



Lebanese Interior Minister departs Kuwait after visit

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HH Amir hosts Saudi Minister of State on official visit

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Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Saudi Minister of State and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad Al Saud and his accompanying delegation on their official visit to Kuwait on Tuesday.



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Lebanon is purified from Iranian filth and proxies

THERE is no way back for Lebanon to the era before the signing of the 'Framework Agreement' between Beirut and Tel Aviv under the auspices of Washington.

It is no longer possible to return to the civil war that Hezbollah threatens to launch, because all the sectarian groups, even those considered by the terrorist group Hezbollah to be its support base, have started to turn against it.

Today, all Arab states are striving to help Lebanon to dispose off terrorist groups, not only the Iranian-backed Hezbollah. Arab reactions are supportive of the agreement, because they consider it a window of salvation for a country that has been living through various crises since 1975 due to the intervention of foreign powers. Terrorist groups used to control Leb-

anese decision-making, leading to its isolation from its Arab neighbors and from the whole world.

Hezbollah, Iran's Lebanese proxy, is keen on instilling certain lies in the minds of the people, especially the Lebanese Shiites, to convince them that it is waging a holy war to liberate Jerusalem, in addition to repeating its senseless slogans, statements and empty speeches.

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Botox by sales rep sparks 'shutdown'

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi issued ministerial decrees on Monday ordering the closure of seven private healthcare facilities and referring a medical center to the Medical Liability Authority after serious violations of health regulations were discovered during a joint inspection campaign, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Health explained that the decrees included a medical center, a clinic, physiotherapy centers, and home healthcare service companies. One of the closed facilities was a medical center in Salmiya that was referred to the Medical Liability Authority for investigation into the violations found at the center.

The closures were based on the findings of a joint inspection campaign involving the Health Licensing Department, the Drug Inspection Department at the Ministry of Health, the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), and the

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Day by Day

In this world, there is gossip and idle talk, as well as philosophy and philosophical reflection.

It is said that money can buy a bed, but not sleep; a watch, but not time; medicine, but not health; books on ethics, but not ethics; and food, but not appetite.

O God, guide us to righteous deeds that draw us closer to You, earn Your pleasure, and help us obey You so that we are brought closer to You and we earn Your favor.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait outlines lessons from Iran attacks at RUSI confab

LONDON, June 30: Kuwait's air defense experience during months of Iranian missile and drone attacks highlights the need for stronger regional cooperation, deeper weapons stockpiles and advanced technology, Lieutenant Colonel Sabah Al-Sabah of the Kuwait Armed Forces said during a speech at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) Land Warfare Conference 2026.

Speaking about Kuwait's confrontation with what he described as Iranian raids, Al-Sabah gave an account of the first moments of the attacks on February 28, saying a warning message placed him inside the Air Defense Operations Center shortly before Iranian ballistic missiles were launched.

He said Kuwait's air defense network successfully intercepted the initial wave of missiles, describing the response as the result of years of preparation, training and investment. However, he warned that subsequent waves of attacks demonstrated the challenge posed by large-scale missile and drone warfare.

"In the first month alone, our forces engaged 354 tactical ballistic missiles and 852 one-way attack salvos designed to overwhelm sensors and ex-



Lieutenant Colonel Sabah Al-Sabah of the Kuwait Armed Forces speaks at the RUSI Land Warfare Conference 2026.

haust missile supplies," Al-Sabah said.

He identified three key lessons from the conflict, stressing that the scale of modern attacks exceeds what many countries have traditionally prepared for.

The first lesson, he said, was the growing imbalance between low-cost drones and expensive defensive missiles. While air defenses may achieve high interception rates, he warned that the long-term industrial cost of maintaining such defenses could become unsustainable.

"The tactical scoreboard can say 95 or 98 percent, but the industrial scoreboard quietly says losing," he said.

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NewsWatch

Cyber risk hits home cameras

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) emphasized on its X account the importance of regularly checking home security cameras and updating their passwords to mitigate the risk of cyberattacks, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

CITRA highlighted that hackers are exploiting new security vulnerabilities to compromise cameras and use them for unethical purposes.

It stressed the importance of adhering to security measures and keeping devices updated.

JEDDAH: Saudi Arabia's Cabinet strongly condemned on Tuesday the continued Iranian attacks targeting Kuwait, Bahrain, and the security and freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, describing them as a violation of international law and the UN Charter. According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the remarks came during the Cabinet's session held in Jeddah and chaired by King Salman bin Abdulaziz. (KUNA)

NBK Wins 5 Prestigious Awards From MEED



8 The National Bank of Kuwait wins five prestigious awards from MEED



9 ALSAYER Car Rental & Leasing opens new & advanced Al-Rai facility

India gov't updates fees for passports, consular services

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The Embassy of India in Kuwait announced that the Government of India amended the fees for issuing passports and related services, effective July 1, 2026, according to an official notice published in the Official Gazette on June 25.

In a press statement, the embassy explained that the new fees apply to all types of passport issuance and renewal services, including ordinary passports, large-page passports, passport re-issuance and replacement of damaged or lost passports, in addition to several other consular services, such as emergency travel documents, criminal record certificates, and renunciation of citizenship certificates.

The embassy urged the Indian citizens to review the revised fee schedule, which is available on its website.

The fee for issuing or renewing an ordinary 36-page passport

for adults s increased from KD23 to KD38 and the fee for expedited issuance (Tatkaal) increased from KD68 to KD76. The fee for a 60-page passport increased from KD31 to KD53 and the fee for expedited issuance increased from KD76 to KD91.

The amended fees include the issuance of replacement for lost or damaged passports. The fee for a replacement passport consisting of 36 pages increased from KD46 to KD76, while the expedited fee increased from KD91 to KD114. The fee for the replacement of a passport consisting of 60 pages increased from KD53 to KD91, while the expedited fee increased from KD98 to KD129.

The fee for issuing a new passport for children up to eight years old and for senior citizens increased from KD15 to KD26. The expedited fee for minors increased from KD61 to KD65. The fee for replacing a lost or damaged passport for this category increased from KD46 to

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



Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:17 Asr 15:26
 Sunrise .. 04:52 Maghrib .. 18:52
 Zohr 11:52 Isha 20:23

Amir, Crown Prince, Prime Minister, First Deputy PM receive Saudi Prince Turki



Amir Diwan photo
 HH the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the visiting Saudi Minister of State and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad Al Saud and his accompanying delegation.



Crown Prince Diwan photo
 HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets the Saudi guest.



PM Diwan photo
 HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the Saudi Prince.



KUNA photo
 First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah welcomes the Saudi Prince.

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, received on Tuesday, Saudi Minister of State and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad Al Saud and his accompanying delegation on their official visit to Kuwait.

Prince Turki conveyed the greetings of the Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al Saud to His Highness the Amir, wishing him continued good health and the people of Kuwait further progress and prosperity.

In return, His Highness the Amir asked the visiting minister to convey his greetings to King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, wishing them continued good health and prosperity for Saudi Arabia and its people.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Director of His Highness the Amir's Office retired Lieutenant General Jamal Al-Theyab, Undersecretary of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Abdulaziz Meshal Mubarak Al-Sabah, and Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs at the Amiri Diwan Mazen Al-Essa.

From the Saudi side, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khalid Al Saud.

Crown Prince receives Saudi Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Tuesday, Saudi Min-

ister of State and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad Al Saud and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of their official visit to Kuwait.

Prince Turki conveyed the greetings of the Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al Saud to His Highness the Crown Prince, wishing him continued good health and the people of Kuwait further progress and prosperity.

In return, His Highness the Crown Prince asked the visiting minister to convey his greetings to King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, wishing them continued good health and prosperity for Saudi Arabia and its people.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Head of the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khalid Al Saud, and senior officials



Amiri Diwan photo
 Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah sees off the Saudi Minister of State and Member of the Council of Ministers Prince Turki bin Mohammad bin Fahad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud at the airport.

PM receives Prince

His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Tuesday Saudi Minister of State and Member of the Council of Ministers Prince Turki bin Mohammad bin Fahad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of their official visit to Kuwait.

Prince Turki conveyed to His Highness the Prime Minister the greetings of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, along with their wishes for His Highness' continued good health and for Kuwait's continued progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister asked the Saudi minister to convey his greetings and appreciation to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, wishing them continued good health and Saudi Arabia further progress and prosper-

ity. The meeting was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Acting Chief of the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khalid Al-Saud.

1st Deputy PM receives Saudi Prince

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah received on Tuesday Saudi Minister of State and Member of the Council of Ministers Prince Turki bin Mohammad bin Fahad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, along with the accompanying delegation, during his official visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, and Saudi Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khalid Al-Saud.

Saudi State Minister departs Kuwait

Saudi Minister of State and Member of the Council of Ministers Prince Turki bin Mohammad bin Fahad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and his accompanying delegation departed Kuwait on Tuesday following an official visit to the country.

The Saudi minister was seen off at the airport by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah and Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah.

Focus on ailments in patients, visitors

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi on Tuesday inaugurated an awareness day at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital aimed at promoting public awareness of various diseases among patients and visitors.

Al-Awadhi told KUNA the ministry supports such initiatives for their vital role in health education, stressing that prevention remains the cornerstone of improving community health, noting that the event also strengthens direct engagement between healthcare professionals and the public.

Meanwhile, Consultant Rheumatologist and Organizing Committee Chairman Dr. Anas Al-Eidan said raising public awareness on disease prevention is an integral part of every physician's role.

He added that 21 hospital departments participated in the event, cov-



KUNA photo
 Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi talking to the hospital staff.

ering topics including hypertension, disorders and other health conditions, rheumatic diseases, neurological

Kuwait headed for industrial upraise

'Shaddadiya' offers multi-pronged options

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The infrastructure development, operation and maintenance project for Shaddadiyah Industrial Area (SIA) has been fully completed at a total cost of KD85.7 million, say reliable sources.

Sources disclosed that the objectives of this five-square-kilometer project include the provision of 300 industrial plots for chemical industries, 250 industrial plots for food industries, three industrial waste treatment plants, one sewage treatment plant, and 450 industrial plots for various activities such as

paper, textile, non-metallic minerals, wood, construction and other industries.

Sources confirmed that the project addresses the problem of limited industrial land, eases approval for industrial activities, and generates job opportunities for Kuwaitis in the industrial sector.

Sources added that the project also aims to protect the Kuwaiti environment by developing a safe system for managing industrial waste, ensuring reduced pollution levels and the reuse of treated water.

Sources said this is one of the important industrial projects in the Kuwait 2035 vision, closely monitored by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ah-

mad Al-Sabah.

Sources revealed that the project faced several major obstacles, most notably the lack of connection to main roads, and the problem of connecting it to the freshwater pipeline route and certain electrical cables.

Sources affirmed that the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) carefully selected the location of the project in Ahmedi Governorate to align with the facilities near the oil industries, a part of which will be for chemical industries.

Sources added that the country allocated 10 percent of the project area to support and develop small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in order to encourage Kuwaiti youths to be active in the industrial sector, and make sure that small businesses are not limited to small-scale enterprises like selling snacks and juices.

Other Voices

Israeli crimes against the Americans

By Ahmad alsarraf

AFTER the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1983, America intervened to maintain peace. However, the bombing of the Marine barracks, which killed 241 soldiers, forced its withdrawal from the region. During its subsequent intervention in Iraq, America lost 4,600 soldiers, while 32,000 others were wounded. There were also several cases of suicides and psychological trauma, as well as moral injuries among veterans due to their participation in warfare that contradicted moral principles.

The 2012 attack in Libya resulted in the deaths of the American ambassador, a diplomatic staff member, and two CIA contractors. If the United States does not use military force against Israel's adversaries, it imposes economic sanctions on their societies, which is another form of warfare.

The sanctions on Iraq caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of children and elderly people due to malnutrition. Madeleine Albright commented on the scale of the casualties, saying that the liberation of Iraq was worth it. The Iraqis have suffered greatly from the sanctions imposed on them at the behest or request of the Israelis.

The recent war on Iran claimed the lives of approximately 150 young girls who were killed in an elementary school during the early hours of the conflict, further tarnishing America's criminal record.

America and Americans have paid a heavy price for their support of Israel, a price paid in the form of terrorism fueled by anger and resentment.

The September 11 attacks serve as a prime example, as the planners cited America's support for Israel as a major source of their anger. Without that support, perhaps the September 11 attacks, the war in Afghanistan, the deaths of 2,400 American soldiers, the injuries of 20,000 others, the loss of two trillion U.S. dollars, the first attempt to bomb the World Trade Center, the bombings of American embassies in Africa, Richard Reid's shoe bomb attempt, the Times Square bombing attempt, and other attacks would never have occurred. These attacks stemmed



alsarraf

from U.S. support for Israel or from resentment of its actions in the region.

After what Israel has done in Gaza and Lebanon, killing at least 72,000 people and leaving vast areas uninhabitable, we should be more worried about what the future may hold.

In addition to endangering American lives, the U.S.-Israel relationship has also become a threat to American freedoms. Pro-Israel lobbying groups exploit the U.S. government as a weapon against their political opponents.

More than 30 states have banned business dealings with any entity that boycotts Israel. Even families applying for state hurricane relief had to sign a form pledging not to boycott Israel.

Israel has repeatedly disseminated intelligence claims regarding Saddam Hussein's imminent development of a nuclear bomb and possession of weapons of mass destruction in order to mislead us. Iran followed the same policy regarding its nuclear program.

Last summer, during the initial phase of the war, Netanyahu made the following claim. In the hours following the attack, he said, "We have finally learned that Iran was planning to supply terrorist proxies with nuclear weapons that it will develop in the future."

During a media briefing in mid-February 2026, Mossad informed Trump that Iran's ballistic missile capability would be neutralized within two weeks, that the Iranian population would rise up against the government, and that Kurdish forces in Iraq might cross the border into Iran. Mossad also stated that the likelihood of Iran striking military bases in neighboring countries, including American bases, was extremely low, and that Iran would not be able to close the Strait of Hormuz.

For Israel's sake, the Pentagon expended half of its global stockpile of Patriot missiles, reportedly four times the number provided to Ukraine over four years. It also drew down nearly half of its precision-guided munitions, nearly half of its THAAD anti-ballistic missile systems, and about a third of its Tomahawk missiles. Restoring these stockpiles would require a long time and substantial financial resources.



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KUNA photo
 Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the League of Arab States, Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi, received the award on behalf of Minister Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij.

Minister Al-Fulaij honored by Arab Women Forum for 'serving people'

CAIRO, June 30, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of State for Development and Sustainability Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij was honored on Monday by the Arab Women Forum in recognition of her contributions to development and community service on the International Day of Arab Women Diplomats.

The recognition came during the fifth edition of the Arab Women and Social Responsibility Forum, held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in cooperation with the Arab Council for Social Responsibility and the Association of Arab Universities.

Kuwait's Permanent Representative

to the League of Arab States, Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi, received the award on behalf of Minister Al-Fulaij.

The forum also honored several prominent women for their influential roles in development, community service and diplomacy, celebrating inspiring female figures who have made notable contributions in their respective fields.

Among those honored were Bahrain's Ambassador to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the League of Arab States, Fawzia Zainal; Minister Plenipotentiary Jumana Al-Ghoul of the Permanent Mission of the State of Palestine to the League of Arab States;

International Labour Organization Coordinator in Jordan Dr. Amal Mowafiq; and Director of the Civil Society Organizations Department at the League of Arab States, Minister Plenipotentiary Nawal Barada.

The forum also recognized Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt for Corporate Social Responsibility Dr. Ghada Tawfiq, Qatar's Ministry of Education official Rania Mohammad, Economic Counselor at the Jordanian Embassy in Egypt Wafaa Jreis, President of the Arab Union for the Protection of Intellectual Property Reem Issa, and UAE Federal National Council member Naama Al-Sharhan.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Geopolitical awakening, reconsider growth path

"KUWAIT must reconsider its traditional growth paths, in light of the accelerating global economic transformations," Kuwaiti writer Dr. Nasser Hussein Abbas wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"While the current economic model is dominated by a cycle of extraction, manufacturing, consumption and disposal, the circular economy emerges as a strategic necessity, which transcends being merely an environmental initiative, thus, becoming a fundamental lever for financial and operational sustainability in the post-oil era.

"Experts indicate that the essence of the circular economy lies in redefining value, focus shifts from a traditional ownership economy to a usufruct economy. Product-as-a-service models have become the primary driver of resource efficiency. This shift not only means reducing waste, but also separating economic growth from the absolute consumption of natural resources.

"Despite the ambitious goals, the cost of this transformation remains a major obstacle in the Kuwaiti market. The circular economy requires capital investments in advanced manufacturing technologies and reverse logistics. However, economic analysis confirms that these costs are a precautionary investment, offset by hedging risks related to fluctuations in global raw material prices, raising operational efficiency, and building barriers that are difficult for competitors to replicate. Kuwait has unique characteristics that make the circular economy a vital tool for administrative innovation.

"Regarding scarce water resources, there is a pressing need to integrate smart probes and sensors connected to digital networks to monitor water and waste flows, providing decision-makers with accurate, real-time data.

"In the construction sector, Kuwait's urban expansion is an opportunity to transform demolition waste into an urban resource, thereby, reducing reliance on imports.

"About supply chains, the challenge lies in adopting reverse logistics to ensure product recovery and reintegration into the production process.

"The role of administrative leaders in this radical transformation cannot be overlooked. Successful administrative decision-making in major Kuwaiti companies now requires complete alignment between business strategies and national sustainable development goals.

"This necessitates huge investment in training and a shift in corporate culture to become more agile and adaptable to the demands of the new economy. Academics and specialists propose an institutional framework based on three pillars to achieve a successful transformation.

"The first pillar is circular design, encouraging operations managers to adopt design methodologies that prioritize ease of dismantling and repair. Second is the four-pronged innovation model, which fosters partnerships between academia (universities and research centers), the public sector and the private sector. Third is digital governance, achieved through the adoption of circular performance indicators as a benchmark for measuring institutional success.

"The circular economy in Kuwait is not an intellectual luxury, but an inevitable path toward economic growth. Institutions that take the initiative today to reinvent their business models will be best equipped to overcome future challenges and transform sustainability from an operational burden into a strategic asset that enhances market value in the knowledge economy.

"The integration of advanced technology with a forward-looking management vision is the key that will enable Kuwait to transition to a more sustainable and competitive economic model at the regional and international levels."

Also:

"The sisterly State of Qatar recently celebrated the 13th anniversary of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad's accession to the throne. Over the years, Qatar witnessed many milestones that cannot be overlooked," columnist **Sheikh Eng. Fahad Daoud Al-Sabah** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"Thanks to the strong determination, small countries expand their influence, transforming them into soft power that works with their Gulf neighbors to strengthen the Gulf Cooperation Council and enhance its global presence. Qatar is proceeding according to a vision based on utilizing all available resources to bolster its strength and presence in the region and the world.

"The Qatari government is focusing on establishing pioneering projects. In recent years, Qatar proved its ability to overcome difficulties and turn threats into opportunities. These are the qualities of leaders who work for the future. The 2022 World Cup was the cornerstone of Qatar's 2030 vision. The 2022 World Cup brought about a qualitative leap in the sports economy, entertainment, energy projects and major development initiatives.

"Constitutional amendments are considered a comprehensive modernization of the state. Doha has had enormous success in the mediation efforts it led in recent years. Qatar continues this

approach, which strengthens its position as a peacemaker in the region and the world.

"This means that Qatar is now more internationally present, at a time the world needs voices, which support international stability and promote joint regional action. All of this aligns with Doha's pursuit of soft power. Qatar invested heavily in technology, innovation, education, and reducing its dependence on oil as part of its National Vision 2030. This vision is based on human development, as human beings are regarded as the foundation of the future.

"The 13th anniversary of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani assuming power in Qatar 'arrived' amidst a journey marked by significant political, economic, and social transformations that solidified the country's standing at the regional and international levels. These years witnessed the expansion of economic and political alliances with various major world powers and the diversification of strategic partnerships. The achievements of these 13 years made Qatar, along with its Gulf neighbors, one of the most influential forces in the region."

"Crimes committed against media freedoms, freedom of expression, and the climate of intellectual pluralism are among the most heinous crimes perpetrated against societies and nations," columnist **Khaled Ahmad Al-Tarrah** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"The indicators of escalating threats targeting freedom of expression and the rise of racist attitudes toward individual freedoms and societies have become crystal clear. This foreshadows a future with even greater restrictions on dissenting opinions and diverse ideas. We have the controversial and politically pathetic stories of US President Donald Trump's dealings with the American media.

"The matter becomes even more significant when it comes from the president of a superpower acting against one of its most fundamental values: freedom, a value it has upheld throughout its history. Will history record something new for the values of freedom, expression, media and journalism under an American presidency, and a European one, that targets digital and traditional media and the press? Anything is possible in an era so different from the wise political past. Public reactions to President Trump's dealings with the media seem muted.

"I cannot say for certain whether the American people are aware of the details of the legal battles President Trump is preparing against anyone who disagrees with him. The issue of the White House leader's feud with the American media, and the legitimacy of the conflict, may seem marginal compared to what is happening in Third World countries or the Middle East, which suffers from the suppression of freedoms.

"President Trump has a long history with the American media, the most recent being threats of lawsuits, denying American television networks freedom of expression, and 'revoking their broadcasting licenses' because they criticize him.

"Trump previously stated, 'I read somewhere that the news networks were against me 97 percent of the time. If they are against me and have given me nothing but bad publicity, and they still get a license, I think maybe their license should be revoked.'

"A federal judge in Florida recently dismissed President Trump's \$15 billion defamation lawsuit against *The New York Times*. The judge emphasized that a civil case should not be a public relations tool. He stated, 'The complaint remains an inappropriate and impermissible venue for the tedious and tiresome accumulation of potential evidence, the repetition of biased arguments, or the lengthy recitation and explanation of the legal authority that supposedly supports the plaintiff's claim for relief.'

