attendance in its history at its fifth edition, the conference brings together all seven GCC exchanges, along with a select group of companies and global investment institutions. Discussions will focus on the resilience of GCC economies, their ability to adapt to regional and global developments and opportunities for sectoral and asset class diversification available to investors seeking long-term exposure to the region.

### 17th Corporate Day

The 17th Corporate Day brings together four companies listed on the "Premier" Market, namely Boursa Kuwait, National Bank of Kuwait, Mabaneq Company and Mezzan Holding, through a series of in-depth meetings with representatives of leading global investment institutions, including major investment banks, asset management firms, sovereign wealth funds and international pension funds.

During these meetings, the participating companies will present a comprehensive overview of their financial results, strategic plans, operational outlooks and corporate sustainability reports, providing investment institutions with direct and in-depth insight into key opportunities and challenges, while offering listed companies a platform to strengthen their relationships with the international investment community and gain a deeper understanding of investors' needs and priorities.

Boursa Kuwait is participating in this event not only as the organizer and operator of the market, but also as a company listed on the "Premier" Market, reflecting a model of market governance and commitment to transparency and disclosure standards in presenting the company's performance to shareholders and prospective investors alike.

### Commitment to International Visibility and Building Sustainable Trust

On this occasion, Boursa Kuwait Head of Markets Noura Al-Abdulkareem said:

"Boursa Kuwait's participation in investment conferences, corporate days and roadshows reflects its commitment to its pivotal role in showcasing the attractiveness of the Kuwaiti capital market on the global investment map. These events serve as a strategic platform to highlight the market's competitive strengths and reinforce its position as a regional financial center distinguished by transparency and efficiency. They also provide a strategic opportunity to exchange expertise and adopt international best practices, strengthening investor confidence and supporting our aspirations to develop a sustainable market that keeps pace with global economic transformations."

Al-Abdulkareem added that Boursa Kuwait's participation in the HSBC GCC Exchanges Conference comes at an important stage, as GCC capital markets continue to attract growing interest from international investors, driven by the resilience of the region's economies and the expansion of investment opportunities.

"Through its 17th Corporate Day, the exchange continues to support listed



Noura Al-Abdulkareem



Naim Azad Din

"Boursa Kuwait's ongoing efforts to enhance transparency and reinforce direct and effective communication with shareholders and prospective investors are aligned with the highest international standards adopted by leading global exchanges. We are committed to presenting our financial and operational results with accuracy and clarity, while providing effective channels of dialogue that enable shareholders and investment institutions to follow the developments of Boursa Kuwait, the Kuwaiti capital market and its plans.

Azad Din also noted that the developments witnessed by the Kuwaiti capital market across infrastructure, the expansion of products and services and the accommodation of new asset classes reflect a clear institutional path towards building a deeper, more diversified market that is better able to meet investors' needs, adding that these efforts contribute to strengthening shareholder and investor confidence, supporting sustainable growth and reinforcing the competitiveness of the Kuwaiti market at both the regional and international levels.

### A GCC Platform for the GCC to Engage with International Investors

The GCC Exchanges Conference is being held for the fifth consecutive year with the participation of representatives from all stock exchanges across the Gulf Cooperation Council. Regarded as one of the region's leading and largest financial gatherings, the conference provides an opportunity to strengthen engagement with international investors, bringing together seven GCC exchanges and serving as a strategic platform for cooperation, knowledge exchange and the showcasing of investment opportunities available across the region's markets.

The conference was opened by Mr. Georges Elhedery, Group Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Group PLC, with discussions focusing on the resilience and adaptability of GCC economies, as well as opportunities for sectoral diversification and asset class diversification available to global investors seeking long-term exposure to the region.

The discussions also reflected how companies and policymakers are responding to rapid developments by strengthening supply chain resilience, developing funding structures, expanding market access and focusing on technology and digital infrastructure.

**Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait, HSBC Bank Middle East Limited Mr. Ahmed Almurad welcomed Boursa Kuwait's participation in the conference, saying:**

"Kuwait's underlying fundamentals, low debt, substantial sovereign resources and clear focus on strategic infrastructure projects provide confidence in the long-term outlook. Many of these investments are being delivered through the PPP framework, creating opportunities for both public and private capital. The region's swift and measured response underscores its resilience, while initiatives such as Boursa Kuwait's listing of ETFs and fixed-income instruments such as bonds and sukuk will help deepen capital markets and support future growth."

### A Longstanding Strategic Partnership with HSBC

Boursa Kuwait and HSBC share a well-established partnership that extends over several years, resulting in the organization of several corporate days and roadshows across major global financial centers, with the aim of attracting foreign capital and institutional investors to the Kuwaiti capital market.

These joint efforts seek to highlight the structural developments witnessed by the Kuwaiti market in recent years, whether through the modernization of infrastructure, the launch of new products and services or the development of regulatory frameworks that enhance the market's competitiveness locally and regionally.



companies in building direct and effective dialogue with global investment institutions, enhancing transparency, supporting institutional investment flows and reinforcing the Kuwaiti capital market's position as a promising investment destination in the region," she said.

### Key Areas of Participation

During its participation in the GCC Exchanges Conference and Corporate Day meetings, Boursa Kuwait will showcase the development journey of the Kuwaiti capital market, including the advanced progress it has achieved in market infrastructure, the expansion of products and services and the enhancement of the market's resilience and ability to keep pace with regional and global developments.

The company will also highlight initiatives aimed at deepening the market and diversifying asset classes, including the listing of exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and fixed-income instruments such as bonds and sukuk, which play an important role in supporting the growth of capital markets and strengthening their prospects.

Commenting on Boursa Kuwait's meetings with institutional shareholders and prospective investors, Chief Financial Officer at Boursa Kuwait, Mr. Naim Azad Din said:

## BUSINESS

## Energy, F&amp;B and Banks drive profits to new record highs

By KAMCO Invest

Aggregate net profits reported companies listed on GCC exchanges increased by 15.5% yoy during Q1-2026 to reach a new record quarterly high of USD 67.9 Bn as compared to USD 58.8 Bn in Q1-2025. The growth in profitability was mainly led by a y-o-y increase in profits for Energy companies, especially Aramco, followed by an increase in profits for listed Banks, as well as companies in the F&B and Capital Goods sectors. However, a sharp decline in profits mainly for Telecoms and Transportation companies partially offset the overall growth. In terms of sequential performance, the growth in profits was even higher at over 40% vs. Q4-2025 and was once again led by higher profits for the Energy sector coupled growth in profits for companies in the Materials and the Banking sectors. The q-o-q growth was partially offset by fall in profits for the Real Estate and F&B sectors.

At the country level, companies listed in Qatar and Kuwait registered a y-o-y fall in profits during Q1-2026 by 3.3% and 48.9%, respectively. However, higher profits for the rest of the GCC countries more than offset this decline. Saudi-listed companies registered the biggest growth in net profits with a y-o-y growth of USD 8.1 Bn or 22.2% reaching USD 44.4 Bn followed by Abu Dhabi and Dubai with y-o-y growth of USD 1.5 Bn and 0.8 Bn, respectively. In terms of qoq performance, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Kuwait listed companies recorded decline in profits that was once again offset by higher profits for companies listed in Saudi Arabia that registered almost doubling of quarterly profits followed by double digit growth in profits for Qatar and Bahrain.

The quarter also witnessed a broad-based y-o-y growth in revenues for GCC-listed companies. Aggregate quarterly revenues reached USD 353.3 Bn during Q1-2026, recording a y-o-y growth of 7.7%. The sequential growth in revenues were lower at 2.7% mainly led by a broad-based decline in revenue across most GCC countries impacted by the war in the middle east.

The Energy sector continued to remain a drag on overall profitability growth in Q1-2025. Within the Energy sector, profits for 21 out of 30 listed companies showed growth while nine companies reported y-o-y declines. Net profit for Saudi Aramco increased by more than a quarter during Q1-2026 to reach USD 32.0 Bn led by higher crude oil prices with Brent crude trading at USD 126.7/b at the end Q1-2026 and average Brent prices at USD 80.7/b in Q1-2026 with y-o-y growth of 6.4% and q-o-q growth of 26.8%. Aramco also reported higher volumes sold, and expanded revenues from refined and chemical products. Rabigh Refining and Bahri, listed in Saudi Arabia, also reported healthy growth in profits led by improved refined product margin, higher volumes and an increase in crude oil tanker rates. The overall increase was partially offset by a 15.0% fall in profits for Adnoc Gas due to disruption caused by the war. Meanwhile, revenues for the sector was up 8.9% y-o-y and 10.3% q-o-q during Q1-2026 to reach USD 144.6 Bn.

Net profits for the GCC Banking sector continued to show steady growth during Q1-2026 with a sequential increase of 13.2% and a y-o-y growth of 5.1% with aggregate profits reaching USD 16.9 Bn during the quarter. The growth was led by consistent and broad-based lending growth during the quarter in almost all markets in the GCC. Based on data from GCC central banks, outstanding credit facilities in the region reached USD 2.1 Trillion (excluding Oman due to unavailability of data) at the end of Q1-2026 registering a growth 2.5% q-o-q and 9.1% y-o-y. Total bank revenue witnessed a softer q-o-q growth at a fourquarter low of 0.9% during Q1-2026 to reach USD 35.2 Bn while the y-o-y growth stood at 8.8%. Net interest income witnessed a marginal decline of 0.3% during the quarter while non-interest income grew by 3.8%, more than offsetting the decline in net interest income. A decline in impairments to USD 2.7 Bn in Q1-2026 from USD 3.9 Bn in Q4-2025 also supported bottom-line growth.

## Kuwait

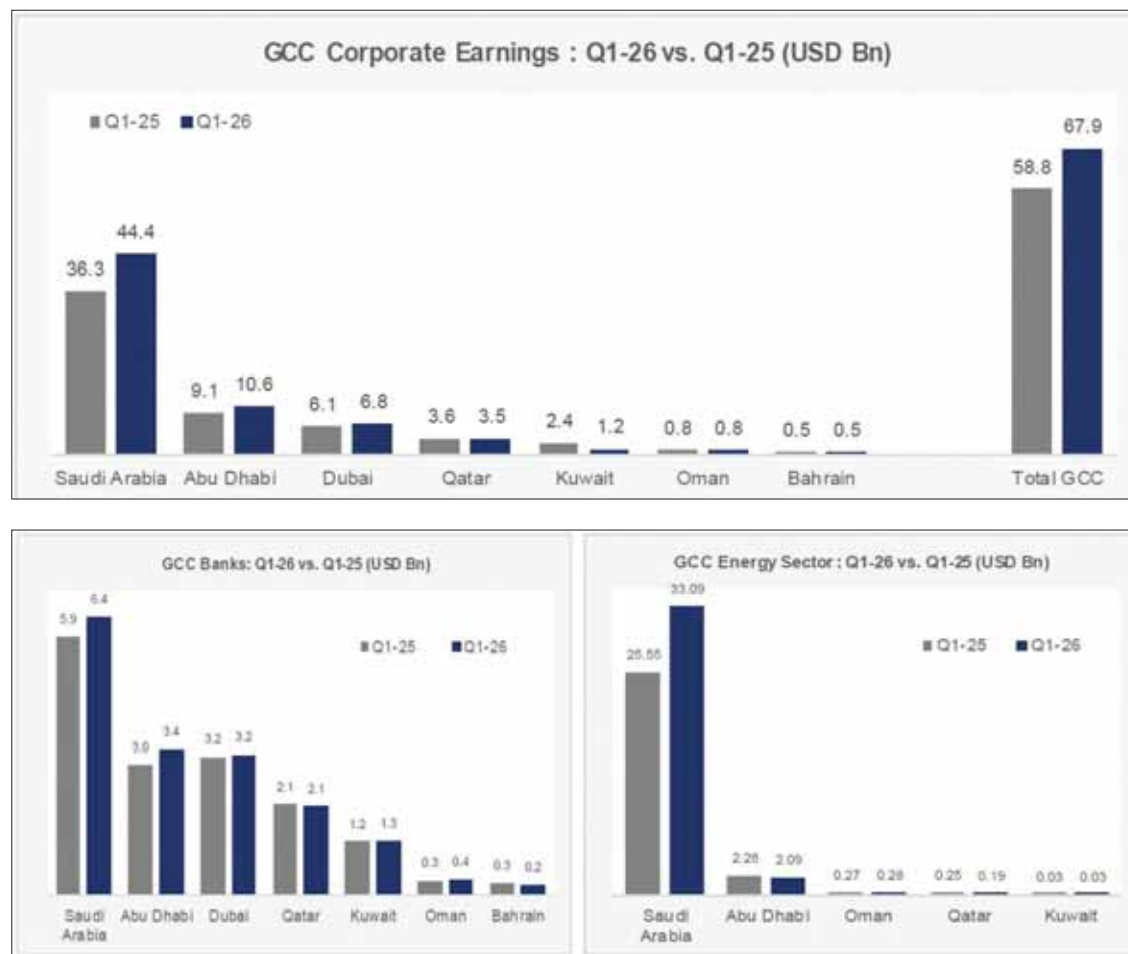
Aggregate net profits of Boursa Kuwait-listed companies almost halved in Q1-2026, dropping 48.9% to USD 1.2 Bn compared with USD 2.4 Bn in the Q1-2025. Among the top sectors of the exchange, the Banking and the Telecom sectors reported an increase in profitability during the quarter. On the other hand, the decline was mainly driven by a sharp drop in profits within the Transportation sector, following Agility PWC's net loss of USD 737.8 Mn in Q1-2026, compared to a profit of USD 37.9 Mn in Q1-2025. The loss was primarily due to a one-off non-cash provision related to investment property assets after court rulings concerning leasehold land in Kuwait. As a result, Transportation, Real Estate, and Capital Goods sectors recorded the steepest declines in profitability during the quarter. It is noteworthy that out of the eighteen sectors on Boursa Kuwait, nine have witnessed a y-o-y increase in profits during Q1-2026 while the remaining sectors witnessed declines.

Quarterly net profits for listed banks in Kuwait rose 2.2% y-o-y to USD 1.3 Bn in Q1-2026, compared with USD 1.2 Bn in Q1-2025. Overall, the sector delivered solid performance, supported by loan growth and strong fee income. National Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Finance House led earnings during the quarter, while the rest of the banks posted mixed but generally positive results. NBK reported a net profit of KWD 135.5 Mn (USD 443.5) Mn for Q1-2026 up 1.0% vs. a profit of KWD 134.1 (USD 439.0) Mn in Q1-2025 mainly led by higher net interest income that was partly offset by higher operating expenses and higher impairment charges as compared to Q1-2025. Kuwait Finance House reported a net profit of KWD 176.5 Mn (USD 577.9 Mn) in Q1-2026, representing a 5.0% increase compared to KWD 168.1 Mn (USD 550.4) Mn in Q1-2025. The growth was primarily driven by a strong performance in net finance income, which rose 4.1% y-o-y to KWD 332.0 Mn. Meanwhile, Burgan Bank reported a net profit decline from KWD 10.7 Mn (USD 35.0) Q1-2025 to KWD 5.1 Mn (USD 16.7) Mn in Q1-2026. The decrease was primarily attributable to higher operating expenses. Following regional geopolitical tensions in late February 2026, the Central Bank of Kuwait introduced regulatory relief measures on 26-March-2026 to support financial stability.