"The federal judge added, 'This complaint is not a public relations megaphone, a platform for an emotional speech at a political rally, or the equivalent of Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park.'

"President Trump intensified his political and media attacks against Democratic Representative Ilhan Omar, stating that she is 'very bad' and should be impeached immediately, claiming she came from Somalia and has nothing to teach Americans about running their country.

"French President Macron and his wife Brigitte intend to present photographic and scientific evidence to a US court to refute claims by a right-wing influencer that Macron's wife was born a boy.

"We may witness a widening circle of restrictions on freedoms. Perhaps, we will see court rulings that restore the values of freedom of expression and opinion, and preserve the legacy of media freedoms. Or we might witness nothing, but a continuation of this state of anticipation and waiting, while freedoms are burned one after another in a silence that is both alarming and sorrowful."

— Compiled by Simi K.Kutty

Kuwait and Turkiye to upgrade military ties

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraian discussed on Monday with Turkish Defense Attache Colonel Gokhan Tekin ways to enhance military cooperation.

The General Staff said in a press statement that Lt. Gen. Al-Shuraian and the Turkish defense attache reviewed the distinguished bilateral relations between Kuwait and Turkiye.

The meeting also addressed aspects of military cooperation between the two countries and ways to further develop it in a manner that serves the shared interests of both sides.

Several senior military officers from both sides attended the meeting.



KUNA photo
Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraian receives the Turkish Defense Attache Colonel Gokhan Tekin.



Farwaniya Governorate photo
Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah meets officials of Al-Dar Engineering Company.

'Expedite road repairs, and maintain quality'

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah met with the officials of Al-Dar Engineering Company -- the contractor responsible for major road maintenance projects in several areas in Farwaniya Governorate.

Present at the meeting were Chief Executive Officer of the company Eng. Muhammad Al-Sultan, General Manager for Government Relations Eng. Mohammad Al-Awadh, and Assistant Director of the Roads Department Eng. Mohammad Medhat.

During the meeting, they discussed the progress of major road maintenance projects, completion rates, implementation plans, mechanisms for expediting completion and adhering to timelines in order to develop infrastructure and the road network.

The Governor underscored the importance of ongoing coordination among all relevant parties and the need to comply with the highest standards of quality and safety in project implementation.

The Al-Dar Engineering Company officials expressed their appreciation for the commitment of the Governor to on-site project monitoring. They also affirmed the continuation of their work according to the approved plans and ensuring the timely completion of major maintenance projects with the best technical specifications.



Map shows one of the road closures.

GTD announces many road repairs closures

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The General Traffic Department announced several temporary road closures and diversions due to ongoing maintenance and development work, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

Omar Bin Al-Khattab Street in Sharq will be completely closed from the intersection with the Othman Bin Affan Street roundabout to Khalid Bin Al-Walid Street. The closure will begin on Tuesday, June 30, and continue until Thursday, July 2.

A partial closure of three lanes on Jahra Road (No. 80) opposite Jahra, heading towards Kuwait City, will be in effect from Monday, June 29, until maintenance work is completed.

The maintenance work will also include the closure of the rightmost and middle lanes on the Sixth Ring Road towards Al-Maseela, as well as the closure of the exit from Al-Abdali Road leading to the Sixth Ring Road. This also includes the Jahra Road exit to the Sixth Ring Road towards Al-Maseela, starting Tuesday, June 30, until maintenance work is completed.

The department urged road users to adhere to traffic instructions and follow temporary diversions to ensure smooth traffic flow and road safety.

It's pay back time, give plaintiff his cash: court

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The Civil Circuit of the Court of Appeals overturned a lower court's ruling that had dismissed a financial claim and ordered a citizen to refund KD 20,000 after confirming that the transferred amount was a loan, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

The plaintiff had demanded that the defendant refund KD 20,000, stating that he had lent him the money via bank transfer and submitted the transfer receipt as evidence.

Lawyer Mohammad Sati Al-Otaibi presented evidence and documents, including WhatsApp messages, proving that the plaintiff had transferred the money to the defendant as a loan that he was obligated to repay.

Suicidal bid in marital 'feud'

2nd woman triggers commotion

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: A marital dispute in Salwa led to a Gulf woman ingesting seven magnesium tablets, and her hospitalization, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received a report of a suicide attempt inside a house in Salwa, security personnel immediately rushed to the location with paramedics and the woman was transported to Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital.

It was discovered that the woman reported ingesting seven magnesium tablets following a dispute with her husband over his desire to marry another woman. She was discharged after receiving the necessary treatment.

A case has been registered for further investigation.

Mall brawl probed: A dispute between two young women inside a shopping mall in Farwaniya developed into a legal case involving verbal abuse, physical assault, and misuse of a mobile phone, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

According to a security source, mall security intervened to resolve the situation, and the two women were taken to the police station for further legal action.

One of the women stated that she was subjected to verbal abuse and physical assault, following an argument that broke out between them inside the mall.

The other woman denied the accusations, asserting that she was the one who was verbally abused and that the first woman filmed her during the incident.

The source indicated that mall surveillance camera footage would likely be reviewed, given that each party maintained their version of events and there were no neutral witnesses.

Doctor beaten up: A Kuwaiti physician has filed a complaint, alleging that he was assaulted and insulted by a patient while performing his duties, reports *Al-Anba* daily quoting security sources.

Security personnel responded to the report and moved to the location, where they arrested the man who was wearing traditional Kuwaiti dress, and took him to the police station for questioning.

During interrogation, the suspect denied the accusations of insult or offensive language, stating that he had only objected to the physician's performance of his duties. He insisted that his remarks did not amount to any personal insult or transgression.

For his part, the doctor upheld his complaint, affirming that he had been insulted while carrying out his work. He also provided investigators with the names and contact details of several witnesses who were present at the time of the incident.

A case has been registered and referred to the Public Prosecution for further legal proceedings.

Two car thieves nabbed: Detectives assigned in Taima arrested two young men with previous criminal records on charges of stealing vehicles, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

According to a security source, the detectives apprehended the suspects after setting up a carefully planned entrapment.

The two suspects were then referred to the competent authorities for the necessary legal measures.



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KUNA photo
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah sees off the visiting Lebanese Minister of Interior and Municipalities Ahmad Al-Hajjar and the accompanying delegation.

Lebanese Interior Minister departs Kuwait after visit

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): Lebanese Minister of Interior and Municipalities Ahmad Al-Hajjar and the accompanying delegation departed Kuwait on Tuesday following an official visit to the country.

The delegation was seen off at Kuwait International Airport by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, Sheikh Fahad said the visit reflected the deep-rooted fraternal ties between Kuwait and Lebanon and con-

tributed to strengthening bilateral cooperation and coordination.

In turn, Minister Al-Hajjar expressed his sincere gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Sheikh Fahad for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to him and the accompanying delegation.

He also praised the close fraternal relations between Kuwait and Lebanon.

MoE: Grade 12 results to be announced on live TV July 1

Vigilance cuts cheating, disqualifications: minister

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Minister Jalal Al-Tabtabaei affirmed that Grade 12 exams proceeded smoothly in all examination centers, which contributed to an appropriate environment that enabled students to take their exams in a calm, stable, and disciplined atmosphere, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Education, the results will be announced via a live broadcast on Kuwait State Television on Wednesday morning, July 1, and wished all students continued success.

Al-Tabtabaei explained that this year's exams saw a significant decrease in cases of disqualification and violations compared to previous years. This positive indicator reflects the success of awareness campaigns conducted by the ministry

in cooperation with school administrations, educational authorities, and parents to promote the values of integrity, discipline, and responsibility.

He commended the efforts of school administrations, educational and administrative staff, and national supervisors, whose role was instrumental in ensuring the smooth conduct of the exams and promoting equal opportunities for all students.

Al-Tabtabaei went on to explain that the ministry successfully navigated an exceptional period coinciding with regional circumstances. The determination of Kuwaiti students, teachers, administrators, and parents was a defining feature of this period, reflecting the community's commitment to the continuity of the educational process and achieving success despite the challenges.

The effective partnership between families and schools is one of the most important factors in the success of the educational process, and has directly contributed to providing a positive environment reflected in students' attendance and commitment within examination committees.

Al-Tabtabaei stated that the secondary school examination control teams in the science, arts, and religious education sections are currently completing the correction, verification, and grade recording processes, in accordance with the approved procedures and regulations.

He affirmed that the work teams are continuing their efforts at a steady pace to ensure the accurate and efficient completion of all technical stages, in preparation for approving and announcing the results on schedule.

The minister stressed the need to exercise the highest degree of accuracy in the correction, verification, and review processes to ensure the preservation of students' rights and to enhance confidence in the integrity of the results.



Al-Tabtabaei

KU climbs 400 places in Times Impact Rankings

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): Kuwait University (KU) recently announced a significant advancement in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2026, climbing nearly 400 places globally.

Times Higher Education Impact Rankings measure universities' contributions to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in which Kuwait University climbed nearly 400 places globally to reach the 401-600 category from the 801-1000 category last year.

In a press statement, Kuwait University said the achievement reflects its academic, research and community impact and strengthens its presence among global universities in the fields of sustainability and institutional responsibility.

It added that the progress is the result of continuous efforts by its faculty and staff to align education, scientific research and community service with sustainable development requirements through the development of qualitative initiatives and programs, the enhancement of effective partnerships and the expansion of contributions to addressing priority development issues at both the national and international levels.



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Aman task force team in a virtual meeting with North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC).

Kuwait and NATO to share disaster control expertise

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): Kuwait's Aman task force, which is responsible for establishing the National Center for Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management, held a virtual meeting with North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) to exchange expertise and review best practices in disaster management.

In a statement by KUNA on Tuesday, the task force said the meeting discussed the center's role in coordinating international disaster response, managing humanitarian assistance, and strengthening cooperation among member states and partners.

Participants also reviewed planning, coordination and preparedness mechanisms for dealing with emergencies, the statement added.

Both sides also explored opportuni-

ties for cooperation and the exchange of expertise in training and joint exercises, as well as benefiting from international experiences to enhance institutional capabilities and support the development of an integrated national emergency and disaster management system in Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by several officials and representatives of relevant entities, including Sheikhha Munira Fawaz Al-Sabah from the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry.

The Aman task force, which operates under the Cabinet, is responsible for developing a comprehensive national framework for emergency, crisis and disaster management, coordinating national efforts, improving risk management, and strengthening crisis preparedness and response.



Picture taken at the gathering.

KUNA photo

GCC-UK cooperation across many spheres eyed in talks

LONDON, June 30, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Bader Almunayekh, received on Monday Britain's Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa, Hamish Falconer, in the presence of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ambassadors accredited to London.

A statement issued by the Kuwaiti Embassy said the meeting reviewed ways to expand GCC-UK cooperation across various fields and discussed the latest developments in the region.

The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues, as well as other matters of mutual interest.

'2,880 meet criteria for top jobs'

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), Eng. Rabab Al-Osaimi, announced that the advertisement for supervisory positions in the cooperative sector attracted 5,430 applicants through the "Our Pride for National Workforce" platform by the end of the application period on Wednesday, June 24.

Al-Osaimi explained that 2,880 applicants met the required conditions and criteria, while the remaining applications were rejected due to educational quali-

fications not matching the job requirements.

The actual nomination process has reached 2,880 candidates so far. The advertisement included 70 supervisory job opportunities distributed across 59 cooperative societies in various governorates of Kuwait.

Al-Osaimi stressed that the recruitment drive aimed to attract university graduates and qualified professionals to fill leadership and supervisory positions, contributing to improved institutional performance within the cooperative sector and enhancing the quality of services provided to shareholders and consumers.

CAPT asks PACA to address deficiencies in tenders bid

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) decided in its meeting on June 22 to allow the Public Authority of Civil Aviation (PACA) to address deficiencies in the bids for the tender to operate, manage and improve training services, maintenance and development of Terminal Two (T2) and aircraft parking areas, and institutional management of the centralized operation and maintenance of Kuwait Inter-

national Airport.

CAPT requested PACA to submit its recommendation within 10 working days.

The decision is based on Article 40 of Public Tenders Law No. 49/2016, which governs the handling of bids.

It is worth noting that CAPT opened the bids on June 2 and three international companies submitted bids, as detailed in the price list. CAPT referred the submitted bid documents to the relevant authority for review and to present the necessary technical recommendation for awarding the contract to the best bidder that meets the specifications.

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NATO-ICI centre hosts regional cyber training

Course boosts Gulf readiness: Al-Kandari

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): The NATO-Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (NATO-ICI) Regional Centre, in cooperation with NATO's Allied Land Command (LANDCOM), launched a three-day training workshop on communication and information systems in cyber operations on Tuesday.

Director of the NATO-ICI Regional Centre Counselor Emad Al-Kandari said the workshop brings together 33 participants from Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) member states and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Al-Kandari said the program aims to equip participants with fundamental communication and information systems skills, enhance interoperability, and strengthen cooperation and knowledge exchange within the international cyber community.



KUNA photos

Participants and organizers of the three-day training workshop on communication and information systems in cyber operations pose for a group photo.

He added that the course features lectures and interactive sessions enabling participants to exchange expertise with instructors and support the program's training objectives.

Al-Kandari said the center is implementing its training plan, comprising more than 31 courses and events covering cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, maritime security, medical services, crisis management and lessons learned, with several programs already completed during the first half of the year.

He said the annual training agenda

is developed through participants' evaluations, recommendations by the National Focal Points Committee chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and input from ICI member states: Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Al-Kandari affirmed that the mechanism supports continuous development of the center's training programs to meet partners' needs, enhance capacity-building, promote expertise-sharing and strengthen regional cooperation.



Director of the NATO-ICI Regional Centre Counselor Emad Al-Kandari.

KUNA eyes tech upgrade with Huawei

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): Acting Director General of the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Mohammad Al-Mannai discussed Tuesday with executive vice president of Huawei Gulf North Alex Dai ways to enhance cooperation, particularly in technology and information systems.

During the meeting at KUNA head-

quarters, both sides reviewed prospects for strengthening technical partnership and developing the agency's digital news infrastructure in line with advances in digital media and artificial intelligence.

Al-Mannai reaffirmed KUNA's commitment to keeping pace with technological developments in communications and information technol-

ogy to deliver fast, accurate and advanced media services.

For his part, Dai praised KUNA's leading regional and international media role, reaffirming Huawei's readiness to provide innovative technology solutions to support the agency's digital transformation and strengthen its technical capabilities.

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Summer Chalet Essentials for the Perfect Escape

With summer in full swing, chalet season has officially arrived. Across Kuwait, weekends are spent by the sea, enjoying barbecues, gathering with family and friends, and making the most of the summer season. Whether you're hosting guests or creating a relaxing retreat, having the right essentials can make every chalet day more enjoyable.



{Coleman Fast Pitch Shelter XL}{Fermob's Bellevie Armchair}



{Fermob's Bellevie Armchair}

Creating the Ultimate Outdoor Lounge

Comfort starts with a shaded setting that makes long days by the sea more enjoyable and relaxing. The Coleman Fast Pitch Shelter XL provides quick and reliable coverage, creating a cool outdoor retreat with strong UV protection from Kuwait's intense summer sun.

Once the shade is in place, comfortable seating helps set the tone. Fermob's Bellevie Armchair brings a contemporary touch to chalet settings with its clean lines and versatile design, while the Fermob Sunlounger offers a comfortable spot to relax by the water. Paired with a matching parasol and base, it creates a stylish resort-inspired corner.



{Campingaz Party Grill 600 Stove}



{Campingaz BBQ Utensil Kit}

BBQ Essentials

No chalet gathering is complete without food bringing everyone together. Whether it's a family barbecue or a casual meal by the sea, having the right cooking setup makes outdoor entertaining easier.

Portable cooking equipment, such as the Campingaz Party Grill 600 Stove, offers a practical way to prepare meals outdoors, allowing hosts to cook wherever the setting is best. Paired with a quality utensil kit, it helps streamline everything from preparation to serving, creating a more effortless grilling experience.



{Coleman 57L Wheeled Cooler}

Keeping Cool in the Heat

In Kuwait's summer climate, staying cool is essential. Creating multiple refreshment points across the chalet setup can make hosting easier, ensuring guests always have access to cold drinks without constant trips indoors.

A cooler such as the Coleman 57L Wheeled Cooler provides ample space for drinks, snacks, and ice, helping keep refreshments chilled, while its durable wheels make transportation practical.

For personal hydration, insulated bottles and tumblers such as those from Klean Kanteen help keep drinks chilled for hours, making them ideal companions for long days outdoors. Larger tumblers with flip-straw lids offer a convenient way to enjoy iced coffees, juices, sparkling drinks, or refreshing mocktails while relaxing by the sea.

A Summer Escape, Made Effortless

The best chalet days are often the ones that feel effortless. Comfort comes naturally, refreshments stay cold, and the space encourages everyone to slow down and enjoy the moment.

Summer in Kuwait has a way of bringing people together, whether for relaxed afternoons by the sea or spontaneous gatherings with family and friends. In this case, having the right essentials, all of which can be found at AAW Kitchens, helps elevate every chalet experience.



{Klean Kanteen Rise 36oz Tumbler}

Other Voices

Committed to national rejuvenation, dedicated to world harmony

By H.E. Yang Xin

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Kuwait

July 1, 2026 marks the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC). After the Opium War of 1840, China endured repeated aggression and plundering by the Western powers. In 1921, when the Chinese nation was suffering untold hardships and facing an existential crisis, the CPC was founded. Since then, it has united and led the Chinese people through arduous struggles to establish the People's Republic of China (PRC) which made the people the masters of the country. After that, through the broadest and most profound social transformation in the history of the Chinese nation, and by resolutely advancing reform and opening up, the CPC has profoundly transformed the future of the Chinese people. In the new era, China has secured historic achievements, building itself into a moderately prosperous society in all respects and bringing about a historic resolution to the problem of absolute poverty. Now, the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is on an irreversible historical course.

The CPC is a party dedicated to seeking happiness for the Chinese people and the rejuvenation for the Chinese nation. Over the past 105 years, the Chinese nation has achieved the great transformation from standing up and growing prosperous to becoming strong. Today, China has maintained rapid economic growth and lasting social stability, and built the world's largest education system, social security system and healthcare system. People all over China feel happier, safer and more



H.E. Ambassador Yang Xin

secure. Even trust-in-government surveys conducted by Western organizations reveal that the trust among Chinese citizens in their government has topped the world for many years.

The CPC is also a party dedicated to pursuing progress for humanity and universal harmony for the world. China has firmly safeguarded its national sovereignty, security and development interests, while committed to promoting human progress and world peace. China has contributed over 30 percent of global growth. It is the second largest funding contributor to the United Nations regular budget, as well as the largest contributor of peacekeeping personnel among the permanent members of the Security Council. China stands firmly against any form of hegemonism and power politics, and advocates democracy and rule of law in international relations. It has put forward four global initiatives, including the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Ini-

tiative, the Global Civilization Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative, promoted the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, and kept contributing to addressing global issues. Since the outbreak of US-Israel-Iran conflict, China has been actively working to promote peace and cessation of hostilities. Chinese President Xi Jinping has put forward a series of important propositions, offering Chinese approaches to achieving lasting peace and enduring stability in the Middle East and Gulf region.

China and Kuwait are good friends, good partners and good brothers. Over the past 55 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two nations have always respected and supported each other, setting a fine example of equity between countries of different sizes. In addition, our friendly and mutually-beneficial cooperation in various fields has yielded fruitful results. In recent years, H.E. President Xi Jinping and H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah had two successful meetings, providing strategic guidance for elevating China-Kuwait relations to a higher level.

China is now implementing the 15th Five-Year Plan to advance Chinese modernization, while Kuwait's Vision 2035 is entering a critical period. This presents more opportunities for the growth of China-Kuwait relations. China stands ready to work with Kuwait to implement the important consensus reached by two heads-of-state, strengthen the alignment of our development strategies, deepen practical cooperation across various fields, and better benefits the two peoples.

China vows deeper ties with Kuwait at CPC anniversary

Chinese envoy calls for peace

By John C. Fernandes
Arab Times Online Media Manager

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: On the occasion of the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Kuwait, H.E. Yang Xin, reaffirmed his country's commitment to further advancing bilateral relations with the State of Kuwait during an official reception attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs, Minister Plenipotentiary Nawaf Al-Ahmad, along with a number of officials and dignitaries.

In his address, the ambassador expressed deep appreciation to the Kuwaiti leadership and people for their longstanding support, commending the CPC's central role in guiding China's transformation since its establishment in 1921. He noted that the party has successfully led the nation through successive phases of revolution, development and reform, achieving sustained economic growth, social stability and notable improvements in living standards.

The ambassador said that under the leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping, China continues to pursue modernization while remaining focused on improving the well-being of its people. He noted that more than 800 million people have been lifted out of absolute poverty and that China has established the world's largest education, healthcare and social security systems.

On international affairs, the envoy said China remains committed to promoting global peace, multilateral cooperation and sustainable development. He reiterated Beijing's op-



Photos from the event. Photos by Samer Shiqer

position to hegemonism and power politics, highlighting China's contributions to global economic growth, the United Nations and international peacekeeping efforts.

Referring to recent tensions in the Middle East, the ambassador said China has actively worked to promote peace and a ceasefire following the conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran. He added that President Xi Jinping has proposed initiatives aimed at achieving lasting peace and stability in the Middle East and Gulf region.

The ambassador also noted that this year marks the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Kuwait. He described the

two countries as "good friends, good partners and good brothers," emphasizing that bilateral ties have continued to grow through mutual respect and cooperation despite differences in political systems.

He said recent meetings between President Xi Jinping and His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, have provided strategic direction for strengthening bilateral relations. China, he added, is ready to work closely with Kuwait to implement the consensus reached by the two leaders, deepen cooperation across various sectors and deliver greater benefits to the peoples of both countries.

Nationwide water network expansion gets green light

Kuwait launches major fiber optic rollout

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) approved on Monday the request of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to issue a tender for improvements and additions to existing water networks in all areas of Kuwait.

The project aims to deliver water to customers who have applied for connections and to improve the efficiency of water networks, including excavation work, installation of water pipes and necessary accessories

for distribution, and modifications to existing water networks.

The tender is one of the contracts included in the plan of the ministry's Water Projects Sector, which will supervise implementation immediately upon awarding the contract and approving the agreement with the winning bidder who meets the technical requirements and specifications.

Meanwhile, the ministry announced the commencement of work to extend fiber optic cables between main substations as part of its plans to develop the infrastructure of electricity transmission networks and enhance the system for connecting substations. This will contribute to

increasing the efficiency of the electrical grid and accelerating monitoring and control operations. The project requires excavation and backfilling work in several locations from Monday, June 29 to July 4.

The ministry called on road users and residents of the affected areas to adhere to traffic instructions and cooperate with field teams to ensure everyone's safety.

It highlighted that the fiber optic cable extension works include 17 residential and industrial areas, including Fahad Al-Ahmad, Abu Halifa, Shuwaikh Industrial, Hawally, Rawda, Daiya, and Jabriya, in addition to several other areas.

Continued from Page 1

Lebanon is

In reality, most Hezbollah supporters realize that these claims are unfounded, as Hezbollah lacks the strength to confront Israel. The second reason is that the motivation is to establish a foothold for implementing the Iranian plan -- a Persian base on the Mediterranean coast, making Tehran a powerful player in the region.

Based on this, the Iranians insist on supporting Hezbollah and include it in the memorandum of understanding with the United States. To prove this, Hezbollah exploits every opportunity to deceive the Lebanese people, claiming it remains the dominant force in Lebanon. Thus, Hezbollah capitalized on religious sentiment during Ashura to tell other Lebanese groups that it is the strongest.

All of the Lebanese people, especially the Shiites know well that this commemoration is purely religious and has nothing to do with politics. They understand better than anyone that celebrating this occasion has nothing to do with political stances.

After the event, many Lebanese Shiites voiced their opposition to Hezbollah, which they consider the cause of their suffering, indeed the suffering endured by the people of South Lebanon since 1984. Therefore, voices opposing Hezbollah have become louder and louder, as no one wants to spend their life fighting wars on behalf of other parties.

Anyone following regional and international developments understands that what is happening today goes far beyond limiting weapons to the Lebanese and Iraqi states. What is happening is the re-establishment of a state capable of asserting its authority and its institutions, particularly its armed forces. What is happening now is a declaration that Iranian control over four Arab capitals is now a thing of the past.

Consequently, the 'Framework Agreement' between Lebanon and Israel can be seen as the foundation for a Lebanese state capable of uniting all of its components under the umbrella of constitutional institutions, as well as restoring normal relations with the Arab world and the international community, free from Hezbollah's control over governments and institutions and

its intimidation tactics using illegitimate weapons.

The Gulf states and all Arab countries welcome this agreement. The support it received from major world capitals means that it is now time for Lebanon to get out of the hell into which Iran plunged it through its terrorist proxies for four decades. This is the fruit that every lover of Lebanon, that beautiful country, desires.

Kuwait outlines

The second lesson, according to Al-Sabah, is that air and missile defense must be treated as a coalition effort. He said modern threats do not respect borders and argued that regional defense systems require agreed procedures on decision-making and engagement authority.

"The real problem is release authority -- who is allowed to shoot at what, on whose say-so, across which border, and in how many seconds," he said, adding that without such agreements, integrated defense systems remain only theoretical.

The third lesson focused on technology, with Al-Sabah saying the future of missile defense will depend increasingly on software, including artificial intelligence, tracking systems and threat discrimination capabilities.

He warned that adversaries are developing increasingly autonomous drones that do not rely on traditional communication signals, reducing the effectiveness of electronic warfare methods.

Al-Sabah also linked air defense directly to land warfare, saying military forces without counter-drone capabilities would become vulnerable targets on modern battlefields.

He said Iranian attacks targeted not only military assets but also civilian areas and infrastructure, aiming to weaken public confidence in state defenses.

Addressing the current ceasefire, Al-Sabah said the threat has shifted from large missile barrages to smaller, ambiguous drone attacks designed to operate below the threshold of major retaliation while exhausting defenses.

He concluded that future security depends on building stronger alliances, expanding weapons reserves and

investing in advanced defense technologies.

"The ally does not arrive on its own," he said. "It is the architecture, the magazines, the alliances and the software -- the things we are either building now or we are not."

Botox by

General Department of Criminal Investigation.

This cooperation is part of integrated efforts among relevant government agencies to ensure compliance with regulations. The inspection committee identified several violations at the center, most notably the practice of healthcare professions by individuals without the required licenses.

A worker was found holding a civil ID card indicating he was a sales representative, while he was treating patients, providing medical consultations, and administering Botox and filler injections. A registered receptionist was found performing pre-treatment procedures. Pharmaceutical violations were also discovered, including syringes and materials used in therapeutic and cosmetic procedures, as well as the possession of medications without authorization.

The ministry confirmed that inspection campaigns will continue in various facilities to ensure that all healthcare providers adhere to legal and professional requirements, thereby protecting patients' rights, improving the quality of healthcare, and enhancing trust in the private healthcare sector.

India gov't

KD65, while the expedited fee increased from KD91 to KD103.

The fees for criminal record, passport-based birth, non-resident Indian, non-resident Indian status, no-objection, renunciation of citizenship and other passport-related consular certificates, as well as the global entry verification service, increased from KD8 to KD13.

On the other hand, the fees for emergency and identity certificates remain at KD5 and KD16 respectively.

KUNA photo
EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Kaja Kallas with ambassadors and representatives of the GCC member states to the European Union.

Regional tensions underscore cooperation: Al-Enezi

EU, GCC strengthen strategic dialogue

BRUSSELS, June 30, (KUNA): Ambassadors and representatives of the GCC member states to the European Union and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Kaja Kallas, reaffirmed the importance of deepening strategic partnership and enhancing coordination and consultations on regional and international developments.

Following the meeting, held at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, Kuwait's Ambassador to Belgium and Head of its Missions to the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Nawaf Al-Enezi, told KUNA on Tuesday that the talks focused on ways to further strengthen GCC-EU cooperation.

He expressed Kuwait's and the GCC states' appreciation for the European Union's supportive stance toward the Gulf countries since the onset of the Iranian attacks, voicing hope for continued European support and solidarity with the GCC.

Al-Enezi said the discussions underscored that the serious escalation in the region and its repercussions for maritime security, energy security and global supply chains have highlighted the close interdependence between the security and stability of Europe and those of the Gulf region and the broader Middle East.

He added that both sides also reviewed preparations for the Third GCC-EU High-Level Forum on Regional Security and Cooperation, scheduled to be held in mid-July in

Brussels and hosted by the European Union, as part of ongoing efforts to advance the strategic dialogue between the two sides.

For her part, Kallas reaffirmed the EU's commitment to working closely with the GCC as trusted partners in the region, stressing the bloc's determination to deepen cooperation in key priority areas, particularly maritime security and safeguarding freedom of navigation through international waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz.

She also reiterated the EU's firm opposition to the imposition of any new fees or restrictions on navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, emphasizing the importance of ensuring the uninterrupted flow of global trade and maintaining the security of international maritime routes.

Bloc reviews agenda in annual meeting

Kuwait pushes GCC human rights coordination

RIYADH, June 30, (KUNA): Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duajj Al-Sabah confirmed on Tuesday Kuwait's keenness to continue strengthening cooperation with GCC member states to boost Gulf stances in regional and interna-

tional forums. In a statement to KUNA following her participation in the 20th meeting of the GCC Governmental Human Rights Bodies' Heads, Sheikha Jawaher said that the meeting discussed the implementation of a number of GCC Human Rights actions and strategies, in

addition to topics of common interest.

She added that the meeting, chaired by Bahrain at the headquarters of the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh, saw participation from member states and discussed ways to enhance coordination in the field of human rights.

INTERNATIONAL



Firefighters spray water to extinguish a fire at a petrochemical plant in Purba Medinipur district, about 130 kilometers (80 miles) southwest of Kolkata, the capital of India's West Bengal state on June 30. (AP)

Fire at petrochemical plant in eastern India injures 20

A fire at a petrochemical plant in eastern India injured at least 20 people, five of them critically, police said.

The blaze broke out Tuesday in a naphtha pipeline at a facility operated by Haldia Petrochemicals and quickly spread to nearby homes in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district, about 130 kilometers (80 miles) southwest of the state capital, Kolkata.

Firefighters used 12 fire engines to bring the blaze

under control, while the injured were rescued and taken to nearby hospitals, police said. The injured included plant workers and at least two security guards.

Video from the scene showed firefighters dousing the blaze with water as thick black smoke rose from the burning pipeline. Naphtha is a highly flammable petroleum product used in the production of fuels and other chemicals. (AP)

Asia

Indonesia sentences Gojek founder, gets 10 yrs:

Indonesia's anti-graft court on Tuesday sentenced one of the co-founders of ride-hailing and payments giant Gojek to 10 years in prison after finding him guilty in a high-profile corruption case stemming from his time as education minister.

Nadiem Anwar Makarim

was convicted of pushing his ministry to buy Google Chromebook laptops for schools during the COVID-19 pandemic as the American tech giant was considering an investment in Gojek's parent company.

A panel of five judges at Jakarta's Corruption Court ordered Makarim to repay 809 billion rupiah (about \$45.2 million) - a figure prosecutors said represented the value to him of Google's investment in PT Aplikasi Karya Anak Bangsa - and imposed a fine of 1 billion rupiah (about \$55,870). Prosecutors said the purchasing decision also caused \$125 million in state losses.

"The defendant, as a minister who should serve as a role model, abused his authority. His actions were deliberate, structured and systematic," said presiding Judge Purwanto S. Abdullah. "As a high-ranking official, the defendant exacerbated the situation during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the education sector was already in crisis."

The court didn't find that Makarim's push to buy Chromebooks actually influenced Google. Three former Google executives testified during the trial that Google's investment in GoTo was unrelated to the Indonesian government's decision.

The 10-year sentence was far below the 18 years sought by prosecutors. Prosecutors told the three-



Makarim

judge panel that he abused his position to influence policy decisions and corporate dealings. (AP)

Japan deploys missile launcher: Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) has deployed a Type-12 surface-to-ship missile launcher and related equipment on Minamitorishima, the nation's easternmost island, for the first time.

The GSDF announced the deployment in a social media post on Sunday, saying the equipment was transported to the remote island as part of preparations for the construction of a live-fire training range.

According to the GSDF, the deployment is intended to verify whether the equipment can operate properly under local conditions. It said that no missile bodies were transported to the island during this deployment. (Xinhua)

Thousands join Philippine anti-corruption march:

Around 3,500 protesters marched in the Philippine capital, Manila, on Sunday, demanding accountability for alleged corruption in government projects, particularly flood-control contracts, according to local media reports.

The demonstration drew members of the public, progressive organizations and civil society groups, among others. Organizers said the campaign seeks electoral reforms, transparent governance, greater accountability, and action against corruption and political dynasties.

The National Capital Region Police Office earlier said that nearly 10,000 personnel had been deployed to secure the event.

The protest came nearly a year after Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos ordered a review of flood control projects. In the second half of last year, a large-scale corruption scandal involving flood-control projects broke out, triggering sustained mass anti-corruption protests across the country. (Xinhua)

New laws temporary solution to state's budget woes: Republicans

Newsom signs \$352b spending plan before California governor leaves office

SACRAMENTO, Calif., June 30, (AP) - Democratic Gov Gavin Newsom signed a nearly \$352 billion spending plan Monday that delays some cuts to healthcare programs, increases funding for childcare and sets aside money to help speed up the state's vote count ahead of the November election.

The plan, which avoids major cuts or significant new spending, is Newsom's last before he leaves office in January and as he considers a presidential run. California's spending priorities are likely to be under a microscope if he seeks the White House.

Newsom used the budget deal's passage as a chance to highlight some of those priorities over his nearly eight years as governor. He released a video address touting state policies and spending to provide free meals at school, expand internet access, ramp up renewable energy production, and raise the minimum wage for fast food and healthcare workers.

He also noted the budget approved this year puts more money into state reserves, which he said shows the state's fiscal prudence in the face of criticism that California lacks restraint when spending taxpayer dollars.

He tried to contrast California - which is the frequent target of attacks by GOP politicians including President Donald Trump - with Republican-led states and the federal administration.

"To every other state across our

country - to Washington, D.C. - to anyone who's been told that responsibility and ambition can't share the same balance sheet: Come to California," he said.

The budget aims to increase state revenues by billions of dollars by reforming a tax on healthcare providers, imposing a sales tax for certain software products and limiting tax breaks on large corporations. Newsom has generally opposed broad new tax increases during his time as governor but has approved more targeted measures. He's against a one-time tax on billionaires pushed by a healthcare union that will go before voters this November.

Newsom and legislative leaders in the Democrat-dominated statehouse say their plan includes no deficit for the upcoming fiscal year and will help the state respond to Trump's cuts to healthcare for low-income people.

"We have done a lot of work to mitigate harm, to protect vulnerable communities," Assembly Budget Committee Chair Jesse Gabriel said at a hearing, though the Democrat acknowledged the state wasn't "in a position to fully backfill those federal cuts."

Republicans say the new laws are a temporary solution to the state's budget woes because they focus too much on delaying spending and not enough on finding places to cut.

"The governor can claim he has a 'balanced' budget on his way out the



California Gov Gavin Newsom speaks during a news conference on Aug 14, 2025, in Los Angeles. (AP)

door, but really, he's just leaving us with his tab," Republican Sen. Roger Niello said in a statement.

California previously faced tens of billions of dollars in budget deficits, forcing painful cuts such as a rollback last year on a promise to provide free healthcare to low-income immigrants without legal status. Nonpartisan budget analysts previously projected the state would see budget holes upward of \$20 billion each year in the next few years. Newsom and the analysts sometimes differ in their estimations.

Tax revenues have also come in higher than expected mostly because

of the booming stock market driven by enthusiasm over the artificial intelligence industry, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office.

That revenue boost allowed lawmakers to stave off some cuts approved in last year's budget, including slashing dental benefits for low-income immigrants without legal status and increasing premiums for those adults ages 19 to 59 enrolled in the state's Medicaid program, known as Medi-Cal. Lawmakers agreed last year to require those recipients to pay \$30 a month starting next year. Newsom proposed last month to increase that to \$50

monthly, but the budget deal leaves the decision over the possible higher rate to the next governor.

Increasing access to childcare has been one of Newsom's priorities over his tenure, and the budget funds nearly 23,000 new childcare spaces for the upcoming fiscal year.

As California prepares for the November election, the deal includes \$29 million for the Secretary of State office to help the state speed up its drawn out vote count by increasing staffing and upgrading technology. Another \$10 million would go toward educating voters on the state's election process, with half of that going to counties and the rest going to the state.

The state's slow process for counting votes has been a target of criticism, and Trump and other Republicans have said without evidence that it fuels widespread fraud. The budget includes nearly \$1 million to support efforts to fight misinformation about state elections.

The November contest will be closely watched because California has a handful of U.S. House seats that will be key to help determining control of the chamber as well as more than a dozen ballot measures and the race to replace Newsom.

As part of the budget deal, lawmakers kicked some of the state's major spending decisions to Newsom's successor. Democrat Xavier Becerra, a former state attorney general, and Republican Steve Hilton, a

former Fox News host and adviser to conservative British politicians, are competing to replace Newsom.

The agreement, for example, delays a decision on how to change how the state spends revenue from its cap-and-trade program, which requires major emitters to reduce their pollution, buy allowances from the state or other businesses, or fund projects aimed at offsetting their emissions. State air regulators recently approved updates to the program that could have a pot of money the state receives from allowance sales to fund climate, transportation and other initiatives.

Lawmakers also want to explore ways to penalize large companies for having employees enrolled in Medi-Cal, rather than on company-provided healthcare plans. Lawmakers plan to direct the Department of Finance to present the Legislature with options for how to do that.

The goal is to reduce costs for the state after Trump signed his signature spending legislation last year, which cut federal healthcare funding to help deliver tax breaks for individuals and businesses.

But any proposed penalties on corporations wouldn't be approved until next year at the earliest, which disappointed some Democrats.

"This is a budget that bought time: Medi-Cal delayed, not resolved, not restored," Democratic state Sen. Maria Elena Durazo said at a budget hearing Monday.



A view of the residential building where an explosive device seriously injured three people in Monaco on June 30. (AP)

Monaco explosion injures three as suspect flees to France

MONACO, June 30, (AP) - Monaco's chief prosecutor said Tuesday that the suspect who placed an explosive device that injured three people, including a reported Ukrainian tycoon, acted alone and remains at large.

Police in the principality have opened an attempted murder investigation into Monday night's incident but aren't qualifying it as a terrorism investigation, Prosecutor Stéphane Thibault told reporters. The motive remains unclear.

One of the three injured is a woman in life-threatening condition, he said. A man is no longer in life-threatening condition while a child's life isn't in danger, he said. He didn't provide their identities.

The suspect left immediately after the incident on foot, using stairs to get away via a small street to the neighboring French town of Beausoleil, according to surveillance footage.

In a picture captured from CCTV cameras and published by French media, the suspect can be seen in a street wearing a black jacket, light-colored pants, white shoes and a black hat that partly conceals his face.

Media reports identified Ukrainian construction tycoon

Vadym Yermolaiev as being among the injured. Ukrainian news site Ukrainska Pravda said he was targeted by Ukrainian sanctions in 2023 for ties to Russia.

The injured woman is being treated at a hospital in Nice, Christophe Mirmand, the minister of state for Monaco, told French news broadcaster LCI on Tuesday. Her partner and a 13-year-old child suffered less severe injuries but remain in the hospital, he added.

The explosion occurred around 9 p.m. on Monday at the entrance of a residence near the French border.

The three victims were "apparently returning home peacefully" in the early evening, according to surveillance footage, Mirmand said. "They were caught in the explosion as they crossed the threshold of their apartment building," he said.

The victims are "regular" residents of Monaco, but authorities do not yet know whether the family had been threatened in the past, Mirmand said.

"It appears that the family was specifically targeted," he emphasized, noting that the alleged perpetrator "had walked around the area several times while waiting for the victims," according to surveillance footage.

Britain sets out plan for future defense with focus on drones, fight over money

LONDON, June 30, (AP) - Self-flying fighter jets, uncrewed submarines and drones will be at the center of Britain's future military under a defense plan being announced Tuesday that reflects a world of conflicts transformed by technology.

The Defense Investment Plan has been repeatedly delayed as military leaders and Treasury officials wrangled over the cost of equipping the UK military for an increasingly dangerous world. Like other NATO countries, the UK is under pressure to increase defense spending to counter a more aggressive Russia and less reliable United States.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the plan will keep Britain safe in "a more dangerous and volatile world than at any time for decades."

But the blueprint does not commit to spending 3% of UK GDP on defense by 2030, one of the factors that spurred John Healey to resign as UK defense secretary on June 11.

Healey accused the government of underspending on the military at a time of "rising threats," citing a British intelligence assessment that



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer speaks on the occasion of the announcement of a defense plan, in Berkshire, England on June 30. (AP)

Russia could attack a NATO member country by 2030. He said that the plan put forward by the Treasury would see spending rise to just 2.68% in 2030, after hitting 2.6% next year.

Starmer said Healey's successor, Defense Secretary Dan Jarvis, had

worked to "sharpen and strengthen" the plan. It now includes 15 billion pounds (\$20 billion) in spending - more than the 13.5 billion pounds (\$18 billion) Healey was offered, but far less than the 28 billion pounds (\$37 billion) that defense officials had called for.

Europe

'Polls will be held in next 3 to 4 months': Serbia's

populist President Aleksandar Vucic on Monday said that early general elections in the Balkan country will be held in the next three to four months, and reiterated he will resign the presidential post ahead of the vote.

Vucic offered no exact dates. At a rally Saturday, he told supporters that it was likely the last time he would address them as president and said he will step down within weeks.

The move is widely seen as a political maneuver that would allow Vucic to become prime minister, formally the most powerful office in the country. Vucic is serving his second presidential term and is barred from running again.

"Yes, it is logical that we will have elections soon,



Vucic

and when I say soon I mean the next three-four months," Vucic said. He added he is yet to decide whether to seek the prime minister's post if his Serbian Progressive Party, SNS, wins the future parliamentary vote. (AP)

Germany shooting kills 6, suspect held: A shooting at a youth welfare facility in northern Germany on Monday left six people dead in what officials believe may have stemmed from a custody dispute. The suspected shooter was arrested.

Five people - four women and one man - died at the scene of the shooting in Stade, police said. A sixth, also an adult, died later at a hospital. All six were employees of the youth center or its affiliates, he said.

"The police are investigating the motive and the exact course of events under high pressure," Daniela Behrens, interior minister for the Lower Saxony region, told a news conference, adding that it was an extremely violent crime in cold blood, "apparently in a custody dispute." (AP)

KPC announces July LPG prices

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced on Tuesday its new liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices for July.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), KPC said the price of propane will

be set at USD 580 per metric ton in July, while butane will be priced at USD 600 per metric ton.

Propane and butane are widely used in the petrochemical industry as well as for cooking, heating and other fuel applications.

Kuwait oil price surge to \$79.85 pb

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): Price of Kuwaiti crude oil rose by USD 2.51 to USD 79.85 per barrel on Monday's trading, compared to

USD 77.34 pb last Friday, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

In global markets, Brent crude

rose USD 1.30 to settle at USD 73.91 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate went up USD 1.52 to USD 70.75 pb.