The Telecom sector outperformed other sectors as the biggest contributor to net profits growth during the period by recording a net profit of USD 363.5 Mn in Q1-2026 vs. USD 263.9 Mn in Q1-2025, registering a growth of 37.5%. Excluding Digitus, all constituent stocks reported higher net profits, with Zain Group leading the gains, posting a 50% increase. Zain Kuwait reported a net profit of KWD 79.8 (USD 261.2 Mn) during Q1-2026 as compared to a profit of KWD 53.3 Mn (USD 174.4) Mn during Q1-2025 led by higher revenue which grew by 6% y-o-y, supported by positive growth in data services. EBITDA also increased by about 6% to KWD 182 Mn, with margins remaining stable at roughly 32%. Total Managed Active Customers reached 51.2 Mn. Ooredoo also registered strong net profit growth during Q1-2026 that reached KWD 22.0 Mn (USD 72.4) Mn compared to KWD 18.3 Mn (USD 59.8) Mn in Q1-2025, up by 20.6%. The telecom operator recorded revenues of KWD 197 Mn up by 11%, driven by an increase in service revenue. EBITDA expanded by 15% y-o-y to KWD 80 Mn with an improvement in the EBITDA margin of 2pp to 41%. The customer base increased by 5% y-o-y to end Q1-2025 with 27.7 Mn customers. Similarly, STC Kuwait reported a net profit of KWD 9.2 Mn (USD 30.2 Mn) for Q1-2026, compared with KWD 9.1 Mn (USD 29.7 Mn) in Q1-2025, representing a 1.6% y-o-y increase. While revenue growth remained subdued, the company delivered EBITDA growth.

## Saudi Arabia

Aggregate net profits for companies listed on Saudi Exchange witnessed a y-o-y increase of 22.2% to reach USD 44.4 Bn in Q1-2026 against USD 36.3 Bn in Q1-2025. The key sectors on the exchange including Energy, Banks, and Utilities reported a strong y-o-y growth in profitability during the quarter, whereas Real Estate, Health



Care Equipment & Services, and Diversified Financials reported profit declines during the quarter.

The Energy sector outperformed other sectors as the biggest contributor to net profits during the period by recording a net profit of USD 33.1 Bn vs. USD 25.6 Bn in Q1-2025 up by 29.5%. Saudi Aramco reported a net profit of USD 32.0 Bn in Q1-2026, up from USD 25.5 Bn in Q1-2025, driven by higher crude oil prices, increased sales volumes, and stronger downstream performance. Total revenue rose 6.8% to SAR 433.1 Bn (USD 115.5 Bn). The company's BOD declared a base dividend of USD 21.9 Bn for Q1-2026, representing a 3.5% y-o-y increase. Meanwhile, Rabigh Refining and Petrochemical Company returned to profitability in Q1-2026, posting a net profit of USD 390.8 Mn after recording losses in Q1-2025. Revenue increased 32.4% y-o-y to SAR 14.85 Bn, supported by higher crude sales as well as improved pricing conditions.

Saudi-listed banks posted impressive results in Q1-2026, with aggregate net profit increasing 7.7% to SAR 24.0 Bn (USD 6.4 Bn). Earnings growth was supported by higher funded income, lower provisioning expenses, and strong performances from Al Rajhi Bank, Saudi National Bank (SNB), and Bank Albilad. Meanwhile, deposit growth of 9% y-o-y outpaced credit growth of 8%, helping support stable margins across the sector. All listed banks posted higher net profits during Q1-2026, barring Saudi Awwal Bank. Al-Rajhi Bank reported higher profits that reached SAR 6.8 Bn (USD 1.8 Bn) in Q1-2026 vs SAR 5.9 Bn (USD 1.6 Bn) a year earlier, mainly led by 18.4% y-o-y rise in net financing and investment income. Profits for Saudi National Bank surged 6.7% to reach SAR 6.4 Bn (USD 1.7 Bn) for Q1-2026 against a profit of SAR 6.0 Bn (USD 1.6 Bn) for Q1-2025 primarily driven by an increase in the net special commission income which increased 3.1% supported by the income from the financing. Bank Albilad reported a 5.1% increase in the net profit that reached SAR 735.8 Bn (USD 196.2 Mn) in Q1-2026 compared to SAR 700.4 Mn (USD 186.7 Mn) in Q1-2025 led by an increase in net income from investing and financing assets. Meanwhile, Saudi Awwal Bank (SAB) reported 2.3% decrease in profits that reached SAR 2.09 Bn (USD 556.2 Mn) in Q1-2026 from SAR 2.14 Bn (USD 569.1 Mn) in Q1-2025. The decline was primarily attributable to higher provisioning charges, which increased by 20% y-o-y.

Net profits for the Telecom sector grew 6.3% y-o-y to USD 1.3 Bn in Q1-2026 as compared to USD 1.2 Bn during Q1-2025. Profits for STC increased by 1.3% y-o-y to reach SAR 3.7 Bn (USD 985.4 Mn) in Q1-2026 compared to SAR 3.6 Bn (USD 972.4 Mn) in Q1-2025 led by higher revenues. STC announced a distribution of SAR 0.55 per share for the 1Q-2026. STC KSA's revenue increased by 3.8%, driven by a 5.2% rise in the commercial unit revenues and a 6.2% increase in the wholesale unit revenues. The Utilities sector returned to profitability in Q1-2026, posting net earnings of USD 58.4 Mn compared to losses in the Q1-2025. ACWA Power's reported a net profit of SAR 344.8 Mn (USD 91.9 Mn) in Q1-2026, down 19% from SAR 427.2 Mn (USD 113.8 Mn) in Q1-2025, primarily driven by lower project development and construction management revenues in addition to higher deferred tax expenses. Net profits for the Materials sector grew 12.4% y-o-y to USD 843.6 Mn in Q1-2026 as compared to USD 750.7 Mn during Q1-2025. SABIC returned to profitability in Q1-2026, posting a net profit of SAR 13.2 Mn (USD 3.5 Mn) vs. net loss of SAR 1.21 Bn (USD 322.7 Mn) in Q1-2025, supported by lower operating expenses and the absence of one-off restructuring charges recorded in Q1-2025.

## Dubai

Net profits for Dubai-listed companies increased by 12.3% y-o-y to USD 6.8 Bn in Q1-2026, up from USD 6.1 Bn in Q1-2025, driven by profit growth across most sectors on the exchange. This earnings expansion was primarily fueled by strong performances in the Utilities, Real Estate, Telecoms, and Insurance sectors, whereas the Transport, and Consumer Services sectors recorded y-o-y declines in profits. Corporate profits during the period remained largely concentrated in the Banking, Real Estate, Utilities, and Transportation Services sectors, which together represented 88.9% of total net profits in Q1-2025. Total net profits of Dubai's Banking Sector improved by 0.9% y-o-y to USD 3.2 Bn in Q1-2026. Emirates NBD recorded the highest net profit in the sector for Q1-2026 at USD 1.74 Bn, up from USD 1.69 Bn in Q1-2025. The bank's improved earnings were mainly supported by strong loan growth. Mashreq Bank followed with the second-largest net profit in the sector, reaching USD 512.7 Mn in Q1-2026, compared to USD 478.1 Mn in Q1-2025. Mashreq Bank's earnings growth was largely due to strong operating income growth, which reached AED 3.4 Bn (USD 0.93 Bn) during the quarter, underpinned by solid liquidity and customer deposits coupled with healthy growth in net loans during the quarter.

In the Real Estate Sector, aggregate net earnings rose by 38.3% y-o-y in Q1-2026, reaching USD 2.3 Bn, compared to USD 1.7 Bn in Q1-2025. Emaar Properties led the sector with net profits of USD 1.4 Bn, following a 34.7% y-o-y increase from USD 1.0 Bn during the same period last year. The company's strong performance was supported by sustained real estate demand in the UAE, successful project launches, and total property sales for the group reaching USD 6.1 Bn during the quarter. The company's total revenue grew by 23% y-o-y to USD 3.4 Bn, while its EBITDA saw a 34% y-o-y jump to USD 2 Bn over the same period. Similarly, Emaar Development reported a 52.4% y-o-y increase in net profits, reaching USD 795.7 Mn, compared to USD 522.3 Mn in Q1-2025. Tecom Group also saw net earnings rise by 11.8% y-o-y to USD 109.8 Mn, up from USD 98.3 Mn in the corresponding quarter of 2025.

In the Utilities Sector, total net profits increased by 52.0% y-o-y in Q1-2026 to USD 307.9 Mn, compared to USD 202.5 Mn in Q1-2025. DEWA reported a 74.2% rise in net profits, reaching USD 230 Mn in Q1-2026, up from

USD 132.2 Mn in the same period of 2025. The growth in DEWA's net earnings was driven by higher seasonal demand coupled with operational efficiencies. DEWA's electricity generation rose by 5.7% y-o-y to 11.09 TWh, while overall water production increased by 5.5% y-o-y to 37.6 Bn imperial gallons. Meanwhile, aggregate net earnings for Empower improved by 44.8% y-o-y to USD 56.4 Mn during Q1-2026, while total net profits for National Central Cooling Company declined by 32.3% y-o-y to USD 21.3 Mn over the same period.

## Abu Dhabi

Listed companies in Abu Dhabi witnessed a 16.1% y-o-y increase in net profits during Q1-2026, reaching USD 10.6 Bn compared with USD 9.1 Bn during Q1-2025. The uptick in quarterly net profits was primarily driven by a USD 363.4 Mn increase in the Banking sector, coupled with a 230% y-o-y increase in profits for the Food, Beverage & Tobacco Sector, which reached USD 1.4 Bn. The Banking sector recorded the highest profits in Q1-2026, with a total net profit of USD 3.4 Bn compared to USD 3.0 Bn in Q1-2025. This performance was supported by higher y-o-y profitability across nine of the eleven listed banks that reported their financials during Q1-2026.

In the Banking sector, First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) reported the highest net earnings, despite a 2.2% y-o-y dip, during the quarter at USD 1.4 Bn, followed by Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, which witnessed a 37.3% y-o-y jump in its net earnings to reach USD 915.1 Mn during the same period. FAB reported a 12% y-o-y increase in net interest income that reached AED 5.6 Bn (USD 1.5 Bn) while non-interest income witnessed a slight decline. The decline in net profits for the bank reflected a sharp increase in impairments during the quarter that reached USD 299.5 Mn vs. 197.1 Mn during Q1-2025. Meanwhile, the robust net earnings growth for ADCB was underpinned by a 36% y-o-y jump in non-interest income along with a 10.1% increase in net interest income. Moreover, aggregate net earnings for Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank increased by 6% y-o-y to USD 466.6 Mn, compared to USD 440 Mn in Q1-2025 also reflecting increase in net interest income and non interest income partially offset by an increase in impairments during the quarter.

Abu Dhabi's Energy Sector reported the second-largest net earnings aggregate, reaching USD 2.1 Bn despite an 8.4% y-o-y decline. In the Energy Sector, ADNOC Gas reported the largest net earnings during Q1-2026, reaching USD 1.1 Bn compared to USD 1.3 Bn in Q1-2025. The decline in the company's total net earnings was attributed to geopolitical and operational disruptions. The company witnessed a 15% drop in sales volume that impacted revenue growth. On the other hand, Q1-2026 net profits for Abu Dhabi National Energy Company remained stable, recording only a marginal 0.4% y-o-y growth to reach USD 569.2 Mn. Meanwhile, total net profits for ADNOC Drilling increased by 1.1% y-o-y to USD 344.8 Mn in Q1-2026, compared to USD 340.9 Mn during the corresponding period of 2025. ADNOC Drilling's robust performance was underpinned by strong fleet utilization and the ongoing expansion of its Oilfield Services segment.

Aggregate net earnings for the Food, Beverage & Tobacco Sector jumped 3.3 times y-o-y in Q1-2026 to reach USD 1.4 Bn, compared to USD 424.6 Mn in Q1-2025. Similarly, total net earnings for the Capital Goods Sector more than doubled, rising over six times in Q1-2026 to reach USD 1.1 Bn, compared to USD 185 Mn during the corresponding period of the previous year.

## Qatar

Total earnings for Qatar-listed companies witnessed a y-o-y decline of 3.3% during Q1-2026 to reach USD 3.5 Bn as compared to USD 3.6 Bn in Q1-2025. The decline in quarterly profits was primarily led by the fall in profits mainly for the Energy, Materials and Banks sectors that was partially offset by growth in profits for the Telecom and Real Estate sectors during the quarter.

Qatar's Banking sector reported a profit decline of 1.6% in Q1-2026 that reached USD 2.06 Bn accounting for 58.8% of the overall exchange profits during the quarter. QNB's net profit reached QAR 4.33 Bn (USD 1.19 Bn) in Q1-2026, up 1.7% compared to QAR 4.26 Bn (USD 1.17) Bn in Q1-2025, driven by higher operating income which increased 10% to reach USD 3.3 Bn. The bank reported a 5.0% increase in customer deposits while loans and advances increased by 8% to reach USD 282.0 Mn. Qatar Islamic Bank posted a marginal gain of 0.1% with a quarterly net profit of QAR 985.6 Mn (USD 270.4 Mn).

Qatar International Islamic Bank posted a net profit of QAR 367.8 Mn (USD 100.9 Mn) in Q1-2026, up 3.2% from QAR 356.4 Mn (USD 97.7 Mn), supported by growth in financing assets and stable deposit inflows. Quarterly net profit for Commercial Bank of Qatar declined by 23.0% to USD 137.5 Mn in Q1-2026, compared with USD 178.7 Mn in Q1-2025, as profitability was impacted by higher provisions and operating costs. Net profit before Pillar Two tax also fell to QAR 538.3 Mn from QAR 704.3 Mn in the same period, mainly due to increased provisioning and higher expenses.