Main 50 bucks trend

Boursa Kuwait ends lower

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Tuesday's trading session in negative territory, with its general index falling 44.36 points, or 0.51 percent, to settle at 8,706.33 points. Trading activity saw 289.8 million shares exchanged through 22,359 cash transactions, with a total value of KD 77.7 million (approximately

USD 252.8 million).

The main market index declined by 44.25 points, or 0.49 percent, to close at 9,061.40 points. A total of 177.2 million shares were traded via 11,286 transactions, valued at KD 31.3 million (around USD 101.8 million).

The premier market index also recorded losses, dropping 46.68 points,

or 0.51 percent, to reach 9,082.68 points.

In contrast, the Main 50 Index outperformed the broader market, gaining 40.94 points, or 0.42 percent, to close at 9,820.37 points. The index saw 127.4 million shares traded through 7,504 transactions, with a total value of KD 24.2 million (around USD 78.7 million).

Introducing new regulatory framework

UIC unveils ETF Publication as CMA

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Mr. Abdullah Hamad AlTerkait, Chairman of the Union of Investment Companies (UIC), announced that, as part of UIC's leading role in supporting Kuwait's investment sector, enhancing investment awareness, and promoting specialized knowledge, and in line with its mission to advance the investment environment in Kuwait, UIC has released its latest professional publication entitled "Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs): Structure, Performance, Regulatory Frameworks, and Strategic Market Impact."

The publication comes at a particularly significant time, coinciding with the issuance of Capital Markets Authority (CMA) Resolution No. (80) of 2026, a landmark regulatory milestone in the development of Kuwait's capital market. The Resolution establishes, for the first time, a comprehensive regulatory framework governing the establishment, listing, and trading of Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) in the local market. This publication has been specifically developed to accompany these important regulatory developments by providing a comprehensive scientific and professional reference that explains the technical, regulatory, and strategic dimensions of this modern investment product.

In this context, AlTerkait commended the dedicated efforts of both the Capital Markets Authority and Boursa Kuwait in their continuous pursuit of enhancing the financial and business environment through the issuance of robust regulatory frameworks and the activation of modern investment instruments and products. These initiatives strengthen the resilience of the capital market and ensure its alignment with the latest global and regional developments, thereby serving the best interests of all investors and stakeholders while supporting the national economy and reinforcing its pivotal role in achieving Kuwait Vision 2035.

AlTerkait emphasized that UIC's mission extends beyond representing investment companies and safeguarding the interests of the sector. It also encompasses actively contributing to the development of a more informed and sustainable investment environment through the production and dissemination of specialized knowledge that reflects international best practices and the latest legislative and regulatory developments. The publication is intended to benefit all market participants, including investment companies, asset managers, regulatory authorities, researchers, academics, financial media professionals, university students, as well as institutional and individual investors.

He noted that the selection of Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) as the publication's focus reflects the growing importance of these investment vehicles, which have become one of the fastest-growing financial products worldwide over the past two decades. Today, ETFs represent one of the largest segments of the global asset management industry and have become a cornerstone in the development of modern capital markets. Their popularity stems from their efficiency in portfolio management, lower investment costs, enhanced transparency, intraday tradability, and ability to provide diversified investment exposure through a single financial instrument. These advantages have attracted increasing interest from investors, financial institutions, policymakers, and regulators around the world.

AlTerkait further explained that the publication goes well beyond providing a basic introduction to ETFs. It presents a comprehensive scientific study spanning eight interconnected chapters. The



Abdullah AlTerkait

■ Union of Investment Companies (UIC) Launches a Specialized Publication on Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) in Line with Kuwait's New Capital Market Regulatory Developments

publication begins by introducing the concept of Exchange-Traded Funds, their key characteristics, operational mechanisms, and global evolution from the launch of the first ETF to their current status as one of the world's largest asset management segments. It also examines the important role ETFs play in improving market efficiency, enhancing price discovery, increasing market liquidity, and facilitating access to a broad range of asset classes.

The publication also provides a detailed comparison between ETFs and traditional mutual funds, individual equities, bonds, and other investment instruments, while illustrating the various applications of ETFs in portfolio construction, hedging strategies, risk management, and tactical trading.

A dedicated chapter is devoted to explaining the operational structure of Exchange-Traded Funds in detail. It examines the functions performed by fund managers, Authorized Participants (APs), Market Makers, custodians, index providers, and stock exchanges. It also explains the relationship between the primary and secondary markets, the creation and redemption process, and the mechanisms that maintain the alignment between market prices and Net Asset Value (NAV). These technical aspects are among the most critical concepts that financial professionals must understand to appreciate how ETFs operate in practice.

The publication further provides an extensive overview of the various categories of ETFs, including equity ETFs, bond ETFs, commodity ETFs, currency ETFs, sector ETFs, geographic ETFs, Smart Beta ETFs, actively managed ETFs, thematic ETFs, leveraged ETFs, and inverse ETFs. Each category is examined in terms of its characteristics, advantages, associated risks, and suitable investment objectives, providing readers with a comprehensive understanding of the diversity and practical applications of these investment products across global markets.

In addition, the publication explores index construction methodologies and ETF design principles, including benchmark selection, weighting methodologies such as market capitalization weighting and equal weighting, as well as alternative approaches. It also discusses ETF valuation techniques, performance measurement, cost analysis, benchmark tracking methodologies, tracking error, and liquidity indicators, making the publication a practical reference for professionals engaged in portfolio management and institutional investment.

From a regulatory perspective,

the publication presents a comprehensive analysis of the legislative and regulatory frameworks governing ETFs across leading global markets. It reviews the evolution of regulatory oversight and highlights international best practices relating to disclosure, corporate governance, and risk management. The publication then turns its attention to Kuwait by dedicating a full chapter to the strategic implications of introducing ETFs into the local market. It analyzes how ETFs can contribute to enhancing capital market development, increasing market depth and liquidity, broadening the range of investment products, strengthening the competitiveness of the asset management industry, and attracting both domestic and international investors, all in alignment with Kuwait's financial sector development objectives.

AlTerkait noted that the publication assumes even greater significance following the issuance of CMA Resolution No. (80) of 2026, which represents a major regulatory advancement in the evolution of Kuwait's capital market. For the first time, the Resolution establishes a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework governing Exchange-Traded Funds by incorporating ETF definitions into the Executive Bylaws, regulating the establishment, listing, and trading of ETF units, introducing new regulatory roles such as Authorized Participants and Market Makers, setting governance requirements, service provider obligations, voluntary withdrawal mechanisms, segregation of duties, and investment restrictions specifically tailored to ETFs. These measures reflect the CMA's commitment to creating a robust regulatory environment that aligns with international best practices and facilitates the successful introduction of ETFs into the Kuwaiti market.

The Chairman further stressed that promoting investor education alongside regulatory development is one of the key success factors for any new financial product. While an advanced regulatory framework provides the necessary legal foundation, raising awareness among market participants and ensuring a thorough understanding of ETFs—their characteristics, operational mechanisms, benefits, and associated risks—is equally essential to encourage their sound utilization and support the sustainable development of Kuwait's capital market.

Concluding his statement, AlTerkait invited professionals working in the financial and investment sectors, companies, asset managers, academic institutions, researchers, financial journalists, and all those interested in capital markets to explore the publication and benefit from its scientific and professional content. He reaffirmed the Union's commitment to continuing the publication of specialized studies and professional references that keep pace with legislative, economic, and investment developments at the local, regional, and international levels, reinforcing the Union's role as a trusted source of investment knowledge and a center of expertise serving Kuwait's investment sector.

The publication is available for download through the Union of Investment Companies' official website <https://unioninvest.org/en/resources/books/>, where readers can access its full content and benefit from its comprehensive coverage. This initiative forms part of UIC's ongoing efforts to make specialized investment knowledge accessible to all stakeholders in the investment and capital markets sectors. The publication is available in both Arabic and English.

Business

'Best-in-class banking solutions & services'

The National Bank of Kuwait wins five prestigious awards from MEED

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Further reaffirming its leadership across local and regional markets, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has received five prestigious awards from leading global business publication MEED at the 2026 MENA Banking Excellence Awards. The recognition reflects NBK's outstanding efforts and distinguished performance in delivering innovative banking services, elevating customer experience across retail banking and digital innovation, and supporting the growth and development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Specifically, the five awards won by NBK were:

- Best SME Bank – MENA
- Best Credit Card Offering – MENA
- Best SME Bank – Kuwait
- Best Retail Bank – Kuwait
- Best Loan Offering – MENA, awarded to Weyay Bank

Collectively, these awards reflect NBK's prestigious standing at both the local and regional levels and reinforce its position among the leading financial institutions driving the transformation of the region's banking sector. They also recognize the Bank's excellence in delivering advanced banking services that combine robust performance with innovation, as well as its ability to respond effectively to customers' evolving needs through sophisticated digital banking solutions and innovative products that have enhanced their experience and exceeded their expectations.

In selecting the winners, MEED applies a rigorous and comprehensive evaluation methodology focused on performance, innovation, and the value delivered to customers. The assessment also considers the tangible impact of banking initiatives and their ability to generate measurable outcomes. This recognition underscores the strength of NBK's business model, its ability to compete effectively in its domestic market, and its successful expansion across the Middle East and North Africa, further cementing the NBK name as synonymous with excellence and leadership in the banking sector in Kuwait and across the region.

In particular, NBK further reinforced its leadership in supporting the small and medium-sized enterprise sector by securing the Best SME Bank – MENA and Best SME Bank – Kuwait awards. The dual recognition provides a clear testament to the Bank's excellence in this vital segment, reflecting its success in delivering an integrated suite of financial solutions alongside fast, flexible digital payment services that have supported the growth, resilience, and long-term sustainability of SMEs.

Similarly, the Best Credit Card Offering – MENA award recognizes NBK's excellence in developing products that not only address customers' evolving needs but con-



- NBK further consolidates its position as one of the region's foremost financial institutions, leading the transformation of the banking landscape
- The awards reaffirm NBK's prestigious standing and enduring market leadership at both the local and regional levels
- NBK continues to deliver innovative products and forward-looking solutions that not only address customers' evolving needs but consistently exceed their expectations, while keeping pace with the accelerating shift toward digital banking

sistently exceed their expectations, while keeping pace with the accelerating shift toward digital banking. The Bank distinguished itself by offering a comprehensive credit card ecosystem supported by advanced rewards programs and seamless digital services, helping elevate the customer experience and strengthen customer loyalty.

Furthermore, the Best Retail Bank – Kuwait award reflects NBK's success in delivering a comprehensive banking experience centered on customers' evolving needs and aspirations. The Bank has continued to consolidate its leadership in this segment by offering a diverse range of innovative products, responding to customer requirements with greater efficiency through tailored solutions and services, and accelerating digital innovation through advanced interfaces that enable a seamless and efficient banking experience. These capabilities have established NBK as the preferred banking partner for a broad customer base in the Kuwaiti market.

Meanwhile, Weyay Bank, Kuwait's first fully digital bank, con-

tinued to advance its record of excellence and leadership in digital banking by winning the Best Loan Offering – MENA award. The recognition highlights Weyay's growing role as a key driver of digital innovation within the Group and its success in delivering an integrated digital financing experience. Weyay distinguished itself through fully digital lending solutions that enable customers to apply for and manage their loans conveniently and transparently through the app, meeting the expectations of a digitally native generation and advancing the concept of smart banking.

More broadly, against a backdrop of intensifying competition and rapidly accelerating digital transformation across the banking industry, NBK continues to consolidate its position as a leading financial institution. Underpinned by a forward-looking strategy centered on innovation and sustainability, together with a strong capacity to adapt to evolving market dynamics, the Bank continues to strengthen its role in shaping the future of banking in Kuwait and across the region.

Weyay wins 'Best Loan Offering' award for Kuwait's first-of-its-kind digital loan

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: In a new regional milestone that reinforces its position as Kuwait's first fully digital bank, Weyay Bank announced that it has won the "Best Loan Offering" award for its pioneering digital loan offering. The award was presented by MEED as part of the Middle East and North Africa Banking Excellence Awards.

This recognition reflects the rigorous evaluation criteria set by this year's judging panel, which focused on delivering tangible value to customers through digital innovation, and on reimagining the traditional lending journey into a seamless, intuitive experience that aligns with the expectations of a new generation and the accelerating pace of digital transformation. Weyay Bank also remains committed to empowering customers to make informed financial decisions by providing guidance and advisory support before they apply for a loan.

Weyay Bank has successfully transformed the borrowing experience into a fully integrated digital journey that takes just minutes through its mobile app. From submitting an application and reviewing loan terms, to selecting the loan type, understanding interest rates, and receiving the approved amount into the customer's account, the entire process is completed within a secure and user-friendly platform. This provides a fast, transparent, and practical solution, particularly for employee customers seeking digital financial services that fit seamlessly into their lifestyles.

Through the app, customers can upload required documents, and sign contracts electronically via the Kuwait Mobile ID app using secure digital signature technology. For the



Weyay Bank achieves 'Best Loan Offering' award.

first time in Kuwait, Weyay Bank has also integrated with the Credit Information Network (CiNet) to enable instant and secure verification of customer data, helping accelerate approvals and enhance transparency. The app also allows customers to track their application in real-time and manage their loan with ease, alongside flexible financing options including both personal and housing loans to meet diverse needs.

This achievement marks an important milestone in Weyay Bank's journey and reflects the Bank's strong belief in the role of digital innovation in shaping the future of banking across the region. The goal was never just to launch a new financing product, but to completely rethink the lending experience—making it simpler, faster, and more transparent, in a way that

aligns with the lifestyle and expectations of the new generation.

Founded in 1957, MEED is one of the region's most respected publications, specializing in economic analysis across the Middle East. This award further highlights Weyay's leadership in digital banking innovation and its growing contribution to the evolution of Kuwait's financial sector. As financial services continue to rapidly evolve, Weyay remains committed to redefining banking in the digital age and empowering individuals to achieve their financial ambitions in an increasingly technology-driven world.

For more information about the MEED MENA Banking Excellence Awards:

<https://events.meed.com/event/menabankingretail/>

Reinforcing automotive growth strategy & customer-first culture in Kuwait's mobility sector

ALSAYER Car Rental & Leasing opens new & advanced Al-Rai facility



A landmark 4,550 sqm purpose-built automotive center featuring car rental, leasing, service hub to set a new benchmark for mobility excellence in Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: ALSAYER Car Rental and Leasing, part of ALSAYER Group, today celebrated the official opening of its newest rental and automotive service facility in Al Rai with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Mr. Faisal Bader Al-Sayer, Chairman of ALSAYER Group, and Mr. Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer, Chief Executive Officer. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Bengt Schultz, Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Scott McNicol, General Manager of ALSAYER Car Rental, senior management members of the Group, and team members from ALSAYER Car Rental — marking a significant milestone in the company's continued growth and its commitment to customer service excellence.

Representing a substantial investment by ALSAYER Group, the new Al Rai facility is a modern, purpose-built automotive service center dedicated to supporting car rental operations. Designed to improve service efficiency and reduce vehicle downtime, the state-of-the-art building combines advanced technology, operational excellence, and customer comfort within a single, integrated location.

Strengthening ALSAYER's Presence in a Key Commercial Area

The new Al Rai facility strengthens ALSAYER's presence in one of Kuwait's key commercial hubs, bringing the company closer to its customers and enabling faster, more responsive service. Equipped with the latest digital systems and modern infrastructure, the facility is designed to streamline operations and deliver a seamless, efficient rental experience from arrival to vehicle handover.

"This new facility reflects the Group's long-term vision and our continued confidence in Kuwait's mobility sector. It is a clear demonstration of ALSAYER's commitment to investing in infrastructure that serves our customers and our people for years to come."

— Mr. Faisal Bader Al-Sayer, Chairman

"Today's opening aligns with the Group's ambition to lead through quality, innovation, and service excellence. The Al Rai facility gives our rental business the scale and the tools to grow alongside the expectations of our customers".

— Mr. Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer, Chief Executive Officer

"We are committed to continuously improving the services we provide to our customers. The new facility not only enhances our operational capabilities but also creates a modern, welcoming environment where customers can access our services with greater convenience and comfort."

— Mr. Bengt Schultz, Chief Operating Officer

Service Workshop

Advanced Diagnostics: The workshop is equipped with the latest diagnostic tools, enabling fast, accurate identification of technical issues across all vehicle types.

14 Service Bays: A fully configured multi-bay layout capable of handling simultaneous servicing, minimizing queue times and maximizing throughput.

Optimized Vehicle Flow: The workshop layout has been engineered for a logical, unidirectional vehicle flow that eliminates bottlenecks, reduces idle time, and accelerates overall turnaround.

Dedicated Zones: Separate, purpose-defined areas for service operations, parts storage, and vehicle staging enhance productivity and ensure structured, efficient workflows.

Full-Spectrum Services: Capable of performing routine maintenance, mechanical repairs, and comprehensive vehicle inspections — all under one roof.

Improved Operational Efficiency

To support ALSAYER Car Rental's growing customer base, the Al-Rai facility has been designed to maximize operational efficiency, reduce vehicle downtime, and strengthen coordination between after-sales services and

the rental sales operation.

- Faster vehicle turnaround through an optimized workshop layout and streamlined service sequences.
- Dedicated zones for service, parts storage, and vehicle staging to enhance productivity and reduce waiting times.
- Improved coordination between technical, sales, and customer service teams within a single integrated facility.
- Reduced downtime, always ensuring higher vehicle availability for rental customers.

Customer Benefits

The Al Rai facility has been conceived with the customer at its center. Every operational and design decision has been guided by a commitment to enhancing the customer experience.

Better Availability: Faster service cycles and reduced downtime mean customers benefit from a consistently available, well-maintained fleet ready for immediate deployment.

Improved Service Quality: Standardized service protocols and controlled workshop processes ensure consistent, high-quality maintenance outcomes.

Transparent Inspection Processes: Digital and standardized vehicle inspection and reporting procedures provide customers with full visibility into the condition of their vehicle before and after rental.

Professional Environment: A facility built to ALSAYER standards, reflecting the Group's commitment to quality and ensuring every customer interaction takes place in a professional, welcoming setting.

Expertise Behind Every Vehicle

The Al Rai facility is operated by a team of trained automotive technicians equipped with the latest knowledge and skills in modern vehicle service practices. ALSAYER Car Rental's commitment to ongoing training and professional development ensures that the team is always equipped to handle the evolving demands of today's diverse range of vehicles — including the ones equipped with advanced systems and technologies.

Environmental Responsibility

Sustainability has been embedded into every aspect of the Al Rai facility's design and construction, with a strong focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, and long-term operational performance.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels: Installed across the rooftop parking areas, the solar PV system contributes directly to the facility's renewable energy generation and reduces its reliance on the conventional power grid.

High-Performance Thermal Insulation: Roofs and ex-

ternal walls are fitted with advanced thermal insulation systems that reduce heat gain, lower cooling energy demand, and improve year-round energy efficiency.

Premium Energy-Efficient Glazing: The facility's facade features high-specification thermally efficient glazing, balancing natural light with effective solar control.

High-Quality Aluminum Cladding: Premium white aluminum cladding on the external building envelope reflects solar radiation, reduces surface temperatures, and enhances the building's thermal performance.

LED Lighting Systems: Energy-efficient LED lighting reducing electricity consumption and maintenance requirements.

Sustainable Materials: Durable, sustainable building materials have been selected throughout to minimize maintenance requirements and extend the life cycle of the facility.

Rooftop Parking Shading: All rooftop parking areas are shaded, improving vehicle comfort for customers while enhancing the efficiency of the solar PV installation.

Future-Ready Infrastructure

The Al Rai facility has been engineered not just for today's needs, but for the demands of tomorrow. ALSAYER Car Rental has designed the building's infrastructure with scalability, flexibility, and technological readiness at its core.

- Capacity to support a growing fleet size and accommodate future expansion in line with business growth.
- Ready for integration of new automotive technologies, including electric vehicle (EV) servicing infrastructure and advanced digital management systems.
- Digital-first operational systems designed to integrate with ALSAYER's broader technology ecosystem.
- Modular workshop and storage zones that can be re-configured as service demands evolve.

A Pillar of ALSAYER's Growth and Mobility Strategy

The opening of the Al Rai facility forms part of ALSAYER Car Rental and Leasing's broader strategy to invest in innovation, strengthen customer relationships, and support the evolving transportation and mobility needs of the Kuwaiti market.

As ALSAYER celebrates this important milestone, the company looks forward to welcoming both its longstanding customers and new customers to the facility, and to continuing to build lasting partnerships for years to come. The Al Rai opening underscores ALSAYER Group's confidence in Kuwait's economy and its sustained commitment to delivering world-class mobility solutions across the markets it serves.

Facility Overview

The facility optimizes its 2,000-square-meter land footprint through an intelligent, multi-level architectural layout

Level	Area (sqm)	Description
Basement	2,000	Service and Support Facilities
Ground Floor	1,600	Offices and Service Workshop for Quick lube and Quick service
Mezzanine Floor	950	Offices and Solar System Shades
Total	4,550	Square Meters Built-Up Area

Parking Facilities- The facility features 120 dedicated parking spaces thoughtfully distributed across the basement, specialized rooftop deck, and external yards, ensuring rapid fleet turnaround and frictionless customer access

Dissent warns of 'unchecked power' after landmark ruling

Supreme Court broadens presidential authority, exempts Federal Reserve

WASHINGTON, June 30, (AP): The Supreme Court on Monday dramatically expanded presidential power, upholding President Donald Trump's firings of the heads of independent federal agencies with one important exception: the Federal Reserve.

The justices allowed Fed governor Lisa Cook to stay in her job while she fights the Republican president's effort to fire her over allegations of mortgage fraud, which she has denied.