Net profits for the Energy sector dropped 23.0% y-o-y during the quarter to reach USD 189.7 Mn from USD 246.2 Mn in Q1-2025. The decline came primarily on the back of 65.9% y-o-y decline in profits for Gulf International Services Co. that reached QAR 75.6 Mn (USD 20.7 Mn) in Q1-2026 vs. USD QAR 222.0 Mn (USD 60.9 Mn) in Q1-2025. The decrease was mainly driven by lower revenue contributions from the drilling and aviation segments. The drilling segment was affected by reduced asset utilization, as several offshore and onshore rigs remained off contract during Q1-2026, weighing on overall operational performance. On the other hand, Nakilat reported a 1.3% y-o-y increase in net profit to QAR 438.9 Mn (USD 120.4 Mn) in Q1-2026, supported by total income of QAR 1.21 Bn, mainly driven by revenue from core operations, including contributions from Qatar Shipyard and the ad-

dition of new LPG vessels. However, the shipyard and marine services segments recorded lower operating rates during Q1-2026, as ongoing geopolitical tensions in the region weighed on activity levels.

Meanwhile, Industries Qatar reported a net profit of QAR 734.4 Mn (USD 201.4 Mn) in Q1 2026, down 25.7% from QAR 987.9 Mn (USD 271.0 Mn) in Q1-2025. The decline was primarily attributable to the ongoing regional conflict, which affected the Group's operations, sales and marketing activities, logistics, and distribution networks. Despite these challenges, the Group's revenue remained broadly stable at QAR 4.2 Bn during the Q1-2026.

The Telecom sector outperformed other sectors as the biggest contributor to net profits during the period by recording a net profit of USD 331.0 Mn in Q1-2026 vs. USD 307.9 Mn in Q1-2025, registering a growth of 7.5%. Ooredoo reported net profits of QAR 960.1 (USD 275.8 Mn) in Q1-2026 as compared to QAR 1.0 Bn (USD 263.3 Mn) in Q1-2025, up by 4.7%. The Telco's revenue 3.4% to QAR 1.8 Bn, driven primarily by growth in mobile services, in addition to the contributions from wholesale and ICT services. EBITDA increased 1.1% to QAR 938 Mn, supported by higher revenues, while the EBITDA margin declined slightly to 51.8% from 53.0% in Q1 2025, reflecting changes in the revenue mix. Meanwhile, the company's customer base remained stable at 3.0 Mn subscribers. Vodafone Qatar reported a net profit of QAR 201.3 Mn (USD 55.2 Mn) for Q1-2026, representing an increase of 24.0% y-o-y driven by sustained growth across the company's core business lines, including mobility, managed services, fixed broadband, and Internet of Things (IoT). Total revenue for the telco increased by 7.1% to reach QAR 914 Mn. Service revenue also grew by 9.4% supported by growth from all the segments. EBITDA increased 13.4% following higher service revenue and stable costs. The total number of mobile customers stood at 2.1 Mn. In light of current situation, BOD has decided not to distribute interim dividends for Q1-2026.

## Bahrain

Total net profits for Bahrain-listed companies rose by 17.6% y-o-y in Q1-2026, reaching USD 549.8 Mn compared to USD 467.6 Mn in Q1-2025. This robust growth was driven by higher earnings in six of the fourteen sector aggregates listed on the exchange, while the remaining eight sectors recorded y-o-y declines. The sectors that contributed positively to overall earnings included Materials, Diversified Financials, and Insurance, whereas sectors such as Telecom, Banks, and Retailing registered y-o-y declines in profits.

The Banking sector recorded a decline in Q1-2026 net profits that reached USD 234.9 Mn, down from USD 288.5 Mn in Q1-2025. The sector's overall earnings drop was mainly attributed to a loss of USD 6.5 Mn for Al Khaleej Commercial Bank. However, there was significant improvement in net profit for key banks during the quarter, including a 24.6% y-o-y increase in BKB's total earnings, which reached USD 70 Mn, followed by a 24.4% y-o-y improvement in Al Salam Bank's net earnings, which reached USD 61.4 Mn during the same period.

BKB's net earnings growth was mainly attributed to the bank's asset and liability management strategies and the growth of its net loans and advances portfolio, with the bank's net fees and commission recording a 12% increase to BHD 5.6 Mn (USD 14.9 Mn). Overall, total operating income improved by 24.6% y-o-y during Q1-2026, amounting to BD 50.6 Mn (USD 134.2 Mn).

In the Materials Sector, Aluminum Bahrain (the only company comprising the sector) reported a 315.5% y-o-y increase to reach USD 199.8 Mn in Q1-2026, compared to USD 48.1 Mn in Q1-2025. The net profit growth came despite a 17% y-o-y decline in sales volume to 312,563 metric tons due to the ongoing regional shipping disruptions caused by the conflict in the region. But an increase in average selling prices resulted in a 2.6% y-o-y growth in revenues that reached BHD 419.6 Mn (USD 1.1 Bn) in Q1-2026 against BHD 409 Mn (USD 1.08 Bn) in Q1-2026.

In the Diversified Financial Sector, total net profits increased by 7.5% y-o-y in Q1-2026 to USD 37.1 Mn from USD 34.5 Mn in Q1-2025. GFH Bank, the sector's key player, reported a 16.6% growth in Q1-2026 net profits, reaching USD 35.2 Mn compared to USD 30.1 Mn in Q1-2025. The strong improvement in GFH's earnings was primarily due to a jump in Wealth and Investment Management revenue, which generated USD 82.5 Mn in Q1-2026, up from USD 51.6 Mn in Q1-2025. Moreover, the company's credit and financing operations increased by 20.3% y-o-y to reach USD 40.0 Mn during Q1-2026.

## Oman

Total net profits for listed companies in Oman rose by 4.0% y-o-y in Q1-2026, reaching USD 838.5 Mn compared to USD 806.4 Mn in Q1-2025, driven primarily by higher earnings in the Banking, Energy, Telecommunications, and Materials sectors. However, aggregate loss for the Utilities and Transportation sectors partially offset the overall growth during Q1-2026. The Banking Sector posted a 10.3% increase in net profits, reaching USD 374.9 Mn during Q1-2026, up from USD 340.0 Mn in the corresponding period of 2025. Of the seven banks that disclosed financial results, six reported growth in net earnings, while Bank Nizwa was the only one to record a y-o-y decline.

Bank Muscat recorded the largest absolute increase in net earnings among the banks, with Q1-2026 net profits rising to USD 166.1 Mn from USD 152.1 Mn in Q1-2025. This growth was supported by a 6.4% y-o-y increase in net interest income, which reached OMR 41.1 Mn (USD 106.9 Mn), coupled with lower impairment charges, robust fee income, and higher lending activity across Oman. Sohar International Bank posted the second-largest net profit among the banks at USD 67.7 Mn in Q1-2026, up from USD 55.7 Mn in the corresponding period of 2025. The bank's earnings growth was attributed to an overall improvement in operating income, which increased by 30% to OMR 71.3 Mn (USD 185.4 Mn), supported by increases in net interest income and other net operating income. Moreover, total net earnings for the National Bank of Oman increased by 14% y-o-y to reach USD 50.6 Mn, while aggregate net profits for the Bank of Dhofar increased by 8.8% y-o-y to reach USD 34.3 Mn during the same period.

Total net profits for the Energy Sector in Q1-2026 increased by 7.1% y-o-y, reaching USD 283.9 Mn compared to USD 340.0 Mn in Q1-2025. Out of the eight companies comprising the Energy Sector, six recorded y-o-y increases in their Q1-2026 net earnings, while one of the remaining two recorded a loss and the other registered a y-o-y net earnings decline. OQ Exploration & Production SA reported the highest net profit in the sector at USD 187 Mn, with a decline of 3.9% due to a 16% drop in realized Oman crude oil prices. However, overall revenue for Q1-2026 reached USD 770.9 Mn, largely in line with Q1-2025 figures, buoyed by higher gas sales and increased adjustments for oil and condensates.

Aggregate net earnings for the Diversified Financials Sector jumped 2.12 times y-o-y during Q1-2026 to reach USD 112.4 Mn, up from USD 53.0 Mn in Q1-2025. The jump in the sector's overall net earnings was mainly driven by a 4.4 times jump in Dhofar International Dev. & Inv. Holding Co.'s net earnings, which reached USD 42.7 Mn in Q1-2026 compared to USD 9.7 Mn in Q1-2025. Oman & Emirates Investment Holding Co. followed with the second-largest net earnings growth during the quarter, reaching USD 10.9 Mn against USD 0.3 Mn in Q1-2025.

The Telecommunications sector recorded a 45.2% y-o-y increase in total net profits for Q1-2026, reaching USD 66.0 Mn compared to USD 45.5 Mn in Q1-2025. The improvement was primarily driven by a 33.2% increase in OmanTel's net profits, which reached USD 54.2 Mn, up from USD 40.7 Mn in the previous year. Moreover, Ooredoo Oman reported a 147.6% y-o-y jump in net profits, rising to USD 11.8 Mn in Q1-2026, up from USD 4.8 Mn in Q1-2025.

Becoming one of the first organizations in Kuwait to achieve this internationally recognized certification

# stc achieves ISO 20400:2017 Certification for Sustainable Procurement

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced that it obtained the ISO 20400:2017 Certification for Sustainable Procurement. The internationally recognized certification reflects stc's ongoing commitment to integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles into its procurement practices and supply chain operations, further strengthening its position as a responsible corporate leader and sustainability pioneer in Kuwait.



Ahmad Al Murad, Acting Chief Business Excellence Officer at stc

stc received the ISO 20400:2017 Certification following a comprehensive independent assessment of stc's procurement governance framework, supplier engagement processes, sustainability policies, and ESG integration mechanisms. The ISO 20400:2017 certification recognizes the Company's efforts in embedding sustainability considerations into purchasing decisions while ensuring that procurement activities contribute to long-term economic, environmental, and social value creation.

Achieving this milestone further demonstrates stc's commitment to aligning its business practices with internationally recognized standards and supporting Kuwait's broader sustainability ambitions. Through the implementation of responsible sourcing principles, the Company continues to strengthen transparency and ethical conduct across its supply chain while encouraging suppliers and business partners to adopt sustainable business practices. This achievement also supports the objectives under stc's annual sustainability program, which focuses on reducing the Company's environmental footprint and enhancing operational efficiency across its business

activities.

The ISO 20400:2017 certification strengthens stc's ability to proactively identify and manage ESG risks throughout its value chain. Through the adoption of a structured and internationally recognized framework for sustainable procurement, the Company continues to enhance supplier performance, support responsible local enterprises, and promote more sustainable consumption and production practices in line with evolving global expectations and stakeholder requirements.

Ahmad Al Murad, Acting Chief Business Excellence Officer at stc indicated that achieving ISO 20400:2017 Certification represents an important milestone within the Company's broader sustainability strategy and reflects its continuous efforts to embed responsible business practices across all areas of operation. He highlighted that sustainability is not treated as a standalone initiative, but rather as a fundamental component of its decision-making processes and long-term growth strategy. Through a holistic approach that integrates ESG considerations into procurement and supply chain management, the Company continues to create sustainable value for its stakeholders while supporting the development of a more resilient and responsible business ecosystem.

Al Murad added that sustainable procurement plays a critical role in developing the Company's sustainability agenda and strengthening collaboration with suppliers that share its commitment to ethical business conduct, environmental stewardship, human rights, and positive community impact. He also highlighted that it is dedicated to continuously enhancing its procurement practices through supplier engagement programs, low-carbon sourcing initiatives, and transparent ESG reporting mechanisms, ensuring that sustainability remains embedded throughout its value chain and contributes to long-term business success.

This achievement further supports stc's contribution to Kuwait Vision 2035 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those focused on responsible consumption and production. As organizations across industries place greater emphasis on sustainable business practices, stc aims to lead by example through the adoption of internationally recognized standards that drive operational excellence, responsible growth, and lasting value for customers, shareholders, partners, and the wider community.



Photo from the conference.

## Action Energy showcases IPO success at Arqaam conference

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: Action Energy Company K.S.C.P. (AEC, Bourse Kuwait: ALFTAQA), Kuwait's leading local partner for integrated upstream services, owner and operator of one of the youngest rig fleets in the region, showcased its landmark IPO at Arqaam Capital's 13th Annual MENA Investor Conference, held under the theme "From Resilience to Market Leadership: Scaling Capital Across MENA."

Speaking at the conference, Action Energy Vice Chairman Eng. Rawaf Bourisli said: "What set Action Energy's IPO apart was that we operated like a public company long before our IPO. Investors valued that maturity and saw institutional discipline rather than a newly acquired practice."

Bourisli was speaking on the "Recipe for Success: IPO Readiness Key Elements" panel alongside senior capital markets practitioners, where he

discussed the governance and transparency best practices Action Energy had adopted over several years. These included independent board oversight, active audit committees and a shortened financial close, which contributed to the strong local and international institutional demand the offering attracted.

Bourisli also joined a dedicated session on the regional energy, oil and gas outlook, addressing supply dynamics and the role of resilient operators across the GCC's upstream sector.

Action Energy listed on the Premier Market of Bourse Kuwait on Dec. 17, 2025, becoming the first energy sector company to join the exchange since 2008. The offering attracted strong demand from local and international investors, with subscriptions exceeding the offered value by 5.0 times and initial coverage reaching KWD 276 million.



Casheer partners with OG Innovation.

## Casheer and OG Innovation forge strategic partnership

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: Casheer held a special event to announce the signing of a strategic cooperation agreement with OG Innovation, the technology arm of One Global, marking an important step in strengthening the position of both companies within the digital solutions and automated payment services sector.

The agreement reflects Casheer's commitment to expanding its integrated payment and operational solutions by leveraging OG Innovation's advanced technology capabilities. Through this collaboration, the two companies aim to enhance the merchant experience, improve operational efficiency, and support businesses with smarter, faster, and more reliable digital tools.

During the event, the companies announced the launch of two new services: Auto-Settlement and Digital Menu. The Auto-Settlement service is designed to simplify and accelerate financial settlement processes for merchants through a more automated and accurate mechanism. Meanwhile, the Digital Menu service offers restaurants and cafés a modern digital experience, enabling them to display, manage, and update their offerings with greater flexibility and efficiency.

This partnership highlights Casheer's direction toward delivering payment solutions that go beyond transactions, offering merchants value-added services that support daily operations, business growth, and digital

transformation.

### About Casheer

Casheer is a specialized provider of automated payment solutions and services for merchants and businesses. The company offers innovative tools that simplify payment processes, enhance the customer experience, and help businesses manage their financial transactions with greater efficiency and ease.

### About OG Innovation

OG Innovation is the technology arm of One Global, focused on developing advanced digital solutions and innovative technologies that support business growth and digital transformation. Through its technology expertise, OG Innovation delivers smart, scalable, and market-driven solutions that enable organizations to operate more efficiently and adapt to evolving business needs.

Representatives from both companies affirmed that this collaboration marks the beginning of a new phase of joint digital services, designed to deliver added value to merchants and business owners while contributing to a more advanced, agile, and technology-enabled business environment.

The event comes as part of Casheer's continued efforts to strengthen its position as a trusted provider of automated payment solutions and services, while building strategic partnerships that support innovation and open new opportunities for digital transformation across the business sector.

Students advance hydrogen tech in ALSAYER initiative

# ALSAYER Group celebrates winners of the Horizon Educational Regional Race

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: ALSAYER Group proudly celebrates the winners of the Horizon Educational Regional Race, held at Kuwait University on June 1, 2026. Through its strategic sponsorship of Horizon Educational, ALSAYER Group has supported the development of students' technical capabilities in clean energy, hydrogen fuel cell technologies, engineering design, and teamwork, reaffirming its commitment to empowering Kuwait's youth and fostering a culture of innovation.

Since the launch of the initiative in November 2025, participating students have embarked on an inspiring educational journey, beginning with learning the fundamentals of hydrogen-powered RC vehicle kits before advancing to the design, engineering, and development of fully functional hydrogen fuel cell cars. Their efforts culminated in a series of competitive races, leading to the regional tournament and showcasing not only technical expertise but also creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer, CEO of ALSAYER Group, emphasized that the sponsorship represents far more than support for a competition. He noted that through collaboration with Kuwait University's College of Science, the Public Authority for Youth, the Ministry of Education, and Horizon Educational, ALSAYER Group is helping shape the next generation of engineers, innovators, and future leaders in Kuwait.

The initiative also reflects ALSAYER Group's broader sustainability vision. Mr. Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer, Executive Board Member and Chairman of the ALSAYER Sustainability Committee, emphasized that sustainability extends far beyond environmental responsibility; it also encompasses investing in future generations and empowering young people with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities needed to drive positive change. He highlighted that nurturing talent, encouraging lifelong learning, and fostering innovation are fundamental to ALSAYER Group's values, adding that the students' transformation from curious learners into capable innovators demonstrates the powerful impact of education and collaboration in shaping Kuwait's future leaders.

Furthermore, Mr. Mahmoud Abou-Zahr, Senior Business Director of the Lexus Division, expressed pride in supporting an initiative that aligns with Lexus' commitment to innovation and excellence. He emphasized that encouraging students to engage with clean energy technologies not only advances sustainable mobility but also contributes to the future of education and technological development in Kuwait.

The event concluded with an exciting race competition, inspiring remarks from project partners, and a celebratory award ceremony recognizing the achievements of participating students. These moments reflected the strong collaboration among all stakeholders and their shared vision of advancing education, innovation, and sustainability in Kuwait.

As ALSAYER Group celebrates the accomplishments of every participant, it extends its sincere appreciation to the organizers, educators, and supporters whose dedication contributed to the success of the Horizon Educational Regional Race. The Group also congratulates the winning teams who will proudly represent Kuwait at the upcoming Horizon Grand Prix in Switzerland next month, competing alongside teams from around the



Kuwait students shine in ALSAYER-supported hydrogen race.

world. Wishing them every success on the international stage, Mr. Nehad Al Haj Ali, Group Manager of the Cor-

porate Excellence Department, noted that their participation reflects the remarkable potential of Kuwait's youth

and their ability to drive innovation, sustainability, and excellence beyond national borders.



The cast and crew of 'Schmigadoon!' accept the award for best musical during the 79th Tony Awards on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at Radio City Music Hall in New York. Inset: Host Pink, left, and Neil Patrick Harris perform during the 79th Tony Awards on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at Radio City Music Hall in New York. (AP)

John Lithgow and Bess Wohl make history

## Broadway revivals and 'Liberation' win big at the Tony Awards, hosted by Pink

NEW YORK, June 8, (AP): "Schmigadoon!," an adaptation of an Apple TV series that gently mocks big, brassy Broadway shows, won the best new musical Tony Award on a night when actor John Lithgow and playwright Bess Wohl made history.

The musical parodies golden-age Broadway classics like "The Music Man" and "Oklahoma!" centered on a modern-day couple finding themselves in a "Brigadoon"-like fantasyland where the wholesome townspeople keep breaking into song. The win is a redemption for creator Cinco Paul, whose TV series was canceled after two seasons. He won Tonys for the score and the book Sunday.

"Sometimes singing, dancing, jokes and a happy ending are all you need," said producer Lorne Michaels, the creator of "Saturday Night Live," after the win.

The win for "Schmigadoon!" also completes what some unofficially call a "studio EGOT," giving the producing company credits for winning awards at all four major ceremonies. Apple already has Emmys for comedies "Ted Lasso" and "The Studio," the Oscar for best picture for "CODA" and a Grammy via Chris Stapleton's contribution to the "FI" soundtrack.

The prize for the best new play went to Wohl's "Liberation," about a consciousness-raising women's group in 1970s Ohio, which earlier this year also won the Pulitzer Prize for drama.

Wohl's play collects stories from second-wave feminists from all walks of life as they tackle misogyny, racism and traditional gender roles. Wohl is only the fourth woman to win a best play Tony, joining Wendy Wasserstein, Yasmina Reza and Frances Goodrich.

"I want to honor women everywhere who have the courage to use their voice," said Wohl, who thanked her mom, daughters and female producers. "And to all the girls out there: May you speak your truth, and may the world be wise enough to listen."

"Liberation" joins a list of 18 plays that have won the Pulitzer Prize for drama and the Tony Award in the same year.

The Tony for best play revival went to "Death of a Salesman," Arthur Miller's masterpiece that looks at the unraveling of the American Dream. It won the 1949 Tony for best new play and best revival crowns in 1984, 1999 and 2012.

It earned a leading six Tonys: "Roseanne" star Laurie Metcalf won her third Tony for playing Willy Loman's wife opposite Nathan Lane in the revival, which also won for lighting, scenic design and sound design.



Ann Harada, from second left, Brad Oscar, Ana Gasteyer, Maulik Pancholy and the cast of 'Schmigadoon!' perform during the 79th Tony Awards on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at Radio City Music Hall in New York. (AP)



Joshua Henry, from left, Caissie Levy, Brandon Uranowitz and the cast of 'Ragtime' perform during the 79th Tony Awards on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at Radio City Music Hall in New York. (AP)

Joe Mantello won best director for a play.

"Ragtime" - a big, soaring musical that depicts an America being remade by immigration, racial violence, industrial wealth and political unrest - won the best musical revival.

Caissie Levy, who was Broadway's first Elsa in "Frozen," won her first Tony for playing the matriarch of a wealthy suburban family in "Ragtime." She thanks all the babysitters who let her become both a mother and a Broadway performer.

Moments later, Joshua Henry, a four-time nominee, won his first Tony as Coalhouse Walker Jr. in "Ragtime." "Even in the face of pain and tragedy, he found a way to be heard," Henry said of his character. "Every artist in this room, every artist at home, fight - fight to be heard."

Lithgow won his third Tony for best lead actor in a play for "Giant" playing children's writer Roald Dahl

in Mark Rosenblatt's production set in 1983, when the author is facing intense backlash for his antisemitic comments. At 80, he is the oldest



John Lithgow accepts the award for best performance by a leading actor in a play for 'Giant' during the 79th Tony Awards on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at Radio City Music Hall in New York. (AP)



Lesley Manville accepts the award for best performance by an actress in a leading role in a play for 'Oedipus' during the 79th Tony Awards on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at Radio City Music Hall in New York. (AP)



Nathan Lane, center, and the team from 'Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman' accept the award for best revival of a play during the 79th Tony Awards on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at Radio City Music Hall in New York. (AP)

man ever to win a competitive acting Tony.

"Two Tony bookends with 53 years between them," he said. "In

those years, I have worked with hundreds of just fantastic theater artists. I've had dozens and dozens of ecstatic moments on the stage, but I have to tell you right now, this moment has got to be one of the best."

Shoshana Bean, who won best featured actress in a musical for playing a single mom in "The Lost Boys," echoed the themes of "Liberation" in her speech.

"This is for the mamas. This is for the single mamas. This is for my single mama. You are the wild heroes. This is for the incredible army of women that surround and uplift me," she said.

"Cats: The Jellie Ball," which reimagines the 1980s classic feline musical as a celebration of queer ballroom culture, won for best direction of a musical by Zhailon Levinston and Bill Rauch.

"We honor the Black and brown trans women and gay men who were ballroom's pioneers, as well as to-

day's icons, and our cast of astonishing triple-threats, including people from their 20s to their 80s, and every decade in between," Levinston said.

Lesley Manville, an Oscar nominee for "Phantom Thread," won best lead actress in a play, making her Broadway debut in a modern retelling of Sophocles' classic tragedy "Oedipus."

Pink, the Tony's host, started the show spinning and then dangling uncomfortably from a harness over the stage, dressed like Peter Pan. Former host Neil Patrick Harris stepped in to suggest the first-time host just be herself.

"You're Pink, Pink. You can do anything," he told her.

After lifting Harris off the stage with her legs, Pink relented to his suggestion, added a top hat and belted out "Lady Marmalade" with contributions from dozens of performers including Lea Michele and Megan Thee Stallion - and some 170 performers.

In her opening remarks, Pink, who has not yet gotten a Broadway credit, called herself theater's second-biggest fan after her teenage daughter, Willow. "I'm not here just to steal peoples' wigs, although I will be doing that. I'm here to celebrate the hardest-working people in show business," she said.

"Schmigadoon!" and "Death of a Salesman" each went into the main telecast with a lead of three Tonys after a pre-show on Pluto TV hosted by Laura Benanti and Tituss Burgess that announced the more technical awards. Queen Jean became the first openly trans Tony winner ever for making the costumes for "Cats: The Jellie Ball."

After the big opening number, Pink was generally a genial, exuberant figure, popping up in new outfits for a few self-deprecating bits, but then roaring to life when leading a very convincing "All That Jazz" as "Chicago" celebrated its 30th anniversary, with the pop singer nailing the Bob Fosse-inspired choreography.

The In Memoriam section was led by Leslie Odom Jr. singing a powerful "Without You" from "Rent," honoring such lost figures as actors Robert Duvall, Robert Redford and Diane Keaton, as well as playwright Tom Stoppard. Rachel Zegler then stunned with a version of "What I Did For Love" from "A Chorus Line," which last year celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Other performances included the original lead cast members of "The Book of Mormon" - Josh Gad, Andrew Rannells, Rory O'Malley and Nikki M. James - reuniting to celebrate its 15th anniversary.



Bess Wohl, center, accepts the award for best play for 'Liberation' during the 79th Tony Awards on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at Radio City Music Hall in New York. (AP)

## Culture

CAP exhibition links a 3,600-year-old tradition to the spirit of the 2026 FIFA World Cup

## Mexico brings ancient Mesoamerican Ballgame heritage to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The Embassy of Mexico in Kuwait, in cooperation with the Contemporary Art Platform (CAP), inaugurated a photographic exhibition titled "Sacred Court: The Mesoamerican Ballgame" by renowned Mexican photographer Javier Hinojosa, offering visitors a glimpse into one of humanity's oldest sporting traditions ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Speaking at the opening ceremony on Sunday at CAP, Mexico's Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Eduardo Patricio Peña Haller, welcomed guests and expressed appreciation for CAP's support in hosting the exhibition.

The ambassador highlighted the significance of the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup, which will kick off on June 11 and be jointly hosted by Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Describing it as the largest edition in the tournament's history, he noted that 48 national teams will compete in 104 matches across 16 host cities over 39 days.

Against this backdrop, the exhibition presents 25 photographs by Hinojosa, whose work explores the archaeological and cultural legacy of the Mesoamerican Ballgame. Through his masterful use of light, shadow, and landscape, Hinojosa captures the enduring spirit of a tradition that dates back more than 3,600 years.

The ambassador explained that the Mesoamerican Ballgame, considered the oldest ball sport in human history, was practiced throughout central and south-eastern Mexico and parts of Central America by civilizations including the Olmecs, Maya, and Aztecs. Archaeological evidence traces its origins to around 1650 BCE.

The game was played on specially designed courts shaped like the letter "I" or a double "T," with sloping side walls that helped keep the ball in motion. Players were allowed to strike the ball only with their hips, elbows, knees, forearms, and thighs. The rubber ball, made from natural vulcanized latex, weighed between one and four kilograms and had a circumference similar to that of a modern football.

Matches were typically contested between teams of two to four players who wore thick leather belts to protect themselves from the force of the ball.

Ambassador Peña Haller emphasized that the ballgame was much more than a sporting event. It carried deep religious, political, and social significance, symbolizing the struggle between light and darkness and the cycle of life, death, and rebirth. In many cases, it served as a peaceful mechanism for resolving territorial disputes, trade disagreements, and conflicts between communities, offering an alternative to warfare.

Scientists and historians, he noted, view the game as an early form of conflict resolution that helped maintain stability among neighboring societies.

The ambassador also pointed out that the sport was played recreationally by children and, in some cases, women. More than 1,300 ballcourts have been discovered across Mesoamerica, stretching from present-day Arizona in the United States to Nicaragua in Central America. These venues often doubled as public spaces for festivals, ceremonies, and musical performances.

Among the exhibition's historical highlights is the



H.E. Eduardo Patricio Peña Haller, Mexico's Ambassador to Kuwait, speaking at the opening ceremony.



Dignitaries and guests at the opening of the 'Sacred Court: The Mesoamerican Ballgame' exhibition at CAP.



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq  
A carved stone disc depicting a player in the ancient Mesoamerican Ballgame.

story of Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés, who in 1528 sent a group of Mesoamerican ballplayers to Spain to demonstrate the game before Emperor Charles V. Europeans were reportedly fascinated not only by the players but also by the remarkable bouncing rubber balls they used.

Although the practice was largely prohibited after the Spanish conquest because of its association with indigenous religious rituals, the ambassador noted that the tradition survived. Today, teams continue to play versions of the ancient game in several regions of Mexico as well as in countries such as Belize and Guatemala.

The exhibition will remain on display at CAP, offering visitors an opportunity to explore the rich cultural heritage of Mexico and the historical roots of one of the world's earliest ball sports.



Top & above: Photographic exhibition reveals the enduring legacy of Mesoamerican civilizations.

## City unveils new experiences and partnerships to boost inbound travel

## Beijing pushes immersive tourism at global conference

BEIJING, June 8, (BUSINESS WIRE): From June 1-6, 2026, the 2026 Beijing Inbound Tourism Development Conference was held in Beijing, co-organized by the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Culture and Tourism and the Bureau of International Exchange and Cooperation of China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Focusing on immersive experiences and real-world tourism resources, the event aims to enhance Beijing's inbound tourism offerings, stimulate cultural and tourism consumption, and strengthen the city's global appeal.