But other than at the nation's central bank, with its role of setting interest rates, the court held that presidents have free rein to fire agency heads at will, despite federal laws that require a cause for such dismissals and a 91-year-old decision that had limited executive authority.

With the six conservative justices in the majority, the nine-member court jettisoned its unanimous decision in Humphrey's Executor that had limited when presidents can fire agencies' board members - in part to try to ensure decision-making free of political influence.

"We hold that such protection from removal is contrary to the separation of powers enshrined in the Constitution," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court.

The justices ruled in the case of former Federal Trade Commission member Rebecca Slaughter, whom Trump fired without cause despite a provision of federal law that requires a reason. The logic of the decision extends to other agencies, including the National Labor Relations Board, the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Consumer Product Safety Commission, where Trump also has fired board members.

Trump voiced his approval in a Truth Social post. "It is such an Honor to be the sitting President who won this Historic and Unprecedented Ruling, one of the most important ever given with respect to Presidential Powers," he wrote.

The court already had signaled its support for the Trump administration's position, over the liberals' objection, by allowing Slaughter and the board members of other agencies to be removed from their jobs even as their legal challenges continued.

No president before Trump had sought to wrest control of the agencies that regulate wide swaths of American life, including nuclear energy, product safety and labor relations. But at arguments in Slaughter's case in December, the six conservatives, including three appointed by Trump, seemed more concerned about issuing a ruling that would endure than handing too much power to Trump.

Their rhetoric was reminiscent of the presidential immunity case in 2024 that allowed Trump to avoid prosecution for his efforts to undo his 2020 presidential election loss to Democrat Joe Biden. The court is writing a decision "for the ages," Justice Neil Gorsuch said then.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor, in a dissent she summarized aloud in the courtroom, said the ruling could lead to "submission, instability, and even oppression."

"The president, to be sure, emerges with more power than ever before.



Federal Reserve Board of Governors member Lisa Cook leaves the Supreme Court in Washington, Jan. 21, 2026. (AP)

That power was given to him by six justices on this court, not the people or the Constitution," Sotomayor said.

In Cook's case, the court voted 5-4 to reject the Trump administration's effort to get Cook out of her job now. Roberts, Justice Brett Kavanaugh and the three liberal justices were in the majority.

Allowing Cook to be ousted now, Roberts wrote, "would allow the President to remove a member of the Federal Reserve at any time, for any reason, without any notice before, and without any judicial check after. That would turn for-cause protection into little more than at-will employment."

Roberts did include a footnote in his opinion noting that nothing forbids Trump from "trying again" to fire her, provided she is given proper notice and a chance to contest it.

Trump suggested he would take Roberts up on the offer, saying on Truth Social that "we will take appropriate action immediately to make sure that someone who has committed wrongdoing will not be making vital decisions concerning the Welfare of the United States of America!"

Cook, who was nominated to the Fed's Board of Governors by Biden, can continue in her post at least as long as her lawsuit challenging her firing goes on, the court said. The Trump administration is appealing a lower-court ruling in her favor.

Besides trying to fire Cook, Trump had threatened to fire former Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell if he didn't leave the board when his

term as chairman ended in mid-May. Powell has remained as a governor, even as Kevin Warsh has replaced him as chairman.

Judges on lower courts have allowed Cook to remain in her post as one of seven central bank governors.

The true motivation for trying to fire Cook, Trump's critics say, is the Republican president's desire to exert control over U.S. interest rate policy. If Trump succeeds in removing Cook, the first Black woman to be a Federal Reserve governor, he could replace her with his own appointee and gain a majority on the Fed's board. The case is being closely watched by Wall Street investors and could have broad impacts on the financial markets and the U.S. economy.

Cook said her case was "never about mortgage documents signed years before I became a Federal Reserve governor."

"It was an attempt to remove me on a manufactured pretext because I refused to bow to political pressure and continued to set interest rates based only on what would best serve the American people. That is the most fundamental obligation of a Federal Reserve governor," Cook said in a statement.

Trump has been dismissive of worries that cutting rates too quickly could trigger higher inflation. He wants dramatic reductions so the government can borrow more cheaply and Americans can pay lower borrowing costs for new homes, cars or other large purchases, as worries about high costs have soured some voters on his economic management.

The Fed has left its key rate unchanged this year, but a growing chorus of policymakers is expressing concern about persistently high inflation and suggesting the central bank could raise its benchmark rate by the end of this year or leave it unchanged.

While Cook's case was under review at the high court, Trump dramatically escalated his confrontation with the Fed. The Justice Department opened a criminal investigation of Powell and served the central bank with subpoenas.

The investigation ended in late April, the department said. The announcement cleared a major roadblock to the confirmation of Warsh as Powell's successor.

The case against Cook stems from allegations she claimed two properties, in Michigan and Georgia, as "primary residences" in June and July 2021, before she joined the Fed board. Such claims can lead to a lower mortgage rate and smaller down payment than if one of them was declared as a rental property or second home.

Those applications, Solicitor General D. John Sauer said in January, are evidence of "gross negligence at best" and give Trump reason to fire her. In any event, he argued, courts shouldn't be reviewing his decision and Cook has no right to a hearing.

Cook has denied any wrongdoing and has not been charged with a crime.

Alothman: partnership drives sports development and opens horizons for young Kuwaiti talent

tam joins forces with Salisbury F.C. in strategic partnership

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: tam Digital Bank has announced a strategic partnership with English football club Salisbury FC, a move designed to back promising Kuwaiti athletic talent and pave the way for professional careers abroad. The collaboration resulted in three rising Kuwaiti players earning the opportunity to join Salisbury, giving them firsthand experience of an English club's professional training environment.

Executive Manager Tam Banking, Ahmed Alothman said: "By partnering with Salisbury FC, tam reinforces its commitment to championing national sports and helping Kuwaiti youth unlock their potential. This collaboration with a renowned sports institution is a clear step towards elevating the broader sports ecosystem and fostering positive social values."

Alothman added: "We believe in investing in our youth and helping them reach their full professional potential. This partnership offers Kuwaiti talents direct exposure to the global sports arena, providing the necessary experience to hone their skills and



Ahmed Alothman & Ali AlHamad

launch their careers."

Alothman highlighted the bank's focus on community initiatives that develop youth through sports. He noted that football is especially effective at cultivating discipline, teamwork, and ambition in young people.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Salisbury F.C., Ali AlHamad, emphasized the importance of the partnership with tam, noting that it will support the club in the coming period and reflects a shared commitment to developing Kuwaiti talent.

AlHamad thanked tam for supporting the initiative, expressing hope for a continued and expanded partnership that meets the aspirations of young Kuwaiti athletes and helps discover promising local talent.

The collaboration between tam Bank and Salisbury F.C. recently culminated in the debut of the trials program, establishing a vital pipeline for discovering Kuwaiti football talents. By offering aspiring athletes a chance to perform directly before experts, the initiative serves as a crucial step toward professional training and careers.

Warba's 'Beyond' achieves MEED Award for start-ups

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Warba Bank announced that its business banking platform, "Beyond," has been named "Best for Start-Ups" at the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) Awards. This regional recognition reflects the bank's business banking strategy focused on supporting entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The award marks Warba Bank's first recognition from MEED, emphasizing the bank's growing presence within the regional business banking sector.

Strategic Support for Entrepreneurs:

Faisal Abdulrazzaq Al-Nassar, Chief Corporate Banking Officer at Warba Bank, stated:

"This award recognizes Beyond's growth since its launch, reinforcing the platform's position as a key banking initiative supporting start-ups in the region. Beyond delivers an integrated model that combines tailored financial solutions with the operational requirements of modern entrepreneurs."

Al-Nassar added that the bank remains focused on creating a supportive banking ecosystem for emerging businesses across various growth stages, from inception to sustainable expansion. By offering flexible banking services, Beyond enables business owners to optimize their daily operations and focus on strategic objectives.

Economic Impact and Innovation:

Hamad Tayseer Al-Mutawa, Head of Business Banking at Warba Bank, commented:

"Winning this award represents a clear recognition of the bank's approach to supporting entrepreneurs and the wider business community. Warba Bank continues to invest in high-growth sectors, dedicating specialized resources to start-ups, which represent key drivers for job creation and economic diversification in the region."

Al-Mutawa noted that this direc-



Faisal Al-Nassar

Faisal Al-Nassar: The recognition highlights the bank's commitment to supporting entrepreneurs and strengthening the SME sector



Hamad Al-Mutawa

Hamad Al-Mutawa: Emerging companies serve as primary drivers for economic diversification and innovation

tion aligns with national efforts to build a diversified and sustainable economy by enhancing financial inclusion and access to credit for innovative business models.

About Warba Bank:

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



East Mediterranean gas gains momentum with new deal

Cyprus gas output could start by 2033, Exxon says

NICOSIA, June 30, (AP): Natural gas could start flowing by 2033 out of two undersea deposits discovered by ExxonMobil off Cyprus, a senior executive with the company said Tuesday, helping to turn the east Mediterranean island nation into a new European energy hub.

The largest U.S. oil company and its consortium partner, QatarEnergy, consider the most likely option for getting the gas to market would be conveying it through a pipeline to existing processing facilities in Egypt where it can be liquefied for export, Exxon-Mobil's Vice President of Global Exploration John Ardill said.

Other options including building onshore facilities in Cyprus or a floating one in waters over the deposits are considered too costly at this point.

"Everything you've seen between the government of Cyprus and the government of Egypt gives us a lot of confidence that there's good government to government coordination, the

agreements in place to leverage that eastern Mediterranean energy hub concept," Ardill said.

He was speaking after ExxonMobil and QatarEnergy signed a deal with Cyprus declaring the two deposits commercially viable.

The deposits - dubbed Glaucaus and Pegasus - are located in Block 10 of Cyprus' exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and are estimated to hold together roughly 7 trillion cubic feet of gas.

Ardill said the consortium is looking to expand its presence off Cyprus, expressing interest in exploring an area, or block, on the southwestern corner of the EEZ that is adjacent to an area where it already holds drilling licenses.

The consortium will carry out additional drilling at the Pegasus deposit around the end of this year to collect more key data for its development, he added.

"So what we should tell ordinary people is we have been working very diligently together between government and investor to make these discoveries and we're working very diligently

to get the gas flowing for the people of Cyprus," Ardill said.

Cyprus is trying to position itself as a new energy source for Europe and beyond following the initial discovery of natural gas off its southern shore in 2011.

Apart from ExxonMobil and QatarEnergy, two other consortiums hold exploration licenses in the Cypriot EEZ.

A consortium composed of Italy's Eni and French TOTAL holds licenses for four blocks where two deposits hold an estimated 5.6 trillion cubic feet of gas combined, while a partnership between Chevron, Dutch Shell and Israeli NewMed is licensed for one block where the oldest discovery - Aphrodite - holds approximately 5.6 trillion cubic feet of gas.

Earlier this year, Eni's Chief Operating Officer Guido Brusco said the company was close to making a final decision on developing the Cronos gas field that could deliver the hydrocarbon to European markets by late 2027 or early 2028.

Lagarde warns inflation could overshoot without action

ECB to adjust rates gradually amid volatility

FRANKFURT, June 30, (AP): The head of the European Central Bank defended its June 11 rate hike as justified to ward off real inflationary pressures and said it wasn't just a mere "insurance hike."

ECB head Christine Lagarde said Monday that without the quarter percentage-point increase, inflation could have lingered above the bank's 2% target into 2028.

"Some have characterized our rate increase earlier this month as an 'insurance hike,'" Lagarde said. "I'm sorry to disappoint them. That is not an accurate description. We faced an outlook of rising headline and core inflation."

The central bank for the 21 countries that use the euro raised its benchmark rate earlier in June by a quarter point to 2.25%, the first rate move

in a year. Even with higher rates, inflation is projected to return to 2% only in the last three months of 2027. Euro area annual inflation was 3.2% in May.

Lagarde said, however, that the bank wouldn't need the jumbo half-point and three-quarter-point increases that it used to squelch double-digit inflation after Russia cut off gas supplies over the war in Ukraine.

Instead, better forecasting means the bank can go meeting to meeting and take a more measured approach as it confronts the fluctuating price pressures from the Iran war and the interruption of oil and gas supplies through the Strait of Hormuz. The bank has rate-setting meetings July 22-23 and Sept. 9-10.

The bank responded to the Russian gas cutoff

with "the fastest tightening cycle in our history, raising rates in increments we had never used before," she said in the text of a speech at the bank's annual monetary policy conference in Sintra, Portugal.

"We no longer need to act with the same force," she said. "We can make measured adjustments to rates, calibrated to the shocks we face."

She said bank forecasters were now using scenarios of milder and harsher outcomes to geopolitical events so that the bank could make sure it doesn't over- or underreact. Oil prices have fluctuated wildly during the Iran war, while the European economy has held up better than many expected against headwinds from U.S. President Donald Trump's imposition of new tariffs on European imports.

AI boom drives manufacturing back into expansion

China factory growth picks up amid export strength

HONG KONG, June 30, (AP): China's factory activity picked up pace in June, an official survey showed Tuesday, as demand for artificial intelligence hardware made exports robust.

The official manufacturing purchasing managers index, or PMI, expanded to 50.3 from 50 in May, better than economists' expectations, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. That's despite worries over China's economy losing steam.

On a 0 to 100 scale, a reading above 50 reflects expansion, while below 50 indicates contraction. The sub-index for new orders climbed to 51.2 in June from 49.9 in May, and the sub-

index on production also expanded to 51.4 from 51.2.

"China's economy has regained some momentum lately. But this remains heavily dependent on exports and AI-related tech," Julian Evans-Pritchard, head of China economics at Capital Economics, wrote in a Tuesday note. "External demand remains the main engine of growth for China's manufacturing sector."

Huo Lihui, a chief statistician at the National Bureau of Statistics, said in a statement that the June data reflected that China's economic climate was warming.

Some economists cautioned, however, that

Chinese consumers have remained cautious after a years-long property sector downturn and domestic demand is still sluggish.

Further policy support from the Chinese government this year to help boost domestic consumption and investment would be beneficial and could help avoid an increasingly unbalanced growth pattern, said Lynn Song, chief economist for Greater China at ING Bank.

Chinese leaders have set an economic growth target of 4.5% to 5% for the whole of this year, with economists expecting the country is likely to meet that goal with the help of surging AI-related exports.

From allowances to apps: raising money-savvy kids

At the grocery store, Jamie Corum sets a two-minute timer for her 10-year-old daughter to look around. Then she resets it to 10 minutes so her daughter can choose one thing to buy, making sure she considers her budget and how much tax she'll have to pay.

Corum and her wife have made it a priority to teach financial lessons to their three children, using engaging activities to encourage their interest in topics like saving and budgeting.

"My goal is for them to have a healthy relationship with money and not have insecurities," said Corum, an Austin, Texas-based cybersecurity professional.

Not everyone feels as confident. Money can be a difficult conversation, especially if parents don't feel totally comfortable with the topic themselves. But Jennifer Seitz, director of education at Greenlight, a family personal finance app, said that's starting to change.

"This generation is really committed to doing better for their kids even though a majority of parents don't feel equipped," Seitz said.

There are more banking products available to help parents think about their children's financial futures, including debit cards for kids that can be used under parental supervision and apps that gamify money to make it approachable for kids.

Some people actually start learning while they are parenting, like Naseema McElroy, a nurse who became a money content creator.

When McElroy's oldest daughter was a year old, she felt inspired to learn more about personal finance to pay off debt. As she learned more, she started to share her knowledge with friends and then a wider audience online.

"I started just from wanting to share the lessons that I was learning about money with my friends because I felt like we learn so late in life and then we all had daughters," McElroy said.

Many parents want to start talking about finances with their children because they didn't have financial education growing up, Seitz said. Here are some expert recommendations if you want to start talking about money with your kids:

Money conversations can feel uncomfortable, especially if your family didn't encourage them. But if you want your children to engage with money in a healthy way, it's best to talk about it, said Carrie Joy Grimes, a personal finance expert and founder of WorkMoney, a personal finance nonprofit.

"Have conversations about money in front of your kid to normalize it," Grimes said.

In Corum's family, the topic of money has become part of their daily lives.

"We talk about how we have a budget for the house, that everything that their mom and I bring into the house has an assignment, a job," Corum said.

A great way to start is by talking about the cost of things, said Courtney Pettway, CEO and

founder of KidVestors, a financial literacy platform for children. Pettway recommends asking questions like: What does this item cost? Why do you want this item? Is it a need or a want? And if they're getting an allowance, you could ask: How long would it take for you to save up for this item?

At the dinner table, while you're at the grocery store, when you travel or shop for clothes, take day-to-day situations and turn them into money lessons.

A key aspect of personal finance is knowing how to make choices with money. This can be taught by giving kids small amounts of money and allowing them to choose how to spend it, Grimes said.

"I gave (my daughter) enough money that she could make choices with it. So she learned early on that she had enough she could save up for something, so she could say no to things and say yes to other things," said Grimes. "Learning to say no, learning to hold money to yourself for long enough to get the thing you want, it's a really hard skill."

When giving children the opportunity to choose, it's crucial parents don't impart judgment on their decisions, said Bobbi Rebell, consumer finance expert at BadCredit.org, a personal finance website. Framing choices as personal preferences rather than right or wrong answers will build children's confidence in their decision-making process, she said. (AP)

'Status quo not an option'

EU & China agree to monitor trade flows to rebalance ties

BRUSSELS, June 30, (KUNA): The EU and China have agreed to immediately establish a joint mechanism to monitor trade flows to help rebalance trade between the two sides, said European Union Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic.

Speaking after talks in Brussels with Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao, which he described as "intensive, focused and constructive," Sefcovic said the discussions marked an important step toward addressing key trade issues between the two partners.

Sefcovic stressed that "status quo is not an option" in the EU's trade relationship with China, adding that both sides' teams have sufficient time between now and October to "deliver tangible results." He also said he would travel to Beijing this autumn to assess the progress achieved.

He noted that both sides had agreed to "immediately set up a joint monitoring mechanism of

trade flows as a tool to help balance our trade."

Sefcovic pointed out that the EU's trade deficit with China continues to widen, saying that "the gap is widening, China's exports to the EU keep rising, while our market share in China keeps shrinking."

He added that the talks focused on four main areas: trade and investment balancing, export controls, intellectual property rights, and World Trade Organization (WTO) reform.

On supply chains, Sefcovic welcomed Commerce Minister Wang's reassurance that "existing export controls on rare earth and permanent magnets will not disrupt EU supply chains."

The EU trade chief also reiterated that "the EU remains open for business, but we need to defend our industrial base and keep pushing for a level playing field globally."



Stitching a lost home

Palestinian weaver Samira Nasser works on a handmade embroidered piece at the Inaash Association embroidery workshop in Beirut, Tuesday, May 19, 2026. (AP)

Embroidered belonging: A refugee's thread to Palestine

Decades later, Samar Kabouli still fondly recalls gathering with women in her family and sipping cardamom-spiced coffee as they embroidered fabric with colorful threads in traditional Palestinian patterns.

Born in Lebanon to Palestinian refugees, Kabouli had never seen her parents' homeland. But more than just making pretty designs, the threads in her needle were stitching a connection to her heritage.

It's known as "tatreez," and Kabouli, 48, started doing the traditional form of Palestinian embroidery in her teens to make money. Besides an economic lifeline, tatreez has provided her with a bridge to the land her parents fled during the 1948 mass displacement that Palestinians call their Nakba, or catastrophe.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were expelled or fled their homes in present day Israel during the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. Israel refused their return.

Kabouli's work allows her to send a message of resilience, of survival.

"We're still here," she said. "All what has been happening in Gaza ... and we're still standing and we'll not forget the cause."

From refugee camps to stitching circles and from museum halls to online classes, many in the Palestinian diaspora communities worldwide engage with tatreez as far more than a decorative aesthetic.

They're finding in it a celebration of cultural heritage, a bridge to their homeland and dispersed communities and - with its myriad embroidered symbols - a visual language of storytelling. To many, refugees or not, it's become a symbol of Palestinian identity and pride, a vehicle for documenting history and a form of resistance.

With the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, some have also used it to raise funds for people there or stitched designs to focus attention on Palestinian suffering in the enclave.

"We had a lot of people who came and they're like, 'OK, we want to do a T-shirt with a Gaza chest or we want to do a scarf with the Gaza motif,'" said Ali Jaafar, general manager of Inaash Association, where Kabouli works. The Lebanese organization provides Palestinian women in refugee camps in Lebanon with much-needed income through tatreez, while also aiming to help preserve and promote the heritage. It sells embroidered fashion, home decor and art pieces, and showcases the art form in exhibitions and museums.

Efforts to preserve and raise awareness about tatreez in Palestinian communities at home and abroad are part of a larger push to safeguard a heritage and connections to a history and a place that many fear are at risk of being erased.

"Palestinian tatreez is an identity and a document of our presence in every Palestinian village and town," said Maha Saca, founder and director of the Palestinian Heritage Center in Bethlehem in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, adding that old embroidered thobes, or dresses, show the presence of Palestinians in particular locations



A hand-embroidered map of historic Palestine with names of cities and the words "Palestine" and "Returning" in Arabic is displayed at the Inaash Association embroidery workshop in Beirut, Tuesday, May 19, 2026. (AP)

before the dispersal of many.

"The Palestinian woman has written the story of her village through motifs from her surrounding environment and her beliefs," Saca said. "We're struggling through culture and saying we have roots."

The Palestinian embroidery art form was added in 2021 to UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

In New York, Lina Barkawi, whose small business teaches tatreez, said the "constant fight for liberation and having a Palestinian identity that's recognized globally is really what has been driving a lot of this documentation."

In Arabic, tatreez refers to embroidery in general as well as the specific Palestinian form, which is often a social practice taught through generations by grandmothers and mothers. Some seek formal training.