Supported by major airlines including Air China and Cathay Pacific, the conference welcomed more than 300 travel trade professionals from over 40 countries and regions, including the UK, US, Canada, Germany, Singapore, Malaysia, and Russia. Officials highlighted China's strong inbound tourism performance in 2025, with 154.5 million inbound visits, 35.17 million international arrivals, and over 30 million visa-free entries.

Beijing continues to improve travel convenience through the 240-hour visa-free transit policy, streamlined airport procedures, and broader acceptance of international payment methods. The city is also expanding sectors such as MICE, sports tourism, and urban leisure tourism while strengthening overseas promotion through its "Go Beijing" platform.

Centered on the theme of immersive Chinese daily-life experiences, the conference launched the "Discover the New Beijing" Top 10 In-

bound Tourism Experiences, showcasing Beijing's blend of traditional culture, local lifestyle, innovative retail, and technological advancement. In partnership with Booking.com, Tripadvisor, and more than 100 tourism experts, Beijing also introduced its first inbound tourism "Must-Eat" and "Must-Buy" lists, encouraging deeper cultural engagement beyond traditional sightseeing.

During the event, Beijing announced RMB 9 million in funding to support inbound tourism development and recognized outstanding local tourism enterprises. The city also welcomed 14 new overseas partners, bringing its global network of strategic tourism and OTA partners to 110.

Eight immersive inspection routes were introduced, connecting destinations such as Gubei Water Town, Huairou boutique homestays, Baidu's autonomous driving showcase, and Shougang's digital culture park. International delegates praised experiences including smart exoskeleton-assisted Great Wall tours and the integration of rural landscapes with Beijing's historic heritage.

The conference also facilitated over 3,000 pre-arranged business meetings through its digital matchmaking platform. Concluding with a Beijing-style immersive performance at Tianqiao Performing Arts Center, the event reaffirmed Beijing's commitment to showcasing a vibrant, innovative, and globally connected modern Chinese capital.



2026 Beijing Inbound Tourism Development Conference Kicks off, Unveiling 10 New Inbound Tourism Experiences to Boost Cultural and Tourism Consumption. (BUSINESS WIRE)

## Egypt reclaims four rare ancient artifacts from US

CAIRO, June 8, (KUNA): Egypt announced on Friday the return of four rare Egyptian artifacts from the United States dating back to some different historical eras of ancient Egyptian civilization.

In a statement, Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the step came in line with ongoing efforts made by Egypt to recover its artifacts which have been illegally

transported outside.

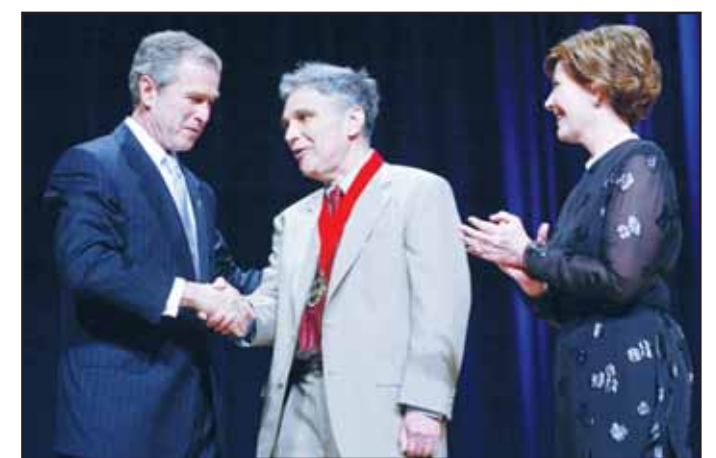
This reflects the distinguished relations between Egypt and the United States and their close cooperation in promoting respect for humanity's cultural heritage and its value, it added.

It noted that among the most prominent artifacts recovered was a granite statue head depicting a royal headdress, dating back to the 18th Dynasty of the modern state.



Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo  
Four rare artifacts, including royal 18th-Dynasty statue, returned to Egypt.

## Obituary



President Bush, left, shakes hands with Robert Coles, center, a child psychologist, researcher and professor of psychiatry from Cambridge, Mass., as first lady Laura Bush looks on during the National Endowment for the Arts Awards ceremony at Constitution Hall, April 22, 2002, in Washington. (AP)

## Crayons and compassion

## Robert Coles, Pulitzer-winning 'Children of Crisis' author, dies

NEW YORK, June 8, (AP): Harvard University professor Robert Coles, the psychiatrist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author who championed the cause of children grappling with poverty and segregation, has died at 97, his son said Sunday.

The son, also named Robert Coles, told The Associated Press that his father died Thursday at a hospice center in Lincoln, Massachusetts.

The elder Coles was famed for documenting the needs of children, particularly those caught in the crucible of social upheaval. The second and third parts of his five-volume "Children of Crisis" won him a Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for general nonfiction.

In a 1965 Washington Post essay, he wrote that, expecting to find many psychiatric problems among the children of poverty, that instead "I was constantly surprised at the endurance shown by children we would all call poor or, in the current fashion, 'culturally disadvantaged.'"

"What enabled such children from such families to survive emotionally and educationally oracles I feel sure many white middle-class boys and girls

would find impossible?"

He would visit the same families repeatedly in order to get to know them well, and brought along crayons to allow the children he studied to draw pictures about their experiences and perceptions.

He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998. He also was one of the first recipients of a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant." In 1999, a panel of judges ranked "Children of Crisis" as No. 44 on its list of the century's 100 best English-language works of nonfiction.

The "Children of Crisis" books came out from 1967 to 1978. His first book focused on the effects of desegregation on children. The second looked at life among migrant workers, sharecroppers and others dwelling in mountain areas.

He subtitled the third volume "The South Goes North" as it focused on both Black and white Southerners who moved into urban areas in the North. The fourth looked at children of Native American origin, as well as Alaska Natives and Hispanic children. A fifth volume examined children of wealth and privilege.

## HEALTH/SCIENCE

## Sudden slashes to solar incentives make it harder to go green

WASHINGTON, June 8, (AP) — Larry Veray had a plan to bring cheaper, cleaner energy to his townhome complex in Pearl City at no cost to residents.

As president of the Waiiau Gardens Kai B homeowners' association, Veray prides himself on keeping association fees low while building reserve funds, and he wasn't about to ask homeowners to bear the cost of outfitting the complex with solar panels and battery storage units.

Instead, Veray found a way to save the planet and cut electricity costs for homeowners without asking them to pay more.

But Waiiau Gardens Kai's seemingly perfect deal came crashing down on May 8, the last day of the legislative session. Lawmakers put a \$40 million cap on the state's solar energy tax credit program, which normally awards about \$100 million

annually. Making matters worse, the cap is retroactive to 2026, meaning projects that got underway with the promise of a tax credit to make things pencil out face uncertainty.

"What the state did was basically shoot the project in the head," Veray says.

The solar energy industry is now rallying to save large commercial and industrial projects like the one proposed for Waiiau Gardens Kai and hundreds of others like it. The industry's trade group has called for a special session so lawmakers can fix at least the part of the bill that makes it retroactive to 2026.

Cuts to the solar tax credits fly in the face of Hawai'i state law, which requires all of the electricity sold in the state to be produced with renewable resources by 2045. Gov. Josh Green has promised to do something, but administration officials

said it's too early to say exactly what.

Rocky Mould, executive director of the Hawai'i State Energy Association, said he's encouraged by Green's promise to help. But he said investors need answers soon.

"We need a clear assurance to the market that the tax credits will be there for projects that already started this year," he said. "We're in an emergency, and we need help."

Officially called the Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit, the solar tax credit lets taxpayers subtract 35% of the cost of a solar system from their income tax bills. It includes large solar systems for commercial and industrial facilities, like shopping centers and warehouses that produce the electricity, but not the so-called utility-scale solar farms that produce electricity and sell it to Hawaiian Electric Co.



Cars are parked in front of Waiiau Gardens Kai townhomes in Pearl City, Hawaii on May 27. (AP)

## Earth system a vast web of intertwined processes

## Understanding weather, climate risks depends on supercomputers like NCAR's

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

By Antonios Mamelakis  
University of Virginia

Have you ever stopped to wonder how forecasters can predict the weather days in advance, or how scientists figure out how the climate might evolve under different policies?

The Earth system is a vast web of intertwined processes, from microscopic chemical reactions to towering storms. Ocean currents circulating deep in the Atlantic, forests exchanging carbon with the atmosphere, and humans altering the composition of the air all have effects that ripple through the system. These processes are governed by physical laws, such as conservation of mass, energy and momentum.

All of this plays out on such a large scale that no single human mind can truly grasp it in full. And yet, the system is so sensitive that a small perturbation, given enough time, can steer its trajectory in a dramatically different direction. This sensitivity is called "chaos," also known as the "butterfly effect." The planet is, at once, immense and delicate.

Despite this complexity and scale, scientists are able to simulate and anticipate how the climate will change.

How is this even possible? Behind the long-term climate projections that affect our lives sits one of the most remarkable scientific achievements of the modern era: climate models that run on supercomputers.

I am a climate data scientist. My colleagues and I try to understand extreme weather and long-term climate risks by using virtual versions of Earth inside these machines.

Here is the simplest way to picture a climate model:

Imagine dividing the entire planet into 3D boxes. At the surface, each box might represent an area 50 to 100 kilometers across. Then we stack boxes upward into the atmosphere and downward into the oceans to create a 3D grid wrapping around the globe.

Each box contains numbers: temperature, wind speed, humidity, sea ice thickness, soil moisture and hundreds of other variables. The model contains mathematical expressions that describe how these variables influence one another:

how heat moves, how air rises and sinks, how moisture condenses into clouds, how the ocean absorbs and redistributes energy.

We then let the model march forward in time, solving the math and updating every variable in every box. Then again. And again.

Now scale that up. Millions of grid boxes. Hundreds of variables per box. Calculations carried out millions of times to simulate decades or even centuries.

And because the system is chaotic, we do not run the model just once. We run it many times with slightly different initial conditions - what scientists call an ensemble - to make sure the result is in fact a true system response to the considered scenario, such as warming temperatures due to increased emissions, and not an effect of chaos.

The result is an astronomical number of calculations. Performing them requires computers capable of executing quadrillions of operations per second - what are known as petaflop-scale supercomputers. A petaflop equals 1 quadrillion - 1,000,000,000,000,000 - calculations per second!

These simulations inform decisions that affect everyday life: how high to elevate homes in flood-prone areas, how to design power grids resilient to prolonged heat waves, how to manage water resources during drought.

Urban planners, engineers, emergency managers and policymakers all rely on information derived from these models.

Dozens of major climate models have been developed around the world by universities, national laboratories and government agencies. Each modeling center builds its own code, makes its own physical assumptions, chooses its own grid resolution and operates its own supercomputing systems. Through international efforts such as the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project, modeling centers agree on common experiments: the same greenhouse gas scenarios and the same volcanic eruptions, for example.

When you hear that extreme rainfall is projected to intensify in a warmer world, or that the Arctic Ocean could become seasonally ice-free within decades, those conclusions are not the result of calculations carried out by a single scientist, a single team of scientists, or even a single model run. They emerge from dozens of independently developed models, run on room-sized supercomputers, under pre-agreed and carefully coordinated experiments.

This global collaboration is one of the reasons scientists know so much about climate change. These shared simulations allow scientists around the

world to test hypotheses and explore future risks based on models' consensus.

It is no surprise that the 2021 Nobel Prize in physics recognized pioneers of climate modeling. These models fundamentally transformed humanity's ability to understand a complex planet.

There is no alternative way to answer "what if" questions about the future climate system. What happens if carbon dioxide doubles? What if emissions decline rapidly? What if a major volcanic eruption injects aerosols into the stratosphere? Because the climate system is so complex, and forces can push it outside the range of historical experience, the past is no longer a reliable guide to the future. So statistical models aren't enough.

Artificial intelligence cannot replace this foundation either. AI has made impressive progress in short-term weather prediction, learning patterns from vast historical datasets, and producing forecasts with remarkable speed.

But climate projections require extrapolating to conditions the planet has not experienced in modern history - such as higher greenhouse gas concentrations. AI can accelerate simulations and analyze massive amounts of data today, but it cannot replace solving the physical equations that govern the system.

In the United States, major climate modeling efforts have been supported by national laboratories and federal centers, including NASA and the National Center for Atmospheric Research, or NCAR, along with a few research universities.

At NCAR, scientists developed the Community Earth System Model, a comprehensive climate model that's arguably one of the best models to date and is used by researchers across the country and around the world to study climate change, severe weather, climate effects on wildfires, and atmospheric patterns. It has helped position the United States at the forefront of climate science and enabled the global research community to tackle some of the most pressing challenges of our time.

Running large ensembles with this model requires powerful hardware, data storage systems capable of handling petabytes of output, and engineers who keep these systems operational. This is not a matter of downloading and running a program on a laptop. It is a national-scale scientific enterprise that makes NCAR and its supercomputer essential.

In a warming climate, the stakes are high. The ability to simulate the Earth system at scale is one of the most powerful tools humanity has to prepare for the risks ahead. (AP)



A nurse checks the temperature of a premature baby inside a temperature-controlled incubator at the regional perinatal center of Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine on May 6. (AP)

## Ukrainian mothers see rising number of complications with their pregnancies

ZAPORIZHZHIA, Ukraine, June 8, (AP) — Ukraine is seeing a rising number of premature births, emergency cesarean sections and other pregnancy complications.

Some areas near the front lines have seen rates of premature births nearly double since the war started with Russia's invasion in 2022, according to UN data. Experts say the reasons for this are complex, but the profound psychological and physical stress the war is inflicting on pregnant mothers is contributing.

"We're seeing this real link between acute stress and birthing and pregnancy-related complications," said Isaac Hurskin, a spokesperson for the UN Population Fund.

When Marharyta Nekhoroshyva first saw her newborn son, she was gripped by fear. Born after just 26 weeks of pregnancy, he weighed only 940 grams (2 pounds) and wore diapers no larger than the palm of an adult hand.

"The doctors told me that if he survived the first three days, everything would be OK," she said, tears filling her eyes. "I don't believe in God, but I was praying."

Now 9 months old, Mark is energetic and lively, but he has chronic breathing problems and requires frequent hospital stays.

Nekhoroshyva must navigate her son's illness while living under the

constant threat of attack in the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, where hospitals board up their windows because blast waves from Russian strikes routinely shatter glass. She is doing it alone while her husband fights in the war.

A rising number of babies are being born prematurely - before 37 weeks of pregnancy - in Ukraine, particularly in regions near the front lines, where some areas have seen rates nearly double since the conflict started with Russia's invasion in 2022.