With motifs that Palestinian women had historically adopted from their surroundings, the old embroidered thobes can offer clues through stitched patterns, design and color about facets of a woman's personal story, her environment and regional identity, Saca said.

In the Palestinian context, such connections to time and place, including areas now in Israel, gain added importance as testament to what was, she said. "How do we

have a Jaffa thobe if we hadn't been in Jaffa?" she said. "We write history on our thobes."

There's also an element of continuity. Saca said her grandmother's embroidered wedding thobe bears the hallmarks of Bethlehem dresses, and that her own granddaughter's baptism dress included embroideries copied from that dress.

Tatreez also can be political, both through preservation and creation.

"Just being able to have some of the dresses from pre-1948 is a political act," Barkawi said.

There's also the making of the so-called "intifada thobe" that included embroidered political and Palestinian symbols, such as the flag. It's linked to the "first intifada," or uprising, which erupted in 1987 against Israel's occupation and was met with a fierce Israeli response.

After the war in Gaza, which was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, fashion designer Hama Hinnawi expressed grief through tatreez work. Tatreez is usually colorful, she said. But that was no moment for color.

The result? Black embroidery on black fabric, a statement of mourning for the killings, destruction and displacement in Gaza. She's also experimented with turning

some iconic scenes from the war into new embroidery motifs.

"We have a big responsibility on our shoulders to tell this story, not to be buried for the next generations ... through tatreez, through art, through speaking."

Born in Jordan to Palestinian parents, Hinnawi wanted to bring awareness to heritage through her fashion brand by marrying tatreez with contemporary fashion.

To her, tatreez simply means home. It's "identity, pride, storytelling," said Hinnawi, who shuttles between Chicago and Jordan.

She's provided embroidery work opportunities to Palestinian women in refugee camps in Jordan and talked in the U.S. about tatreez. Before the war, she also worked with women in Gaza.

Barkawi runs an online community of Palestinian and non-Palestinian embroiderers, some of whom have created designs sold to raise funds for Gaza families. One incorporates a "water and seeds" motif with an embroidered message to "Feed Gaza Now."

Members in different countries recreated a tapestry that once hung in a bombed Gaza home, each stitching a part and mailing it to another.

Born in the U.S. to a Palestinian father and Panamanian mother, Barkawi said learning about tatreez deepened her Palestinian identity.

Embroidering her first thobe took two years. Barkawi incorporated motifs with personal meanings, such as palm trees that represent her name in Arabic. She added orchids, the national flower of Panama, for her mom.

Technically imperfect, it was the perfect dress for her Islamic marriage ceremony.

"I embedded my story as a Palestinian in the diaspora into this dress."

In Lebanon, Kabouli, too, once dreamed of owning a tatreez piece for her wedding trousseau. She couldn't afford one.

After their parents died, an older sister had turned to tatreez with Inaash to help support the large family. Kabouli learned from her.

Now a production supervisor at Inaash in Beirut, Kabouli sees her younger self in the women working in refugee camps in Lebanon, many in the south, which was hard hit by the latest Israel-Hezbollah war. The vibrancy of tatreez often contrasts with harsh living conditions in camps amid employment and other restrictions the refugees face. Contending with power cuts, women, eager to finish a piece and get paid, may work on rooftops to grasp the last ray of sunlight, Jaafar said.

Besides the income, Kabouli said doing tatreez can be grounding, almost meditative.

She has another yearning: to see her parents' homeland. They came from an area in what's now Israel.

For now, tatreez provides her with hope.

"I don't feel like I am far away. I keep working on Palestinian heritage, following the cause," she said. "It connects me to my homeland, especially since we're deprived of it." (AP)



Palestinian weaver Samar Kabouli works at the Inaash Association embroidery workshop in Beirut, Tuesday, May 19, 2026. (AP)



Ali Jaafar, the general manager of Inaash Association, arranges clothes at the embroidery workshop in Beirut, Tuesday, May 19, 2026. (AP)



Palestinian weavers Rula Barakeh, right, and Samira Nasser work on handmade embroidered pieces at the Inaash Association embroidery workshop in Beirut, Tuesday, May 19, 2026. (AP)

Disney sequel continues dominance in second weekend

'Supergirl' misses mark as 'Toy Story 5' leads box office

NEW YORK, June 30, (AP) — In a setback for Warner Bros' revamped DC movie operations, "Supergirl" was absolutely no match for "Toy Story 5" at the box office, opening a distant second to the Pixar blockbuster.

After a near-record debut for an animated movie, "Toy Story 5" remained No. 1 at the box office with \$70 million in domestic ticket sales and another \$89.1 million overseas, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Walt Disney Co. release has in two weeks quickly amassed \$585 million globally, making it one of the biggest hits of the year.

"Supergirl," however, failed to lift off. It opened with \$38 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters. It added \$30 million in overseas markets.

Craig Gillespie's superhero spinoff is the second big-screen release from James Gunn and Peter Safran, who were tapped to lead DC Studios in late 2022. Their first release, 2025's "Superman," grossed \$618 million worldwide, a strong-enough start for Gunn and Safran.

But "Supergirl" flopped with both critics and moviegoers. Reportedly trimmed significantly after test screenings, Gillespie's film landed poor reviews (56% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and a "B-" CinemaScore from audiences.

The poor opening weekend for "Supergirl" puts it behind the disappointing debuts of DC busts like "The Flash" (\$55 million in 2023) and "The Green Lantern" (\$53 million in 2011), and only barely ahead of "Joker: Folie à Deux" (\$37.7 million in 2024).

David A. Gross, who runs the movie consulting firm FranchiseRe, noted superhero movies no longer drive the box office like they did pre-pandemic. There are fewer yearly releases, and the box office in the genre is down approximately \$3.5 billion annually from its highs in 2017-2019.

After huge successes like "Wonder Woman" (\$822 million in 2017) and "Captain Marvel" (\$1.1 billion in 2019), female-fronted superhero movies have also taken a downturn.

"You'll hear general explanations like 'the audience lost interest.' Yes, they did," said Gross. "But no one has been able to explain why it happened so suddenly and so completely. Why female superheroes in particular, after their sensational starts? We don't understand it either."

The stumble for "Supergirl," which cost \$170 million to make, comes as Warner



This image released by Disney shows characters Bullseye, left, and Jessie, voiced by Joan Cusack, in a scene from Disney and Pixar's "Toy Story 5." (AP)

Bros. Discovery, the film studio's parent company, is preparing to be acquired by Paramount Skydance. David Ellison, Paramount chief executive, recently met with Gunn and Safran.

The next DC release is "Clayface," a body horror take on the DC character, to be released in October. Gunn's "Superman" follow-up, "Man of Tomorrow," is currently in production. It's dated for July 2027.

Gunn, who serves as a producer on "Supergirl," handed directing duties to Gillespie, the filmmaker of "I, Tonya" and "Cruella." Milly Alcock, who briefly appeared in "Superman," stars as Supergirl, or Lara Zor-El, a younger cousin to Superman who's more of a party girl than a world saver.

Paramount Pictures' "Jackass: Best and Last" was the weekend's other new wide release. The latest stunt compilation from Johnny Knoxville and company

opened with a modest \$8.4 million from 2,855 North American theaters. While that's a good result for a movie that cost just \$10 million to make, the 2022 installment, "Jackass Forever," debuted with \$23 million before ultimately grossing \$80 million worldwide.

Olivia Wilde's dinner party comedy "The Invite" notched one of the best per-screen averages of the year. Opening on seven screens in New York and Los Angeles, it debuted with \$379,104, good for a per-screen average of \$54,158.

Wilde's third film as director stars herself, Seth Rogen, Penélope Cruz and Edward Norton as a pair of San Francisco couples who meet for an impromptu night together. A24 acquired the film after its buzzy Sundance Film Festival premiere. The indie distributor is hoping "The Invite," which will expand next week and go nationwide on July 10, can revive the largely dormant summer comedy.

The micro-budget horror phenomenon "Obsession" continued to hold unusually strong. It took third place on the weekend with \$9.8 million in its seventh weekend of release. Curry Barker's film, made for less than \$1 million, has now collected \$233.9 million domestically for Focus Features, plus \$108.9 million internationally.

Such legs, however, haven't materialized for Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller "Disclosure Day." In the Universal Pictures' third weekend of release, it slipped to fifth place with \$8.1 million in domestic theaters. Spielberg's UFO tale has grossed \$193.7 million globally in three weeks.

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak:

1. "Toy Story 5," \$70 million.
2. "Supergirl," \$38 million.
3. "Obsession," \$9.8 million.
4. "Jackass: Best and Last," \$8.4 million.
5. "Disclosure Day," \$8.1 million.
6. "Backrooms," \$4.3 million.
7. "Scary Movie," \$3 million.
8. "Masters of the Universe," \$2.2 million.
9. "Bleach: Thousand-Year Blood War - The Calamity," \$2 million.
10. "Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu," \$1.6 million.

The Conversation

Why Gen Z is falling in love with film photography again

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

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By Rotem Rozental

University of Southern California

Film photography is experiencing a resurrection, summoned by unlikely conjurers: Gen Z.

It wasn't too long ago that analog photography - which uses photographic film and chemical processing - was declared all but dead, relegated to the province of niche hobbyists and professional artists.

Digital cameras had taken over nearly all areas of photographic production. Film industry titans like Polaroid and Kodak had shrunk dramatically from their heyday, becoming shells of their former selves. Darkrooms, where students learned how to manually develop and print film, shuttered at high schools and college campuses across the country, replaced by digital labs. For most people, the spirit of analog photography was mainly channeled through Instagram filters.

But within the past few years, younger people have been increasingly drawn to the old way of doing photography. In 2025, 35% of the 42 million active film camera users worldwide were reported to be between the ages of 18 and 30. The year prior, online searches for analog photography saw a 41% rise.

Disposable camera sales have been steadily increasing since 2023. The photography journal PetaPixel went a step further and announced 2024 as "film's best year in decades," as major brands have introduced new cameras in response to renewed demand and revived classic models. More than 30% of respondents to a 2024 Ilford Photo survey on film photography were in the 25-34 age group.

As I've witnessed more and more of my undergraduate art and design students embrace analog photography, I'm not seeing this as a trend rooted in a nostalgic yearning for the past. Instead, I'm seeing it as young people rejecting algorithms, breaking free from the alienation of social media and reacting to childhoods spent on Zoom and TikTok - a deliberate move to redefine the future of art, social connection and engagement with the world.

In my work as a historian of photography and lecturer at the University of Southern California, I'll often ask my students about how they take photos - whether they're using digital cameras their smartphones or analog devices.

This year, for the first time, some of my students discussed images they'd printed and the physical photography albums they'd put together of their friends and family. They talked about how they'd also been sending postcards, writing letters and tacking photographs to their bedroom walls.

I couldn't help but think about how so much of the language tied to early social media seemed to refashion physical gestures for a virtual world - "posting" on a "wall," "poking," "tagging" and "bookmarking," not to mention "friending."

This was a rhetorical move by social media companies, likely designed to help people feel as though they were in a familiar terrain of social connection. Yet the underlying business model of these platforms depended more on maximizing engagement and advertising revenue than on nurturing authentic relationships.

Everyone knows what happened

next: The more connected young people became online, the more isolated and detached they started to feel. The COVID-19 lockdown pushed social life online even further, and researchers are only now starting to see how the combination of increased screen time and isolation negatively affected adolescents' mental health. By 2023, 51% of American teenagers reported they spend at least four hours a day on social media.

I see the attraction of analog photography as a response to life lived through screens, a pathway toward community engagement and the desire for what sociologists call "a third place."

Coincided by sociologist Ray Oldenburg in his 1989 book "The Great Good Place," third places are meant as a space separate from home and work. They offer a reprieve for the in-between, generating the conditions needed for creative cross-pollination. They might include a local cafe, a neighborhood writing group, a weekly Magic: The Gathering game or a college fraternity - any space that allows for social interaction and personal growth.

These spaces also combat loneliness. They get people out of their heads and into a community. Oldenburg also referred to them as "havens of sociability," places or gatherings where people can arrive alone to join others, and the atmosphere is "democratic and festive."

In April 2026, the inaugural Analog.Org took place in Los Angeles. Organized by the Los Angeles Center of Photography, where I serve as executive director and chief curator, it was a festival for all things analog photography. It didn't just serve as a third place for photography enthusiasts; it also showed how analog photography - as a practice, ritual and community - is flourishing.

Vendors, industry leaders, artists and teachers participated in the two-day event, which included exhibitions, panels, demonstrations and guided photography tours around Little Tokyo. The excitement and thirst for similar events was palpable.

Photography now joins a broader trend of a generational preoccupation with physical cultural objects and media. Although music streaming represents 82% of revenues generated in the music industry, vinyl records sales have been rising for over a decade, crossing the US\$1 billion threshold in the U.S. in 2025.

Nearly 60% of Gen Z are now purchasing records. VHS tapes and VCR players are also making a strange comeback, with stores like Be Kind Video and Videotheque in California offering VHS, DVDs and Blu-ray rentals.

But beyond that, record stores and video rental shops have become third places in their own right. There's a big difference between selecting a film to stream from your bed and getting out of the house, going to a store and talking about movies with a clerk and fellow film enthusiasts.

Think about the sound a tape cassette makes when you open and close it, or the vibrant graphics on the covers of DVDs or VHS tapes. Think about rewinding or making a mixtape for your recent crush. These are objects of belonging that signal specific cultural moments, rituals and aesthetics, and many young people today are starting to experience them for the first time.

Now, think about gently inserting a roll of film into a camera. Think about choosing an angle carefully when snapping a photo, because the number of frames is limited and you want to make them count. Think about the thrill of discovery when the pictures finally emerge as objects on paper. (AP)

Obituaries

Good life star Keith bows out at 86

Stars honor Clive Davis' legacy at funeral

NEW YORK, June 30, (AP) — Kenny G played a mournful sax solo, Jennifer Hudson's voice soared and Bruce Springsteen spoke glowingly at the funeral Monday for music legend Clive Davis, as pop royalty honored a man who championed so many of their careers.

Dionne Warwick, Barry Manilow, Alicia Keys, Ja Rule and Stevie Wonder were among the other musical stars at the service. Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Adrien Brody, Hoda Kotb and Gayle King were among the other notables.

Rabbi Angela Warnick Buchdahl said Davis would have been thrilled by the turnout. "Clive would have loved this," she said. "He'd have been touched to have filled the house, thrilled by the superstars who have come to share tributes to him."

The service was closed to the public but was livestreamed from Central Synagogue in Manhattan.

Davis, a record company lawyer who rose to become one of music's most influential figures, launched the careers of numerous stars, including Whitney Houston, Springsteen, Keys and Kenny G, and influenced others such as Carlos Santana, Janis Joplin and the Grateful Dead.

Springsteen called him big, bombastic and brave. "He was born to run everything," the Boss said. He remembered meeting him at age 22 in 1972, his anxiety rising. "I can't wait to hear you," Davis told him. After his audition, the executive simply said: "Welcome to Columbia Records."

"In those few words, he changed



Family members walk out as pallbearers carry the casket of Clive Davis after funeral services at Central Synagogue in New York, Monday, June 29, 2026. (AP)



Dame Penelope Keith after she was made a Dame Commander for services to the Arts and to charity during an Investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle, England, July 3, 2014. (AP)

my life forever," Springsteen said.

Davis died June 22 in his Manhattan apartment at the age of 94, a few

weeks after he was hospitalized for an upper respiratory issue.

Buchdahl asked what song Davis most admired that was not something he had a hand in and was told "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," written by composer Harold Arlen and lyricist E.Y. "Yip" Harburg in 1938 for the film "The Wizard of Oz." Buchdahl then sang a soaring version. "You have a home at Sony Music Classics," joked Rob Stringer, the CEO of Sony Music Entertainment.

Warwick told a story about how Davis urged her to work with Manilow in the late 1970s, which she initially resisted. But Davis' suggestion was fruitful: Their partnership,

the album "Dionne," went platinum and earned two Grammy Awards. "So Barry and I became very, very good friends that day," she said to laughter.

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Penelope Keith, a comic performer who shone as flinty but lovable upper-crust characters in British sitcoms "The Good Life" and "The Manor Born," has died aged 86.

Keith's family said Monday that she had been diagnosed with cancer and died at her home in Surrey, near London.

Keith began her acting career on-stage and joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1963. But she found her greatest fame on television.

She won a BAFTA award in 1977 for "The Good Life," playing Margo Leadbetter, a snobbish suburbanite appalled by her back-to-the-land neighbors Tom and Barbara Good, played by Richard Briers and Felicity Kendal.

Kendal called Keith a "comic genius." "She was a joy to know and work with, and she will be much missed," Kendal said.

Keith displayed a similar mix of imperiousness and deadpan wit in "The Manor Born," broadcast between 1979 and 1981 and brought back for a 2007 Christmas special. Keith played cash-strapped aristocratic widow Audrey Forbes-Hamilton, forced to sell her country estate to a nouveau millionaire, played by Peter Bowles, with whom she has a love-hate relationship.

Heat pushes Swiss yodelers into fountains

BASEL, Switzerland, June 30, (AP) — City fountains became impromptu rehearsal spaces this weekend as yodelers at a festival in Basel, Switzerland, squeezed in last-minute practice while cooling off during Europe's June heat wave.

At one fountain, a folk band dipped their toes in the water on Saturday, as festivalgoers clapped along or cooled their hands under the flowing stream.

From Friday to Sunday, singers and alpmhorn players filled the streets and spontaneous bursts of yodeling echoed through restaurants, where diners initially reacted with surprise before joining in.

In Petersplatz, in central Basel, seamstresses remained on call throughout the festival to repair the traditional Alpine folk costumes worn by participants in case of emergency.

This year, however, it was the fountain rehearsals that became the festival's defining image, as the city battled record temperatures of around 39 Celsius (102 Fahrenheit).

Around 12,000 performers and



Yodelers prepare for TV broadcast on the main festival stage at Petersplatz in Basel, Switzerland, Saturday, June 27, 2026. (AP)

nearly 200,000 visitors traveled to Basel for the Eidgenössisches Jodlerfest, Switzerland's national yodeling festival. It was the first time the northwestern Swiss city hosted the event since 1924.

Swiss yodeling was added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hu-

manity in December 2025, making this the first national festival since the tradition received international recognition. It is a distinction many Swiss take great pride in.

Unlike the brighter, more melodic style often associated with Austria and the Tyrol region, Swiss yodeling is slower and more melancholic - an emotionally nuanced tradition rooted in distinct regional dialects.

"I've always loved music, and I left here as a child. When I moved back to New Zealand, I wanted to stay connected to Swiss culture, so I joined a New Zealand-Swiss-Kiwi yodeling club," said Freddie Conquer, a member of Jodlerclub Echo Basel, one of the clubs hosting the festival.

The participants competed in three disciplines: yodeling, alpmhorn playing and flag-throwing.

The alpmhorn is a long wooden instrument traditionally used by herdsman in the Alps. It can stretch to more than 3 meters (10 feet) in length, with its sound carrying across valleys - or, during the festival, through Basel's streets. It produces all of its pitches using natural harmonics alone, with no valves or keys.

"Everything is down to the mouthpiece, hearing the note in your head, and then using your lips to shape the pitch. The higher the note, the harder you have to blow," said Pierre-André Karlen, who was rehearsing on a school lawn.

Comcast to split, spinning off NBCUniversal & Sky

NEW YORK, June 30, (AP) — Communications giant Comcast is planning to split itself into two: one media-centered business that would include brands like NBCUniversal and Sky and a separate company focused on broadband and wireless services.

In a Monday announcement, Comcast said the breakup will put both of these operations in a better position to pursue their own priorities and growth. The move arrives as communications companies continue to wrestle with years of cord-cutting, and shifting habits in how consumers now buy subscriptions for anything from their phone plans to streaming budgets more broadly.

"The world is changing faster than

ever," Comcast Chairman and co-CEO Brian Roberts said on a Monday call - adding that it "has become clear" the company's technology and media businesses each "have compelling opportunities in front of them that are distinct in nature and best pursued with dedicated focus."

Upon the spinoff's completion, both businesses would become their own publicly-traded companies. Comcast said it expects to complete the process in about a year, pending regulatory approvals and a final greenlight from its board.

That means consumers shouldn't feel immediate impacts. But a host of major brands currently sit under Comcast's umbrella - from internet and

wireless provider Xfinity to streaming platform Peacock, NBC News and Universal Studios. And analysts are eyeing what those businesses could look like farther down the road.

"In the short term, bundles, pricing, and distribution will likely hold," said Mike Proulx, a vice president and research director at market research firm Forrester. For NBCUniversal - set to head the media-centered company Comcast is spinning off - the split in itself carries little effect on its current business, he noted, and is "more to do with what it becomes longer term."

Proulx is bracing for future acquisitions in this space, adding that "Comcast is following a playbook we have

already seen." He pointed to Warner Bros. Discovery, which announced its own intention to split just last June - before becoming a takeover target that erupted into a messy tug-of-war between Netflix and Skydance-owned Paramount. Paramount eventually became victorious, and is now edging closer to closing its \$81 billion buyout of Warner's entire company.

Comcast executives have appeared to so far dismiss the possibility of heading toward a similar fate. When asked on Monday's call whether investors should view the separation as a step toward "potential strategic transactions" for either business, Roberts said: "Absolutely not."

New fish parasite species named after S.African ecologist

Rare dino fossil from Antarctica found tucked away in drawer

NEW YORK, June 30, (Agencies): Scientists have stumbled on a rare dinosaur fossil from Antarctica, tucked away for decades in a drawer.

The bone comes from the tail of a long-necked, plant-eating dinosaur called a titanosaur. Scientists haven't yet identified the species it belongs to.