Experts say the reasons for premature births are complex, but the profound psychological and physical stress the war is inflicting on pregnant mothers is contributing. The delicate work of keeping the fragile newborns alive is made only more difficult by the conflict.

When their babies are at the main children's hospital in Zaporizhzhia, Nekhoroshyva and other mothers descend with their children into the shelter each night. In the narrow, dimly lit hallways, they rock and soothe their infants to sleep.

While fewer women in Ukraine are giving birth overall due to displacement, emigration and other factors during the war, a growing share of births are premature, according to data from the United Nations and recent scientific studies.

In the southern region of Kherson,

the preterm birth rate nearly doubled from 5.4% in 2019 to 9.8% in 2025, according to the U.N. In the Zaporizhzhia region, also in the south, it rose from 5.7% in 2019 to 7.6% in 2025. In Poltava, a region in north-eastern Ukraine, the rate rose from 7.7% to 9.8% over the same period.

The front line cuts through both the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, which frequently see attacks on residential areas. Poltava is some distance away from the front but is frequently hit by aerial strikes.

The link between maternal stress and premature birth is complex, but a growing body of research suggests that prolonged psychological strain increases the risk of babies being born early, experts say. It may be tied to an increased risk of infection, a known trigger for preterm labor, said Dr. Andrew Weeks, a professor of international maternal healthcare at the University of Liverpool.

"Premature birth is very affected by infection," he said. "And if you can't get to a place where you can get appropriate diagnosis and treatment early, then actually the chance of you going into premature labor is higher."

It's not just premature births that are rising in Ukraine; emergency cesarean sections and other complications are, too, said Isaac Hurskin, spokesperson for the U.N. Population Fund.

## In Iowa, water pollution a health threat that also disrupts summer fun

MANCHESTER, Iowa, June 8, (AP) — Hannah Ray J Childs propelled her kayak into a rapid on Iowa's Maquoketa River on a recent afternoon and dipped her paddle in the water to swing the front of her boat into the air.

She loves to spend her days performing whitewater kayaking acrobatics that dunk her body in the water and give her the "feeling of flying," she said. The water is where she found community - she even first spotted her husband when he was flipping his kayak in violent water. He in turn taught her how.

But she has also gotten sick from the water and now wears nose and ear plugs to minimize risk. Many others question why she spends so much time on the water.

"People's first response when I tell them that I like to kayak and be upside down in the river," Childs said, "is, 'Ew, that's disgusting. Why would you do that?'"

Iowa is a particularly stark example of the Midwest's broader struggle with water pollution. The state is among the top producers of corn, soybeans and hogs, and it boasts a dense network of streams and rivers. Fertilizer and manure on those farms contain nitrates and phosphorus that drain into those waters, making Iowa among the leading contributors to an aquatic dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. Last summer its biggest city imposed water restrictions as it struggled to remove the harmful nitrates from tap water.

Water pollution has been a stubborn problem here for decades, affecting not only public health but also people's ability to enjoy the water in the summer.

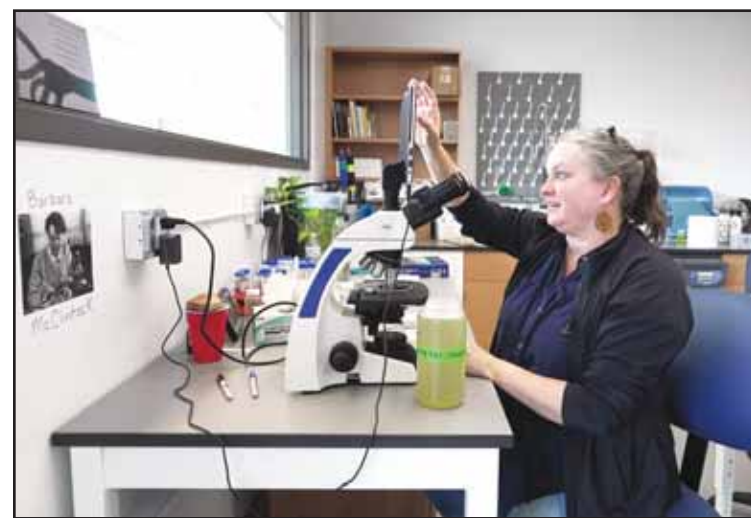
Algal blooms can create dangerous conditions at beaches, and soil runoff can make the water just feel gross. Bacteria, sometimes from human sewage, keeps teenagers out of streams. More than half the sections of rivers, streams and lakes the state tracked in 2024 did not meet state standards for swimming, drinking or aquatic life.

The state has relied on voluntary actions and incentives - not mandates - to reduce nitrate and phosphorus runoff, but it remains far short of its goal. Recently environmental groups sued the Trump administration, alleging that it improperly reversed a Biden-era requirement for Iowa to address nitrate pollution in sections of several rivers.

There has been investment and some improvement. In May, Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds promoted a \$320 million package for water in-



Hannah Ray J Childs kayaks at a whitewater park she helped create on the Maquoketa River on May 7, 2026, in Manchester, Iowa. (AP)



Drake University professor Claire Hruby looks at cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, under a microscope on May 6, in Des Moines, Iowa. (AP)

frastructure and other projects, adding to the nearly \$100 million annually that the state allocates to the problem. Phosphorus has diminished some. Better practices such as cover crops, reduced or no tillage to protect the soil and on-farm installations to reduce runoff have substantially increased in recent years.

Though landlocked, Iowa's identity is shaped by waterways including the Missouri and Mississippi rivers that form some of its borders. There are beautiful lake-side beaches and excellent trout fishing. Waters are among its few natural spaces.

Childs learned to love the Maquoketa River growing up on a nearby corn and hog farm. She remembers paddling to find fishing holes with her brothers and exploring streams with friends.

She now volunteers to test the river for chemicals and championed a whitewater park in Manchester, her northeast Iowa hometown, to help others enjoy the water.

"If we don't get people invested in their local river, their local community, how are we ever going to ask them to take care of it?" she said.

Mary Swander, a 75-year-old theater director and former state poet laureate, fondly remembers learning to canoe and swim outdoors while growing up near the water. Summer was for splashing around. Winter, ice skating.

"I had a little group of friends and we played hooky once, and we all got our swimsuits and drove over to Lake MacBride and spent the whole day in the lake, in the water, swimming, and we had a whole picnic," she said.

# Nelly wins US Women's Open for 2nd straight major

Poston earns biggest win of his career at Memorial

LOS ANGELES, June 8, (AP): Nelly Korda won the 81st U.S. Women's Open on Sunday for her second consecutive major victory, holding off Charley Hull and Gaby Lopez by one shot when her final 2 1/2-foot par putt curled perilously around the cup and finally dropped in.

Korda's first U.S. Open win is the fourth major victory of her career, and she claimed it with a steady 2-under 69 in the final round - but only after her second putt on the 18th green caught the left edge and toured half the circumference of the hole before dropping.

The top-ranked Korda put her hand over her open mouth in disbelief before finally laughing at her last shot. She finished at 8-under 276 after sharing the lead with multiple competitors throughout the windy finale of the first Women's Open ever held at 100-year-old Riviera.

J.T. Poston built a four-shot lead Sunday morning in the rain-delayed Memorial and won the biggest tournament of his career. It just turned out to be a lot more work than he would have imagined.

Poston, who lost his lead after 12 holes, made a 7-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to salvage an even-par 72



J.T. Poston celebrates after winning the Memorial golf tournament, Sunday in Dublin, Ohio. (AP)

and force a playoff with Ryan Gerard, and then won on the second extra hole when Gerard missed a 6-foot par putt.

Gerard made a 40-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole to briefly take the lead, closed with a 68 and didn't really make a mistake over the final four holes until the final putt.

So ended the longest day for both of them - 33 holes, including 13 in the morning to complete the third round and two playoff holes.

Tyrell Hatton had two late birdies to hold off Jon Rahm and close with a 1-under 71, giving him a two-shot

victory in LIV Golf Andalucia for his second title in the league.

Hatton's other victory came in 2024 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Rahm closed with a 67 to finish alone in second and keep his place atop the points standings on LIV Golf, which now is off for nearly two months.

Abraham Ancer (68) finished third, while Sergio Garcia played the back nine with one bogey and no birdies for a 70 to finish fourth.

Eugenio Chacarra of Spain won his second European tour event in as many years when his two-putt birdie on the final hole gave him a 1-under 70 and a one-shot victory in the KLM Open.

Chacarra, who began his career with LIV Golf when he left Oklahoma State as the No. 2 amateur in the world, also won the Hero Indian Open last year.

Darren Clarke and Ben Crane held on with two closing pars for a 4-under 67 in fourballs to win the American Family Insurance Championship by one shot over Kenny Perry and George McNeil in the lone team event on the PGA Tour Champions.

That makes two straight victories for Clarke in the team tournament, having partnered with Thomas Bjorn to win last year. Crane is in his first year on the 50-and-older circuit and gets credit for his first Champions win.

Ben Kohles won the BMW Charity Pro-Am on Sunday for his fifth career Korn Ferry Tour victory, closing with an even-par 71 for a four-stroke margin.



Nelly Korda holds up the trophy after winning the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles. (AP)

Cole shot a 64 on Saturday to take a six-stroke lead. He finished at 15-under 268. Logan McAllister was second after a 68.

Hiroshi Iwata closed with a 2-under 69 and made birdie on the first playoff hole against Naoyuki Kataoka and Taichi Kho to win the BMW Japan Golf Tour Championship. It was the eighth career Japan Golf Tour title for the 45-year-old Iwata.

Charlie Lindh of Sweden won his first Asian Tour title when he made eagle on the final hole for an 8-under 64 and a four-shot victory in the Am Green IGPL Gharath Classic in Morocco.

Matthew Southgate closed with a 9-under 62 for an eight-shot victory in the Swiss Challenge, the first Challenge Tour title for the 37-year-old Englishman who overcame testicular cancer more than a decade ago.

Caitlyn Macnab won the Waterfall City Tournament of Champions on the Sunshine Tour with a 3-under 69, one shot ahead of Luis Carrera of Mexico.

Rin Yoshida held on with a 1-under 71 for a two-shot victory in the Yonex Ladies Golf Tournament on the Japan LPGA.

Kyrim Seo closed with a 4-under 68 for a one-shot victory in the Celltrion Queens Masters on the Korea LPGA.



Participants and officials at the 6th Arab Veterans Tennis Championship in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, assembled for a group photograph.

Event showcases sportsmanship & Arab unity

## Kuwait Airways sponsors sixth Arab Veterans Tennis Champ'ship in Egypt

KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The sixth Arab Veterans Tennis Championship officially got underway in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, with the event being organized by the Arab Tennis Federation, headed by Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber, in cooperation with the Egyptian Tennis Federation and under the sponsorship of Kuwait Airways.

The tournament has attracted 60 players from 11 Arab nations, including Kuwait, highlighting the growing popularity of veterans' tennis across the region.

Arab Tennis Federation Secretary-General Ali Al-Mutairi expressed his satisfaction with the strong participation in this year's edition, describing the championship as an important sporting and social gathering that reinforces the spirit of friendship and competition among Arab tennis players.

Speaking during the tournament draw ceremony, Al-Mutairi emphasized the federation's commitment to veterans' competitions, noting their significant sporting and social value.

He praised the Egyptian Tennis Federation for its excellent preparations and organization, expressing confidence that the event will achieve outstanding technical and organizational success.

Al-Mutairi also stressed the federation's determination to maintain its competition calendar despite regional challenges, adding that the strong turnout of players reflects the trust and cooperation shared among member federations and

participants. He reaffirmed the Arab Tennis Federation's dedication to developing all its competitions, including veterans, age-group, and elite events, while extending appreciation to Kuwait Airways for its sponsorship and to the Egyptian Tennis Federation for hosting and organizing the championship.

Meanwhile, Walid Sami, Secretary-General of both the Arab and Egyptian Tennis Federations, welcomed the participating delegations, saying Egypt's hosting of the championship demonstrates the confidence it enjoys within the Arab tennis family. He added that all arrangements have been completed according to the highest standards to ensure a successful and memorable tournament.

## Jones and Wallace complete podium

# Hamlin goes back to front again to win NASCAR race at Michigan

BROOKLYN, Mich., June 8, (AP): Denny Hamlin went from the rear to first again, winning at Michigan International Speedway to earn his second consecutive NASCAR Cup Series victory.

Just like last week's win at Nashville Superspeedway, when the Joe Gibbs Racing car started on the pole position but was penalized for jumping the start, Hamlin qualified first at Michigan but dropped to the back at the green flag because of a penalty for unapproved adjustments to his No. 11 Toyota.

Hamlin patiently worked his way to the front over 400 miles. He took the lead for good on a three-wide pass during a restart with 38 laps remaining, sweeping into first around Spire Racing teammates Daniel Suarez and Carson Hocevar, a home-state favorite.

It's the 63rd career victory for Hamlin, tying the late Kyle Busch for ninth on NASCAR's all-time win list. "Great job, guys," Hamlin radioed his crew. "Great car. Unbelievable. We love you, KB."

Erik Jones (another Michigan native) finished second, followed by Bubba Wallace, Kyle Larson and Hocevar.

The race was stopped with 51 laps remaining to repair a damaged SAFER barrier after a hard crash involving Christopher Bell and Chase Elliott.

During a restart on the 148th lap, the drivers were running side by side for second. Elliott's No. 9 Chevrolet bobbed and skidded over the track into Bell's No. 20 Toyota, which shot into the outside wall at the 2-mile oval where speeds top 200 mph.

The impact with Bell's Camry severely deformed the SAFER barrier, which is comprised of steel and foam to absorb energy in wrecks. A red flag was displayed for 20 minutes to fix the damaged section of the barrier.

Both drivers climbed from their cars and walked to an ambulance for a trip to the track's infield care center. Elliott patted Bell on the shoulder and apologized for the wreck before they entered the ambulance.

"I'm fine; it was totally my fault," Elliott said. "I feel really bad for Bell, just taking him out. I was trying to run on the bottom and make use of our fresh tires and at least get to second and hopefully stay side by side with him. I



Denny Hamlin celebrates winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich. (AP)

got in there and got free and thought I was going to spin and was committing to spin out, and as soon as I started to commit to spinning, it just hooked up and hooked a right. Unfortunately, it sent Christopher into the wall super hard, and then me shortly there behind.

"Just racing really hard. I felt like that was kind of a turning point in the race. We needed to make something happen. I stepped over the line again and paid for it. ... I just told him I'm sorry. Obviously, it was not on purpose."