It was discovered in 1985 during an expedition to Antarctica's James Ross Island and collected by geologist Mike Thomson. Working with the British Antarctic Survey, Thomson was mapping the area's rock layers and collected marine reptile fossils to help with future dating efforts. He recorded the find as a large reptile.

Decades later, paleontologist Mark Evans spotted the bone in the British Antarctic Survey's collections and wondered whether it might be a dinosaur. He and other researchers analyzed the shape of the bone and compared it to other more complete dinosaur remains, confirming their discovery. The findings were published on Monday in the journal *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*.

Dinosaur fossils are rare to find in Antarctica because of the unforgiving ice caps. But millions of years ago, when this dinosaur lived, the region was populated by lush forests - a "rather different and much more hospitable place than we think of today," said study co-author Paul Barrett with the Natural History Museum in London.

At about 23 feet (7 meters) long, the dinosaur

was small for its group and may have been young when it died. Scientists don't know how the creature met its end, but they think its body floated away from the coast and sank to the sea floor, becoming fossilized in marine rock.

Technology has come a long way since the dinosaur tail bone was first found, allowing researchers to peer inside bones and gain even more detailed information about ancient creatures. Thomson died in 2020 before the fossil was identified as belonging to a dinosaur.

"If he were still with us, he would be delighted to know what this was," Evans, a study co-author, said.

Also:

CAPE TOWN: A newly discovered fish parasite species has been named after South African ecologist **Martine Jordaan** in recognition of her contribution to freshwater biodiversity research and conservation.

According to a statement released on Thursday by CapeNature, a conservation authority in South Africa's Western Cape Province, the species, *Paradiplozoon jordanae*, was identified by researchers from the Water Research Group at North-West University (NWU) and formally described in April 2026, with the paper published online on April 27.

The parasite was found on the gills of two near-threatened endemic freshwater fish species -- the

Clanwilliam sawfin (*Cheilobarbus serra*) and the Clanwilliam redfin (*Sedercypris calidus*) -- in rivers within the Cape Fold Ecoregion, a biologically distinct freshwater and terrestrial zone in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape provinces of South Africa.

Jordaan, a fauna ecologist at CapeNature and an honorary research associate at the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, first encountered the unusual parasite during fieldwork on redfin fish nearly six years ago.

The finding led to a collaboration between Jordaan and NWU researchers, combining field surveys and sampling with laboratory analysis to investigate parasite diversity, fish health and freshwater ecosystems, with Jordaan contributing extensive fieldwork across river systems in the Western Cape.

CapeNature Chief Executive Officer **Ashley Naidoo** said the recognition highlighted the importance of collaboration between conservation practitioners and academic researchers in advancing scientific understanding and conservation efforts.

Researchers said the work has also contributed to a better understanding of the ecological role of parasites in biodiversity. Although parasites are often viewed negatively, non-pathogenic species that pose no threat to humans or animals can form an important part of natural ecosystems.



This image provided by the Natural History Museum shows a fossil found in Antarctica that belongs to a group of dinosaurs called titanosaurs. (AP)

Most heat-related deaths occur indoors

Heat waves can leave homes dangerously hot - even for young, healthy adults

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



By Zoltan Nagy

Eindhoven University of Technology

Most people know that heat waves can be dangerous, but what they may not realize is that the heat indoors can be much worse than outdoors.

When the power goes out and air conditioning stops, or in homes without cooling, a house starts to function like a greenhouse during a heat wave. Heat enters through windows and walls and has nowhere to go. Air stagnates.

Within hours, indoor temperatures can climb well above what the thermometer shows outside, especially on upper floors and in rooms with south-facing windows. Over longer periods, especially if temperatures don't cool off overnight, conditions can become lethal.

Most heat-related deaths occur indoors. When a heat dome sent temperatures soaring in the Pacific Northwest in 2021, 98% of the more than 600 deaths in British Columbia happened inside homes. Washington and Oregon also saw high numbers of deaths in homes that lacked air conditioning.

In Europe, where only 1 in 10 households have air conditioning, heat waves killed an estimated 60,000 people in 2022 and 47,000 in 2023, largely inside buildings never designed for these temperatures.

People of all ages are at risk in heat waves like these. I spent eight years at the University of Texas at Austin studying how buildings respond to extreme heat. In a recent study, my team assessed the heat risk in every single-family home in Austin.

We found that even younger, healthy adults face far more risk than they realize.

Your body maintains a core temperature of about 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit (37 degrees Celsius). To cool down, it pushes blood to the skin and sweats. But when air temperature is high, that convective cooling weakens. When humidity is also high, sweat cannot evaporate.

If the body has no way to release heat, core temperature rises. If the core temperature increases past about 104 F (40 C), the body's thermoregulation starts to fail. Past 109 F (42.8 C), death becomes likely.

What makes indoor heat especially dangerous is that it does not let up at

night in homes that lack air conditioning. Outdoor temperatures typically drop after sunset, and someone outside can get a few hours of recovery. But a poorly insulated home that has been absorbing heat all day releases that heat slowly, keeping indoor temperatures elevated through the night. A person inside the home never gets a break.

After two or three nights of this, even healthy people start to be at serious risk for heat-related illnesses.

People tend to underestimate indoor heat for a few reasons.

One is that the thermostat typically sits on one wall in one room. It does not tell what the temperature is in an upstairs bedroom or near a sun-facing window. In older, underinsulated homes, the actual felt temperature can exceed 90 F (32.2 C) even when a thermostat reads 75 F (23.9 C). The hot walls, ceilings and windows can radiate heat directly onto your body.

Another reason is that people assume all homes respond to heat the same way. However, a newer home with double-pane windows and good insulation acts like a thermos, keeping heat out for a longer time. An older home with single-pane windows and cracks in the walls heats up fast.

Two houses on the same street, exposed to the same outdoor conditions, can have completely different temperatures inside. And in a blackout, where neither home has cooling, those differences can become a matter of life and death.

Our study combined two datasets. From Austin's tax appraisal records, we pulled basic property information, such as the year the home was built, the size and the number of stories for each of the city's 213,000 single-family homes. We then matched each home to the most similar energy simulation models in a US Department of Energy database that contains thousands of detailed, physics-based building energy models representing the US residential building stock.

Using those models, we simulated each building's indoor temperatures over time during a three-day heat wave and power outage with outdoor temperatures above 110 F (43 C).

We found that 85% of homes got hot enough to pose a significant risk of death for an elderly occupant. But what surprised us was the risk to younger people.

Under today's climate conditions in Austin, about 15% of homes already have the potential to get hot enough without air conditioning to pose seri-

ous heat risks to healthy adults. Under future warming scenarios, that number jumps to as high as 65% if average summer highs reach 104 F (40 C). Further, climate projections for Austin show that heat waves will double in frequency by the end of the century.

We found three types of buildings and accompanying risks:

■ Resilient homes, which are newer and well insulated, tended to have temperature and humidity conditions that would be survivable for an elderly occupant throughout the simulated heat wave with blackout.

■ Critical-risk buildings, which are mostly older homes, became dangerous almost immediately.

■ And then there was the middle group - homes where temperatures rose slowly during the simulated blackout, day by day, possibly giving occupants a false sense of security until it was too late.

Texas has already seen conditions like our case study's - a heat wave paired with a power outage. In 2024, a derecho knocked out power for nearly 900,000 Houston households while the heat index climbed to 100 F (37.8 C). Seven weeks later, Hurricane Beryl cut power to 2.6 million homes, leaving them without power for over three days, with temperatures over 90 F (32.2 C).

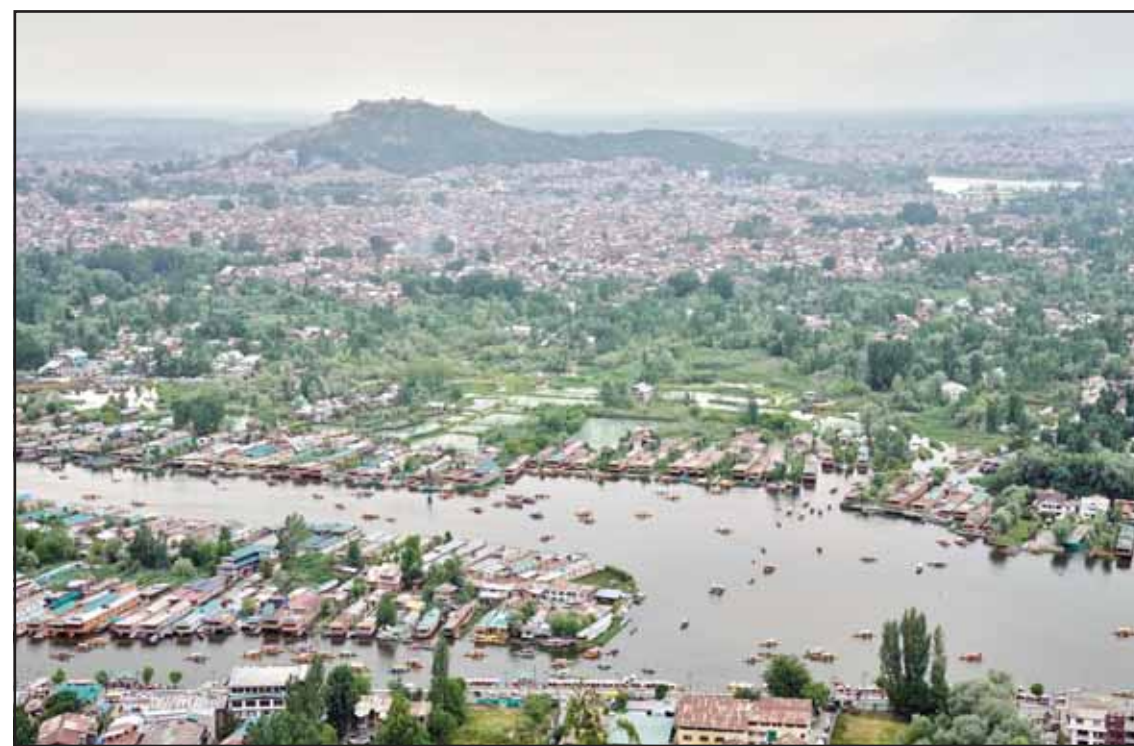
If you can't get cooling at home, there are steps you can take that can help. Move to the lowest floor of your home, where it will be coolest. Close the blinds and curtains on sun-facing windows. Drink water constantly to stay hydrated, which is essential for regulating body temperature.

If you're facing a blackout, be sure to also check on elderly neighbors, especially those living alone. You can also try to find a public cooling center; many cities now open them during heat emergencies.

Longer term, upgrades such as reflective window film, attic insulation and lighter-colored roofing can reduce how much a home heats up. After the 2021 heat dome, British Columbia's coroner recommended updating building codes to address heat.

Our own findings point in the same direction: We propose that new homes should be required by building codes to maintain conditions in which at least light physical activity remains possible for all occupants for at least 72 hours during a power outage.

As summers get hotter with climate change and blackouts become more frequent, the risks of people suffering heat illnesses will only continue to rise. (AP)



Boats maneuver the waters of Dal Lake in Srinagar, Indian-controlled Kashmir on June 4. (AP)

Warming climate and pollution push Kashmir's lakes toward disappearance

SRINAGAR, India, June 30, (AP): Every morning, long, narrow wooden boats called shikaras move elegantly across expansive Dal Lake in a postcard-perfect scene framed by the Himalayan mountains.

But all is not perfect in one of South Asia's best-known lakes. Pollution from local buildings, invasive plant species that threaten biodiversity and declining water levels, in part due to climate-driven heat, are threatening the long-term existence of Dal Lake and hundreds of other lakes in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

It takes constant effort by workers employed by the local government to keep Dal Lake's weeds at bay, and they must take precautions to avoid skin irritation from the polluted water. Yet it could be worse for the lake, which is located in Kashmir's most populous city, Srinagar. It's one of the few lakes in the region to receive sustained restoration work.

"We are afraid to touch the water with bare hands. Whenever we need to clean something by hand, we wear gloves, because without them our hands quickly develop allergies," Ghulam Rasool, a weed cleaner employed by the local government, said on a recent afternoon.

Rasool said that sometimes it feels

impossible to keep the lake clean.

"Sewage drains flow directly into the lake, and water streams coming from the mountains are bringing waste such as diapers and other garbage," he said.

A combination of climate-driven changes, pollution and unplanned development is accelerating a decline in Indian lakes, with consequences rippling from fragile ecosystems to fishing communities and the tourism economy.

An Indian government report last year found that of the region's 697 natural lakes, 315 have disappeared and 203 have shrunk since 1967. Hundreds recorded in earlier decades have been reduced to shallow marshes, seasonal wetlands or, in some cases, replaced by farmland and other development.

Lakes in Kashmir have always been centers of activity, including Dal Lake's famous floating markets where locals sell everything from vegetables to souvenirs. However, recent decades have seen the lakes' boundaries shrink due to unpredictable rainfall, increased sediment from rivers and encroachment by farmland and houses. Small islands of farmland or long wooden bridges leading to illegal homes are becoming

an increasingly common sight.

Farmland and homes creeping into what was once lake land is apparent in an aerial view of Dal Lake. Cattle graze freely on newly formed farmland even as the traditional fishers try to make their daily quota nearby.

Untreated sewage flowing into the lakes results in the growth of weeds, which feed off nitrogen, phosphorus and other nutrients in the waste. Plastics and other garbage dirty the lake. Dozens of weed cleaners try to clear Dal Lake every day, and small mounds of cleared weeds can be seen at various spots across the lake. Excavators and other heavy machinery are also used to pull weeds and garbage from the lake.

While acknowledging that more funds and work are needed, local government officials said they are trying their best. A government-run lake authority started in 1997 includes civil engineers, scientists, forest officials and local police officials.

While more than 75% of Srinagar's population is connected to sewage treatment systems, sewage from the unconnected houses is a major contributor to lake pollution, said Muzamil Ahmad Rafiqi, superintending engineer for Kashmir's Lake Conservation and Management Authority.

DR Congo Ebola outbreak spreads to new health zone, confirmed cases rise to 1,274

KINSHASA, June 30, (Xinhua): The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has spread to another health zone, bringing the total number of affected health zones across the Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu provinces to 35 as of Friday, health authorities have said.

According to the latest situation report released Sunday by the DRC's health ministry, the Mandima Health Zone in the eastern province of Ituri reported a confirmed case on Friday.

In the DRC's health system, a health zone is a basic public health and primary care administrative unit that covers hospitals, health centers and surrounding communities.

The country has reported 1,274 confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease, including 360 deaths, with an overall case fatality rate of 28.3 percent, the report said. A total of 178 patients have recovered, while 502 patients were in isolation or hospitalized. A total of 239 suspected cases, including 70 deaths, were identified.

The report also highlighted persistent challenges in the response, including community resistance to post-mortem sampling, insufficient capacity at Ebola treatment centers, non-optimal contact tracing, short-



Medical staff carry an Ebola patient to a treatment center in Rwampara, Congo on May 21. (AP)

ages of essential medicines and infection prevention supplies, as well as insecurity and limited access in some areas.

The current outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo Ebola virus, was officially declared on May 15. Unlike the more common Ebola virus disease caused by the Zaire strain, Bundibugyo virus disease currently has no licensed vaccine or specific treatment, making early detection, isolation, supportive care and contact

tracing critical to the response.

The three affected provinces have a combined population of nearly 15 million and face mass internal displacement as well as cross-border movements toward neighboring countries.

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said on that the continental Ebola outbreak response and preparedness plan requires 1.4 billion US dollars.



Feliks, an Eastern imperial eagle which flew from Serbia across North Macedonia, Greece, Turkey and Syria, where he fell victim to traffickers looks out from a cage at Palic Zoo after returning in Serbia on June 24. (AP)

Feliks back in Serbia after kidnap ordeal in Mideast

BELGRADE, Serbia, June 30, (AP): Feliks' journey resembles a Hollywood movie script, with kidnapers, smugglers and clandestine border crossings.

The year-old eastern imperial eagle from Serbia, started flying in August and later set off on his first migratory flight toward the Middle East, only to be captured by poachers, sold illegally and retrieved in a daring cross-border mission.

While Feliks returned home safely last week, his ordeal highlighted both the widespread practice of profit-driven, illegal animal trade and an unflinching struggle by animal protection groups to counter it.

"It's getting worse year after year, season after season, day after day," said Michel Sawan, the head of the Lebanese Association for Migratory Birds, who played a key role in Feliks's rescue. "We can actually barely believe ... the mission was done successfully."

The eastern imperial eagle is an imposing bird of prey with a wingspan of up to 2 meters (6 feet). The protected species in Serbia was down to a single breeding pair back in 2017 but has recovered thanks to the tireless work of the Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia, or BPSSS.

Kuwait Club continues dominance in league

The Whites finish the league campaign unbeaten

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Kuwait Club continued its dominance by winning the 2025-2026 Zain Premier League title, taking its overall tally to 21 championships and securing a fifth consecutive crown. The team also completed an unbeaten league campaign, going 23 matches without defeat, with 15 wins and 8 draws.

In the final round of the championship group's fifth stage, Qadsia held Kuwait Club to a 0-0 draw, while Kazma defeated Salmiya and Al-Arabi beat Al-Fahaheel by identical 3-0 scorelines.

Kuwait Club finished top of the standings with 53 points, followed by Al-Arabi in second place with 39 points, ahead of Qadsia in third on goal difference. Kazma came fourth with 38 points, Salmiya fifth with 37 points, and Al-Fahaheel sixth with 22 points.

As a result, Kuwait Club qualified for the AFC Champions League 2, Al-Arabi moved into the AFC Champions League 2 play-offs, Qadsia earned a spot in the AFC Challenge League, and Kazma secured qualification for the Gulf Champions League.

Kuwait Club chairman Khaled Al-Ghanim said the team is "fortunate" to have followed a structured development roadmap in place since 2002, adding that the club is now reaping the rewards of that long-term vision.

He highlighted that going two full seasons unbeaten is a major achievement, stressing that the priority remains staying at the top and preparing strongly for the next campaign.

On the future of Montenegrin coach Nebojša Jovčević, Al-Ghanim



Kuwait Club players celebrate the 2025-2026 Zain Premier League title after an unbeaten season and a record 21st championship.

confirmed he will not continue with the team. He praised the coach's efforts, saying he "did not fall short," performed well, and was among the

best coaches to work with the club, playing a key role in their success.

Coach Nebojša expressed his delight at winning the title, noting

that clinching the championship five rounds before the end is no easy feat.

Player Mishari Ghanam described the "White" as finishing the season

with a golden title, praising the squad's efforts and the strong support from the board.

Meanwhile, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri

said the triumph was the result of collective effort throughout the season and expressed hope of more success in the coming years.

FA board congratulates Kuwait Club

Sheikh Al-Yousef honors Somali referee Artan

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Football Association Chairman Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef honoured international Somali referee Omar Artan, who officiated the Kuwait Club vs Qadsia match in the final round of the Zain Premier League.

The honor comes after Artan was reportedly denied entry to the United States, preventing him from taking part in officiating duties at the 2026 World Cup.

Sheikh Al-Yousef and members of the Football Association's board also congratulated Kuwait Club on winning the Zain Premier League title for the 2025-2026 season. He extended congratulations to Al-Arabi for finishing second and Qadsia for securing third place.

He concluded by wishing all teams success in the upcoming competitions.



Kuwait FA officials presented a commemorative award to Omar Artan during the Zain Premier League closing ceremony.

27 National Olympic Committees back Sheikh Joaan for presidency

KUWAIT CITY: The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has announced that it has received nominations from 27 National Olympic Committees in favour of H.E. Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani for the position of OCA President for the term 2027-2035.

The OCA President thanked the NOCs for their trust and confidence in his leadership.

The deadline for nominations from the OCA's 45 member National Olympic Committees closed on June 30, 2026 at 5pm Kuwait time.

The OCA has not received any other nomination for the post of President OCA.

The next OCA General Assembly will be held in Doha, Qatar on January 27, 2027.



H.E. Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, candidate for President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

Experts warn of exertional heat illness and dehydration dangers

Heat wave threatens World Cup matches and fans in US

LOS ANGELES, June 30, (AP): A summer World Cup in the United States was bound to be affected by heat, but temperatures for some of this week's knockout round games could prove dangerous for players and fans.

A threatening heat dome will engulf the central and eastern U.S. this week with heat index temperatures - which combine air temperature with humidity - soaring into the triple-digits in some areas. Conditions will bring above-average temperatures to World Cup host cities such as Boston, Philadelphia and Kansas City, Missouri, all of which have open-air stadiums.

"This week is going to be very, very hot," said Geoff Cornish, assistant chief video meteorologist for the

weather forecasting company AccuWeather. "This is going to be a significant heat wave, the likes of which we don't see in every single year."

Concerns about extreme heat during the games taking place in the U.S., Canada and Mexico have been mounting for months. Worsening climate change, caused by burning oil, gas and coal, is fueling dangerous heat across the globe. In the U.S., heat kills more people every year than all other weather-related events, including hurricanes, flooding and tornadoes, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Here's a preview of how hot it will get, how cities, stadiums and FIFA prepared for this threat, and how to stay cool.

The National Weather Service issued an extreme heat watch for Philadelphia and surrounding regions starting Wednesday afternoon and into Saturday evening, with dangerously hot "feels-like" temperatures, another term for the heat index, up to 110 F (43.3 C) during the daytime. As a result, FIFA's Fan Festival in Philadelphia is shifting its hours this week, including Saturday's watch party, which will end at the conclusion of the 1 p.m. game.

"It's going to be sweltering and dangerous for anybody who's spending a long period of time outside unprepared for the heat," said Cornish.

An extreme heat warning is also in effect for Kansas City and other por-



Lukas Cerv, of the Czechia men's national soccer team, refreshes himself while working out in hot Texas weather during a public training session in Mansfield, Texas, ahead of the World Cup soccer tournament. (AP)

tions of west central Missouri until Friday night, with heat index values as high as 105 F to 110 F (40.6 C to 43.3 C) expected.

The New York City area could see near-record high temperatures of up to 109 F (42.8 C) with little respite overnight. An extreme heat watch will be in effect from Wednesday afternoon to Saturday evening.

"This level of heat can be deadly for those without adequate cooling and hydration," the National Weather Service said, adding that it could also impact transportation and electrical and water systems.

The heat index in Boston and much of southern New England could skyrocket to 111 F (43.9 C), with the weather

warning starting Wednesday morning.

Players have medical staff, three-minute cooling breaks midway through each half, regardless of temperatures, and other heat safeguards. But even the most highly trained, elite athletes are vulnerable to what's called exertional heat illness.

This happens when your body's temperature gets too hot and is accompanied by significant strain from intense exercise on a sizzling day. Symptoms include extreme fatigue, impaired performance, headache, irritability, nausea, dizziness, cramping and dehydration. Exertional heat stroke requires immediate medical attention and is the third leading cause of death in athletes.

James confirms Lakers exit, continues career in 24th season

LOS ANGELES, June 30, (AP): LeBron James will not be back with the Los Angeles Lakers and plans to play a record-extending 24th NBA season elsewhere, a person with knowledge of those plans confirmed Tuesday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because James had not revealed that decision publicly. ESPN, citing James' longtime agent and Klutch Sports CEO Rich Paul, first reported James' plans.

Ja Morant is headed to Portland, after the Trail Blazers and Memphis completed a trade Monday night that sees the Grizzlies starting anew and gives the two-time All-Star a chance

to revive his career.

Portland sent forwards Jerami Grant and Kris Murray to the Grizzlies as part of the deal.

It's a big swing by the Trail Blazers and could suggest Portland - with new owner Tom Dundon, whose Carolina Hurricanes just won the Stanley Cup - might not be done making moves. Morant adds to a logjam at point guard right now for Portland, with Jrue Holiday, Damian Lillard and Scoot Henderson also on the current roster.

Morant has averaged 22.4 points for his career but has played only 79 games over the last three seasons because of injuries and suspensions - including a 25-game banishment after he was seen on

a livestream holding a gun while he was in the passenger seat of a vehicle. That came not long after an eight-game suspension for flashing a gun in a Denver-area nightclub, also captured on social media.

The suspensions, combined, cost Morant - who was Rookie of the Year after being the No. 2 selection in the 2019 draft, as well as the league's Most Improved Player in 2021-22 when he appeared to be on a path toward superstardom - about \$9 million in lost salary. He said in April 2025 that he's made his peace with being a lightning rod for constant criticism.

"I'm kind of used to it," Morant said at that time. "I was pretty much a villain

for two years now. Every little thing, if somebody can say something negative about me, it's going to be out there. So, yeah. I don't care no more."

Grant averaged 18.6 points last season for Portland and will be joining his sixth team by going to Memphis. Murray averaged 5.8 points this past season for the Trail Blazers.

Morant's MIP-award year in 2021-22 saw Memphis win 56 games, tying a franchise record. That team was built around a young core of Morant, Dillon Brooks, Jaren Jackson Jr. and Desmond Bane. And now, they're all gone. Brooks played only one more season with the Grizzlies after that and has

changed teams twice since, Bane went to Orlando last summer and Jackson was traded to Utah in February.

Landy Shamet is returning to the New York Knicks with a four-year deal worth \$24 million, a person with knowledge of the details said.

Shamet was a key contributor to the Knicks with his outside shooting and defense, and the NBA champions have an agreement to keep him long term, the person told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity since there was no announcement of the new contract.

Shamet signed late last offseason and became a trusted member of coach Mike Brown's rotation. He made the tying 3-pointer

when the Knicks rallied from a 22-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Cleveland in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals, going on to hit 11 of 12 from behind the arc in that series.

The guard shot 47.5% on 3s in the postseason.

Change Name

I, Hakimuddin Abbas, holder of Passport No. 10335375, hereby change my name to Hakimuddin Abbas (as given name), Thakur (as Surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Hakimuddin Abbas Thakur and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.



Embassy of India
Kuwait

Advertisement for recruitment of Local Clerk (01 Post)

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites application from suitable candidates for the local post of Local Clerk in the Embassy.

Qualifications Required: Bachelor's degree from a recognized institution, Fluent in English (speak, read, write), knowledge of Hindi and Arabic is desirable. Proficient in MS Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint). Skills in image/video editing software such as Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. Design official creatives, including posters, banners, social media content, invitation, certificates, event materials in line with the Embassy's standards.

Additional Requirements: Must hold valid Kuwaiti residency (transferable). Between 25 and 40 years of age. Minimum of 2 years of prior experience in administrative/computer expert or clerical roles (preferably in an Embassy, Consulate, or International Organization).

Emoluments: Starting Salary: KD 500/- + COLA (19.75%) Interested candidates may fill the application form online before 11th July 2026 (1700 hrs) at <https://forms.gle/b6MbURoTchab5LHR6> or by scanning the QR Code :

For more details, please visit Embassy Website: <https://indembkwat.gov.in/index.php>





US 'riding' wave of confidence into World Cup knockout stage

'It's crunch time'

IRVINE, Calif., June 30, (AP): U.S. captain Tim Ream says his teammates all recognize the golden opportunity in front of them to make their nation's best World Cup run in their home tournament over the following days - and hopefully weeks.

Yet instead of feeling amplified pressure under the raised expectations created by their strong group round and a groundswell of national support, these Americans appeared to be energized by the opportunity to make history as they broke camp Monday at their training base in Orange County.

"Would it be weird if I told you I don't really feel too much pressure at this minute?" Ream said with a grin.

"I think we felt more pressure for that first game against Paraguay than anything, and that's coming from ourselves, not from anything on the outside," Ream added, referring to the Americans' impressive 4-1 win in their World Cup opener on June 12. "We just have to put in a performance the way we have in the group stage, and then we see where that takes us."

The U.S. faces Bosnia-Herzegovina in the round of 32 in Santa Clara, California, on Wednesday night. The Americans are significantly favored - which is sort of an achievement in itself, given that this team has won exactly one knockout-round match in its entire World Cup history.

But these Americans are on the international stage with more optimism and likely more talent than nearly all previous editions of this team. Whether that translates into a deep run is still to be decided, but the Americans' confidence and excitement is undeniable.

"The game is going to be about us and what we're prepared to do, and what we have to do to advance," U.S. striker Folarin Balogun said. "It's crunch time. This is the business end, and this is the stage where, in my opinion, the big players step forward and the big players carry the pressure and make things happen."

Although the Americans reached the semifinals at the inaugural World Cup in 1930 by winning their group, their only knockout victory came at



United States' Alex Zendejas (26) and Turkey's Salih Ozcan battle for the ball during the World Cup Group D soccer match in Inglewood, Calif., near Los Angeles. (AP)

the 2002 tournament when they beat Mexico in the round of 16.

The 38-year-old Ream believes the Americans felt more pressure four years ago in Qatar, when they muddled through group play before getting blasted 3-1 by the Netherlands in the first knockout round.

Those Americans weren't led by accomplished Argentine coach Mauricio Pochettino, who has made strong tactical advancements and clearly instilled many of his players with a new kind of confidence after previous U.S. cycles were spent under more parochial coaching.

They also didn't have Balogun, the elite goal-scorer who made a major impact on the Americans' victories over Paraguay and Australia by a combined 6-1, clinching their group in style and rendering their third match meaningless.

Balogun's impact is undeniable on the field, but the Brooklyn-born, London-raised forward is also a focal point away from the field. This World Cup cycle has been his first significant

exposure to U.S. culture, and that's an endless source of amusement and insight for his teammates.

"He says America is a simulation quite often," defender Mark McKenzie said with a laugh. "We'll be driving down the road and he'll see something and be like, 'What is that? Why is an individual dressed like that, or why are they throwing a sign up in the air on the corner? What is Bojangles?' It's stuff like that, where he's like, 'Bro! America! What is going on?'"

Many of the top Americans now play their club soccer internationally - another obvious factor in this team's improved competitiveness in this World Cup. Defender Chris Richards, an Alabama native who plays in London for Crystal Palace, says his team is more mature and match tested than most previous editions of the U.S. roster because of its experience at all levels of the sport.

And count Richards among those who find Balogun's culture shock to

be a hilarious distraction during the down time on international breaks and this World Cup cycle.

"I think (Balogun) still has this notion that he says Americans aren't real," Richards said. "There's some stuff that we do that doesn't fly back in London. It's a lot to learn and especially when you're only here for a few weeks at a time. It's been cool (for Balogun) being able to see different pockets of America."

Injured players Cristian Roldan (quadriceps strain) and Auston Trusty (ankle) did modified training while their teammates went through a full workout Monday, but McKenzie (foot irritation) remained sidelined for a second straight day. Roldan hasn't played at this World Cup, while Trusty scored in the Americans' 3-2 loss to Turkey before he rolled his ankle late in the match. Roldan was on the field doing drills for the second straight day. McKenzie is getting treatment away from practice. None of the three injured Americans was expected to play a major role in the knockout rounds.

Striker happy to be back on World Cup stage

Lukaku fitness remains major concern ahead of Belgium clash with Senegal

SEATTLE, June 30, (AP): Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku's fitness remains a concern as the team prepares to take on Senegal in the round of 32 at the World Cup on Wednesday.

The 33-year-old Lukaku, who leads his nation in goals scored, withdrew from Belgium's friendlies in the United States in the spring to get healthy. He missed the majority of the club season because of a hamstring injury. Lukaku appeared only seven times across all competitions for Italian club Napoli last season.

"I'm going with the flow. I train hard, and in the end, I'm happy to be here," Lukaku said Monday in French. "Especially when you see where I come from. I try to have my impact when I need to."

Lukaku started Belgium's second group match against Iran and struggled to keep up with the tempo of the match. He did not register a shot, picked up a yellow card and was replaced after 73 minutes.

However, in his two substitute appearances against Egypt and New Zealand, Lukaku fared much better. The striker forced an own-goal just 23 seconds after entering in a 1-1 draw against Egypt and added a goal and an assist in a cameo against New Zealand.

"When I'm on the bench, I have a lot of time to analyze everything that's happening on the field," Lukaku said. "Helping the team is the most important thing for me."

Lukaku's contract with Napoli expires in June 2027. The striker has had a strained relationship with the club, including a March training absence that prompted Napoli to consider punishing the player.

The two sides held constructive talks a few weeks later, and Lukaku reaffirmed his desire to stay with Napoli through next season.

Senegal, Belgium's looming opponent, finished third in Group I with three points and a plus-2 goal differential. The African team navigated one of the toughest groups in the tournament, one that featured favorite France and the Erling Haaland-led Norway.



Belgium's Romelu Lukaku (9) heads the ball into the goal for his team's fourth goal during the World Cup Group G soccer match between New Zealand and Belgium in Vancouver, British Columbia. (AP)

Good news for Spain over Nico injury

NEW YORK, June 30, (Xinhua): Spain has had some positive news on the injury front with the confirmation that winger Nico Williams didn't suffer a torn groin muscle in his side's 1-0 win over Uruguay and has a chance of playing again in the World Cup.

Williams was seen limping badly after the game following a dreadful challenge from behind from Uruguay's Nicolas de la Cruz and early expectations were that he had suffered a groin injury that would end his World Cup.

Williams wrote on social media that it was the "worst day" of his life, but tests have shown that he hasn't suffered a torn muscle and that although he won't be able to play against Austria

on July 2 in the last-32, if Spain qualifies, he will have a chance of playing in either the last-16 or quarter-finals.

Speaking on Spanish state TV network, RTVE, on Monday, Spain coach Luis de la Fuente, was asked about Williams and said that after he saw the winger's message, "I went to talk to him and gave him my opinion."

"I spoke to him about perseverance, about overcoming problems and suffering, because you have to be used to this kind of moment - and I told him he was prepared." "It helped to change his attitude completely and if you speak to him (Williams) now, he will tell you things that are very different to that moment when he was really down," explained De la Fuente.

Fan

Zone



Fans celebrate and show their emotions during FIFA World Cup matches, creating a vibrant and unforgettable atmosphere in the stands. (AP)



Paraguay goalkeeper Orlando Gill stops a penalty shot by Germany's Kai Havertz during the World Cup round of 32 soccer match between Germany and Paraguay in Foxborough, Mass., near Boston. (AP)

Sports

Gill makes two key saves in shootout

Massive World Cup upset as Paraguay eliminates Germany

FOXBOROUGH, Mass., June 30, (AP): José Canale wasn't in the starting lineup in either of his previous two appearances for Paraguay in this World Cup.

He made his first start a memorable one. Canale scored on the first sudden-death penalty kick, Orlando Gill made two key saves in the shootout, and Paraguay beat Germany 4-3 on penalties Monday to earn the biggest upset of the 2026 World Cup.

It was a major triumph for the landlocked South American country of 7 million people that's surrounded by soccer giants like Argentina and Brazil. And it was the latest surprising exit by Germany, a four-time champion that has struggled at the World Cup since it last lifted the trophy in 2014.

"I think we deserved one more game and to be honest, considering everything that was said, everything we went through," Canale said. "What I want to highlight from our team is how united we are."

Today was a game we really needed to show our true colors."

Paraguayans celebrated in the streets of the capital, Asunción, screaming, jumping and hugging when the match ended. Some cried and dropped to their knees in disbelief, with the familiar beat of the team's song "Soy

Albirrojo" reverberating through the crowd.

Paraguay became the first team to defeat Germany in a penalty shootout at the World Cup. The Germans missed three of six penalty tries, the last by Jonathan Tah, who blasted his attempt high over the crossbar in the first sudden-death round, setting up Canale for the winner. Tah's miss followed a save by German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer of Fabian Balbuena's attempt that would have won it for Paraguay.

Tah also thought he had the go-ahead goal in extra time. He headed in a corner kick by Nathaniel Brown in the 102nd minute, but officials concluded after a video review that Waldemar Anton has pushed Gill to the ground before the shot and the goal was disallowed.

The Round of 32 match ended 1-1 after extra time. Paraguay took the lead when Julio Enciso scored on a header late in the first half, but Kai Havertz equalized in the 52nd minute for Germany.

"We had to analyze every player, every detail. Thanks to that I was able to only miss two penalties," Gill said. "This is for all the people of Paraguay."

Paraguay, which entered the match ranked 41st by FIFA, became the deepest betting long shot to win a match in this World Cup. Germany came in as the 10th-ranked team in the world.



Paraguay's Matias Galarza (23), Braian Ojeda (20), Gustavo Gomez (15) and Gustavo Velazquez (2) celebrate a win during the World Cup round of 32 soccer match between Germany and Paraguay in Foxborough, Mass., near Boston. (AP)

Morocco marches into last 16, agony for Dutch

Saibari scores decisive goal in shootout

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 30, (AP): Ismael Saibari scored the decisive goal in a penalty shootout, and Morocco sent the Netherlands to its earliest World Cup exit, eliminating the Dutch 3-2 after a 1-1 draw.

With the shootout tied at 2-all after four rounds, Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou made a strong save of Crysencio Summerville's attempt, batting it away with his left hand. Saibari then sent the winner into the low left corner as goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen went the other direction. The midfielder tore off his shirt and screamed with joy as he was mobbed by teammates.

Earlier in the shootout with Morocco trailing 1-0, Verbruggen appeared to have stopped an attempt by Soufiane Rahimi, but the goalkeeper couldn't secure the ball and deflected it over the line with the back of his leg.

"We know when we do everything on the pitch, it's God that gives something back to us as well," Morocco head coach Mohamed Ouahbi said. "We give all the energy that we have on the field. Rahimi's goal could have not been a goal, but it went in thankfully."

The Netherlands had reached at least the Round of 16 in 11 previous World Cups, including a quarterfinal appearance four years ago in Qatar, when Morocco made a breakthrough run to become the first team from Africa to reach the semifinals. In this year's expanded tournament, 32 teams reached the knockout stage for the first time.

Morocco moves on to face co-host Canada in the Round of 16 on Saturday in Houston. The Atlas Lions previously beat Canada 2-1 in the group stage of the 2022 World Cup.

Morocco was on the front-foot for major stretches of the game Monday. The Netherlands instead focused on counterattacking.

"I think Morocco has gained everybody's respect now," said Ouahbi, who took over as head coach in March. "I saw (the Netherlands' style of play) as a form of respect."

Cody Gakpo scored in the 72nd minute for Netherlands. After the goal, which was assisted by Summerville, the Dutch bench ran onto the field to embrace the 27-year-old Gakpo, who broke down in tears. Gakpo and his partner, Noa van der Bij, recently announced that they lost their unborn child.

Morocco's Issa Diop tied it in the 91st. Chemsidine Talbi sent a looping cross into the box from about 28 yards out on the left side and connected with Diop for a clean header that Verbruggen had no chance to stop.

Neither team had a strong scoring opportunity in 30 minutes of extra time at Estadio BBVA.

In the second half of extra time, Netherlands head coach Ronald Koeman used one of his substitutions to bring on Justin Kluivert. Kluivert was one of three Dutch players to miss his penalty.

"The last substitution I made was to bring in Justin (Kluivert) because he's



Morocco prays to celebrate a win during the World Cup round of 32 soccer match between the Netherlands and Morocco in Guadalupe, near Monterrey, Mexico. Inset: Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou (1) saves a penalty from Netherlands' Crysencio Summerville. (AP)

one of the best at penalty shootouts," Koeman said. "But he missed his penalty and that's even more bitter for him and for us."

It was the third consecutive time the Netherlands has been eliminated from the World Cup in a penalty shootout.

It was the second game of this tournament to conclude with a shootout.

Paraguay beat Germany on penalties earlier Monday.

The teams entered with the highest combined ranking of any Round of 32 match. Morocco was sixth in the world and the Netherlands was seventh.

"We need to be telling ourselves that no one can stop us," Ouahbi said. "Nobody is unbeatable. If we get things wrong, we'll go home."

Martinelli scores winning goal in injury time

Brazil reaches last 16 as Japan suffers late heartbreak

HOUSTON, June 30, (AP): The heartbreak was all too familiar for Japan at the World Cup.

The country's national team hung in until the very end Monday but was eliminated from the tournament - the third straight time Japan has had the lead in the knockout round and lost. This year, it was to five-time champion Brazil 2-1 on a late goal in injury time.

After four previous losses in such matches at World Cups, Japan is still searching for its first knockout victory.

"We were not able to achieve our goal this time but then we can aim for the next World Cup or maybe even one after that," Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu said through a translator. "We should work toward that goal, which is what we've been doing."

Four years ago, Japan led early but eventually fell to Croatia on penalty kicks in the round of 16. The Samurai Blue suffered a similar fate in the same round in 2018 when they led Belgium 2-0 in the second half but lost 3-2 on a stoppage time goal.

"I don't think history would be gentle to us," Moriyasu said. "But if we are to overcome today maybe we will see a time where history will change."

Things looked good early for Japan on Monday. Kaishu Sano put his team ahead in the 29th minute, but Casemiro equalized on a header in the 56th and Gabriel Martinelli scored the winning goal late in injury time.

Japan goalkeeper Zion Suzuki finished with four saves. He declined to answer questions in English after the tough loss despite a strong showing

against one of the best teams in the world.

Japan has only beaten Brazil once in 15 matches, with two games ending in draws. The lone victory came in a friendly in October.

"The gap between us is closing now," Moriyasu said. "Brazil is a top-tier team and we're definitely approaching that level."

Then he mentioned the loss in



Brazil's Casemiro (5) heads for the ball before scoring his goal during the World Cup round of 32 soccer match between Brazil and Japan in Houston. (AP)

Qatar four years ago before adding: "We have to up our game."

Moriyasu said he told the players after the match they should remember the frustration they felt in that moment and use it to help them grow. Then he took the blame for the loss.

"To win the title was our dream and our goal and we couldn't achieve that," he said. "As a head coach I told them that I was really sorry that I was not good enough to lead them to that level to achieve that goal."

The loss didn't seem to dampen the mood back home, where fans gathered to watch the match at a viewing site near Tokyo Tower despite it ending at around 4 a.m. local time.

"I want to say thanks to the players, who never gave up how tough the situation may be," Miyu Hashiguchi said in Japanese after watching the match. "They encouraged me to take on the challenge in life."

Ryutaro Mori, a 20-year-old student, was encouraged by Japan's showing against a team of Brazil's caliber.

"It means a lot for Japan," Mori said, "that even against a higher-ranked team, we scored the first goal."

Livramento ruled out of WC after surgery

NEW YORK, June 30, (Xinhua): England defender Tino Livramento has undergone an operation on the calf injury that forced him out of the World Cup at the last moment.

The 23-year-old, who has played five times for his country, suffered the injury in training as England put the final touches to its preparations in Florida in the days before its opening Group L match against Croatia.

The injury forced Livramento to return to Newcastle for treatment at his club, with Chelsea's Trevoh Chalobah drafted in as a late replacement, a decision that means the England squad now contains six central defenders and only three fullbacks.

Livramento's club, Newcastle United, posted an update on his condition on Tuesday.

"Newcastle United can confirm that Tino Livramento has successfully undergone a minor surgical procedure. The defender, who returned from World Cup duty with an injury, is expected to return during pre-season."

Spain attacking midfielder Alex Baena was the hero of his side's hard-fought 1-0 win over Uruguay on Saturday, which secured qualification for the World Cup round of 32 as Group H winner, but in an interview with Spanish newspaper Mundo Deportivo, the Atletico Madrid player put his success down to the help of others.

World Cup Fixtures

England vs DR Congo 19:00

Belgium vs Senegal 23:00

Thursday

US vs Bosnia 03:00

Mexico vs Ecuador 04:00