A nightmarish debut season in the Cup Series continued for Connor Zilisch, who crashed twice in the first eight laps and finished last in the 37-car field. The Trackhouse Racing driver has finished outside the top 30 the past three races and is still seeking the first top 10 of his rookie campaign.

"I was really loose, but it's just unfortunate," Zilisch said. "Another short race for us. We'll go try and get them at Pocono next week."

NASCAR will make its lone trip this season to Pocono Raceway on June 14. Chase Briscoe won last year to earn his first victory with Joe Gibbs Racing.

## Italian chief backs Sinner to reach next level

# Zverev says pressure is finally off after first Grand Slam win

PARIS, June 8, (AP): The pressure is finally off Alexander Zverev, who played more matches at majors than anyone in the professional era - 125 to be exact - before he won a Grand Slam title.

After raising the French Open trophy, he no longer has to deal with being called "the best player never to win a major title."

Now, Zverev feels, more Grand Slam titles are a possibility.

"It happened for me very early at the Masters Series because I won one when I was 20 years old, and I've won a lot of Masters after that," said Zverev, who has won seven Masters 1000s - the tournaments just below the Grand Slams in terms of importance. "So I had that release at a Masters-level event very quickly, and at a Grand Slam it took longer."

"Now, no matter what happens, I will always be a Grand Slam champion, and nobody can take that away

from me," Zverev added. "Maybe that does give me some freedom. Maybe my mind will just be a little bit calmer when I play a final, meaning that even if I lose it, I will still be a Grand Slam champion."

Zverev won't have to wait long to find out how he plays in a major as a Grand Slam champion: Wimbledon starts in exactly three weeks.

It was at Wimbledon where Zverev made his Grand Slam debut as an 18-year-old back in 2015. In all, Zverev has played 125 matches across tennis' four majors: the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. He lost three Grand Slam finals before finally beating Flavio Cobolli in the Roland Garros championship match on Sunday.

According to statistics provider Opta, the next players in the professional era (since 1968) on the list of most Grand Slam matches before



Germany's Alexander Zverev holds the trophy after winning the final tennis match against Italy's Flavio Cobolli at the French Open in Paris. (AP)

winning a title are: Goran Ivanisevic with 105 before he won Wimbledon in 2001 and Andy Murray with

Grand Slam title, while Murray ended up with three.

At 29, Zverev potentially has many prime playing years remaining in his career.

But the main stumbling block for Zverev lately has been two guys named Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz.

Zverev has lost nine straight matches to the top-ranked Sinner and four of his last five against No. 2 Alcaraz.

Zverev took full advantage in Paris after Alcaraz had to skip the tournament due to an injured right wrist and Sinner was stunningly defeated due to physical issues amid a heat wave in the second round.

Sinner and Alcaraz had accounted for nine straight Grand Slam titles until Zverev's victory.

While Alcaraz will also miss Wimbledon, Sinner will be defending his title at the All England Club. Sinner came to Paris on a

29-match winning streak and was an overwhelming favorite for the title. But the Italian said he started feeling dizzy and "very low on energy" when he needed to win just one more game against 56th-ranked Juan Manuel Cerundolo. He ended up losing in five sets in one of the more memorable meltdowns in tennis history.

"He was winning too much; playing too much," Angelo Binaghi, the president of the Italian tennis federation, told The Associated Press. "It was just fatigue."

"He still has margins for improvement. You can still learn things like increasing your stamina or improving your serve, as he's done over the last two years. You can do that until you hit 30. So he's going to become an even stronger player," Binaghi added of Sinner, who is 24. "That's the positive aspect: He can still improve and become an Iron Man like (Rafael) Nadal and (Novak) Djokovic."

France overturned a 26-21 loss to New Zealand in the pool stage on Friday to win their final thanks to Célian Pouzelgues' try with 31 seconds left.

### Change Name

I, JANARDHANA RAJU GUNTUMADUGU, holder of Indian passport no. 55879489. Having permanent address: Krishnam Raju garipalli Yadaballi Veeraballi Kadapa Andhra Pradesh - India. Pin code: 516268. Residing in Kuwait my name will be read as under: Old Name: Given name: JANARDHANA RAJU Surname: GUNTUMADUGU NEW Name: Given name: JANARDHANA RAJU Surname: GUNTUMADUGU

### Change Name

I, TASNEEM, holder of Indian Passport No. Z4825043, residing at HUSAMI MOHALLA, PARTAPUR, TEH GARHI, BANSWARA, RAJASTHAN, hereby declare that I have added my surname "MAGAJI" to my name. Henceforth, I shall be known as "TASNEEM MAGAJI" for all purposes and records. Old Name: TASNEEM New Name: TASNEEM Surname: MAGAJI

# Australia women, South Africa men win sevens titles

BORDEAUX, France, June 8, (AP): Australia won the rugby sevens world series when it saved its best for last and beat season-long front-runner New Zealand 26-19 in the Bordeaux women's final.

The men's world championship was retained by South Africa, which clinched it after reaching the semifinals at Stade Atlantique.

The Blitzboks went no further, though, losing the semifinals to France, which

went on to win its home sevens tournament for the first time in 21 years after beating New Zealand 14-5 in the final.

Maddison Levi sustained a left knee injury in Valladolid last weekend and didn't appear for Australia in Bordeaux until the semifinals. But she made her mark in the final.

Levi scored two tries to extend her season-leading tally to 64, and was even more impressive with two try-saving tackles from behind on Katelyn Vaha'akolo.

Levi's first try gave Australia a 14-7 lead into halftime. When Vaha'akolo replied to close the gap to two, Australia hit back through Faith Nathan and Levi to secure a fifth title out of the 13 women's series. New Zealand has won all the others. The Black Ferns dominated the regular season but in the three-leg world championship decider Australia took the last two legs to edge New Zealand by four points.

"It's been our most consistent season," Levi said. "We've been in every single final. Even win or lose, we're building as a program, we're creating depth and trust. Going out there and beating a pretty amazing New Zealand side, they're always tough, so its pretty awesome to help the girls."

France overturned a 26-21 loss to New Zealand in the pool stage on Friday to win their final thanks to Célian Pouzelgues' try with 31 seconds left.

**'We want people to be able to come and enjoy this World Cup'**

## FIFA and Infantino draw bipartisan skepticism ahead of the World Cup

WASHINGTON, June 8, (AP): Dozens of mayors and other city leaders gathered in the ballroom of a Washington hotel on a snowy January morning this year gripped by anger and anxiety about the federal government's increasingly aggressive immigration enforcement operation that included the killings of two U.S. citizens in Minneapolis.

And then FIFA President Gianni Infantino took the stage. "For the first time in 250 years of history of the United States of America, well, you will not just be invaded but you will be conquered," he said as the audience at the National Conference of Mayors largely reacted with silence. "You will be conquered by soccer," he added in an attempt to land the joke and get the crowd energized about the World Cup, which will be hosted jointly by the U.S., Mexico and Canada from Thursday through July 19.

Ahead of the tournament, Infantino has successfully coaxed up to President Donald Trump, creating a peace prize that was awarded to him and frequently visiting the White House, including a stop last week, when he was photographed alongside the Republican president admiring changes outside the Oval Office.

Infantino has struggled with virtually everyone else. In a deeply polarized country, few things unite elected leaders outside the White House quite like skepticism of Infantino and FIFA, the governing body for the world's most popular sport. It's a sentiment that cuts across the divide and spans from Washington to state capitols and city halls.

There are mayors like Zohran Mamdani of New York and Karen Bass of Los Angeles, Democrats who've balked at ticket prices. Mamdani eventually secured 1,000 tickets for New Yorkers at \$50 per seat. The attorneys general in New York and New Jersey, also Democrats, started an investigation into ticket prices last month. In New Jersey, Gov. Mikie Sherrill, another Democrat, demanded help from FIFA to cover millions of dollars in transit costs before ultimately turning to new advertising revenue to help cover the gap.

Despite his ties to Infantino, even Trump has criticized World Cup ticket



FIFA President Gianni Infantino makes comments during the opening ceremony of the International Broadcast Center, in Dallas. (AP)

prices, telling The New York Post he wouldn't pay the \$1,000 prices to watch the U.S. play its opening game against Paraguay.

In an interview, Republican Sen. Todd Young of Indiana, who played Division I soccer at the U.S. Naval Academy, said FIFA has been "detached from regular people around the world."

"It really is a cabal run by elites," Young added. "They really have had problems with corruption over the years, and one really does get the sense

that they may overlook their singular mission, which is to help grow the sport, especially among young people around the world who wouldn't otherwise have the resources to access soccer."

"Every good soccer fan who loves international football wishes Infantino would be a little less in the news and more promoting the game," Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Washington, said in an interview.

A FIFA representative didn't respond to a request for comment. FIFA's skeptics said they were still enthusiastic about the 48-team tournament. Some lawmakers said Infantino was navigating a challenging political environment in the U.S.

Infantino is "doing the job he needs to do in terms of cultivating the Trump administration," said Rep. Darin LaHood, R-Ill., the chair of the Congressional Soccer Caucus.

The World Cup kicks off a series of events that are central to Trump's second term effort to burnish his image and legacy through his association with high-profile sporting events. He'll hold a UFC bout on the South Lawn of the White House this month. It all culminates with the Olympics in Los Angeles in 2028, the final year of Trump's presidency.

But the soccer tournament opens against the backdrop of an intensely divided political climate in the U.S. - with Trump at the center. Just 37% of U.S. adults approve of the way Trump is handling the presidency, according to a May poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Still, Trump is intensifying efforts to put himself in the middle of American life, particularly as the country celebrates the 250th anniversary of its independence. He has embarked on a massive renovation of Washington and plans to headline "The Great American State Fair" on June 24.

Trump plans to attend the NBA Finals between the New York Knicks and the San Antonio Spurs on Monday. As the head of state, Trump is expected at the World Cup final in July.

## Record World Cup ready to roll



Players and staff of the national soccer team of Belgium prepare to depart for the 2026 Soccer World Cup at Brussels international airport, in Zaventem, Belgium. (AP)

**WASHINGTON, June 8, (AP): This year's edition of the World Cup will be the biggest ever with an expanded field of 48 teams, three host countries, and 16 stadiums staging the record 104 matches over the 39-day tournament.**

The tournament being held in the United States, Canada, and Mexico is the first since FIFA expanded the field from 32 teams to 48, adding four more groups in the initial stage and a new round of 32 in the knockout portion.

The World Cup was last expanded for the 1998 tournament, with the last seven editions featuring 32 teams and 64 games. This also marks just the second time that the tournament will be played in multiple countries, with Japan and South Korea sharing the 2002 edition.

There will be 11 sites in the United States, with three in Mexico and two in Canada. Mexico will host 13 matches, including the opener in Mexico City on June 11 between the host team and South Africa, and three in the knockout rounds.

Canada will also have 13 matches, with the first coming between the hosts and Bosnia-Herzegovina on June 12 in Toronto and three more in the knockout round.

The remaining 78 will be in the U.S., starting when the Americans take on Paraguay on June 12 in the Los Angeles area, and including all the matches in the quarterfinals, semifinals, and the final round at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

There are a record 1,248 players on the rosters coming from 449 domestic clubs in 71 countries. There are 357 players with World Cup experience, along with 891 first-timers.

England leads the way with 200 players on rosters who are based there at the club level. Germany is second with 109, followed by France (86), Spain (86), Italy (71), and Saudi Arabia (49). Major League Soccer will be represented by a record 44 active players at the World Cup, with 103 of the players having some experience in MLS.

Manchester City of the Premier League has the most players of any club with a record of 19, followed by Bayern Munich with 18, Champions League finalists Paris Saint-Germain and Arsenal with 16, and Barcelona with 15.

Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo leads all players in the tournament with 226 caps - the most ever by a single men's player - as he is set to join Argentina's Lionel Messi as the only players to appear in six World Cups.

Ronaldo is the only player to score in five World Cups with eight goals in his 22 matches.

Messi has the most career World Cup matches with 26 and needs two appearances to become the third man with at least 200 caps (Bader Al-Mutawa, Kuwait, also has more than 200 appearances in international play). Croatia's Luka



In this file photo, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo scores his side's second goal from the penalty spot during a World Cup 2026 Group F qualifying soccer match between Hungary and Portugal at the Puskas Arena in Budapest. (AP)

Modric is three short of joining that group.

Mexico's Guillermo Ochoa is on a World Cup roster for the sixth time but didn't appear in a game in 2006 or 2010.

Miroslav Klose's record of 16 career goals for Germany could be in jeopardy in this year's edition. Messi comes into the tournament with 13 career goals, trailing only Klose, Brazilian star Ronaldo (15), and Gerd Muller (14). France's Kylian Mbappe is also in range, having scored 12 goals combined in the past two tournaments.

Only eight countries have won the World Cup, with six of those teams winning multiple titles, led by Brazil's five. The only first-time winners in the last 11 Cups came in 1998, when France won the first of its two titles, and in 2010, when Spain won it all.

Only two countries have repeated as champions: Pele led Brazil to titles in 1958 and '62, and Italy won it in 1934 and '38. Three other defending champions made it to the title game, including France four years ago, before losing to Argentina.

There have been six defending champions who failed to make it out of the group stage, including

in three of the last four editions. France made it back to the final in 2022, but Italy (2010), Spain (2014), and Germany (2018) all got eliminated before the knockout rounds.

France will try to become the third country to make it to three straight finals after winning it in 2018 and losing in 2022. West Germany lost the final in 1982 and '86 before beating Argentina in 1990. Brazil had wins in 1994 and 2002, around a title game loss to France in 1998.

Brazil is the only country to appear in all 23 editions of the World Cup, starting in 1930 in Uruguay. The Brazilians also lead all countries with 76 wins, 237 goals, and a plus-102 goal differential. Germany is next in all three categories with 21 appearances, 232 goals, and a plus-102 goal differential, including 10 appearances as West Germany before reunification.

Four countries are making their World Cup debuts with Cape Verde, Curaçao, Jordan, and Uzbekistan the newcomers this time around. That will increase the total of countries competing in the World Cup to 84 all-time.

Egypt has played seven World Cup matches without a win. The Egyptians are 0-5-2 and will try to break through starting June 15 against Belgium. The only country with more games and no wins is Honduras, with nine. Honduras didn't qualify this year.

There have been 2,720 goals scored in 964 matches in the first 22 World Cups. With the additional 40 games, the record of 172 goals in a tournament set in Qatar in 2022 should be broken. The record of 5.38 combined goals per game set in 1954 should be safe.

More than 25 years separate the oldest player from the youngest. Scotland goalkeeper Craig Gordon will be 43 years and 162 days old on the first day of the tournament, while Mexico's Gilbert Mora will be 17 years, 240 days old.

## 'Eriksen 'doing well' and expected to leave the hospital'

ODENSE, Denmark, June 8, (AP): Christian Eriksen is "in good spirits" and expected to leave the hospital soon after collapsing on the field again playing for Denmark, the national team's physician said Monday.

The 34-year-old Eriksen, who had a pacemaker fitted to support his heart after suffering a cardiac arrest during a European Championship match in 2021, clutched his chest with both hands in an off-the-ball action in the 65th minute of Denmark's international friendly against Ukraine in Odense, Denmark, on Sunday.

After dropping to the ground, Eriksen received medical attention before walking off the

field by himself, the Danish soccer federation said after the match. The midfielder underwent more tests in Odense University Hospital.

In an update provided by the federation on Monday morning, Denmark team physician Morten Boesen said: "I spoke with Christian this morning, and he is doing well."

"He is with his family and is in good spirits. The expectation is that he will be discharged soon and can return home."

Boesen said in the statement that the federation is "taking good care of the players and staff and remain in regular contact with them."

In a post on Facebook late Sunday, Danish

Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen wrote she was "sending my warmest thoughts to Christian Eriksen and to all those around him who are affected," adding that she had been relieved to hear an update on his condition after the initial shock of his latest health incident.

The game was abandoned with no further play following Eriksen's collapse after the referee conferred with staff and players from both teams.

Eriksen was fitted with an implantable cardioverter defibrillator in the months after suffering his cardiac arrest during Denmark's group game against Finland in the European Championship five years ago.

## Algeria extends Petkovic contract

### Brazil's Wesley ruled out of WCup, Ederson called up as replacement

MORRISTOWN, N.J., June 8, (AP): Brazil has made an injury replacement to its World Cup roster less than a week before its first match against Morocco, with right back Wesley out and midfielder Ederson in.

The Brazilian soccer confederation said Sunday that Wesley injured a muscle in his left thigh. He left early in the team's friendly game against Egypt on Saturday night in Cleveland, and imaging found it significant enough to knock Wesley out of the World Cup.

"Wesley is an athlete loved by the group and will always be considered part of this team that seeks the six-time world championship," the Brazilian confederation said.

Ederson, 26, is now set to join the team in the U.S. as part of the 26-player roster. Brazil opens World Cup group play on Saturday in the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Another injury situation is still ongoing with 34-year-old forward Neymar, who did not travel to Cleveland with the rest of the group. Neymar is currently sidelined because of a calf injury.

Vladimir Petkovic has signed an extension to remain as coach of the Algerian national team through July 2028, the country's soccer federation announced shortly before its departure Sunday for the United States and the start of the World Cup.

The extension comes four days after the Desert Foxes beat the Netherlands 1-0 in a friendly in Rotterdam, and just ahead of a final World Cup tune-up against Bolivia on Wednesday night.

Algeria will play its opening match at the World Cup against defending champion Argentina on June 16 at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri.

Originally from Bosnia but a longtime Swiss resident, the 62-year-old Petkovic had a long run as coach of Switzerland before a brief stint leading French club Bordeaux. Petkovic was hired by Algeria in February 2024 after it missed two World Cups, and he quickly turned the Desert Foxes into one of the top teams in Africa.

Members of the Algerian technical staff, including assistant coach Davide Morandi, goalkeeping coach Guido Nanni and head trainer Paolo Rongoni, also had their contracts extended through July 2028.

Algeria planned to practice Sunday at the Sidi Moussa National Technical Center near Algiers before departing for Kansas City later in the day. The team will make its home base at the University of Kansas in nearby Lawrence for the duration of the World Cup.

After their World Cup opener against Argentina, the Desert Foxes play Jordan on June 22 in Santa Clara, California. Their final group match is June 27 against Austria at Arrowhead Stadium, which is about an hour drive from their Lawrence training base.



Brazil's Wesley, left, and teammate Matheus Cunha train ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026, in Teresopolis, Brazil. (AP)

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Al-Adwani welcomes Al-Jalahma upon arrival at Sheikh Saad Hall for the Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship.

# Sports

## Al-Khaleej ends Kuwait Club's unbeaten streak

Al-Jalahma praises Championship organization

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, June 8: Kuwait Club fell to its first defeat of the 28th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship after losing 34-31 to Saudi Arabia's Al-Khaleej in a third-round preliminary match at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.**

The victory moved Al-Khaleej to five points from two wins and a draw, while Kuwait Club remained on four points after recording two victories and one defeat.

In other second-round results, Borgan defeated UAE side Sharjah 26-18, while Kuwait Club overcame Bahrain's Al-Najma 30-26. Al-Khaleej and Qatar's Al-Arabi shared the points in a 28-28 draw.

The tournament schedule grants all participating teams a rest day today before action resumes tomorrow with three highly anticipated encounters. Borgan will face Al-Khaleej, Kuwait Club will meet Qatar's Al-Duhail, and Sharjah will take on Al-Najma.

Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma commended the organizers of the 28th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship, which serves as a qualifier for the 2026 IHF Men's Club World Championship in Egypt and continues in Kuwait until June 17.

Al-Jalahma said Kuwait has consistently proven its ability to host major international sporting events and remains committed to providing the necessary support to ensure the success of such competitions across all sports.

He highlighted the significant progress made by Kuwaiti handball and Gulf handball in general, noting that the sport has reached an impressive competitive level. He also predicted that the championship would become even more exciting as the knockout stages approach.

The minister thanked the Kuwait Club and the organizing committee for their efforts, praising the strong fan attendance and the contributions of young volunteers who have played a key role in the event's success.

Kuwait Club President Khaled Al-Ghanem said the club's primary objective in hosting the championship is to strengthen ties among Gulf nations and bring together brothers from across the GCC in Kuwait.

Speaking during the tournament, Al-Ghanem emphasized Kuwait's long-



Kuwait Club player is held back by rivals as he makes a goal attempt during the Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship.

standing commitment to welcoming regional sporting events and providing the ideal environment for their success. He noted that the friendly atmosphere surrounding the championship reflects the close relationships shared by Gulf countries.

Al-Ghanem added that, according to Asian Handball Federation President Badr Al-Dhiyab and participating delegations, this year's edition is considered the strongest in the tournament's history due to the high standard of competition and

the quality of professional players recruited by the clubs.

He said the closely contested matches and narrow scorelines witnessed since the opening day underline the strength of the participating teams and their determination to secure the title and a place at the Club World Championship.

Al-Ghanem concluded by wishing all teams success and expressing hope that supporters would continue to enjoy the high-quality handball and competitive spirit on display throughout the tournament.

## Al-Ajmi joins Kuwait Basketball Federation board

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, June 8: The Board of Directors of the Kuwait Basketball Federation has approved the appointment of Falah Al-Ajmi as a member of the board for the remainder of the current electoral term (2023-2027), in accordance with Article (34-5) of the federation's statutes. The decision was taken during an emergency meeting, chaired by Board President Dhari Barjas.**

The appointment was approved unanimously by all members during meeting No. (21/2026).

Al-Ajmi expressed his gratitude for the confidence placed in him by the board, stressing that his new role carries significant responsibility



Falah Al-Ajmi

and requires continued institutional work, as well as stronger cooperation across the Kuwaiti basketball community. He said this approach is essential to sustaining development and achieving further success at the

Gulf, Arab, and Asian levels.

He added that key priorities in the coming period will include the development of both men's and women's national teams across all age groups, alongside greater focus on discovering and developing emerging talent as the foundation for the future of Kuwaiti basketball. He also highlighted the importance of enhancing administrative and technical structures in line with best practices and sports governance standards to further strengthen the game locally and internationally.

Al-Ajmi also praised the efforts of the federation's chairman and board members, noting that their initiatives have helped reinforce the status of Kuwaiti basketball and improve its competitiveness at regional and Arab levels.

## This is not the end: Riquelme

### Pérez re-elected Madrid president to pave way for Mourinho's return

**BARCELONA, Spain, June 8, (AP):** Florentino Pérez has earned four more years as Real Madrid's president after winning club elections.

"We are going to keep working so that Real Madrid keeps winning more titles," he told his supporters at a late night victory party soon after Real Madrid's club television channel reported Pérez had beaten challenger Enrique Riquelme.

The club is yet to make the vote count public.

Pérez's victory will pave the way for him to bring back Portuguese coach José Mourinho for a second stint at Madrid. Mourinho, who coached Madrid from 2010-2013, was featured in promotional material for Pérez during the campaign.

Pérez said he was "proud that José Mourinho, one of the best coaches in the world, is set to return."

Pérez has also said he wants to sign Liverpool center back Ibrahima Konaté and Inter Milan right back Denzel Dumfries, in addition to a pledge to bring in another major signing to be disclosed this week worth more than 150 million euros (\$173 million).

The 79-year-old Pérez ran Madrid from 2000-2006 and from 2009 until now. Under his leadership, Madrid has won seven of its record 15 European Cups.

Madrid has also been the most valuable club in the world for the last five years, according to Forbes.

Pérez, who also runs an international construction company, hadn't been challenged for Madrid's presidency by a rival candidate in over 20 years. He ran unchallenged when elections were scheduled in 2009, 2013, 2017, 2021 and 2025.



Real Madrid president Florentino Perez gives a press conference in Madrid. (AP)

That said, Pérez has had a frustrating run of late. His Super League scheme to launch a rival competition to UEFA's Champions League fell through, and Madrid has gone two seasons without winning a title despite recruiting star striker Kylian Mbappé.

Pérez has also been criticized for last year floating the idea of selling 10% of the club to private investors, a move that would break with 124 years of the member ownership model.

Riquelme congratulated Pérez and accepted the result. But he signaled that he will consider running again.

Pérez's term will run through 2030.

"For us, this is not the end, this is the beginning," Riquelme said. "Real Madrid won't spend another 20 years without holding elections."

Riquelme, a renewable energy executive, launched his candidacy

after an agitated Pérez announced elections last month during a news conference when he dared anyone to challenge him and denounced what he called a media campaign to topple him.

Despite being relatively unknown to the wider public, the 37-year-old Riquelme mounted a credible campaign after getting the backing of former Madrid players such as Raúl González, Fernando Hierro and Iker Casillas. He also promised to sign Manchester City star Erling Haaland. City and Haaland's agent dismissed the chance of him moving to Madrid this summer.

There were 98,000 club members eligible to vote. The election was held at Madrid's basketball pavilion because the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium is being used for an event by Pope Leo XIV during his weeklong visit to Spain.

## Suthar and spinners dominate

### India routs Afghanistan by innings and 300 runs



India's Manav Suthar, center, lifts the winner's trophy alongside his teammates as they celebrate after winning the lone cricket Test match against Afghanistan in New Chandigarh, India. (AP)

**NEW CHANDIGARH, India, June 8, (AP):** Debutant spinner Manav Suthar took seven wickets as India beat Afghanistan by an innings and 300 runs on day three of the one-off test.

Suthar claimed 6-33 in the first innings to help give India a mammoth 412-run lead and took 1-29 in the second to finish with 7-62.

After India enforced the follow-on, Washington Sundar took 4-36 while Kuldeep Yadav picked 3-30 as Afghanistan was bowled out for 112 runs in 35.5 overs.

India had scored 564-8 in the first innings, while Afghanistan was out for 152 earlier on day three. It was India's biggest win in tests, by innings. Only West Indies has scored a bigger win on Indian soil - it beat India by an innings and 336 runs at Kolkata in 1958.

Afghanistan had resumed Monday at 113-5 in its first innings and lost Azmatullah Omarzai - bowled by Prasad Krishna (3-37) - in the fifth over. Suthar then picked up two wickets in two overs, having Sharafuddin Ashraf (11) caught behind and bowling Rahmat Shah around his legs, completing his maiden five-wicket haul.

Suthar's 6-33 was the second-best figures for India on test debut, after Narendra Hirwani's 8-61 against West

Indies in 1988. He also became just the second Indian spinner to take a five-wicket haul in his maiden test innings after Amit Mishra's 5-71 against Australia in 2008.

Shah was Afghanistan's leading scorer with 60 off 135 balls, including nine fours and a six. It was the first test half-century for an Afghan batter against India.

Afghanistan's innings was wrapped up before lunch, with its last five wickets falling for 39.

The visitors didn't fare any better in the second innings. The openers started well - Sediqullah Atal scored 42 off 80 and put on 42 for the first wicket, before Mohammed Siraj trapped Abdul Malik (8) lbw.

Atal and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (24) added 32 before Afghanistan collapsed from 74-1 to 112 all out in 15.5 overs on either side of tea.

Yadav-Sundar ran through, sharing seven wickets, with both set batters departing before the tea break.

The lower order didn't resist at all. Rahmat Shah scored 13, with none of the other batters reaching double digits.

It is only the second test between the teams. India hosted Afghanistan's inaugural test in Bengaluru and the home side won by an innings and 262 runs.

## Best of the Rest

**Duplantis loses for 1st time in 3 years:** Swedish star Armand "Mondo" Duplantis fell to his first loss in the pole vault since 2023 at his home Diamond League event in Stockholm.

Duplantis cleared 5.80 meters - 0.51 lower than his latest world record - but failed twice at 6.00 and once at 6.05. Kurtis Marschall of Australia won with a vault of 5.90.

It was Duplantis' first outdoor event of the year. "I felt a bit unfocused today," Duplantis said in quotes on olympics.com, "and I really did not want to lose here in front of my family and fans."

"I have not lost in three years, but hats off to Kurtis today who beat me fair and square and I have no excuses." (AP)

**Federer to take part in exhibition:** Roger Federer will play in an exhibition at the U.S. Open this year, returning to the Grand Slam tournament that he is the only player to win five consecutive times.

Days before being enshrined in the International Tennis Hall of Fame, Federer will play in New York on Aug. 25. The event, titled "Roger Federer: An

Icon Returns to New York," also will include Andy Roddick, John McEnroe and Andre Agassi. It was announced Monday by the U.S. Tennis Association.

Roddick won the 2003 U.S. Open, the year before Federer started dominating the event. He won every one from 2004-08 as part of his 20 Grand Slam singles titles. (AP)

**Cadillac gets and then loses elusive 1st point:** Cadillac's team principal hailed an "incredible testament to the resolve of the team" as Formula 1's newest constructor came close to an elusive first point, only to lose it to a penalty.

Sergio Pérez finished strongly at the Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday to cross the line in 10th but was bumped down to 15th after the race when he was ruled to have false-started when the race resumed after an earlier suspension.

Pérez had a wheel outside his grid box at the restart, his second false start of the race after lining up in the wrong spot at the original race start.

"To finish 10th on the road is an incredible testament to the resolve of the team to keep fighting until the end," team principal Graeme Lowdon said in a statement. (AP)